



THE VOL. LXIX • NO. 3

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2020

# OLD BREED NEWS

The Official Publication of the 1st Marine Division Association, Incorporated

From Temporary To Permanent:

## 1st Marine Division White House



The 1st Marine Division White House

31 JAN 2019 | Lance Cpl. Cameron Fina

**CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** — The building has withstood the test of time. It has seen generations of Marines enter and leave its halls. It has seen Marines off to several wars from the shores of Pacific Islands, the mountains of North Korea, the jungles of Vietnam and the deserts of the Middle East. It has served as the operational and cultural epicenter of the 1st Marine Division- the most storied and consequential Division in the United States Marine Corps. It has seen its share of history both for the division and the Corps.

The building has even been reviewed as a historical site, still bearing the simple style and white paint associated with World War II era buildings, which were originally meant to be temporary. Few of its kind are still standing across the nation, yet it remains, bold in both color and

design, while its peers have been replaced over the decades. If you walk through the musty halls that were once treaded by the likes of Chesty Puller and James Mattis, you can see the artwork – paintings of past commanders, old battle scenes ripped from the pages of history and photos of Marines from modern wars.

“It’s a unique building,” said Colonel Christopher S. Dowling, former Chief of Staff of the 1st Marine Division. “When it Please turn to **HOUSE** on page 6

### Save the date!!!!

First week in August 2021  
Oceanside, California

**Blue Diamond Birthday Reunion**  
“Last of the First Bottle”  
in honor of our WWII Vets

For more info contact: Len Hayes, (760)  
760-712 7088, [Lenhayes@cox.net](mailto:Lenhayes@cox.net)

## President’s Message

Dear Members,

**The Washington DC FMDA Reunion is officially cancelled.** There will be no penalty fees assessed to the Association for the cancellation. The FMDA is looking to holding the 2021 FMDA Reunion in/about Oceanside, CA. 2021 will mark the 80th Anniversary of the Blue Diamond Division.

We will be celebrating the 1st Marine Division’s 80th Anniversary on home ground, and honor our World War II vets with the opening of the Last Man Bottle.

We are marching into the future. This past Wednesday the Executive Committee convened by teleconference, and made official our 2021 Reunion destination: Oceanside, California (or nearby as suitable hotels are available.) We will be celebrating the 1st Marine Division’s 80th Anniversary on home ground, and honor our World War II vets with the opening of the Last Man Bottle. (See Part II of the story on p. 8)

Col Len Hayes and Col Charlie Kershaw are already at work planning for a great event.

The Executive Committee then discussed how we can form our Nominating Committee fairly for its 2020-2022 term. This group will oversee the Association’s election of officers for the 2021-2023 term.

In normal times the Board of Please turn to **PRESIDENT** on page 3



# The 1st Marine Division Association

## Officers and Committees

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**Awards Committee**

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**Reunion Destination/Site Committee**

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**Warrior Liaison Committee**

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Updated 17 March 2020

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## PRESIDENT from page 1

Directors would appoint the Nominating Committee. As a quorum of Directors would seldom be gathered even in the "before times," we needed to hash out a workable solution that would satisfy the spirit of our Bylaws.

This is what we worked out, and all agreed to: The Deputy Vice Presidents will contact the Chapter Presidents in their respective Region (East, Central, West), asking each for two eligible candidates.

DVPs and members are requested to submit their candidates to Headquarters by 31 August.

The final five will be appointed by the Executive Committee from the submitted member names.

The Annual Reunion usually gives a needed boost to our treasury. This year we will do what we can as we all stay safe at home. We will be running a 50/50 raffle. Get your tickets on page 5.

Thank you in advance for your support of the Association.

That's the news for now.

Persevere.

Semper Fi,

Jerry Johs

## Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

### By Teleconference 15 April 2020

**Called to order** –1:00PM

**Checked in:** Allison, Burn, Corrento Jr., Corrento Sr., Dulin, Hawkins, Johs, Wojahn,

**Not checked in:** Peeler, Sims

**AJ Burn:** We have a quorum.

**Discussion:** Philadelphia will be hit next. Hotels being used as hospitals. Even if economy is opened, people will be wary of traveling.

**Jerry Johs:** Suggest hold Reunion next year in Oceanside. New hotels, near base, 80th

anniversary

**Motion of AJ Burn:** Hold off on Last Man Bottle for next year. Decide on reunion next month.

**Voting:** All in favor to do Last Man Bottle presentation next year.

All in favor to decide on Reunion at next meeting, Friday 15 May 1:00PM PDT.

**AJ Burn:** Publish this in next BDN, and ask members their input regarding attending reunion in August

**Adjourned** – 1:16PM

## Check your label

Your Unit & Service Era

Membership Dues Expiration Date:  
Month and Year (Life = 0000)

\*\*\*\*\*  
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JOHN Q MARINE  
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YOURTOWN US 12345-1111

0218

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**Check your name and address** ( Apt./Bldg/Lot No.). Notify the Membership Chairman if you find an error. **If your zip code does not contain 9 digits (zip+4),** your address is not correct according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT 06-27-2020

Life	Annual	Assoc. Annual	Friend	Total
5,027	968	80	20	6,095

## Call for supplies

This is your magazine, the supply line between members and the FMDA administration. We are running out of supplies at the editorial office. Since publication of the OBN is a team effort, we request that members help us out.

Please send us some material to fill the pages of future OBNs. We accept memoirs, news of members' exploits such as those mentioned in local newspapers, photos, first-person stories on interesting things that happened to you in combat and peacetime, chapter news, humorous recollections, feedback to articles and stories printed in previous issues...almost anything that is printable.

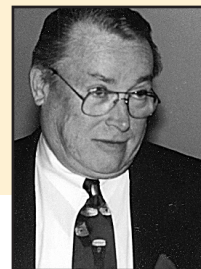
There are a few restrictions. We can't print material that is purely political in nature, for example. Nor can we reproduce without permission articles that have been published previously in newspapers and magazines. We have to adhere to copyright laws. (See the article on page 26.) And, we don't print fiction or poetry. Virtually everything else will be considered though.

Please help us rebuild our inventory. We have 32 pages to fill in every issue, so every little bit helps. Our mailing address is Arthur G. Sharp, OBN Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. Material is also welcome at [sharp\\_arthur\\_g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net). Thanks for your participation.

## Chapter Reps:

Please get your chapter news into us for inclusion in Old Breed News. Send it to the editor at 2473 New Haven Circle Sun City Center, FL 33573 or email it to [sharp\\_arthur\\_g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net). Not many chapters are taking the opportunity to let the rest of the association know what they are doing.





## Bittersweet memories of a 20th-century Fambrough<sup>©</sup>

Some of you may remember Major Fambrough, a character in the movie *Dances With Wolves*, played by Maury Chaykin. He was the cavalry officer who shot himself after Lt. Dunbar (Kevin Costner) reported in for duty at some deserted army post on America's western frontier. I was reminded of the major the other day when I was reading a Marine's account of his action at the Chosin Reservoir.

He wrote: "I served with an H&S company at Koto-ri, Hagaru, and Udam-ni, where we had an estimated 1,250 casualties in one night. We had a captain, whose name I can't remember, who did not seem to be up to the task of leading his troops. He did not want us to have rounds in our rifle chambers. Most of us ignored that suggestion...."

We have all served under officers who we did not think were fit for duty. Conversely, we served with officers we would follow anywhere. The reason I was reminded of that particular captain was bittersweet.

I completed Parris Island in 1958. Three of our DIs were Chosin veterans. They pushed us really hard because, as they explained, they wanted all future Marines to be able to cope with the same harsh conditions they had at the "Reservoir." They didn't have to worry.

The Marine Corps didn't always pay attention to the connection between training and assignments. For example, I underwent cold weather training after I returned from a Med cruise. Where did I go next? Somewhere cold? Not! It was Cuba and the Bay of Pigs. At least I was prepared for the cold weather in the Caribbean.

After ITR I was assigned to H&S/3/8 as an 81mm mortar FDC specialist. I didn't know then, and I am not sure I know now, which end of the tube a round came out of. Our platoon commander, whose name I remember but will not reveal, did not seem fit to lead.

Granted, when I joined H&S I could not distinguish between a good and a bad officer. I couldn't tell a bar, gold or silver, from a bird. All I knew was that I was a seventeen-year-old PFC who couldn't even tell a mortar tube what to do. But some of the "old salts" knew the difference. The rumors were that the captain had served at Chosin and had never been much of a leader since.

Our captain never seemed interested in what we were doing training wise or otherwise. His XO, a 1st LT from Alabama, handled everything. He was a talented leader who knew how to get the best out of his Marines and earn their respect. Those two were in charge of our platoon as we headed off on our Med cruise. Here's where things got funny.

We had a "Phantom Defecator" aboard ship. Nobody could catch him and he used jeeps, cargo containers, Lister bags, and anything else available in the holds as his personal

We had a "Phantom Defecator" aboard ship. Nobody could catch him and he used jeeps, cargo containers, Lister bags, and anything else available in the holds as his personal latrine.

latrine. Nobody knew if he was a Sailor or a Marine. Our captain decided to set a trap for him.

He volunteered some of us as guards. We spent our shifts sitting in jeeps or hiding in corners below decks waiting for our phantom. Some of us spent so much time near the bilges that we lost sleep. Several of our saltier Marines devised a way to catch up.

Let's face it. It's kind of hard to walk your post in a military manner keeping always on the alert and observing everything within sight or hearing when you're stuck sitting in a chained-down vehicle on the sixth hold of a moving PA. We were ready to call the corporal of the guard in any case not covered by instructions. How we were going to do that was never explained.

We did not have radios, bullhorns, tin cans tied by a string, or any other way of contacting the corporal of the guard—or anyone else above deck. But, most of us stayed alert because the captain threatened anyone who was found shirking his duty with three days "piss and punk" (bread and water) in the brig. And he vowed to sentence them personally. That was laughable, since there were never any official reports filed.

The brig guards assigned TAD to help the ship's Master at Arms watch over the 81ers were also members of our platoon. So, a few saltier Marines took turns getting "sentenced" to the brig. Their "buddies" would bring them food and drink from the mess hall along with some choice reading material that no chaplain would approve. It was like R&R for them. They caught up on their sleep—and the captain never caught on.

We never found the phantom. After we returned from our cruise the captain was reassigned and the XO became the platoon commander. His replacement's leadership skills were very similar to the XO's. Peace reigned in our platoon for a while. Then 2nd LT "Tweety" took over as XO—but that's another story.

The one positive outcome from the story was that I learned how to tell the difference between a good leader and one who is not capable of being in charge of Marines. I am glad there weren't too many Major Fambroughs in the Corps when I served, and hopefully there aren't any now.



## 1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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### 73rd Annual (Virtual) Reunion 2020

#### 50/50 Raffle

#### Prize: 1/2 of ticket sales

Tickets: \$10 or 3 for \$20

To be drawn on our "Banquet" date: August 22, 2020  
Winner need not be present

Mail stub and check to  
FMDA, PO Box 9000, Box #902, Oceanside CA 92051

Or leave a message at (760)763-3268.  
Your call will be returned for your contact and credit card information.

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1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
50/50 DRAWING August 22, 2020

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1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
50/50 DRAWING August 22, 2020

was built in 1942-1943 it was supposed to only last five years, five years – that was it.”

Humanity creates things that last; tools which pass through dozens of hands before becoming worn beyond use, structures that stand strong for decades, centuries and even several millennia. There are also occasions where we make things for a simple and easy use, where they are only meant to last for short periods of time. Building 1133 of Camp Pendleton, better known as “the white house” was one such structure. Acting as both a headquarters and administration building for the growing conflict in the Pacific, it even expanded to accommodate the needs of the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions that also participated in World War II’s Pacific Theatre.

“The sergeant major’s office is my favorite room,” said USMC Sgt. Maj. William T. Sowers, former sergeant major of the 1st Marine Division. “The amount of detail in the wood and the fire place gives it that really old feeling and gives off the air of a museum.”

In the early years it did not have the nickname “the white house”. It stood amongst many buildings that were painted the same cheap, bare off-white and was not unique beyond its purpose. Styled like many of the buildings to ensure the security of the command, it served many Marines throughout the Pacific for the course of World War II.

The structure grew upon the Marines that called it home and in 1946 it was officially ordained the 1st Marine Division Headquarters building. This would lead to it being modified decades later, not once, but twice to ensure the building could continue to function and support the many Marines that passed through its halls. Though the renovations have ensured the building has stayed with both the times and technology of the era from phone wiring to internet within its walls, its overall structure and design are still the same as it was when first built.

“It was not as iconic to us during our time,” said U.S. Marine Corps Retired General Matthew P. Caulfield. “We never knew it as ‘the white house’. We never thought about the fact it was the division command post during World War II. We simply knew it as the place we work,

**It is an iconic symbol of the 1st Marine Division with dozens of memorials surrounding it, capturing the sacrifice of every Marine who fought with the Division during its many battles through our history.**

though we sometimes referred to it as ‘the head shed’.”

Due to the era in which ‘the white house’ was made, there were many developmental needs required of it during that time. One of the largest was the need to withstand a possible attack. A Japanese invasion of the U.S. was a realistic threat in the 40s. To ensure the safety of the command staff, the building was meant to be indistinguishable from the rest.

To those born in the last 40 years, the very concept of a military attack on the U.S. is simply something that would not and could not happen. But in 1940, when Camp Pendleton was officially opened, thousands of Marines marched up from San Diego for combat exercises against a fake enemy. It caused a panic within the civilian population. People initially thought a Japanese invasion had occurred. The base’s presence even led to a drop in the housing market, a fact that is inconceivable to most Southern California home owners today.

The threat of attack from the skies influenced much of what would become Camp Pendleton as we know it today. The camps on base are spread wide across the camp’s more than 195 square miles, originally designed to protect the base from being crippled in one decisive airstrike, according to Dowling. In the attics of the White House and other buildings from the era, there is still evidence of the original plywood roofing used. Pressed wood was used at the time for two reasons: actual wood planks were in immediate need to build and replace decks of Navy ships, and pressed wood was less likely to create deadly wood debris if the buildings were stuck by a Japanese bomber.

“The white house” was designed by Myron B. Hunt, Harold C. Chambers and E. L. Ellingwood. Their firms handled the development of several buildings across Camp Pendleton during the 1940s. Based

on the U.S. Navy B-1 barracks, which was a common design to further make the building indistinguishable from other buildings on base at the time, making it less of a target for Japanese bombers after Pearl Harbor. Few of these barracks are still left standing after the 70 plus years since their development.

The B-1, much like its sibling structure, “the white house,” was only a temporary design meant to last for the duration of the war. In 1983 congress would pass the Military Construction Authorization Bill of 1983, which demolished many of the older temporary structures of World War II in favor of new designs. Some structures were renovated due to their historical significance. “The white house” interior was included in these renovations. The building underwent changes to its exterior but maintained its current shape with only a few minor changes.

Since its construction many people have entered “the white house” and many more have driven past it. It is an iconic symbol of the 1st Marine Division with dozens of memorials surrounding it, capturing the sacrifice of every Marine who fought with the Division during its many battles through our history. From officers arriving at its doors in 1940 Ford staff cars, to 1968 Volkswagen Beetles, and even more recently, a 2018 name your make and model. When one steps out of their vehicle, they would gaze up at the white building marked by the iconic blue diamond and the battle streamers the division has earned.

In the old days it would support the entire command staff, but now much of the command is spread out across Camp Pendleton. Many Blue Diamond alum have even thought of making it into a museum, given the many historical pieces that already line its halls. It gives off that feeling of having entered a place engrained with history.



“The iconic building of the ‘Blue Diamond,’ it is the division,” said Sowers. “Many people assume that this is the main command post for the Marine Expeditionary Force or even the Marine Corps Installations West.”

Many of the older veterans were not used to dealing with the commands of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said Sowers. When they thought of “the white house” they’d think of the commanding general who presided over all they knew of the Marines on the West Coast at that time.

Generals, majors, sergeants and lance corporals have walked its halls over the last 70 years. Some still live amongst us while others have given the ultimate sacrifice. Their memories and actions live through both the 1st Marine Division and “the white house” itself, which has been an unchanging monument to the Marines of the 1st Marine Division.

