The "Ooo Rah"

Newsletter of the Central Florida Chapter
1st Marine Division Association

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Central Florida Chapter Officers:

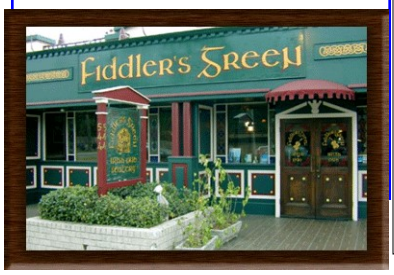
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(with a lot of help from Nancy)	

http://www.cfc1stmardiv.com/

Next Meeting:

via Zoom

Saturday, June 6 10:30 a.m.



PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

Marines and Friends,

Below is your invitation to join the "Zoom" meeting planned on June 6. You may join the meeting on your PC, Mac, iPhone, ipad. Or, for those without internet capability, or who choose to go this route, you may call in and participate by phone, just as you would a conference call. Just follow the directions below. *

ZOOM INVITATION - Saturday, June 6, 10:30 a.m .Here is the link for the Zoom meeting by computer or Zoom app on phone: https://fourblock.zoom.us/j/96849989658

You can also dial-in to the meeting to hear (but not see) what is going on: dial either of these numbers 301-715-8592 or 312-626-6799 and use pass code 96849989658#

Zoom etiquette tips:

* You can join the meeting by computer or phone. Pick the one you prefer. If you have difficulty or a question about the process, you may call Barron at 407.221.0286.
* If you have not participated in Zoom before, you will need to click on the link and download the Zoom app.
* You do not have to display the video of yourself if you do not want to (but it's nice to see everyone's face).
* Please keep your phone or computer on "mute" unless you have been recognized to speak. Besides keeping folks from speaking over one another, it can be very distracting when background noise is coming in from different people.
* Please utilize the "chat" function if logged in a computer or on the smartphone app. It allows participants to send messages to the entire group or you can even send private messages to one another.
* You may select the "Gallery" view to see everyone.

Plans for our Marine Corps Birthday "SOS Breakfast" are going on as scheduled for Nov. 10, 2020. More information can be found on page 4 of the "Ooo Rah. "The officers of the Central Florida Chapter wish you all a pleasant Memorial Day. Remember your fallen friends and comrades in your own special way. Stay well.

Semper Fidelis,
Mike

Program for June 6 "Zoom" meeting

IDignity


Anne Taylor

This program was founded by members of five downtown Orlando churches in 2008 to assist the disadvantaged in Central Florida to navigate the complexities of obtaining their personal identification. Since May 2008, IDignity has hosted monthly Identification Clinics, with governmental partners at the Orlando Union Rescue Mission in downtown Orlando. IDignith now serve more than 250 monthly, now meeting at the Salvation Army.

(Continued on page 3)

30 Years On, I found Peace in Vietnam

The Orlando Sentinel, Tuesday, July 4, 2000

Editor's Note: Twenty years ago**,** in June of 2000 I was fortunate to have returned to Vietnam with several Marines I had served with in C 1/5 along with John and Jennifer Graham, son and daughter of Capt. James Graham USMC, KIA, CMOH. This article appeared in the Orlando Sentinel soon after my return. With Memorial Day upon us, I feel it is appropriate to share this article with you today.

A few weeks ago I traveled to Vietnam with a group of Marines I served with in the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment in 1969-70. We spent a couple of days in Hanoi and were fortunate to spend an hour and a half with U.S. Ambassador Pete Peterson at the U.S. Embassy there. When I returned home, I was compelled to re-examine a book that I had read a number of years ago titled *Why Vietnam? Prelude to America's Albatross* by Archimedes L.A. Patti.

Patti had been a resident of Central Florida and had died a little more than two years ago. I consider myself fortunate to have known Patti, who retired from the Army in 1957 and from the Executive Office of the President about 1970.



Archimedes L.A. Patti., (front, 3rd from left) with Ho Chi Minh and several of his lieutenants in 1945.

It is a shame our decision-makers in Washington did not listen to Patti during 1945. At that time he was a major in the Army's Office of Strategic Services, the predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency. He was assigned to Vietnam, primarily to oversee the orderly release of Allied prisoners of war after the surrender of the Japanese forces who were still very much in control of Vietnam. During that time, he became close to Ho Chi Minh.

I discussed that tumultuous time in his life with Patti several times. He made no bones about the fact that Ho wanted help from anywhere he could get it but that Ho felt that the United States was the most appropriate source for help in his country's move toward independence. Ho told Patti at their last meeting, Sept. 30, 1945, that "he owed only his training to Moscow and for that he had repaid Moscow with 15 years of party work. He had no other commitment. He considered himself a free agent."

Patti believed that our commitment to a war in Vietnam began not with our many "advisers" sent there in the early 1960s or the landing of the Marines at Red Beach in 1965 but rather our decision to support the French Colonial rule rather than an independent Vietnam in 1945. I have many Vietnamese friends who have fled their homeland since the fall of Saigon in 1975, and I realize that these views are contrary to the view that many of them share. However, having been there in war and in peace, I think I'm speaking from a position of firsthand knowledge .

