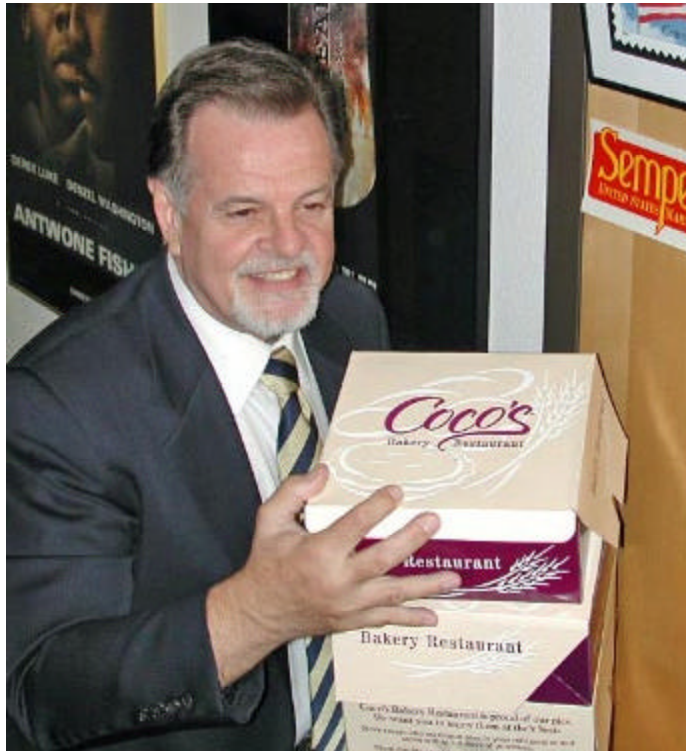


APPLE PIES AID TRANSITION

Military Transition Assistance Facilitator Roger Stillman believes in practicing what he preaches. Some 200 Camp Pendleton Marines, most of who recently returned from Iraq, will attest to that.



As one of fifteen Transition Assistance Program instructors in the State of California, Stillman along with his fellow instructors annually assist over 27,000 active duty military personnel in their adjustment from military to civilian life.

Stillman, a former CBS news investigative reporter, had just told his TAP class at the marine base that 85 per cent would secure their next employment via networking. He had also discussed the mandatory homework assignment that was a 30-second info commercial about themselves and their strengths.

Additionally he emphasized that, as a critical element of the job search process, students should attend events that have a purpose, such as job fairs, community events and volunteer work. He further explained that these events provide excellent opportunities for researching companies and asking questions.

Little did Stillman know that he would have an opportunity to put his advise into practice that same evening, September 21, 2005.

Upon entering Westfield's super-regional 1.1 million square-foot Shoppingtown Plaza Camino Real, he noticed a sign that read: "Chamber Event Parking". After further investigation he discovered the event was the 15th Annual Carlsbad Business Expo sponsored by the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce. He decided to attend.

It was late afternoon and darkness was fast approaching. The Expo was closing at 7 pm. Stillman struck up a conversation with Susan Sullivan, operations Manager for Catalina Restaurant Group, which owns 225 Coco's and Carrows restaurants.

He explained that he had come down from his normal base of operations as a guest at the Fleet and Family Support Center at Naval Base Ventura County, near Oxnard, CA, to help instruct some 200 soon-to-be Marine Corps veterans that would be in their final day of TAP class the next morning.

As a result of Coco's generosity and Stillman's attending an event that had a purpose, the restaurant chain donated over 45 freshly-baked apple pies to the classes. All Marines were treated to large slices of pie for their first break the following morning.

Stillman says, "it's really quite simple, one just has to perfect the art of schmooze." He adds, "of course it never hurts to be in the right place at the right time and, just like a news reporter, be prepared to ask the right questions."