No matter the age in which one served the Division, all have known that building in one way or another. It is a testament to both the Division and the Marines that have served. Our ideals have become engrained into its very structure and it has become a permanent member in both the hearts and minds of the Marines of the 1st Marine Division.

# Advice about COVID-19

From Veterans Affairs

## What should Veterans do?

Any Veteran with symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath should immediately contact their local VA facility. VA urges Veterans to call before visiting – you can find contact information for your closest VA facility.

Alternatively, Veterans can sign into My HealthVet to send a secure message to VA or use telehealth options to explain their condition and receive a prompt diagnosis.

Upon arriving at VA, all patients will be screened for flu-like symptoms before they enter in order to protect other patients and staff. A VA health care professional will assist you with next steps once this screening process is complete.

At this time, VA is urging all visitors who do not feel well to please postpone their visits to VA facilities.

## How to protect yourself

Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent the COVID-19 infection and no medication to treat it. CDC believes

symptoms appear 2 to 14 days after exposure. Avoid exposure and avoid exposing others to an infection with these simple steps.

- Learn to use VA Video Connect through the VA mobile app store or by contacting your VA care team, before any urgent problems arise.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An easy way to mark the time is to hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice while scrubbing.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick or becoming sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue (not your hands) and throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Getting a flu shot is recommended.

## Notable birthdays

We noted on p. 9 the 122nd birthday of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps. We have a couple significant birthdays of FMDA members to report. Happy 99th birthday to Paul Wojahn and LtCol John R. Stevens and Happy 97th Birthday to Elmer Hawkins. “Ooh-rah!” brothers.



LtCol John R. Stevens

Paul Wojahn (L), MajGen Robert F. Castellvi, and Elmer Hawkins (R) at the 72nd Annual Reunion in Louisville, Kentucky. August 2019

# LAST OF THE FIRST CLUB

by Col. Richard B. Rothwell, USMC (Ret.)

## PART 2 OF 2 PARTS

*Editor's note: The 1st Marine Division has been home-based at Camp Pendleton since 1948, when it returned from its World War II combat and occupational duties. The term "home" is relative because the Division has been absent for extended periods while answering our nation's call in Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, and several places in between. This is part of the 1st Marine Division story and, therefore, part of Camp Pendleton history.*

Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift, commander of the division during the Guadalcanal and Solomon Island campaigns and 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps, inspects the Last of the First bottle at a division reunion.

Ralph McGill, editor and publisher of the *Atlanta Constitution* and a World War I Marine, donated a bottle of Joseph Etournaud & Company Extra Grand Fine Champagne, 1st Grand Cru Cognac to be opened by the last survivor among the Marines and sailors who served in combat with the division during World War II.

Reports from that time estimated the bottle to be over 100 years old and quite valuable. That speculation regarding age was incorrect. Maison Etournaud, which produced the cognac, was not established until 1856. According to cognac heritage experts, the Last of the First bottle most likely dates from 1920 to 1925. Even if its reported age was mistaken, the bottle had great value to club members. McGill placed it in the vault of the 1st National Bank of Atlanta for safe-

keeping between annual meetings. Fittingly, he wrapped it in the August 9, 1942 edition of the Constitution that reported the landings on Guadalcanal.

One year later the Last of the First met for the second time. That gathering was more formal. It included the cutting of a cake baked in the shape of Guadalcanal and a screening of the movie "Pride of the Marines," starring John Garfield and Eleanor Parker. Garfield portrayed Sergeant (then Private) Albert Andrew Schmid, a machine gunner who won the Navy Cross for repelling a Japanese attack on Guadalcanal.



Official USMC Photo: Sgt. Al Schmid receives his Navy Cross

Following its establishment in 1947, the 1st Marine Division Association assumed formal custody of the bottle, which remained safely stowed in the Atlanta bank vault, being removed only for formal functions.

In 1965 Sergeant Bob Bowen, a reporter for the *Leatherneck* magazine, an official Marine Corps publication at the time, received travel orders. He was to proceed to Atlanta, withdraw the bottle from the 1st National Bank, bring it to the 1st Marine Division Association annual reunion at the Park Sheraton Hotel in Washington D.C., and return it safely. In preparation for the journey the Cognac Producers of France insured the bottle against theft, loss, or willful destruction for \$25,000.



Transfer of custody. Leatherneck file photo

The transfer was made with military pomp and planning, beginning with the bank president formally presenting the bottle to Sergeant Bowen, resplendent in his dress blues. A Brinks armored car escorted the sergeant and his charge to the airport. Once on the plane, he hand-



According to cognac heritage experts, the Last of the First bottle most likely dates from 1920 to 1925. Even if its reported age was mistaken, the bottle had great value to club members.

cuffed the bottle to his ankle. Sergeant Bowen reported that the final toast with the cognac was not expected "until around 2000 or 2010." That estimate misjudged the longevity of Last of the First members.

Ralph McGill, donor of the cognac, died in 1969, but the bottle remained in the Atlanta bank until 1988, when the 1st Marine Division Association authorized Major Arthur Weise, USMC (Ret) to transport it to the Command Museum at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The museum accepted it as a temporary loan, keeping it secure in its safe.

By this time the ranks of World War II veterans were thinning noticeably. The same thoughts that must have gone through the minds of old timers in Minnesota's Company B began to surface.

In 1991, a 1st Marine Division Association member wrote to the executive director, pointing out that many World War II veterans had died and many of those who remained had become "teetotalers." Rather than wait for the inevitable and waste an opportunity, he recommended that the bottle be opened at the next annual meeting and, starting with the oldest eligible person present, each veteran drink a thimble full until it was empty. His suggestion was noted without action.

The bottle's odyssey continued in 1999 when the association entrusted Gunnery Sergeant Luis O. Arce USMC, a member of the 1st Marine Division Band, to courier it back across country to the association headquarters in Northern Virginia. When the headquarters displaced to Oceanside, California in 2003, the bottle made its third cross-country trip, this time as general baggage without an official escort. There it languished in relative obscurity until 2005 when the



Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift, commander of the division during the Guadalcanal and Solomon Island campaigns and 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps, inspects the Last of the First bottle at a division reunion.





**Maj. Gen. Mike Myatt, USMC (Ret), CEO, Marines' Memorial Club, explains the last man bottle to Marines' Memorial Association secretary Pete Paffrath. Photo by Michael Mustacchi/Marines' Memorial**

association president, Captain Gerald Pendas USMC (Ret), discovered it wrapped in paper lying on the floor near a trash can in the back of the small headquarters.

Recognizing its historical value, he placed it in a secured commercial storage space where it remained until 2006, when Colonel Len Hayes USMC (Ret), the association's executive director, found it while conducting an inventory. Hayes saw the need for a better way to preserve and display this treasure. The Marines Memorial Club (MMC) in San Francisco seemed a fitting site.

The MMC is known as the Crossroads of the Corps because since its founding in 1946 so many Marines have met there going to and from destinations in the Pacific. Colonel Hayes wrote to the MMC CEO, Major General Mike Myatt USMC (Ret) and former CG of the 1st Marine Division, asking if the Club would take temporary custody of the last man bottle until the final owner was determined. General Myatt agreed and Colonel Jack Kelly, USMC (Ret) delivered the bottle to the Club, where it now fittingly resides in a secure display case attached to a wall in the Leatherneck Steakhouse. The seers of 1965 who predicted that the ultimate owner of the Last Man Bottle would be known by 2010 were nearsighted.

According to the 1st Marine Division Association, some 1,000 veterans are still in the running for the honor of opening the bottle. Considering what members of the division accomplished for our country during World War II, it is sad to think that there will ever be a winner. Should your travels take you to the Marines Memorial Club, stop by to pay your respects, not so much to the bottle as to the Marines and sailors it honors.



Update

## The 1MarDiv Association Scholarship Fund

### Scholarship Date Announced

#### Attention Scholarship applicants and awardees:

Applications for school year 2021 scholarships will be accepted on or after 1 March 2020.

Current awardees are reminded to submit proof of attendance for fall semester 2020.

All applications should be delivered by mail to Len Hayes, 919 Rivertree Dr., Oceanside CA 92058. Questions? Call 760-712-7088.

### Scholarship Fund Report

8 June 2020

Marines:

As the country begins to reopen broadly after the Covid-19 economic shutdown, your scholarship investments are responding to the favorable market expectations and are recovering value temporarily lost due to the Covid-19 shutdown. At the close of business today, your Scholarship Fund is blessed with assets totaling \$1,105,568.

Your wise investment decision to engage Mr. Doug Dameron and Capitol Securities to manage and guide your Scholarship Fund's investments continues to bear significant fruit that will benefit the qualified sons and daughters of our 1st Division Marines.

Semper Fidelis,

Jerry Reed

Chief Financial Officer

1st Marine Division Association Scholarship Fund, Inc.

## U.S. Navy Hospital Corps is 122 years old



**C**ommandant David H. Berger recently congratulated the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps on its 122nd birthday. Here is his message:

1. As the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps commemorates 122 years of honorable and faithful service, Marines pay tribute to the courage and devotion of our "Docs."

2. When the Continental Congress directed the organization of medical stations during the Revolutionary War, a longstanding tradition of exceptional medical support was born. Throughout the century that followed the Revolution, surgeons and other medical personnel tended to the wounds and illnesses of Sailors and Marines on and off the battlefield.

On June 17, 1898, President William McKinley formally approved the establish-

ment of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps. Since then, Navy Hospital Corpsmen have continued the tradition of caring for Marines and Sailors in our military hospitals, onboard ships, and on battlefields around the world.

3. The U.S. Navy Hospital Corps remains the largest and most decorated rate in the Navy, with more than 30,000 active duty and reserve Corpsmen serving within our units across the naval force. Marines take great pride in serving alongside the Docs who are always there when we call "Corpsman Up." We are grateful for your dedication and sacrifices, and we join you in celebrating the impressive legacy of Navy Hospital Corpsmen past and present. Congratulations on 122 years of exceptional service.

Semper Fidelis, David H. Berger, General, U.S. Marine Corps, Commandant of the Marine Corps.//

# Aussies reconnect with U.S. Marines at the Blue

By | 11th Marine Regiment | November 4, 2019

Regimental staff members huddled around the command post of the ‘fighting’ 5th Marine Regiment at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Between the offices buzzing with movement on either side of the foyer, and the hallways lined with photos and encased memorabilia from the wars of yesteryear, the building had the air of a living museum.

Two special guests, Graeme and his wife Carmel Day, stood in the middle of the small crowd and chatted away about their recent flight from Australia and the honor of meeting the Marines who fill the ranks of the historic 1st Marine Division.

Graeme and Carmel had just arrived for the first stop of their two-day base tour of Camp Pendleton to partake in the trip of a lifetime after years of personal study and admiration for the feats of the 1st Marine Division in the Pacific during World War Two.

But their interest in the 1st Marine Division was more than just academic curiosity. In 1943, Graeme’s grandparents had welcomed three U.S. Marines into their home to stay with them during the Marines’ rest and recuperation period following the Battle of Guadalcanal.

“5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment was in Bellarat with Edson’s boys,” Graeme described. Edson, of course refers to Major General Merritt Austin Edson, a Medal of Honor recipient and former commanding officer of 5th Marine Regiment during the Battle of Guadalcanal. “We lived right by the hospital where the boys were admitted.”

Following fierce fighting in the six-month Battle of Guadalcanal, Marines were sent to Australia for R & R while regrouping for the next fight in the Pacific. Marines from 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, set up a tent encampment for themselves at Victoria Park. As fate would have it, the park did not prove large enough for all the Marines, leaving senior enlisted leaders to go door to door in search of homeowners in the local community who would be willing to temporarily

house one or even a few Marines.

## Following fierce fighting in the six-month Battle of Guadalcanal, Marines were sent to Australia for R & R while regrouping for the next fight in the Pacific.

ily house one or even a few Marines.

It is rumored that during transit to Australia following the battle, the renowned blue diamond patch that is now the official logo of the 1st Marine Division was first drawn. The blue diamond is accented with white stars, placed such that they depict the Southern Cross constellation, under which 1st Marine Division fought at Guadalcanal. The center of the patch features the number one, fixed in red with the word Guadalcanal sprawled vertically across its face.

The hastily drawn patches were instantly successful among the boisterous Marines who were still celebrating their victory. Upon arrival in Australia in early 1943, the patches were printed at a local embroidery shop and distributed to the Marines. The design has stood the test of time and has been proudly hoisted wherever the colors of the 1st Marine Division have been flown.

Graeme Day was raised on tales of the U.S. Marines who had become like family members to his grandparents. This lifelong affinity for the 1st Marine Division made the visit Camp Pendleton that much more special.

In addition to visiting the 5th Marine Regiment, Graeme had specifically requested to see the artillerymen of the 11th Marine Regiment, given his special familial connection to the unit.

“The boys [in Bellarat] were from the 11th Artillery,” said Graeme. “To go to the 11th Marine Regiment was just absolutely fantastic because they were the boys that became family to the Bellarat family, and vice versa.”

In addition to visiting the ‘fighting’ 5th Marine Regiment and the ‘cannon cockers’ of 11th Marine Regiment, Graeme and Carmel also stopped by the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance battalion and even had a chance to meet with the 1st Marine Division Commanding General,

Maj. Gen. Robert F. Castellvi.

Graeme and Carmel both described the trip as a once in a lifetime opportunity.

“I have been overwhelmed by the degree of kindness we have received,” said Graeme of his time visiting the 1st Marine Division. “I’d like to think that unofficially. I am here representing all the Bellarat families.”

During a jam-packed tour schedule that permitted little downtime, Graeme still found moments to share his personal anecdotes about the three Marines that stayed with his family in 1943.

“I was given a copy of the New Testament [from] my grandmother when I was eight, which was given to her by one of the three Marines,” said Graeme. “I put it into my wardrobe and it stayed there. It was in the treasure drawer.” While this treasure sparked his passion for learning about the 1st Marine Division, Graeme never felt like the bible was his to keep.

Years later, in 2017, Graeme flew to Guadalcanal for a ceremony commemorating the 75th anniversary of the historic battle. During the ceremony, Graeme presented—or rather, returned—the bible to then 1st Marine Division Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Eric Smith.

Today the antique bible sits in the 1st Marine Division Command Post at Camp Pendleton, California, among various black and white photos and war artifacts that keep alive the Marines who sacrificed in the battles of the 1st Marine Division history.

During their trip, Graeme and Carmel were eager to share several aged yet remarkably well-kept photos of Marines who stayed in Bellarat. Some of the photos feature the standard headshots of men in uniform while others reveal families smiling from front porches. In these photos the Marines must be pointed out, as they blend in with the beaming families so naturally.



# Diamond

One series of photos bears the headshots of cheerful, suit-wearing men of varying ages. When closely examined, it becomes clear that the thickly-spectacled man of sixty-five or seventy from one headshot is the same iron-jawed Marine whose stoic gaze appears prominently in a

photo nearby.

"That's Eddy," Graeme exclaimed as one of the photos entered his gaze.

Eddy Metz, a 1st Marine Division veteran of the Battle of Guadalcanal who passed away in 2002, was one of the Marines who enjoyed the gracious hospitality of a Bellarat family. So deep were the bonds built during this time that Eddy would return to Bellarat to visit his host family on numerous occasions, years and even decades after the war.

"They were like family," said Graeme of the Marines who stayed with his grandparents. According to Graeme, many of the Marines and Australian host families stayed in touch for the remainder of their lives.

Graeme described the ways the Marines repaid the hospitality of the Bellarat families in many small ways. "The Marines would come back with tea for grandma," Graeme recounted of his own family stories. Given that the community was on rations at the time, this small act of thoughtfulness went a long way in winning the hearts of the Day family.

Graeme and Carmel are intimately connected with the vibrant, somber, courageous, and deeply moving history of the 1st Marine Division. The stories passed down to Graeme during his childhood are part of a rich oral tradition of the 1st Marine Division—a tradition that has spread throughout the world and which cuts across geographic and generational divides.

