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*Major General C. W. Reinke*  
CG, Camp Pendleton

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*Admiral D. L. Brewer, III*  
COMPHIBGRU THREE

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5 August 1997

Dear Captain Perkins,

Since November 1968, USS NEW ORLEANS has more than lived up to her charter. From her participation in combat operations during the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars, to her contributions during the crisis in Somalia, she served our Nation with distinction.

Throughout her 29-year history, NEW ORLEANS has served as both home and base to thousands of Pendleton-based Marines, setting a standard of excellence for future amphibious vessels to reach for. All Marines who have served with her will feel the loss of her passing, but the pride in having shared in her achievements.

NEW ORLEANS' three decades of dedicated service stand as a mark of excellence in the annals of Navy-Marine Corps history. On behalf of the Marines, Sailors and Civilian Employees of Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, you have earned the respect and gratitude of a grateful Nation. Farewell and Semper Par.

Sincerely,

Major General, U. S. Marine Corps

Captain R. C. Perkins, USN  
Commanding Officer  
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11)  
FPO AP 96627-1650



8 September 1997

Captain R. C. Perkins, USN  
Commanding Officer  
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11)  
FPO AP 96627-1650

Dear Captain Perkins:

The decommissioning of USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11) brings to a close a proud chapter in Naval Amphibious Warfare history. During her twenty-nine years of dedicated service, NEW ORLEANS has compiled a distinguished record of achievements. This record includes participation in combat off the coasts of Vietnam, Kuwait and Iraq, as well as humanitarian operations in Somalia. Steaming hundreds of thousands of miles during repeated major deployments throughout the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans, she has always been at the forefront, protecting American interests in every place, at every moment. NEW ORLEANS leaves a wonderful legacy; her service is the hallmark of a proud "Gator." This ship and her many crews have honored her commitment to our Nation.

The crew of NEW ORLEANS and the shipmates who served her before you have displayed superb professionalism and dedication, and upheld the finest tradition of the naval service. NEW ORLEANS has brought out the best in you and you have given her a spirit of pride and excellence that will long outlive the ship herself. You take with you the best wishes of everyone in Amphibious Group THREE for continued success throughout our Navy.

  
D. L. BREWER, III  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy