

East Valley Marines sponsor Wounded Warriors on Alaska fishing trip



Master Sergeant Marquez, Corporal Gallegos, Vanessa Recio, Farrel and Harley Lewis, Corporal Reyes and Ron Enderle in Alaska.

Denise Lott

The East Valley Marines Detachment 1296 of Sun Lakes sponsored Marine Wounded Warriors on a seven-day Alaska fishing trip. Ron Enderle, detachment member, worked with his friends Harley and Farrel Lewis of Ketchikan, Alaska, who own a 71-foot yacht. The detachment paid for air and ground expenses from Phoenix to Ketchikan. Then the Lewis' donated all of the boat time and related costs.

The two Marine veterans are Purple Heart recipients who were both badly injured in IED explosions in Afghanistan. They are Corporal Gallegos (medically retired, USMC) and Corporal Reyes (medically retired, USMC). One of them was accompanied on the trip by a caregiver/girlfriend, Vanessa Recio. Master Sergeant Salvador Marquez, who is the Wounded Warrior Regiment, VISN 18 (AZ/

NM) District Injured Support Coordinator (DISC), also went along on the trip.

During the seven days in Alaska, the Marines caught 100 pounds of Alaskan king salmon plus halibut. Mr. Lewis had hired a fishing guide who was able to take out two at a time in a smaller 22-foot fishing boat. Besides the salmon and halibut, the group also went shrimping and crabbing. The fish was processed, vacuum packed and frozen on the boat so that everyone could bring home a package of the catch.

In addition to the fishing, they hiked one day to a bear viewing area, Walker Cove, and spent a night in Yes Bay, an exclusive fishing area where they were treated to a great dinner.

Corporal Gallegos states that the trip was "Wonderful! A unique way to see one of the most beautiful places in the country." ☀