Marines like Eddie Metz help to keep these stories alive. Currently, U.S. forces maintain a constant presence in the Pacific and the 1st Marine Division participates in numerous theater security cooperation exercises with Australian forces, where they create new memories and deepen cultural ties in the process.

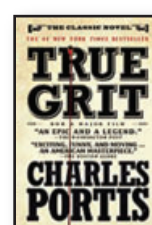
So what could follow an intercontinental trip over seventy years in the making come to an end? "Babysitting!" Carmel Day exclaimed. Gazing out affectionately as the topic of her grandchildren comes up, Carmel continued, "There is no way [the grandchildren] won't be told this history. They will know this history."

It is a history of which Graeme and Carmel are forever a part.

## 'Buddy' Portis, Marine author, guarding the Gates of Heaven

Sgt. Charles "Buddy" Portis, age 86, died on February 16, 2020 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He had been afflicted with Alzheimer's for the past six years.

Portis enlisted after graduation from high school in Hamburg, Arkansas in the early 1950s and served in Korea as a rifleman with How Company 1st Marines during the Outpost War. After discharge, he attended the University of Arkansas, graduating with a degree in journalism. Over the next thirty-five years, he wrote five novels, the best-known being *True Grit*, published in 1968.



Before writing full-time, Portis worked as a reporter and columnist for *The Commercial Appeal* in Memphis. The Arkansas Democrat Gazette in Little Rock, and *The Herald Tribune* in

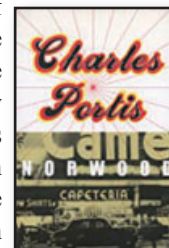
New York, ultimately becoming the Tribune's Bureau Chief in London. His first book, *Norwood* (1966), involved Norwood Pratt, a Marine sent home on a hardship discharge, and his later comic travels to collect a debt from a Marine buddy.

Portis was as proud of his time in the Corps as he was of his books. He attended company reunions and was always ready to talk service with his friends. He was the exact opposite when asked to talk about his writing. He avoided interviews and public appearances, preferring the company of his friends to the book set.

There are two film versions of *True Grit*, and later *Norwood* starred Glenn Campbell and Joe Namath. All of his books were re-issued several times after he developed a cult following as the best unknown comic writer in America.

Portis' death leaves a hole among the writers of books that are a pleasure to read, and among lifetime champions of the Marine Corps.

James T. Allison, 2875 Mallard Ln., Germantown, TN 38138



Aussies Visit the 1st Marine Division



# Korean government offers thanks

The government of Korea hosted an award ceremony and lunch on 25 June, 2020 in commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War, during which the 1st Marine Division fought so valiantly. The gathering was held at the Korean Consul General's home in Los Angeles.

Consul General Kyung Jae Park expressed the deep gratitude of the Korean people to the veterans of the Korean War. He said, "We cannot stop loving you, our Korean War heroes." Keynote speaker was MajGen Laura Yeager, commander of the California Guard 40th Infantry Division.

Consul Generals of the Philippines, Ethiopia, Thailand, and Turkey told of their veterans who joined in the United Nations action.



Dignitaries at Korean War observance



Consul General Kyung Jae Park expresses gratitude

SgtMaj Marty Vasquez spoke on behalf of recently deceased David Lopez, President of Ventura County's Chapter 56 of the Korean War Veterans Association.

The Korean Ambassador of Peace medal was awarded to Gene Dean Roybal, Joseph Zamerlan, Arnold H. Silverman, and Norman J. Abbod.

The occasion showed how to gather during a pandemic: masks, very few handshakes, hand sanitizer, and spread out seating. Lunch was a to-go box of Korean cuisine.



Guests practice social distancing at Korean War event





MajGen Laura Yeager speaks to Korean War commemoration gathering



SgtMaj Marty Vasquez addresses audience at Korean Consul General's home



Lunch at the Korean Consul General's home

## News Flashbacks

We realize that Marines are sometimes otherwise occupied and don't have time to read newspapers. So, we reprint articles that may have been of interest to them. Here are a couple.

### Maj. I. N. Hayes Commended By Marines

"Marine Major Ira N. Hayes has been awarded a commendation for "excellent service" while fighting with the First Marine Division in Korea. Presented by Major General G. C. Thomas, commanding general of the First Marine Division, the citation reads:

"For excellent service in the line of his profession while serving with a Marine motor transport battalion during operations against the enemy in Korea from 15 September 1950 to 7 April 1951. Major Hayes, serving as commanding officer of a truck company, displayed outstanding skill, initiative and confidence in the performance of his duties.

"He worked long, tedious hours without regard for his own personal fatigue in carrying out his assigned missions. Despite frequently adverse conditions, he at all times carried out his duties diligently and efficiently. His tireless devotion to duty and high degree of professional competence were an inspiration to all who observed him and contributed materially to the success of the battalion. Major Hayes' conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service." (The Jacksonville, NC, News and Views., Apr. 10, 1952, p. 3)

### Oh, brother!

"When Pfc. David O. Cropp joined the Marine Corps about three months after his brother, Pfc. Robert T. Cropp, had enlisted, coincidence put them in the same battalion. That battalion was in the first marine division to land on Guadalcanal in August last year. Now the brothers are both at home—David with a medical discharge and Robert on convalescent leave, awaiting a medical discharge. Both were wounded at Guadalcanal.

"When they arrived at Guadalcanal, Robert was 17 and his brother was 18, but it didn't take them long, they said, to get over being "kids" there. They grew up fast.

"Only a little while under Japanese fire was necessary to make the younger boys forget any ideas they might have had that war was an adventure, David declared.

"A lot of those boys joined up just for this," he went on, indicating his brother's colorful dress uniform, "but there on Guadalcanal they found there was quite a little more to it than that."

"One afternoon Robert and his patrol from Henderson Field in search of Japanese snipers were ambushed by enemy gun fire. The 17-year-old marine was wounded seriously in the right leg. He crawled back toward the hospital corpsmen, and the next thing he knew he was on his way to a New Hebrides hospital. For the past year he has been recovering at

Please turn to **FLASHBACKS** on page 19

# Life with an MEU

One of the highlights of some Marines' tours of duty is being part of a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). It gives them an opportunity to visit places they might not ever have gone to and experiences that might call for skills that go beyond their normal training. Look, for example, at life with the 31st MEU.

## Current subordinate units

- Ground Combat Element: Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines
- Aviation Combat Element: VMM-262 (Reinforced)
- Logistics Combat Element: Combat Logistics Battalion 31

CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan —The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit completed the first in a series of pre-deployment training events at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, June 28, 2018. The first step for the 31st MEU to prepare for an upcoming patrol of the Indo-Pacific region is Marine Expeditionary Unit Exercise. Also called MEUEX, it is designed to integrate each component of the 31st MEU – Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines; Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262 (Reinforced); Combat Logistics Battalion 31; and the 31st MEU Command Element – into a cohesive crisis response force capable of a diverse set of missions at a moment's notice.

MEUEX tests the 31st MEU's capability to plan and launch a series of complex missions from the sea, ranging from limited combat operations to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief – with a target of six hours from orders received to mission execution, according to Col. Robert Brodie, the 31st MEU commander.

"The 31st MEU is the cutting edge maritime crisis-response force in the region," said Brodie. "We are a composited task force that is rehearsed, relevant and ready to meet the needs of the geographic combatant commander, any time and any place. We have the ability to reach anywhere within the Indo-Pacific in a matter of days, if not hours, and that is a capability no other unit in the region can match."

For each component of the 31st MEU – the Ground Combat Element, the Aviation Combat Element, the Logistics Combat Element and the Command Element – MEUEX is a two week sprint to plan, rehearse and launch specific mission-sets in and around Okinawa, where the unit is based. For the Marine Corps' only continuously forward-deployed MEU, MEUEX sets the pace at the start of each twice-annual deployment.

It is an imperative first step, according to Brodie.

"MEUEX gives us the opportunity to refine integration of the Command Element, Aviation Combat Element, Battalion Landing Team and Combat Logistics Battalion, ensuring our ability to conduct 14 separate missions. We deploy two times each year, so obviously it is a fast-paced and requires constant rehearsal to ensure our preparedness as our nation's 911 force in readiness," said Brodie.

"MEUEX develops our planners and small unit leaders, not to

mention all our junior Marines, and prepares them for the challenges experienced underway. When we're embarked as part of an Amphibious Ready Group, the operational tempo increases tenfold, so MEUEX helps mold all of our Marines and prepare for our partnership with the Navy."

The 31st MEU, as a forward-deployed unit, is constantly on call to address crises throughout the entire Indo-Pacific region, stretching from Australia in the south to Mongolia in the north, and India in the west to roughly the Marshall Islands in the mid-Pacific. The vast area of responsibility features a wide array of terrain, climate, cultures and geopolitics. The 31st MEU must train to operate in everything from the jungle to deserts and mountains to coral outcroppings no higher than a few meters. They deploy with a large contingent of weapons, vehicles, equipment and personnel, aiming to be armed and equipped for any scenario, according to Maj. Jacob R. Godby, the 31st MEU's assistant operations officer.

"The size of our AO requires us to train for a wide variety of missions which requires an extensive range of equipment and the best trained Marines anywhere," said Godby. "In Okinawa, we have the resources and training grounds that allow us to train for almost any mission we could be tasked with. MEUEX allows us to begin putting the pieces together as we move closer to embarking for our next patrol."

While embarked, the 31st MEU partners with the U.S. Navy's Amphibious Squadron 11 to form the Wasp Amphibious Ready Group. The Marines and Sailors who form the 31st MEU embark aboard the ships of the Wasp ARG, and focus on area presence throughout the region while partnering with regional nations to enhance security and build ties between militaries, according to Godby.

"Being forward-deployed in Okinawa allows the 31st MEU to build solid and continuing friendships with other nation's militaries, which helps enhance regional security and stability," said Godby. "Every Marine and Sailor with the 31st MEU understands the importance of our role in the Indo-Pacific, and MEUEX is the first step as we lean into our next deployment."

Okay, that's the military aspect. But what if the Marines are in the area where a super typhoon hits. Then they become emergency helpers extraordinaire, as the next story suggests.

## Tinian, North Mariana Islands —

Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit are in the lead for Task Group Tinian, consisting of several hundred service members belonging to each branch of the U.S. military. The joint force, led by U.S. Marine Col. Robert "Bams" Brodie, is executing crisis-response in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's efforts to assist the U.S. citizens of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, recover from Super Typhoon Yutu, Nov. 3, 2018.

Military members from across the Indo-Pacific region, spearheaded by the 31st MEU and Combat Logistics Battalion 31,





Marines with Echo Company, Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, riding Assault Amphibious Vehicles, head toward the shore during a mechanized assault as part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's MEU Exercise, near Ginoza Village, Okinawa, Japan, June 28, 2018. Marines and Sailors with Echo Company performed the final training event of MEUEX, an assault launched from Camp Schwab and targeting Combat Town, part of Okinawa's Central Training Area. Marines with Echo Company, the mechanized assault element with BLT 2/5, partner with AAV crews to perform raids and assaults launched from the sea. MEUEX is the first in a series of three pre-deployment training events that prepare the 31st MEU to deploy at a moment's notice. The 31st MEU, the Marine Corps' only continuously forward-deployed MEU, provides a flexible force ready to perform a wide-range of military operations. <https://media.defense.gov/2018/Jun/29/2001937514/-1/0/180628-M-PJ332-0374.JPG>

The dock landing ship USS Ashland sits idle off the coast during the U.S. Defense Support of Civil Authorities relief effort in response to Super Typhoon Yutu, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Nov. 3, 2018. Businesses, government buildings, homes and schools were heavily damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu, which made a direct hit with devastating effect on Tinian Oct. 25 packing 170 MPH winds – it is the second strongest storm to ever hit U.S. soil and the strongest storm of 2018. Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and CLB-31 have been leading a multi-service contingent since Oct. 29 as part of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency-directed DSCA mission here. The Ashland arrived today to deliver a larger contingent of Marines and Seabees to further assist the people of Tinian. The Marines arrived at the request of CNMI officials and FEMA to assist relief efforts in the wake of Yutu, the largest typhoon to ever hit a U.S. territory. <https://media.defense.gov/2018/Nov/07/2002060401/-1/0/181103-M-PJ332-538.JPG>



Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 31 walk along a cleared road during the U.S. Defense Support of Civil Authorities relief effort in response to Super Typhoon Yutu, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Nov. 3, 2018. Businesses, government buildings, homes and schools were heavily damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu, which made a direct hit with devastating effect on Tinian Oct. 25 packing 170 MPH winds – it is the second strongest storm to ever hit U.S. soil and the strongest storm of 2018. Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and CLB-31 have been leading a multi-service contingent since Oct. 29 as part of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency-directed DSCA mission here. <https://media.defense.gov/2018/Nov/07/2002060399/-1/0/181103-M-PJ332-405.JPG>

Sailors with the dock landing ship USS Ashland sit pier-side aboard a landing craft at the port during the U.S. Defense Support of Civil Authorities relief effort in response to Super Typhoon Yutu, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Nov. 3, 2018. Businesses, government buildings, homes and schools were heavily damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu, which made a direct hit with devastating effect on Tinian Oct. 25 packing 170 MPH winds – it is the second strongest storm to ever hit U.S. soil and the strongest storm of 2018. Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and CLB-31 have been leading a multi-service contingent since Oct. 29 as part of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency-directed DSCA mission here. The Ashland arrived today to deliver a larger contingent of Marines and Seabees to further assist the people of Tinian. <https://media.defense.gov/2018/Nov/07/2002060400/-1/-1/0/181103-M-PJ332-418.JPG>



began arriving here en masse on Oct. 29, four days after the historic storm swept directly across the isolated island, to enable the Defense Support of Civil Authorities mission here. Led by FEMA officials and partnering with local government leaders and local law enforcement, the 31st MEU began categorizing urgent needs and establishing a base of support for partner and military units, including the U.S. Navy's Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 and the U.S. Air Force's 36th Civil Engineer Squadron, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

"We have effectively opened the door and laid the groundwork for long term forces of military members and federal aid workers to continue helping the Americans here on Tinian," said Brodie, commander of the 31st MEU. "I am incredibly proud of the work these Marines, Sailors, airmen and soldiers have done in such a short time – it is incredible seeing the progress in only four days."

Marines with the 31st MEU, U.S. Navy Seabees with NMCB-1 and 36th CES completed several imperative projects beginning Oct. 29, including purifying and distributing over 20,000 gallons of water; clearing two public schools, government buildings and the municipal power facility of downed trees and debris; and restoring emergency services' capacity to respond to medical emergencies. All efforts lay the groundwork for the arrival of the dock landing ship USS Ashland, which arrived today with a well-equipped force of Marines belonging to CLB-31 and additional

Seabees to augment existing capabilities already at work here.

"With the arrival of the Ashland and all its embarked Marines, Sailors, heavy equipment and supplies, we can continue building our support capacity for both FEMA and local leaders' priorities, not the least of which is helping establish temporary shelters for displaced families who lost everything to Yutu," said Brodie. "This storm is historic – it had devastating effects on this island – but the people of Tinian are resilient and we're glad to lend a hand to help them get back on their feet."

During DSCA operations, the U.S. military provides essential, lifesaving and preserving support to American citizens affected by declared natural disasters. Led by FEMA, the U.S. Government's domestic emergency response agency, the 31st MEU continues to partner with both local agencies and FEMA to address critical shortfalls of material and supplies to support the people of Tinian. The next steps include re-establishing semi-normalcy on Tinian, including set-up of temporary FEMA shelters for families with homes destroyed by Yutu.

"We are working with the Tinian Mayor's office and FEMA to prioritize which families will receive temporary shelters because their homes were destroyed just more than a week ago," said Brodie. "The 31st MEU's Marines and Navy Seabees of NMCB-1 are the muscle for this important work, and we're honored to work hand and hand with the resilient and courageous Americans on Tinian."

## Sock it to me

I was in my local supermarket the other day replenishing my supply of scrapple. You know, the breakfast, lunch, supper or any-other-time-of-day food that is made from the parts of a pig that no one else wants, such as the snout, ears, oink, and toenails, all held together with a filler of some kind. You can enhance it with any topping to improve its taste, such as maple syrup, catsup, or motor oil. It's a delicacy.