Ambassador Peterson acknowledges that what Vietnam has today, politically, would be more accurately labeled a Labor Party rather than Communist. Free enterprise is alive and well in Vietnam today. No one can rewrite or project history, but who can say what would have been if we had been the source of help to Ho Chi Minh's band of nationalists in the early days of their revolution, as repeatedly suggested?

The country would be years ahead of where it is now, economically, and hundreds of thousands of lives would not have been lost in the process.

Vietnam has skyrocketed to become the second-greatest exporter of rice in the world. The fact that Vietnam also exports uranium puts it into the odd position of being probably the only "developing" country to export both food and energy.

My return to Vietnam was special for many reasons.

First, I found it to be an awesome experience to return to the places where I served, and to be with Marines I had fought and bled with 30 years earlier.

I found it to be a special treat to have my wife, Nancy, who experienced the war through my many letters 30 years ago during our courtship with me.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

And I am at a loss for words to describe my experience as I escorted John and Jennifer Graham of Virginia to the site where their father, Marine Capt. James A. Graham, had died. Their father had earned the Medal of Honor, America's highest award for heroism. They buried a "time capsule," filled with loving mementos from the years of their lives that their father had missed, at the site of his death.

My most fulfilling experience of all, however, I found, was seeing the beauty of Vietnam and its warm and friendly people living in peace although not in prosperity, as we know it. What a contrast to the terror of war as I remembered it.

On Jan 5, 1983, Patti wrote an article that was published in the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, immediately after he had returned to Hanoi earlier that year. In the article, he wrote about seeing a beautiful house that the Vietnamese had reserved to be an American Embassy. That was 14 years before we established diplomatic relations with Vietnam.

Patti ended that article by stating: "I found the people, the cities, the countryside still there, still the same, waiting, waiting for a better tomorrow. For Vietnam, time has stood still."

From my view, and in the view of Ambassador Peterson, time in Vietnam finally is beginning to move forward.

I believe that Patti was correct in his 1945 evaluation and his observations in 1983.

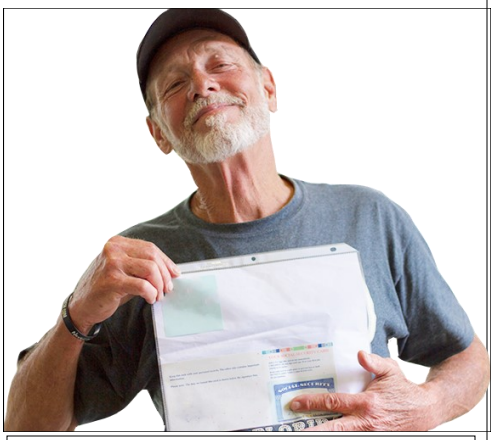
I believe that he also would be pleased with the progress Vietnam is making today.



C 1/5 members -From L to R… Mike "LT Koolade" Galyean, John "Obie" O'Brien, Leonard "Red" Reese, Dale Greene. Photo taken in June 2000 somewhere in the northern portion of "The Arizona" near An Hoa Combat Base.

(Continued from page 1)

At each event, volunteers provide services to 200 people in need. At these events qualified, clients, can get a Florida birth certificate, as well as a Florida ID (or license renewal). They also offer their clients, who are individually welcomed to the event and treated with . respect and compassion throughout the process



An IDignity client proudly shows his Social Security card obtained with the help of the IDignity volunteers.

The documents IDignity obtain on behalf of their clients enable them the freedom to apply for employment or school, obtain access to shelters, vote, seek help from social service programs, open a bank account or cash a check, secure permanent housing, or overcome many other obstacles to become self-sufficient. .

The cost to obtain these documents is high and demand for these services has yet to ebb. Since its beginning, IDignity has served more than 20,000 clients. IDignity leaders serve on committees and boards addressing homeless and social justice concerns.

IDignity Orlando has hosted monthly Identification Clinics where governmental partners and more than 120 volunteers serve over 200 people in need. At these events, qualified clients can get a Florida birth certificate, as well as a Florida ID (or license renewal). They also offer our clients help with getting a Social Security card or verification information.

Restoring dignity and hope doesn't just begin and end at Identification Clinics. Among other things it does in the community, IDignity hosts an annual Homeless Memorial Service recognizing those who have died each year

IDignity's purpose is to empower the community and cultivate a more inclusive, productive and secure society. IDignity Orlando has also expanded through satellite organizations in Seminole Volusia and Osceola counties. These satellite stations hold quarterly client service events.

Anne Taylor will join our Zoom meeting on June 6 and bring us a video with personal success stories. She will explain how Idignity accomplishes its valuable mission and answer your questions. Please plan on joining us via zoom or by phone on June 6.

