

# The Shoreline

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Holiday Harbor-Wilmington

310-835-3952

Hello all,

December marks the end of 2008 and the beginning of a new year. What a year it has been!

After 21 months the presidential campaign is finally over. I think you will all agree we witnessed history. Whether you were in favor of Senator Obama or not, he's going to be our 44<sup>th</sup> president. That being said, let's cheer and support him.

I know Thanksgiving is behind us. At least, it should be by the time you all read this, but, I wanted to comment on it and the holiday season in general.

We all learned back when we were kids in school how the Pilgrims and the Native Americans shared knowledge with one another. This sharing in part played a role in the early Plymouth colonists' survival. We learned that back in 1621 those Native American Indians shared a harvest with the colonists which became our first Thanksgiving. It has become a symbol of cooperation and interaction between people. But mostly it's a time to reflect and give thanks.

Speaking of being thankful and how much there is to be thankful of, I recently took a week vacation and traveled down to San Diego. As is our family custom, I stayed in a hotel on Coronado Island that's just down the street from the military base that houses Navy and Marine Corps personnel. One morning while still dark, I went out for some exercise. I was running when my path crossed with another runner. He was a very pleasant young man in his early 20's. We ran together a few miles and talked. He told me he had two kids and was in the Marine Corps. I could not help noticing he was a double amputee at the elbows. He told me he sustained the injuries in Iraq. He was so matter of fact! As we approached the base, he turned toward the gate and thanked me for the run. I was extremely saddened and honored at the same time. Incredible huh? Well, it gets better. Two days later on the very same running course I came upon two marines in racing wheel chairs. Both were double amputees who lost their legs to roadside bombs in Iraq. As with the runner days before, we talked the standard guy stuff, they were pleasant, respectful, matter of fact, and did not seem remotely bitter. They stopped at the base, as did the runner, and requested I have a good day – AMAZING!

I'm sharing this story with you so we can all see that even in these uncertain crazy times, there is so much to be thankful for.

P.S. Don't forget to mark your calendars for December 6, 2008 for the annual L.A. Harbor Christmas boat parade. If you have the opportunity, come out and have a little fun.

Merry Christmas.  
Jerry, HHW Marina Manager