Surprisingly there is no shortage of scrapple in stores. I wonder why. Anyway, I was standing in the aisle when a gentleman wearing a Korea Veteran hat strolled by. He had on a strange-looking

mask. I looked closely: it was a white sock with two holes punched in it through which was woven a band to attach it to his ears.

"Did you wear one of those in Korea?" I asked.

"No," he replied. "I wore a gas mask."

Then he looked at me with a twinkle in his eye.

"Do you want the other sock?" he asked.

I was laughing so hard I didn't get a chance to ask him for his name—or buy the scrapple.

*Art Sharp*



# Contributions to the First Marine Division Association

## General Fund

General Fund Donations = 31; Total = \$1,903.87

LTCOL WM A ALLANSON USMC(RET)	74th	15
LTCOL WM A ALLANSON USMC(RET)	75th	25
SGT JOHN M. ANDERSON	1st	15
HOWARD E. DENTON	9th	200
CAROL & CECIL ELLIOTT	1	50
In memory of Steven P. "Doc" Lakernick		
FRANKLIN MADISON (formerly AFFINION GROUP)	37th	369.11
FRANKLIN MADISON (formerly AFFINION GROUP)	38th	176.02
FRANKLIN MADISON (formerly AFFINION GROUP)	39th	117.86
SGT WILLIAM A. FREEMAN JR	2nd	15
IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	110th	11
IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	111th	11
IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	112th	11
IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	113th	11
IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	114th	11
IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	115th	11
IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	116th	11
IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	117th	11
LTCOL CHARLES W. KERSHAW	3rd	200
To honor the memory and service of Steve "Doc" Lakernick		
CPL ERIC L. KURTZ	65th	10
CPL THOMAS LADNER	32nd	10
In memory of my dad: John "Red" Ladner, 482nd Bombardment Group, 812th Bomber Squadron, WWII		
RENEE MESTAYER	1st	20
In memoriam of Robert C. "Bob" Lehman		
CAPT W. D. NAREMORE	32nd	30
HM2 HOWELL L. NORMAN	8th	100
MRS MARILYN PAIGE	44th	115
CPL JOHN H. PENA	6th	15
LCPL JAMES D. REARDON	7th	65
CPL RICHARD J. ROBBINS	19th	100
STATE COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND	4th	2.88
CPL WALLACE T. STEWART	51st	25
SGT ROBERT J. VAGELL	47th	40
MRS HARRIETT WENHOLD	4th	100

## OBN Plea

OBN Plea Donations = 9; Total = \$305.00

SSGT RALPH C. AST	64th	50
SSGT RALPH C. AST	67th	50
LCPL ALVIN D. BECKER	1	50
CPL ARTHUR G. GOFF JR	23rd	25
CPL ERIC L. KURTZ	66th	10
SGT FRANKLIN T. OLIVA	5th	15
CPL WALLACE T. STEWART	52nd	25
FRANK G. THACHER	27th	50
SGT ROBERT J. VAGELL	48th	30

## Southern Cross Team Contributions

Southern Cross Donations = 1; Total = \$100.00

SSGT RALPH C. AST	64th	100
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## Scholarship Fund

Donations = 3; Total = \$110.00

LTCOL WM A ALLANSON USMC(RET)	104th	50
In Memory of Robert V. Kurilich USMC KIA RVN 6 June 1968;		
LTCOL WM A ALLANSON USMC(RET)	105th	50
In Memory Maj John C. Archibold USMC KIA RVN 6 June 1969.		
CPL ERIC L. KURTZ	17th	10

## General Fund

Blue Diamond Donations = 1; Total = \$10.00

CPL ERIC L. KURTZ	68th	10
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## General Fund-Life Members

Life Member = 30; Total = \$1,355.00

SSGT RALPH C. AST	63rd	50
SSGT RALPH C. AST	66th	50
SGT BOB BELZ	2nd	35
CPL MALVIN J. BERGART	7th	50
SGT JOSEPH A. DAILY	14th	35
DAVID DANGWILLO	1st	35
BGEN MICHAEL P. DOWNS USMC(RET)	13th	100
In memory of all deceased Marines and Sailors that served with F/2/5 in Vietnam.		
MSGT DAVID M. FRANKLIN	55th	35
1STSGT GEORGE E. GALVAN USMC(RET)	84th	100
In Honor of Linde Loomis		
CWO FRANK G. GILLETTE USN(RET)	2nd	35
CPL ARTHUR G. GOFF JR	22nd	25
MSGT JAMES R. GUMMOW	26th	25
CAPT STEPHEN S. HANWAY	15th	100
HMC JOHN T. JOYCE	3rd	100
In memory of HM3 Joel Alcum USN, 1st Tank Battalion, Vietnam 1969		
SGT SIDNEY E. KIRK	8th	100
In memory of Korean War vets		
CPL ERIC L. KURTZ	67th	10
DAVID A. MARSHALL	11th	100
CPL IRVIN A. MAY USMC(RET)	23rd	50
SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	120th	10
SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	122nd	10
SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	123rd	10
SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	124th	10
SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	121st	10
SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	125th	10
SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	126th	10
CAPT GEORGE STETTLER	5th	35
FRANK G. THACHER	26th	50
SGT ROBERT J. VAGELL	49th	30
SSGT QUINTIN L. VILLANUEVA JR	3rd	35
COL ERIC P. VISSER USMC(RET)	6th	100

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# Chapter Scuttlebutt

News from the Chapters of the 1st Marine Division Association

We have an unusual honor in this issue. We salute two Silver Star recipients, Robert F. Bobst and Samuel L. Felton. Semper Fi, gentlemen.

## Bodfish/Southern California

Members of the two chapters gathered to celebrate HAI Bob Bobst's 94th Birthday. Friends and family of our favorite Silver Star Corpsman, Bob Bobst, gathered on 26 February to celebrate his 94th birthday in San Clemente, California. Bob saw action on Cape Gloucester, Peleliu, and Okinawa.

Here is his Silver Star citation:

### **Robert F. Bobst**

**Home Of Record:** Kansas City, Kansas

### **Silver Star**

**Awarded For Actions During World War II**

**Service:** Navy

**Rank:** Hospital Apprentice First Class

**Battalion:** 3d Battalion

**Division:** 1st Marine Division

### **CITATION:**

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Hospital Apprentice First Class Robert F. Bobst (NSN: 3427564), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving as a Hospital Corpsman attached to a Marine Rifle Platoon of the Third Battalion, First Marines, FIRST Marine Division, on Okinawa Shima, Ryukyu Islands, on the night of 2 May 1945.

While advancing with his platoon in the attack and observing two Marines were wounded and lying in a bullet swept area, Hospital Apprentice First Class Bobst, braving intense enemy machine gun and mortar fire, crawled to their assistance, coolly and calmly administered medical treatment and then aided them to covered positions.

With utter disregard for his personal safety, Hospital Apprentice First Class Bobst, throughout the night, crawled from one wounded man to another, exposing himself to heavy enemy mortar fire to render medical attention to his comrades. His courageous actions and devotion to duty in the face of grave danger were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.



Robert Bobst (R) sits with friends at birthday party



Robert Bobst is literally the center of attention at his 94th birthday party



"We're here to wish Bob Bobst happy birthday"

## Central Florida



Samuel L. Felton

In case any of you have not gotten the sad news, on May 24, we lost a friend, a gentleman, and the most courageous warrior I ever knew. Samuel "Frag" Felton was a legend in Charlie Company 1st Bn, 5th Marine Regiment.

"Frag" died from a heart attack at 3:00 this morning. He was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions, but it probably should have been the Medal of Honor. Here is his citation:

### **Samuel L Felton, Jr.**

### **Navy Cross**

**Awarded For Actions During Vietnam War**

**Service:** Marine Corps

**Rank:** Private First Class

**Battalion:** 1st Battalion

**Division:** 1st Marine Division (Rein.) FMF

**CITATION:**

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Private First Class Samuel L. Felton, Jr. (MCSN: 2479014), United States Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism while serving as a Fire Team Leader with Company C, First Battalion, Fifth Marines, FIRST Marine Division (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force, in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam.

Early on the morning of 11 June 1969, Company C was established in a battalion night defensive perimeter two miles west of An Hoa Combat Base when its sector came under a heavy volume of rocket, mortar, recoilless rifle, and automatic-weapons fire followed by a determined assault by an estimated 100 North Vietnamese Army soldiers. When communications with a three-man listening post seventy-five meters forward of the perimeter were lost, Private First Class Felton established voice contact and learned that all three Marines were wounded and unable to return to the perimeter unassisted.

With resolute determination, he left his fighting hole and although wounded by enemy fire, continued across the open terrain until he reached the beleaguered Marines. After administering first aid and ensuring that no equipment or ordnance was left behind, he provided covering fire as he directed the two least seriously wounded men across the hazardous area to the company lines.

Despite his weakened condition from loss of blood, Private First Class Felton began to carry the most seriously injured Marine through the knee-deep mud and water of the rice paddy. Suddenly two hostile soldiers jumped in front of him, blocking his chance to return to friendly lines. Reacting instantly, he fired his M-16 rifle with one hand while supporting the wounded Marine with his injured arm, killing both of the enemy, and fearlessly continued his Herculean efforts until he delivered his wounded comrade to the battalion aid station.

He then returned to the perimeter and continued fighting the attacking force until the enemy was repulsed. His heroic actions and bold fighting spirit inspired all who observed him and were instrumental in saving the lives of several fellow Marines. By his courage, daring initiative, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of great personal danger, Private First Class Felton upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

## Southern California

With great sadness we announce the passing of SgtMaj Paul (Steve) Stephenson, USMC (ret). We thank him for his long devoted service and friendship. And, we miss him.



SgtMaj Stephenson and active duty Marines at a cook-out at Task Force Mateo, 5th Marines, Camp Pendleton, CA 26 October 2018

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## FLASHBACKS from page 13

a hospital in Oakland, Calif.

Shortly afterward, David also was wounded. He spent two months in the New Hebrides Hospital, and returned to action. No enemy action came, however, and then David contracted malaria.

“When you’re over there,” David said, “you think of all the things you will tell the folks at home when you get back. But when you get back, it’s almost as if you’ve forgotten it. You just don’t remember.”

At first, he said, everyone was scared and tense. But after the first bombing raid they began to take it in their stride.

“It got to be like a ball game afterwards,” he said, “with all the guys making bets as to where the next bomb was going to land. We just went on with what we were doing.” (Washington D.C. Evening Star, Nov. 19, 1943, p. B-16)

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## How often did happy endings like this occur?

Firemen braved sniper fire in efforts to contain blazes in about half a dozen buildings in a prosperous Chinese section [of Saigon]. Government troops were seen looting stores of food.

In the northern war zone, South Vietnamese infantrymen freed two American Marines from enemy captivity 12 miles east of Hue. Both men were reported in good physical condition after two months in enemy hands.

Details of how they were rescued were not immediately disclosed. Spokesmen said the two were Sgt. Albert J. Polter of Hutchinson, Kan., and Cpl Frank C. Iodice of Atlanta, Ga. (*Corpus Christi, TX, Times*, June 1, 1968, p. 8)



# His blood on my hands

By Birney Dibble

*NOTE: The names in this story have been changed to protect the participants' privacy. The facts, however, are true.*

In the end it was the little man who broke the big man. Not bit by bit like water dripping on sandstone, but suddenly like a wooden bridge splintering in a flash flood.

The hints may have been there all along, undoubtedly were. But nobody heeded them, not even I, the big man's commanding officer and frequent companion in that ghastly psychodrama we acted out together from time to time in that Marine hospital four miles behind the First Marine Division's front lines.

Dr. Jake Fenn didn't look like the kind to crack: bushy eyebrows cragged out over wideset eyes, strong nose counterpointing a jutting jaw, heavyweight's ears cauliflowered below greying hair.

And his eyes...well, they were the eyes of a mystic poet and many people saw only his eyes. They'd look into those big brown eyes and see the tiny scintillas flicking across the black pupils and already they'd be in the first stages of hypnosis. The lids were heavy but seldom closed, and people found themselves wondering if he ever blinked.

Now as I sat quietly off to one side of Jake Fenn in the half-light of the 16x16 pyramidal tent, I could see those mantrap eyes holding the little man powerless. Joe Rash stood uneasily in the center of the tent, fumbling with his fatigue cap, shuffling his feet as if he didn't know whether or not to come to attention. His dark hair was damp and uncombed, his eyes dull, bloodshot, sleepless, his face showing the hellish strain of the trenches.

Fenn spoke, his voice resonant, deep. "Private First Class Joseph Rash?"

"Yes, sir."

"Tell me what happened."

Rash opened and closed his mouth several times before the first words came out. "Well, sir, I been with George Company of 3/5 on line for about nine months. Patrols, ambushes, that sort of thing. I didn't have no trouble doin' my job and obeyin' orders and all that. Y'know?"

"Go on," Fenn said sharply and I glanced uneasily at him. His caustic voice was out of

character.

"We was having a rough time. Lost a lot of men. I ducked a lot of shrapnel, but was never hit. Scared lots of time, 'course, especially at night when those bastards kept drop-pin' in the stuff 'til it seemed I couldn't keep on bein' missed."

A sudden breeze sent a shower of rain against the walls. Rash paused, head bowed. Beads of sweat stood out on his temples and under his eyes. He flicked a look up at Fenn. Fenn unhooded his eyes and held Rash for seconds longer than it would take to unnerve most men. But Rash held fast and Fenn heaved a deep sigh, almost of relief, and I knew what he was thinking.

Rash had begun to slow down, hesitant now as he came to the crucial event. He was no dummy. He knew that his next few statements might free or hang him. Other men would read the evidence and would ponder his fate, but in the end they would bow to the judgment of the man at the table in front of him right now.

There was a hint of tears in his eyes as he searched Fenn's face for signs of understanding and found none. Jake Fenn knew better than to give solace at such a time. He sat impassively, immutably, eyes hooded.

Rash stared at the ground for a moment, then looked up at Fenn.

"The gunny sergeant come down the line and told us we was gonna do a patrol. 'Get saddled up, boys,' he said, 'we move out in twenty minutes.' God knows I was scared. But so was everybody. I just couldn't do it, doc, I just couldn't."

He stared down at the ground, shaking his head slowly from side to side. "We didn't need that patrol," he mumbled, almost to himself. "It was a stupid friggin' idea somebody had."

He stopped, glanced at me then back at Fenn. He knew immediately that he'd made a mistake. "Doctor, I — what I mean is — that's the last thing I really remember. Everything else is like a dream. I remember Sergeant Tager comin' into my bunker and he said something but I don't think I answered him. I remember the lieutenant's face pokin' into my bunker and he said something but I don't think I answered him either. Maybe I did, I dunno. Then I was bein'

pulled out of the bunker by the sergeant and I ended up here. That's the God's truth, doctor!"

I shifted my eyes from Rash to Fenn. Fenn's eyes were staring, the usually hooded lids drawn up showing the whites around widely dilated black pupils. His knuckles on the camp chair were blanched and I had the weird feeling he was getting ready to spring. I was so tensed up myself that I never would have trusted myself to speak. So Jake's calm voice surprised me. "Okay, Joe, you can go back to your tent now."

Rash sullenly shuffled out through the open flaps into the muggy dusk. Fenn slumped on the table, spent and bruised. He turned his head toward me, his eyes devoid of their usual magnetism. "Know what's at stake here, skipper?"

I nodded but he didn't see me.

"If my report says he's a neuro-psychiatric (NP) patient who 'was unable at the time to differentiate between right and wrong and adhere to the right,' he'll go through a minor bit of hell but he'll be discharged a free man. Section Eight, of course, but free.

"If I say 'Not NP' he'll go up before a court martial and he'll almost certainly end up in jail. Ten years. Maybe more. GOD!!!"

He handed me the dossier and I read Sergeant Tager's written report.

The sergeant told much the same story that Rash had, but concluded with his own version of the final episode. "When I crawled into Rash's bunker to bring him out, he just sat and stared at my flashlight. He looked funny, but not that thousand yard stare like some NPs I've seen. He gave me his rifle when I asked for it. I took him under guard down to the Forward Aid Station."

The lieutenant's report was more formal, reflecting his knowledge that what he wrote might someday be read in a court martial or before a medical review board.

"At 0205, 24 September, 1952, I was asked by Sgt. Robert Tager to go to the bunker of Pfc. Joseph Rash. Private Rash had refused to go out with his platoon on patrol. I crawled into the bunker and shone my flashlight on him. He was sitting cross-legged with his back to the wall.

"I ordered him again to go on patrol. He shook his head but didn't say anything. It is



my opinion that Pfc. Jos. Rash understood my order and deliberately disobeyed it, that he was able to differentiate right from wrong and chose the wrong.”

Jake Fenn took the reports from me and put them back into the folder. He was visibly shaken. I’d never seen him quite like this. “The sergeant thinks Rash was acting irrationally,” he said.

Trying to be helpful, I replied, “Under a great emotional strain, at least.”

“Yeah,” he said. “But the lieutenant thinks he knew what he was doing.”

Head bowed, eyes hooded, body sagging, he toyed with a pencil for a moment and then got up and left. I didn’t like the way he was acting and had the urge to follow him out. I didn’t—and I’ll never know what difference it might have made.

Later, from Jake himself and from the testimony at his Section Eight hearing, I was able to piece together what happened next.

He had walked slowly in the humid darkness to his own tent across the nearly deserted compound of our front-line hospital. He sat down on his bunk, cradled his head in his hands, thinking. He felt a nausea in his belly and wet spasms in his rectum.

Sitting on the edge of his cot he tried to think objectively about the case. Well, he thought, what the hell, I can pass the decision on to the next higher level. I don’t have to make it. Let them put Joe away for ten years.

He lay back on his cot, knowing now that he had already made the decision when he thought, “Let them put...”

He pulled a bottle out of his sea bag and took a long drink. And another. And another. The alcohol fired his imagination and he picked up his pen and started to write. Sweat poured from his forehead and his hands. He could feel his mind turning and twisting and there was the ghostly face of Joe Rash projected before him in the yellow light of the kerosene pressure lamp. They spoke to each other and Jake Fenn actually recorded the conversation in the stark, crudely poetic images of a breaking mind.

Joe’s face hung there above the lamp, and Fenn heard him say, “Gaunt, bearded, tired, mud-caked men, eyes burning dark and red, asking always, always asking, how many wounded, how many dead?”

Jake Fenn answered the hallucination in barely intelligible language but still with a hint of subconscious insight.

“The answer God alone can know: the answer is, it’s sometimes said, the question only; itself the known: how many wounded, how many dead.” He wrote that down, too.

And then Jake Fenn struggled to his feet, the paper first sticking to his sweaty hands and then fluttering under his cot where we found it later. He stood indecisively, thinking, “What right have I, Jake Fenn, to make decisions that God alone should make? Why should I have Joe’s blood on my hands?”

He stumbled down the company street to my tent and called me out with a furious roar. I stood between the flaps and saw him in the

moonlight, in the damp darkness of the Korean night, his arms straight down at his sides. He said later that he could feel the sticky, clotting, red stuff dripping off his hands, and he was afraid to look at them. Now he stared straight into my eyes, a moving picture in stop-action, his face slashed open with a crazy, sardonic grin.

Slowly he raised his arms stiff-elbowed in front of him and looked at his hands—and screamed.....

*J. Birney Dibble, M.D., W 4290 Jene Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54701, 715-832-0709*

## 1st MarDiv Photo Gallery Open

The 1st Marine Division has a photo gallery on its website at <https://www.1stmar-div.marines.mil/Photos/>. Details and photographer credits are on the website.

Here are a few of the photos, all of which are USMC.



**Sep 13, 2017 - MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – 3d Assault Amphibian Battalions’ annual surf qualification (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Roxanna Gonzalez)**

**CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - U.S. Marine veterans with the 1st Marine Division Association visit 5th Marine Regiment’s Memorial Garden on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, Jan. 30, 2020. The veterans visited the memorial to honor those Marines and Sailors who gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving with 1st Marine Division. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Alexa M. Hernandez)**



**CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Retired U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Carlos Mariscal and his wife gathered at the 5th Marine Regiment Memorial Garden during 1st Marine Division’s 79th Anniversary on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, Jan. 30, 2020. The veterans visited the memorial to honor those Marines and Sailors who gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving with 1st Marine Division. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Alexa M. Hernandez)**





**SGT JOHN M. ABBOTT** HQ CO 2ND BN  
1ST MARINES PORTLAND, OR  
3/3/2010

**SGT JOHN ABRAHAM JR** 3RD RAIDER BN  
WWII GRAYSLAKE, IL 3/31/2016

**SGT DAVID APGAR** 1ST RECON BN VN  
KUTZTOWN, PA 12/27/2019

**\*SGT JOHN R. ARNESON** 16 FD C-1-7  
WWII KO SAINT PAUL, MN 3/7/2009

**\*PHM2 JOHN W. BAILEY JR** H&S CO  
HQB N WWII SANTA PAULA, CA  
6/26/2020

**\*CWO4 OLIVER W. BAILEY** HQ-1-1/7  
WWII KO SAINT PETERSBURG, FL  
2/5/2020

**\*CPL FRED C. BAIRD** A-1AMTRAC WWII  
KO ALEXANDER CITY, AL 4/30/2008

**\*CAPT JEREMY A. BARKANN** I-3-7 KO  
PRINCETON, NJ 7/7/2008

**SGT DANNY JOSEPH BECKER** L-3-5, C-1-5,  
C-1-7 CRYSTAL CITY, MO

**\*CPL PETER T. BELZ** I-3-1 WWII CH  
NORRISTOWN, PA 10/20/2008

**MRS ELSIE BENALLY** H&S-1MAR WWII  
CH SHIPROCK, NM 9/11/2011

**PFC EUGENE M. BENWARE** C-1-5 VN  
CHICAGO, IL 3/9/2020

**SGT GEORGE J. BOUBEL** I-3-1 KO SAN  
ANTONIO, TX 6/29/2018

**SSGT CHARLES D. BOUSE** A CO 1ST ENG  
KO HOUSTON, TX 7/10/2016

**\*CPL EDWARD B. BRUTZMAN** HQ-3-7  
WWII CH SAINT MICHAELS, MD  
2/26/2020

**SGT ROSALIO CASARES JR** C-1-7 KO  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 5/3/2013

**CPL AUGUSTUS P. CASASSA** I-3-1/7  
WWII RANDOLPH, MA 2/20/2004

**ERLAND G. CASE** PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL  
2/1/2015

**\*SGT SAM E. CASE** C-4-1 1AMTRAC  
WWII KO PHOENIX, AZ 6/12/2015

**SHARON CASE** ASSOCIATE BULLHEAD  
CITY, AZ 12/10/2018

**\*JOHN J. CASEY** AMED-1-1 WWII CH  
PHOENIX, AZ 8/10/2018

**\*CPL JOSEPH RICHARD CASH** C-1-5 VN  
DAWSONVILLE, GA 3/23/2010

**CPL J. T. CASLER** C-1-11 WWII CH WEST  
ORANGE, NJ 2/7/2003

**SGT DAN W. CASS** R-2-5 WWII CH KO  
ROME CITY, IN 12/10/2011

**\*SGTMAJ ELBERT L. CASSELL** 1ENGR 1-7MAR  
CW MANASSAS, VA 7/15/2006

**HM3 MICHAEL K. CASSIDY** B-1RECON  
VN THURMONT, MD 1/17/2015

**\*SSGT AL CASTILLO** I-3-1 WWII KO SAN  
ANTONIO, TX 9/7/2019

**SGT ANTONIO P. CASTILLO JR** SPT-1SVC  
KO WACO, TX 2/2/2000

**\*PHM2 JACK C. CASTROGIOVANNI** MD,  
JD, FCLM 2-1MAR WWII METAIRIE,  
LA 7/23/2018

**PVT PATRICK PETER CASTRONOVO** H&S-2-5  
CW MOHAVE VALLEY, AZ  
5/8/2006

**\*ARCHIE CATAVOLLOS** F-2-7 WWII  
CLEVELAND, OH 3/31/2011

**\*MR. CHARLES STUART CATRON** D-1-26  
M-3-7 1FORRECON VN NEWARK, DE  
10/2/2019

**\*PFC RICHARD A. CAULLEY** E-2-1 KO  
SARASOTA, FL 5/2/2019

**CPL MILES A. CAUSEY** H&S-1-1 KO  
JACKSON, MS 1/30/2017

**\*JOHN F. CAWLEY** B-1RAIDER WWII  
BROCKTON, MA 2/24/1998

**\*PFC CARMELO T. CEDRONE** 1SIG-HQ  
WWII CH HAINES CITY, FL 6/12/2008

**CPL MICHAEL J. CERASE** A-1-1 WWII CH  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 12/12/2013

**SGT JAMES D. CHALLENGER** SVC KO  
ELIZABETHVILLE, PA 8/13/2008

**SGT RICHARD L. CHAMPAGNE** MATCU68  
VN UXBRIDGE, MA 12/26/2019

**\*CAPT E. E. CHAMPION** 11MAR WWII  
WILLIAMSTOWN, NJ 2/17/1980

**PHM2 JAMES L. CHANEY** 1ST AV ENG  
BN FMF MURFREESBORO, AR  
5/14/2010

**CPL FRANK A. CHAPIEWSKI** H-3-7 KO  
MINNESOTA CITY, MN 2/13/2013

**\*LTCOL CHARLES T. CHAPMAN** WPNS-2-7  
KO TALLAHASSEE, FL 2/9/2011

**\*CPL KENNETH C. CHAPMAN** B-1-1 KO  
EAGLE GROVE, IA 4/26/2015

**ROBERT J. CHAPMAN** A-1AMTRAC WWII  
ONTARIO, CA 5/4/2008

**SGT FRANK CHAPPELL JR** B/C-TKS WWII  
RALEIGH, NC 1/26/2013

**SGT JOHN T. CHASE** 1SHPTY KO  
ORMOND BEACH, FL 12/9/2014

**CPL LARRY W. CHATHAM** H&S-2-5 VN  
BROWNSBURG, IN 5/3/2008

**PFC ELISEO CHAVEZ** H&S-1ENGR CW  
WILMINGTON, CA 5/31/2010

**LCPL STEVE S. CHAVEZ** C-1-5 VN HOUS-  
TON, TX 4/20/2008

**CPL HARVEY E. CHERNIK** AMCO 1MT KO  
COSTA MESA, CA 2/8/2013

**\*CPL WILLIAM J. CHESSLER** L-3-7 WWII  
PEMBROKE, FL 9/8/2007

**\*PFC ROBERT W. CHESTER SR** B-1-11  
CH KO BOISE, ID 10/27/2018

**\*SGT EUGENE J. CHRISTENSON** I H&S  
W-3-5 KO WEBSTER, WI 11/12/2002

**\*SGT HILTON P. CHRISTIE** 4.2 MRTR-1  
KO HOUSTON, TX 2/17/2005

**\*PLTSGT HARGUS P. CHURCH** G-2-5  
WWII OLIVER SPRINGS, TN 1/10/2014

**CPL RUSSELL W. CHURCH** G-3-1 KO  
BEVERLY, MA 9/20/2008

**CPL ROBERT G. CHURN** 4JASCO WWII  
CH PETERSBURG, VA 3/19/2009

**\*SSGT JOHN P. CIMINELLI SR** WPNS-1-5  
KO BROOKLYN, NY 6/13/2020

**\*PFC PETER M. CINQUEGRANI** 1MED  
WWII CH JOLIET, IL 7/29/2015

**JOANNE CIOFFI** OBN ONLY LAKEWOOD,  
NJ 12/14/2009

**\*SGT RICHARD D. CLABO** F-2-7 KO  
BLOOMINGTON, MN 10/9/2014

**MRS VERA CLAIR** OBN CASTRO VALLEY,  
CA 2/12/2017

**\*CPL BILLY W. CLARK** I-3-5 KO MATHIS,  
TX 12/12/2004

**\*SGT JOHN W. CLARK** F-2-7 KO BIRM-  
INGHAM, NJ 6/23/2016

**CAPT VINCENT T. CLARK** USN(RET) HQ-3-7  
WWII NEW ORLEANS, LA  
7/12/2001

**CPL WILLIAM E. CLARK** A-1-5 WWII  
AMARILLO, TX 2/2/2014

**\*SGT EDWARD CLASSON JR** HQ-HQ KO  
CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA 1/20/2009

**SGT GEORGE W. CLAUSEN JR** DIV HQ  
WWII GLOUCESTER, VA 8/16/2010

**\*PHM1C JAMES A. CLAYPOOL** E-2-7 KO  
BEMIDJI, MN 12/18/2011

**CPL KEVIN G. CLEARY** H&S/C-1-1 VN  
MILFORD, ME 1/26/2014

**\*MAJ W. F. CLEMENS** BRIT LIAOFF D-2  
WWII VICTORIA, 5/31/2009

**\*GYSGT BEAUFORD R. CLEMENTS** HQ-3-7  
HQ-HQ VN LAKE KIOWA, TX  
3/13/2019

**SGT LEROY D. CLEPPE** A-1ENGR KO  
COMANCHE, IA 2/3/2015

**SGT CHARLES H. CLEVELAND** 1ANGLICO  
KO LAND O' LAKES, FL

**\*CPL C. E. CLEVENSTINE** ANGLICO KO  
PENNSBURG, PA 7/26/2014

**CAPT RICHARD M. COAN** USN H CO 3D  
BN 1MAR DIV KO CARLSBAD, CA  
4/15/2020

**\*LTCOL FRANKLIN W. COATES** 1TK KO  
ARLINGTON, VA 6/25/2015

**FRANK & SALLY COCCIA** MEDFORD, NJ  
1/18/2018

**\*PFC ROBERT J. COCHRANE** B-1-7 KO  
MARSHFIELD, MA 2/25/2017

**CPL DONALD WAYNE CODY** H-1-3 KO  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 4/3/2015

**SGTMAJ JAMES CODY** G-3-5 WWII CH  
KO VN CMC CANON CITY, CO  
5/14/2016

**DR CHARLIE Q. COFFMAN** F-2-5 WWII  
EAST HELENA, MT 02/27/2004

**\*COL RICHARD W. COFFMAN** 3/11  
POTOMAC, MD 5/3/2019

**\*SGTMAJ THOMAS V. COGAN JR**  
USMC(RET) A-1ENGR VN SPRING-  
FIELD, VA 5/1/1999

**SGT GERALD W. COLBERT** HQ-H&S KO  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 1/27/2014

**\*SGT EARL W. COLE** 3-11 KO CLAYTON,  
NY 3/20/2020

**\*SGT E. D. COLEMAN** M-4-11 WWII CH  
TUSCALOOSA, AL 6/25/2010

**\*CPL HENRY (HANK) D. COLEMAN** HQ-1  
PION 17MAR WWII CH ELLISVILLE,  
MO 11/5/2019

**CPL JACK L. COLEMAN** B-1-1 WWII  
PHOENIX, AZ 10/22/2009

**LCPL NICHOLAS R. COLEMAN** E-2-7  
WPNS-2-7 OIF SAN DIEGO, CA  
12/11/2010

**PVT DAVID C. COLIN** USMC(RET) 1-5 VN  
BUFFALO, NY 11/5/2014

**CPL ALFRED J. COLLET** H-3-7 KO FREE-  
LAND, MI 5/25/2015

**\*CPL BEN R. COLLIE** A-1-5 KO DULUTH,  
MN 11/13/2012

**\*CPL JEROME M. COLLIGAN** G-3-11  
WWII CH SAINT AUGUSTINE, FL  
4/28/2012

**CAPT D. J. COLLINS** USMC(RET) H&S-1  
RECON VN DERRY, NH 12/20/2002

**CPL GLEN E. COLLINS** L-3-5 WWII  
BETHALTO, IL 5/6/2016

**SGT JOHN J. COLLINS** H&S-1AAA KO  
EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ 8/9/2008

**GYSGT JOHN W. COLLINS JR** HQ-3-1  
H&S-MAG13 KO VN SHAKOPEE, MN  
7/24/2015

**MRS VICKI COLLINS** OLIVER SPRINGS,  
TN 1/10/2018

**SSGT JACK T. COLMAN** 1/7/15DEF H-3-7  
WWII KO SEATTLE, WA 6/7/2017

**SGT RONALD S. COLOMBANI** B-1RECON  
VN SONORA, CA 7/12/2018

**\*1STSGT DON D. COMPITELLO** F-2-11 KO  
OMAHA, NE 4/28/2012

**\*CPL CHARLES X. CONBOY** D-1-5 WWII  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 9/1/2009

**\*SGT GABRIEL C. CONDE** A-1-7 KO  
SAINT LOUIS, MO 1/24/2006

**MRS DAVID F. CONDON** ASSOCIATE MID-  
DLEBURG, VA 12/31/2008

**\*SGTMAJ GARY L. CONDREY** USMC(RET)  
2-7-RECON VN SAN MARCOS, CA  
11/16/2014

**\*CPL JOSEPH (JOE) R. CONNELL** B-7-MT  
KO WESTFORD, MA 5/1/2020

**WILLIAM J. CONNELL** MAG33 KO  
BRONX, NY 11/14/2012

**SSGT CLOYD T. CONNELLY JR** H&S-3-1  
G-2-7 VN BALTIMORE, MD 5/2/2019

**LTCOL E. J. CONNELLY JR** A-1RECON VN  
LINDEN, NJ 5/1/2011

**SGT GLENN MARVIN CONNER** OBN ONLY  
RUSHVILLE, IN 3/28/2003

**MAJ ROBERT A. CONNLY JR** USMC(RET)  
F-2-1 KO VN JACKSONVILLE, NC  
7/24/2006

**CAPT HOWARD J. CONNOLLY** I-3-1 WWII  
KO VERO BEACH, FL 6/12/2012

**\*CPL RAYMOND H. CONNOLLY** 11MAR  
WWII CH ENTERPRISE, OR 7/17/2009

**SGT WILLIAM T. CONNORS** E-2-5 KO  
WEST HARTFORD, CT 2/9/2020

**SSGT JOSEPH R. CONSENTINO** A-1TK B-3TK  
VN DEDHAM, MA 6/28/2018

**\*MAJ THOMAS J. CONSODINE**  
USMC(RET) H-S-1-1 KO WICHITA  
FALLS, TX 3/29/2011

**\*SGT MATHEW C. CONSTANTINO** L-3-5/A-1-7  
WWII CH GEORGETOWN, TX  
6/4/2017

**CPL DAVID W. COOK** 90MM AAA KO  
RAHWAY, NJ 12/10/2016

**\*COL GORTON C. COOK** USMC(RET)  
H&S/WPNS-2-1 G3-HQ-HQ KO VN  
SLIDELL, LA 2/5/2020

**\*PFC M. P. COOK** D-1-5 WWII WYSOX,  
PA 9/26/2006

**SSGT ALLEN R. COOKE** D-2-1 KO LIVO-  
NIA, MI 8/25/2006



**DR BILL H. COOKE** B-1-11 WWII CHARLOTTE, NC 2/6/2010

**CPL ROBERT G. COOKE** 1SIG H&S-2-6 WWII ALBANY, NY 9/26/2008

**\*2NDLT PHILIP W. COOMBE** USMC(RET) F-2-7 KO LEWES, DE 1/12/2018

**CHARLES C. COONEY** CHICAGO, IL 8/2/2019

**SGT FLOYD A. COOPER** WPNS-3-5 KO DECATUR, IL 7/29/2017

**JEROME A. COPPICUS** E-2-1 WWII CH KO MINNEAPOLIS, MN 7/7/2013

**\*COL LEROY V. CORBETT** USMC(RET) I-3-1 KO RALEIGH, NC 2/16/2014

**SGT ROBERT J. CORBETT** A-1-7 KO MANTECA, CA 12/12/2018

**\*SGT RICHARD L. CORBLY** 1-7MAR CH SIOUX FALLS, SD 5/7/2003

**\*GYSGT RAYMOND K. CORNICK** USMC(RET) B-1PION WWII CH KO VN TEMECULA, CA

**\*GYSGT KENNETH O. CORNWELL** USMC(RET) A-B-1-5 KO VN WENATCHEE, WA 3/20/2019

**CPL NICHOLAS COROMELAS** 1ENGR CH SEAL BEACH, CA 10/15/2009

**\*CPL JOSEPH R. CORREA** D-2-7 KO SAN ANTONIO, TX 7/29/2018

**\*GYSGT WILLIAM J. CORRELL** USMC(RET) C-1-5 WWII CH KO SAN MATEO, CA 1/6/2018

**\*PHM2 FRANK CORRY** FMF G-2-5 E-2-5 HQ-2-5 WWII CH DUBLIN, GA 12/24/2019

**\*CPL JOHN CORZAN** H-3-1 KO KYLE, TX 5/19/2019

**\*LCPL RAYMOND F. COSTA** C-1-7 VN EVERETT, MA 1/8/2019

**PFC JOSEPH COSTANZA** C-1MT I-3-1 KO LYNHURST, NJ 12/26/2004

**PVT PETER F. COSTARELLI** WPNS-9DEF WWII BLOOMSBURG, PA

**HM2 (PJ) (DV) (FMF) ROLAND G. COTE** JR 1RECON VN AVON, CT 4/21/2020

**\*MAJ RICHARD W. COTTEN** 4JASCO WWII CH KO ANOKA, MN 8/24/2017

**\*MR. JOSEPH L. COTTI** F-2-7 WWII KO MALABAR, FL 11/15/2018

**JAMES L. COTTINGHAM** A-1MAR WWII ROAN MOUNT TN, TN 10/6/2004

**\*SGT DAVID P. COUGHLIN** H&S-1ENGR WWII SAN DIEGO, CA 6/30/2005

**GYSGT WALTER E. COUILLARD** H&S-2-7 KO RICHFIELD, MN 11/1/2009

**SGTMAJ JOHN W. COULTER** USMC(RET) K-3-1 KO VN TAMPA, FL 9/3/2007

**GYSGT A. W. COURNEY** USMC(RET) WPNS-3-7 WWII KO VN WASHINGTON, DC 3/22/2009

**MRS BARBARA L. COURTNEY** ASSOCIATE BATON ROUGE, LA 2/1/2019

**\*SSGT JACK H. COURTNEY** USMC(RET) E-2-5 H-3-11 F-2-7 CH KO TUCSON, AZ 5/15/2013

**\*LCPL ALBERT J. COUTURE** C-1-1 VN ENFIELD, CT 9/2/2019

**\*SGT FRANKLIN S. COVEY** H&S-2LAAM MACS4 MACG18 VN SAN DIEGO, CA 2/28/2019

**\*PFC ROBERT O. CROSS** F-2-5 WWII CH GRAND JUNCTION, CO 6/25/2008

**\*SSGT RICHARD A. CRUICKSHANK** D-2-11 KO LINCOLN, NE 6/23/2010

**CPL WILLIAM W. DABELSTEIN** C-1-7 KO CATHEDRAL CITY, CA 3/25/2019

**LTCOL ROBERT R. DARRON** 1-1 2-5 KO VN Ramona, CA 3/30/2020

**\*GYSGT EDGAR L. DEIGHAN** HQ-4/5-11 WWII SOUTH DAYTONA, FL 2/24/2013

**\*CPL CLEMENT DELFAVERO** C-1-1 WWII SAGAMORE BEACH, MA 5/4/2017

**CAPT HARRY M. DEMARAY** MTACS2 WWII KO SALEM, OR 1/15/2008

**SGT HAROLD L. DEMPSEY** E-2-5 HQ-HQ WWII CH KO LOWELL, MA 11/16/2009

**SGT ROBERT W. DEMPSEY** HQ-3-7 WWII PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL 5/21/2016

**PFC ANTHONY T. DEMURO** L-3-5 WWII CH OAKBROOK TERRACE, IL 1/20/2015

**ELOISE DENNIS** OBN ONLY SPRING HILL, FL 1/9/2020

**\*CPL JOHN E. DENNIS** C-1MT WWII WEST BURLINGTON, IA 6/24/2017

**PFC SIMON C. DENTON JR** K-3-5 WWII CH PARK CITY, KY 11/14/2009

**\*PFC KENNETH C. DETHERAGE** M-3-5 WWII JACKSON, MO 8/5/2011

**\*DONALD DOSTERT** I-3-1 WWII SAINT PAUL, MN 10/24/2011

**\*CPL JAMES H. DOWNS** L-3-5 WWII TULLY, NY 8/13/1999

**SGT SAMUEL "FRAGS" L. FELTON** C-1-5 VN LORAIN, OH 5/28/2020

**SGT DANIEL T. FLAVIN** 1-3-7 VN WEST LAFAYETTE, IN 4/4/2020

**\*CPL FRANCIS J. FRESCHAUF** G-2-7 WWII CH FREMONT, CA 8/21/2015

**\*PFC WAYNE V. FRIEDMAN** HQ CO 1ST BN 5TH REG TUCSON, AZ 3/13/2016

**LCPL JOSEPH C. FUNARO** B-1-7 1ST MAR DIV VN SACRAMENTO, CA 12/17/2016

**\*RANDALL H. GARRETT** K-3-1 WWII CH AMARILLO, TX 3/16/2019

**\*SSGT THOMAS P. GILLESPIE** D-1-5 KO VN LEBANON, MO 3/16/2015

**FLDCK MELVIN GREENBERG** 1SVC WWII MARGATE, FL 11/15/2007

**RUTH E. GREENBURG** GLENDORA, CA 5/3/2008

**\*CAPT VERNON J. HALE** B-1ARMAMPH KO MISSION, TX 11/7/2007

**SSGT HAROLD R. HANEY SR** H&S-3-7 CH KO BLAIRSVILLE, GA 3/31/2019

**JOSEPH M. HART** HQ-3-9 VN COLUMBUS, OH 6/18/2014

**MAJ R. D. HAWKINS** USMC(RET) M-2/4-11 VN LAS VEGAS, NV 12/18/2011

**\*VOLSTEAD (VOL) HEATH** H&S-1MAR WWII VIEWBANK VICTORIA 3084,

**JAMES HENRY** D-2-1 KO LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 8/25/2005

**\*CPL ORVAL J. HILL** HQ/E-2-7 WWII CH FORT MYERS, FL 4/11/2017

**\*PFC BLAIR HUNTER** HQ-DSS KO SARA-SOTA, FL 3/7/2020

**LTCOL GEORGE JANISZEWSKI** USMC(RET) B-5-7 WWII CH KO MONROEVILLE, PA 4/17/2020

**\*HENRY O. JONES III** ASSOCIATE CORDELE, GA 5/29/2019

**\*PFC J. BRUCE JONES** E-2-7 WWII CH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 12/19/2019

**\*CPL JIM J. JONES** D-1RECON VN WARWICK, RI 9/7/2016

**\*SGT JOSEPH W. JONES JR** H&S-5MAR KO CLEVELAND, OH 1/5/2014

**CPL JEAN M. KERR** 11MAR IIAC ARTY WWII CH LAKE OSWEGO, OR 1/6/2019

**CPL GEORGE KRAUSS** G-3-5 KO GUILFORD, NY 11/7/2017

**\*CPL JAMES E. KRONAIZL** K-3-5 WWII VERMILLION, SD 3/28/2017

**SGT DAVID E. KUHN** C-1TK KO WOODBURY, MN 4/11/2012

**\*PVT W. D. LAFLEUR** 1AAA BN 29PC CW CHICAGO, IL 2/19/2015

**\*CPL ROBERT C. LEHMAN** I-3-5 KO ISELIN, NJ 4/10/2020

**\*SGT WILLIAM J. LESKO** MAG12 1MAW KO INVERNESS, FL 3/13/2008

**\*SGT GUSTAVE J. LOGERFO** WPNS-3-1 KO DOUGLSTON, NY 5/28/2020

**CPL ELUTERO C. LOPEZ JR** 3/7; Korea 1952-53 MADERA, CA 9/14/2017

**SGT JASON D. LOPEZ** I-3-1 OIF RIBERA, NM 8/27/2008

**1STSGT JOSEMARIA I. LOPEZ** 2-5MAR 1RECON KO VN CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 3/28/2019

**\*CPL CHARLES R. MAIKISH** HQ-1-5 WWII CH ESCONDIDO, CA 12/27/2011

**PFC JOHN JOSEPH MAJCHSZAK** C-1MAR KO TOLEDO, OH 6/28/2010

**STANLEY R. MAJEWSKI** F-2-7 WWII DALLAS, TX 6/13/2006

**SSGT JAMES W. MAJJASIE** COMM HOBNI 1MAR KO ELYRIA, OH 10/21/2015

**CPL MARK F. MCCORMICK** H&S-11MAR WWII CH NORTH QUINCY, MA 11/12/2012

**\*PATRICK (MAC) H. MCDONNELL** 1MAW KO EL CAJON, CA 4/30/2019

**\*1STSGT WILLIAM L. MILLER** E-2-7 H&S-2-7 KO VN LAS VEGAS, NV 8/23/2016

**\*MSGT ROBERT J. MORGAN** USAF(RET) C-1-1 WWII KO VN WICHITA, KS 5/4/2013

**\*CPL WILMER J. MORGANI** H-3-1 KO NEW ORLEANS, LA 6/26/2015

**\*FRANK T. MORRIS** HQ-2-1 WWII CH Prescott, AZ 10/26/2001

**\*LCPL CARL J. NIXON** MP-HQ CW ATCO, NJ 4/9/2007

**\*ROBERT OLSEN** F-2-1 CH KO VISTA, CA 2/26/2020

**\*SGT ROBERT T. ORMAN** F-2-5 K/G-2-2 WWII KO RENO, NV 8/26/2013

**\*PFC ROBERT A. ORZYP** I-3-1 WWII CHICAGO, IL 2/2/2009

**\*CPL J. D. OUDSTEYN** 7MAW WWII CH CHICAGO RIDGE, IL 1/18/2009

**SGT VERN A. PAULSON** C-1ENGR KO EVERETT, WA 6/11/2009

**\*GYSGT MICHAEL R. PICARELLO** USMC(RET) I-3-5 KO VN NORTH WEYMOUTH, MA 7/21/2016

**\*EDWARD P. PRONEVITZ** HQ-3-5 WWII CH HICKSVILLE, NY 8/26/2019

**\*SGT ROBERT J. QUINLIN** F-2-1 KO NEW EGYPT, NJ 7/24/2017

**NELLIE RICHARDSON** OBN ONLY TUSCALOOSA, AL 2/27/2019

**\*SSGT EVAN W. RICHMOND** B-1-5 WWII -OKINAWA-CH GIG HARBOR, WA 1/6/2017

**CPL RICHARD A. RICHTER** HOBNI-11 VN KENTWOOD, MI 6/16/2013

**SGTMAJ FRANK E. ROLLER** 3-11 SAN DIEGO, CA 8/15/2018

**SGT C. F. ROTHROCK JR** 1MAW KO MADISON, NJ 3/21/2018

**\*SGT LUTHER C. ROTTON JR** SVC-3-11 KO BIRMINGHAM, AL 9/15/2002

**PHYLLIS L. ROUH** M-3-5 B-1-5 LINDENWOLD, NJ 10/16/2012

**CPL DONALD SCHYBERG** I-3-1 KO ORLANDO, FL 9/17/2017

**PFC CLARENCE L. SHAW** B-1-11TH MAR PICKENS, SC 5/16/2014

**\*CPL WILLIAM L. SHEDLOV** H&S-1SPLWPNS KO LOS ALAMITOS, CA 1/20/2019

**1STSGT WILLIE C. SHOEMAKER** USMC(RET) L-3-5 B-1-5 WWII KO HUEYTOWN, AL 6/6/2008

**SGT DONALD T. SMITH** H&S-1-1 KO CHANHASSEN, MN 10/23/2016

**LCPL GUS EDWARD SMITH** SUPPORT CO-1ST ENGINEER BN MEADOW VISTA, CA 2/16/2016

**\*SGT DAVID A. SNYDER** G-3-1 KO MECHANICSBURG, PA 5/21/2017

**SGT WILLIAM P. SORENSON** B-1-7 KO ZIMMERMAN, MN 11/19/2019

**SGT RICHARD S. STEFANIK SR** H&S-5MAR WWII CH SOUTH DAYTON, NY 4/8/2008

**MRS JOSEPHINE STEFANOWICZ** OBN PHILADELPHIA, PA 1/23/2010

**\*SGT MARC STELLA** A-1-1 WWII CH ANCHORAGE, AK 6/3/2019

**\*SGTMAJ PAUL STEPHENSON** USMC(RET) 1AMTRAC 2-5 MAR KO VN CARLSBAD, CA 6/5/2020

**\*CPL GAIL E. TAM JR** 1FAG CW FRUITLAND, ID 5/10/2019

**SSGT C. L. TILLER JR** K-3-5 WWII CH KO RICHMOND, VA 6/1/2012

**SSGT EDWARD T. URZEDOWSKI** L-3-5 WWII BLOOMINGDALE, IL 2/19/2009

**SGTMAJ WALTER 'VAL' VALENTINE** CARLSBAD, 4/30/2020

**WILLIAM R. VINCENT** F-2-5 KO JOLIET, IL 3/18/2013

**\*TSGT JOHN JOSEPH VINSKI** 1SHPTY KO JUPITER, FL 3/16/2016

**\*SGT JULES R. VITERBO** H&S-3-1 KO NEDERLAND, TX

**\*SSGT WILLIAM C. WALLING** F-2-5 WWII KO DES MOINES, IA 12/1/2016

**CPL JOSEPH D. WALLS** 3D AABN-WWWII CROSSVILLE, TN 12/26/2019

**SGT JAMES R. WALMSLEY** H&S-1-5 KO OTTAWA, KS 4/2/2009

**MRS CECILE WALSH** OBN FORT PIERCE, FL 12/8/2018

**\*EDWARD L. WALSH** C-1-7 2-5MAR WWII CH KO ESCONDIDO, CA 4/9/2013

**MRS LEATHA A. WHITERIVER** ASSOCIATE ORANGE, CA 1/026/2017

**PFC LARRY E. WOODS** 1SIG-HQ WWII RUSHVILLE, IN 2/10/2020

**\*LEO N. ZINKOSKI** B-1-5 I-3-5 KO OLD BRIDGE, NJ 6/21/2014



# My best Christmas—Ever

By Robert Echelbarger

**T**he Korean War began in June 1950 and I was married in August. Because I was a PFC (Private First Class) in the inactive reserve of the United States Marines, I was called to active duty on October 11 and traveled to Camp Pendleton, California. My new wife was able to come to Oceanside, California to be with me.

I was training in light and heavy machine guns. After I completed my training I boarded USS Breckenridge and sailed to Korea. The ship was carrying replacements for the survivors of the Chosin Reservoir Campaign.

I was assigned to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, First Marine Division. The first thing the Platoon Sergeant asked was, "Are there any machine gunners here?" Knowing machine gunners didn't last very long in a firefight, I kept my mouth shut. My logic didn't work, because I became an Assistant Browning Automatic Rifleman (a shoulder-held machine gun).

I spent the first night in a squad tent. (It was the first and last time I spent the night in a squad tent while I was in Korea.) The next morning we were given a box of C-6 rations (combat rations), then climbed on trucks and headed north. During the late winter, spring, summer, and fall and into November 1951, I would describe the situation as "the war of motion." Seventy-three days later we came off the line to resupply.

When we stopped climbing hills for the night we usually dug foxholes or just made a level spot on the ridge. I don't remember the exact date, but I was informed by a letter from my wife that we were expecting our first child with a due date in late September. When I read the letter I thought it was great, but doubted I would ever see our child due to the increasing number of firefights and enemy mortar barrages which I had survived.

In the spring of 1951 we got hit with the Chinese offensive, which pushed our line south. The offensive was listed as the battle that cost the Marines the third largest number of casualties of the war. We continued to climb hills, drink water from the streams we crossed, and live on C-6 rations. We were kept supplied by South Korean bearers.

The hill climbing continued all summer with rear guard firefights whittling down the number of us Marines. In late September we were ordered to attack hill 812. It was a tough five-day battle, which is listed as the second largest number of battle casualties for the war. I remember most of it, but some of it is still wiped out in my mind. I remember the chaplain came up to me at the end and said, "Is your name Echelbarger?" I was so exhausted my mind went blank. I just stared at him for a minute. Then he said, "Your daughter was born on September 21st. Mother and daughter are doing well. Congratulations. What did you name her?"

I finally came back to reality and replied, "We decided to name her Pamela."

Eventually we were relieved and went in reserve to regroup with new men and supplies. Close to the U. S. Marine Corps birthday we boarded helicopters and relieved the 1st Marines on the line on Hill 886. It was the first time one regiment relieved another regiment on the line by helicopters. It sure beat hiking up to the positions. It was also the first time we moved into positions where the foxholes and bunkers were already dug for us.

It was the time when the war changed to trench and patrol combat. Winter was upon us. It brought a frigid Siberian wind, below zero temperatures, ice, and snow. No fires were available, except in a warming tent for those who were suffering from frostbite. We continued losing men on patrols into the deep valley below us.

Winter was dragging on and on. Thanksgiving came and went. I spent most of my time on telephone watch. In late November a member of the CP

came up to me and said, "Echelbarger, you are officially relieved of duty. Don't go on any more patrols, and for God's sake don't get shot. You head for home in the morning."

When I heard the news I thought I still wouldn't get home in time for Christmas. Maybe in January. The next morning I hiked down the ridge to waiting trucks with others who had been relieved. When we arrived at the Sea of Japan we lined up with other Marines who were also being relieved. A Corpsman came up to me and blew DDT under my hat, down my back, down on my belly, and down my pants. I was then ordered to board a landing craft.

As I stood there with others I noticed no one spoke. We all stood there in complete silence. It took me just a moment to realize it was because we couldn't believe we were going home.

The landing craft bumped against the ship, which we boarded by climbing landing nets. As I climbed over the rail I noticed a group of sailors were glancing at me with strange looks on their faces. I wondered why they were staring so hard.

We went below deck to take showers. As I glanced at a nearby mirror I was shocked to see my reflection. I had dark circles under my eyes and my face was dirty. My uniform was filthy and torn in places. My hands were black and my hair was long and dirty. I was covered with white DDT powder and I looked like I had just risen from the grave. No wonder the Sailors stared at me.

I took a long hot shower and felt warm again. We were issued clean fatigues and proceeded to the mess hall. What happened next was wonderful. When I moved down the line each mess man plopped hot food on my tray and asked, "Do you want more?" I had all the hot coffee and real milk I could drink. There was even fresh bread and butter. It seemed like a miracle to be warm again, and with all the food I could eat.

We stopped in Japan to be processed before boarding ship and heading east. The ship was filled with military men of

*As the ship departed I was approached by a sailor who said, "Corporal Echelbarger, report to the mess hall for duty." I replied, "I'm a Sergeant!" He backed off a little and said, "It says on my report that you are a Corporal, so you got mess duty."*

all kinds. Apparently they were trying to get us home in time for the holidays.

When I went to Korea I was a PFC. In less than a year I was promoted to Corporal and then Sergeant before I left. As the ship departed I was approached by a sailor who said, "Corporal Echelbarger, report to the mess hall for duty."

I replied, "I'm a Sergeant!"

He backed off a little and said, "It says on my report that you are a Corporal, so you got mess duty."

I got nose to nose with him and belted, "I have a warrant signed by a Lieutenant-Colonel that says I'm a Sergeant and Sergeants don't do mess duty."

I wasn't about to serve those rear echelon people anything. I had paid my dues.

It was a long quiet trip to San Diego. It was the middle of the night when we docked. We Marines were transported to

the Marine Recruit Depot for more processing and to be discharged. When I had a little slack time I joined a line of Marines waiting to use a pay phone. I noticed every time a guy left the booth he had tears running down his cheeks.

I thought, "What are they crying about? We are on the way home. I'm sure that won't happen to me!"

When I finally reached the phone I placed a collect call to my wife. When she answered the phone she said, "Is that you, Bob?"

My eyes began to water and tears ran down my cheeks; I was speechless. I managed to regain my voice. That's when I realized why everybody else had tears in their eyes.

I received my orders and pay and was discharged. I headed for Los Angeles to connect with a train heading east. It was close to Christmas, so I probably couldn't get a ticket. I stood at the counter and asked the lady, "Is it possible to get a

ticket to Omaha, Nebraska on the next train?"

She gave me a great smile and replied, "It sure is, because most of the people are already where they are going. The train leaves in about an hour. I bet you are another Marine going home from Korea. Welcome home!"

Before I boarded the train I sent a telegram to my wife. I would arrive in Omaha on Christmas Eve and then take a bus to Sioux City, Iowa. It was the middle of the night Christmas Eve when the train arrived.

I looked around the nearly deserted waiting room. I was wondering where I could get a taxi to get to the bus depot. Suddenly I saw a young woman enter the room. She began to walk towards me. There she was: my wife! I could hardly believe my eyes as I embraced her. After all the hills and firefights I had her in my arms. We became man and wife again after so long a time.

It was a long bus ride north to Sioux City, but it was Christmas and I had my wife next to me. We took a city bus to the home of her parents. When we entered the house I saw her father holding our three-month old daughter in his arms. She was wearing a blue jumper with a black-and-blue checked shirt. She had brown hair, pixie ears, and brown eyes. She looked at me as if to wonder who this strange creature might be.

I held out my arms and reached for her. She seemed hesitant at first, but reached out for me and I had her in my arms. As I held her I thought, "She's here in my arms. She really is—and I did make it home for Christmas."

*Robert V. Echelbarger, 16231 245th St., Mason City, IA 50401*

## A 'Chesty' Puller Flashback



We went back 60 years and found this memory of the year LtGen Puller became the association's president. How many of you remember that?

**1st Marine Division Association Membership, 26 June 1960.** "First in the First—Edwin C. Clarke, (left) secretary-treasurer of the 1st Marine Division Association, pins a membership card on Lieutenant General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller while Colonel Jonas M. Platt, Association Vice-president looks on. General Puller was the first Marine to sign the "blotter" at Division Headquarters in the Sheraton Park Hotel. The general was later elected president of the 1st Division Association." From the Cyril O'Brien Collection (COLL/2887) at the Marine Corps Archives and Special Collections

OFFICIAL USMC PHOTOGRAPH

### Attention All FMDA Chapters

Please send any updated information to FMDA headquarters when you have new officers with their updated address, telephone number, e-mail address and Chapter representative.

June Cormier,  
june.oldbreed@FMDA.us  
(760) 763-3267



# A few words about copyrights

*"It is a principle of American law that an author of a work may reap the fruits of his or her intellectual creativity for a limited period of time."* (<https://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ1a.html>)

On occasion readers submit material for use in *The Old Breed News* that is copyrighted. We cannot reprint copyrighted material without express permission from the original publication. That permission can be secured by either the person who submits the material or me.

(Just for the record most of the original material printed in *The Old Breed News* is not protected by copyright. There are occasional exceptions, which are identified by the copyright symbol ©. Anyone who wishes to reprint non-copyrighted material from the magazine can do so without permission.)

Copyrights are somewhat complicated, and I am not an expert on the law governing them. Complicated? Heck, I cannot even reprint some of my own original material that was printed in another publication without obtaining permission. So, you ask, what is a copyright and why should I worry about it?

The simplest definition is "the exclusive legal right to reproduce, publish, sell, or distribute the matter and form of something (such as a literary, musical, or artistic work." A copyright's purpose is "to create mechanisms that help creators control and receive payment for their works, because that will result in the creation of many more expressive works, which benefits all of society."

In short, copyrights protect "artists" from

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**In short, copyrights protect "artists" from losing money because other people are using those artists' work for their own gain.**

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losing money because other people are using those artists' work for their own gain. That is why permission is needed from the original publisher to reprint material.

There are exceptions of course, e.g., for educational purposes and material published before 1923 due to the expiration of the original copyright. Such material is generally exempt from reprint restrictions. Note the use of the word "generally." The "educational use" is a helpful exception for "reprinters."

## **"Educational Uses of Non-coursepack Materials"**

"[Other] copyrighted materials can be used without permission in certain educational circumstances under copyright law or as a fair use. "Fair use" is the right to use portions of copyrighted materials without permission for purposes of education, commentary, or parody...Fair use rules for educational uses are very specific and, if complied with, can generally prevent lawsuits—which is not the case for general fair use principles." (<https://fairuse.stanford.edu/overview/academic-and-educational-permissions/non-coursepack/>)

The bottom line is this: we have to be careful not to violate copyright laws. If we do we are subject to fines and penalties.

That is why we have to observe copyright laws.

Say, for example, a contributor submits an article or a photo or an article with photos from the Yaak Biweekly Elk Hunters' Gazette and asks us to reprint it in our magazine. We cannot do so without permission. So, either the submitter or the editor must first contact the original publication with a request to, for example, "Reprint the material on a one-time basis with full attribution in *The Old Breed News*, which is the quarterly publication of the not-for-profit First Marine Division Association." Once permission is granted we can reprint the material—with the editor's okay included.

If you submit material that is copyrighted let us know. If you have secured reprint permission from the original publisher get it in writing and include it with the article. If you haven't let us know and we will seek permission. Very few publications deny our requests, especially when they realize that we are a nonprofit military association. Why would they? They get a bit of free publicity and our readers gain access to some valuable information.

My usual practice re copyrights is simple: if I am not sure certain submissions are copyrighted I will err on the side of caution and hold off on printing them. That is to protect the association. Ultimately it is the editor's responsibility to make sure copyright laws are observed in our fine publication. It's always a good idea to protect our flanks.

## **Holiday and continuing series stories wanted for 2020**

We are soliciting holiday stories for the 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 2020 OBN. Yeah, it may seem a bit premature, but...we did not get one holiday story for our 2019 issue. Let's start building our holiday inventory now for the 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 2020 holiday issue.

Please send your stories, photos, and art work recounting anything memorable, special, or routine that occurred anywhere you might have been...involving you, your unit, your friends...on the major year-end holidays, e.g., Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah, New Year's Day, Boxing Day, Ramadan... The material can relate to war time or peacetime. Hopefully we will get enough stories, photos, and art work to fill the issue.

Hey, it's never too early to get a start on our holiday issue. Send your stories and photos to Arthur G. Sharp, OBN Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. Or, submit them electronically to [sharp\\_arthur\\_g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net).



# No Federal Award For Cpl Loren Duke Abdalla, 'The Indian'

Some of you may remember previously published accounts in SOBN of the Abdalla family's quest to get a Medal of Honor for Loren (Duke) Abdalla. They gave it a valiant try, but there will be no MOH authorized for him.

These two paragraphs serve as a brief refresher:

"It bothers everyone else more than it does me," the retired Marine from Fox Lake said.

But a recent development could help the quest to get Abdalla the medal for carrying a wounded member of his platoon to safety before returning to the front lines and taking out six enemy machine gun nests, the final two as the last man standing in his squad.

"New witness

"Abdalla's family recently located a new account to corroborate the story of his valor. Family members of the late Cpl. John Brady of Rhode Island recalled hearing Brady's accounts of Abdalla carrying him to safety and pouring water on him to stop phosphorous gas from eating at his skin. Brady died in 1984, but his family found letters he wrote from the hospital in 1945 that confirmed the stories."

Unfortunately the new lead did not help. We received this letter from his grandson regarding the ultimate decision in the matter.

Dear Friends,

I received word today from the USMC that although Cpl. Loren Duke Abdalla, "The Indian," is deserving of unending Thanks from a Grateful Nation for his service during WWII, there will be no federal award for his actions on May 5, 1945. Everyone did everything they could, and he

really enjoyed all the relationships he made. It was especially nice for me to have the opportunity to admire such a hero and be able to say, "That's my Grandfather!"

I thank my wife Donna for taking the time to write his story in a book that many generations to come will be able to read. I remember when I was around 20 and I had my whole life ahead of me, Grandpa Duke would constantly say that I need to know more about history. Now that I am 50 I finally realize what he was trying to say.

I feel lucky to have had the opportunity of telling everyone his story and felt it help give him some closure. Everyone did so much with the support he received, including all the recognition at every level of government and he had a "Wall of Recognition" and he knew we were a Grateful Nation and he made so many "REAL FRIENDS."

I am also grateful to Mr. Guy Rhoades for including my grandfather's story in the Pickstown Museum in South Dakota. Tom Brokaw was the keynote speaker when it opened a few years ago. You can visit the Museum at this link <https://www.pickstownmuseum.com/>

The Yankton Sioux Tribe held a POW-WOW in his Honor on July 4, 2015 with a Sacred Ceremony and presented him with a Painted Red Eagle Feather and named him after his Great-Grandfather, Chief Running Bull. He stood like a man!!! PROUD!!!!

As Grandpa Duke first told me his story about his time fighting in WWII, he said "During the heat of battle, nobody cared about medals!" When we, his friends, heard his story, we wanted him to receive the CMOH and he would smile, and everyone enjoyed his smile :)

GOD Bless!!! Thank You ALL for Everything You did and Be Safe!!!!

Doug Nykolaycuyk, Eldest Grandson



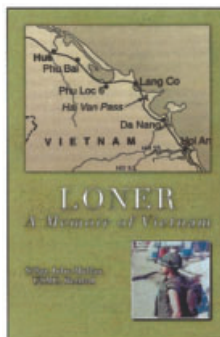
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## Loner

by S/Sgt. John Mullan, USMC, Retired

*Loner* is a personal memoir of one man's experience in South Vietnam and the aftermath of serious injury. Told with authentic detail, humor, and pathos, it is the story of an ordinary grunt in an extraordinary situation. From the danger of patrols with Charlie Company, One Five, to the nightmare of the screaming wards of Philadelphia Naval Hospital, this is a fascinating glimpse of a typical Marine's life in wartime and an intense inside view of a survivor's recovery. Spanning only eighteen months but taking over thirty years to write, this is a memorable account of how it was for Staff Sergeant John Mullan.

John Mullan was born in Detroit, Michigan, saw his first parade on VE Day in 1945, and decided to become a Marine when he was ten years old. With a family move, he entered a new school and quickly learned how to be a loner—to be alone and make it on his own. He joined the Marine Corps at age seventeen, met his future wife on his first leave home, and married three years later. After a variety of assignments, he landed the perfect position of recruiter back home. Orders for Vietnam in 1967 resulted in five months of battle experience, three Purple Hearts, and severe injuries including brain damage which required many years of recovery. John considers being retired from the Marine Corps to be the single worst event in his life, but he put his life back together. After completing college, he held a position with the U.S. Post Office for over twenty years and raised four children with his wife Catherine. Awarded the Bronze Star with combat V, John remains devoted to the Marine Corps.



## A Memoir of Vietnam

## Loner

by S/Sgt. John Mullan USMC, Retired

Yes! Please send me *Loner*

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# "It's only a scratch"

## Eddie LeBaron

Some Korean War veterans might remember Eddie LeBaron, who was mentioned in Richard Schwartz's memoir.

LeBaron was commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps reserves while in college and served as a lieutenant in the Korean War after graduation. He was wounded twice and was earned a Purple Heart. For his heroic actions on the front lines, he was awarded the Bronze Star.

Due to his diminutive size, 5 feet, 7 inches, and leadership skills from his military service, he was sometimes known as the "Littlest General."

In 2008, he was inducted into the U.S. Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame. (Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddie\\_LeBaron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddie_LeBaron))

This article reporting on LeBaron's heroism appeared in *The News and Views*, May 26, 1952, p. 8.

## Eddie LeBaron Gets Letter For Heroism

QUANTICO, Va. - Second Lt. Eddie LeBaron, former All-America football star, Saturday was awarded a letter of commendation for heroism in Korea.

LeBaron, the football property of the Washington Redskins, received the letter, along with a ribbon decorated with a silver "V," from Lieut. Gen. Clifton B. Cates, commandant of the Marine Corps School here.

Since returning from action in Korea the 22-year-old former College of the Pacific star has been teaching newly commissioned second lieutenants in the Quantico basic training school.

The commendation read in part:

"While his platoon was under persistent artillery and mortar barrage he rushed over exposed area with complete disregard for his own safety to rescue critically wounded members of his platoon.

"When his company was attacking a strongly fortified enemy position on Hill 673, in the vicinity of Sant'Anni, he led his platoon skillfully through a heavily mined area, exposing himself to intense enemy automatic weapons and small-arms fire."

This action took place September 12, 1951.

Earlier newspaper stories such as the one below, that was carried in the Washington D.C. Evening Star on January 3, 1952, discussed his accomplishments in Korea and his return home.

## LeBaron on Rotation, Release Due in Fall

By the Associated Press

WITH UNITED STATES 1st MARINE DIVISION, Korea, Jan. 3. - Second Lt. Eddie LeBaron, former College of the-Pacific football star twice wounded in Korean fighting, is going home soon on rotation.

LeBaron said he planned to fly from Japan to his home at Tulare, Calif. His plans beyond September, when he expects to be released from the Marine Corps, are indefinite. He was signed by the Washington Redskins in 1950, but got into only two exhibition games before entering the corps.

After his rotation leave the former three-time Little All-America quarterback expects an assignment at Pearl Harbor.

LeBaron won two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star as a platoon leader with the 7th Regiment. He refers to his two battle wounds as



**Eddie LeBaron's 1953 Bowman Gum football card** (Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddie\\_LeBaron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddie_LeBaron))

"slight scratches."

The return of LeBaron, who starred in an exhibition game against the San Francisco Forty Niners before going into service, would considerably enhance the Redskins hope for a winner next season.

LeBaron had a successful National Football League career comprising 7 seasons with the Washington Redskins (1952-59) and 4 with the Dallas Cowboys (1960-63). He never won a championship with either team, but he was as feisty and competitive on the field as he was on Hill 673.

Lt. Schwartz manifested both traits as well at that battle. With platoon leaders like Eddie LeBaron and Richard Schwartz it's no wonder the Marines prevailed on that hill.

## Whatever happened to the 60mm mortar?

We recently overheard a conversation between two Marines of slightly different eras regarding 4.2, 60mm, and 81 mortars. One of them served at the Chosin Reservoir and the other served between 1958 and 1962. Perhaps some of our members can shed some light on whether the 60mm is still in use and where it is assigned.

Our Chosin veteran believes that rifle companies still have 60s. As he explained, they are critical for illumination and a quick response with HE when under attack. "Everyone with an 0300 MOS knows them well," he said. "It was/is known as the company commander's artillery."

"We carried all 42 pounds of the 60 complete and ready to unlimber and fire within two minutes," he said. "The 4.2 platoon was in Regimental H&S or its Wpns Company. Our 81s were in Bn Wpns Co, with heavy MG and Anti-tank platoons. The FDC was critical because the gun sections were often farmed out to companies, but also coordinated for salvos."

The second Marine replied that "I'm not even sure if our regiment had 60s. If I recall correctly, 4 deuces were also part of H&S, but they were mechanized and we maintained our distance. We still had to carry our tripods, tubes, and base plates on our backs, while 4.2 got to run its mortars around on "Mules."

"But," he concluded, "I have been out of active duty so long I can barely remember which end of an 81 tube the round was fired-if I ever knew."

So we need some clarification. Are 60mm mortars still part of the USMC's operations? If so are they still assigned to line companies? Same questions go for 4.2s. If anyone has information that can help clarify the discussion please let the editor know at Arthur G. Sharp, OBN Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. Material is also welcome at [Sharp\\_arthur\\_g@aol.com](mailto:Sharp_arthur_g@aol.com).

# Did you know the VA now offers banking services?

## VA introduces new direct deposit options for Veterans, beneficiaries Partners with Association of Military Banks of America

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in partnership with the Association of Military Banks of America (AMBA), launched the Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP), available starting December 20, 2019.

The program provides Veterans and their beneficiaries the chance to safely, reliably, and inexpensively receive and manage their VA monetary benefits through financial services at participating banks.

“VBBP offers another way to simplify banking choices to help eligible Veterans select the right bank for themselves and their families,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “The VA and AMBA are proud to provide this opportunity to connect veterans with banks that understand their needs.”

VA’s collaboration with AMBA will leverage its consortium of military-friendly financial institutions that cater to service members. AMBA is the only trade

association representing banking institutions specializing in providing services for military personnel, Veterans, and their families around the world. VBBP leverages participating AMBA institutions and banks operating within the gates of installations of all branches of service and National Guard and Reserve components.

“AMBA and its member banks welcome the opportunity to provide our nation’s Veterans additional financial services options to help them achieve greater financial independence, resiliency, and literacy,” said AMBA president and Air Force Veteran Steve Lepper. “We hope that as Veterans recognize the benefits of working with the banks to achieve financial stability, more Veterans, banks and credit unions will join this effort.”

The current available banking options include direct deposit into an existing bank account, electronic funds transfer into a Direct Express pre-paid debit card and mailing of a paper check for pre-approved beneficiaries. VBBP introduces new financial resources to Veterans and their beneficiaries.

The program is an effort to address the problems some Veterans experience using these payment methods. VBBP offers

these VA beneficiaries – including many who have been unable to open bank accounts in the past – the opportunity to deposit their benefit funds directly into existing or new bank accounts offered by participating AMBA member banks.

Neither VA nor AMBA is endorsing any particular bank or requiring Veterans and other beneficiaries to use them. It does not require Veterans who are satisfied with their current financial situation to change how they receive their VA monetary benefits.

All Veterans and other beneficiaries – who currently receive more than \$118 billion in financial benefits through VA – are eligible to access this program. There are approximately 250,000 Veterans and beneficiaries who receive their VA benefits through a pre-paid debit card or paper check who may not have a bank account.

VA’s Veterans Banking Benefits and AMBA’s Veterans Benefits Banking Program websites have details for identifying participating banks.

To have your federal benefits electronically transferred to a Veteran’s designated financial institution (e.g. bank), VA beneficiaries interested in changing direct deposit options can also call 1-800-827-



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# Welcome Aboard!

\* Life Member

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<b>New Members</b>				
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*CAPT GEORGE E. CARROLL	C Co 1MT Bn 1Mardiv	18020 S RAMSBY RD, MOLALLA, OR 97038-8670	503-829-9600	John Hudson
TERRY CHARBONNEAU	1MT BN, BLT 217 VN	119 N EUCLID AVE, PRINCETON, IL 613565	815-878-4650	Bill Purcell
SGT MICHAEL CLEARY	3MARDIV, 1MARDIV TANK BN	4108 EUNICE WAY, SACRAMENTO, CA 95821		
*CAPT THOMAS BUCK DEGGENDORF	HQ 1MARDIV	24290 WOODSAGE DR, BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34134	239-273-5511	
MAJ CHARLES A. FLEMING		PO BOX 19061, ENCINO, CA 91416	818-975-0250	
*MSGT CHARLES ALBERT FOSTER	G 3/1	1910 COUNTY RD 1650, ROFF, OK 74865	580-453-2366	
CPL WILLIAM S. GODFREY	3/5, 5MARDIV, 1RECON	591 MADISON AVE, CHULA VISTA, CA 91910	619-857-4875	COL Len Hayes
LCPL JAMES MARTIN	L/3/1/ BLT	443 E 10TH ST APT 1, PITTSBURG, CA 94565	319-750-7725	
COL NATHAN NASTASE USMC(RET)		1022 MOKAPU BLVD, KAILUA, HI 96734-1842	808-840-3565	
PFC JOHN D. REEVES USMC(RET)	3/5	1303 OAK FOREST DR, ORMAND BEACH, FL 32174	386-673-9488	
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*SGT JOHN F. SPRIGG		84 BETSY LN, BELPRY, OH 45719	304-481-1832 C	Brian Brophy
MRS ALICE WEINBERG	ASSOCIATE	201 ORAGE RIDGE CIRCLE, LONGWOOD, FL 32779	407-529-7971	
LCPL RUSSELL R. WOLD	5th MAR 2/26	1704 TORO RD, BULLHEAD CITY, AZ 86442	612-860-7745	

## Renewal to Life

*1STLT BARRY L. DENES	1-5TH MAR REG VN	9881 WILDWOOD WAY, VILLA PARK, CA 92861
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*SSGT CHARLES E. MCHANEY	A-1MT WWII CH KO	2828 RIVIERA BLVD, MALAGA, WA 98828-9732
*CPL ANTHONY A. MILANO	E-2-7 VN	44 HOPKINS AVE, JOHNSTON, RI 02919
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*CAPT F. DAVID PARKER	1ST TANK BN	468 PALMER DR, KEIZER, OR 97303

## Reinstate

CPL MICHAEL J. GALLE (Ret)	VMA 223	5732 LOOP LN., FORT MOHAVE, AZ 86426-6109
GYSGT LISA A. SULLIVAN	1MAW CW	2507 SOUTHRIDGE AVE, BULLHEAD CITY, AZ 86429

## Forces Build Memorial To Peleliu Dead

By S/Sgt. John T. Kirby (Marine Corps Combat Cor.)  
Peleliu, Palau Islands (Delayed)

Marines, soldiers, and sailors, many of them veterans of the assault and capture of Peleliu, recently volunteered to complete a memorial cemetery here as tribute to their fallen comrades. With nearly 1,300 white crosses marking the fresh graves of men who died on this island, Peleliu's armed forces cemetery is nearing completion less than three months after assault units established the first beachhead nearby.

Work of final beautification of the tiny site, solemn monument to fighting men of America's three services, is under the direction of a navy lieutenant and his crew of volunteer workers who devote off-duty hours to the task.

Site for the cemetery, known on pre-invasion charts as "Orange Beach," once bristled with the strongest defenses the island's enemy garrison could improvise. Shattered amphibian tanks on the nearby reef are a grim reminder that veteran units of the First Marine Division established the initial beachhead less than 300 feet away.

Today, across war-scarred Peleliu on the Jap-built airstrip,

systematic aerial neutralization of enemy-held Caroline bases by Marine airmen is continuing on a round-the-clock schedule. Leatherneck plane crews, together with infantrymen from the Army's "Wildcat" Division, are completing the work of grading white coral sand and planting wild flowers on the site.

### Seabees Furnish Scrapers

A Seabee unit furnished sand-scraping equipment not in use on the expanding airstrip, while a Marine air group assigned all available trucks to hauling coral.

"Although we haven't anything but local materials and volunteer help on the job," the officer observed, "we've determined to make the site attractive as possible—even to a white coral chapel designed by Seabees and Army engineers."

As evidence of the success of his cooperative venture, he pointed to a hardworking group of sailors from a supply ship unloading nearby. The sailors who had volunteered for an afternoon of work were planting small shrubs on two adjoining graves—a colonel and private killed in the same action early in the assault. (Source: Roanoke Rapids, NC, Herald, Jan. 18, 1945, Sec. B, p.6)



# 1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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## WORLD WAR II 1942-1945

Guadalcanal  
New Britain  
Peleliu  
Okinawa

## NORTH CHINA 1945-1949

## KOREA 1950-1953

Pusan Perimeter 1950  
Inchon-Seoul 1950  
CCF Intervention 1950  
Chosin Reservoir 1950  
UN Counteroffensive 1951  
CCF Spring Offensive 1951  
UN Summer-Fall Offensive 1951  
2nd Korean Winter 1951-1952  
Korean Defense 1952  
3rd Korean Winter 1952-1953  
Korea Summer-Fall 1953

## VIETNAM 1965-1971

Vietnam Defense 1965  
Vietnam Offensives  
I-III 1965 to 1968  
Tet Offensive 1968  
Vietnam Offensives IV-  
VII  
1969 — 1971  
Tet Offensive 1969  
Vietnam Summer-Spring  
1969 — 1970  
Sanctuary Offensive 1970  
Vietnam Offensive VII  
1970 — 1971

## KUWAIT 1990 — 1991

## SOMALIA 1992 — 1993

## AFGHANISTAN 2002 —

## IRAQ 2003 —