2020 Marine Corps Birthday "SOS Breakfast"

New venue selected: Sheraton Orlando North

Retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. James S. "Hammer" Hartsell Selected as speaker

At the chapter Executive Committee meeting on March 7, the chapter officers selected the **Sheraton Orlando North** as the new venue for the "SOS Breakfast" This was necessary after the Holy Trinity Conference Center notified us of a conflict with our November 10 date. The Orlando Sheraton made a great proposal to SOS Committee co-chair Jim Weinberg, and the committee accepted their proposal.

The hotel is located at **600 N. Lake Destiny Road, Maitland, FL 32751.** The location is conveniently located only a couple of minutes off Maitland, Blvd. immediately west of the Maitland, I-4 interchange.

Barron Mills reached out to **MajGen. James G. Hartsell, USMC (ret.)** and he accepted our invitation as the speaker for the breakfast. MajGen. Hartsell is the first general officer who has been our breakfast speaker and will certainly help us attract our biggest attendance yet for the annual Marine Corps Birthday event.

General Hartsell is Deputy Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Hartsell served as an Enlisted Marine in the Reserves from 1981-83, and then was commissioned as an officer serving on Active Duty from 1983-1994. He then transitioned to the Reserves where he was mobilized for the following Operations; Iraqi Freedom I - 2003, Iraqi Freedom II - 2004, and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan – 2009-10.

As a General Officer he served as the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Division.

Mark Your Calendars



Saturday, April 4 … CF Chapter meeting CANCELLED

April 23—26 … FMDA Directors' meeting CANCELLED

Saturday, May 2….
Chapter Exec. Comm. Meeting TBD

Saturday, June 6 …
via Zoom ...Regularly scheduled CF Chapter meeting.

August 17—23 … FMDA Reunion , Washington, DC. (CANCELLED)

Tuesday, Nov. 10 … USMC Birthday "SOS Breakfast."
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARINE!

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The Larry E. Smedley Detachment of the Marine Corps League— 2nd Tues, - Monthly Meeting, 7pm – 8pm at the at American Legion Florida Department bldg. 1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810

1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

~IMPORTANT~

Central Florida Chapter members (whether membership is regular or associate) need to be members of the 1st Marine Division Association...contact the FMDA office or visit the website for membership information.

New website address:

https://www.firstmardivassoc.com/

Address and contact information

1st Marine Division Association
P.O. Box 9000, Box #902
Oceanside, CA 92051

Phone

(760) 763-3268

Association President
Jerry Johs
geronamo0122@gmail.com

Dennis J. Coady
Administrative Assistant
dennis.oldbreed@fmda.us

During these difficult times, Dennis will be in the office one day per week.

News from the 1st Marine Division

PM Infantry Weapons Undergoing Largest Modernization Effort in Decades

By Matt Gonzales | Marine Corps Systems Command

QUANTICO, Va. --

Marine Corps Systems Command's Program Manager for Infantry Weapons has begun a large-scale modernization project to increase the lethality of the infantry squad. PM IW strives to equip and sustain the Marine Corps with fully-integrated infantry weapons, optics and nonlethal systems for the Ground Combat Element. The portfolio's modernization efforts adhere to Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. David Berger's vision to redesign the force to meet the challenges of a new age of great power competition. Through PM IW, the Corps plans to field numerous new weapon and optic systems over the next decade.

"This is the largest modernization of the infantry squad in the last 25 years," said Lt. Col. Tim Hough, MCSC's program manager for Infantry Weapons. Strengthening systems



PM IW has begun the procurement of the Modular Handgun System, which will replace all Marine Corps pistols. This striker-fired pistol includes a plastic clip-on piece, enabling Marines to change grip sizes to accommodate different hand sizes. The weapon is compatible with the pistol-aiming module used by some units. MCSC will begin fielding the system this fiscal year.

"The MHS improves on the precision and reliability of the legacy platforms, while also bringing with it new, more effective ammunition," said Maj. Mike Brisker, weapons product manager for PM IW.

"In line with the Commandant's Planning Guidance, we're looking to lighten the load and increase the overall lethality of Close Combat Forces—specifically infantry Marines." ***CW4 David Tomlinson, an infantry weapons officer with PM IW***

MCSC is expanding the use of the M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle. Originally fielded to infantry units as a replacement for the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon in 2011, the rifle received overwhelmingly positive feedback from Marines. This feedback led to the Marine Corps' decision to field the M27 to all rifle platoons as their primary individual weapon.

"We expect fielding of [the M27] to conclude by the end of this fiscal year," said Brisker.

PM IW is also enhancing its optic systems. Fielded in spring 2020, the Squad Binocular Night Vision Goggle is a helmet-mounted system that offers improved depth perception, and the ability to detect and recognize targets in extreme low light, in inclement weather and in the presence of obscurants. The SBNVG provides additional capabilities that the legacy system, the AN/PVS-14, lacked. Since awarding a contract in February 2020, PM IW plans to begin fielding the Squad Common Optic in fiscal year 2021. The SCO includes a magnified day optic, which improves situational awareness, decreases engagement times and increases probability of hit.

"The Squad Common Optic enables Marines to see farther and identify the enemy more quickly," said Hough.



Central Florida Marine Corps Foundation's 32nd Annual Golf Tournament

9 October 2020



SHINGLE CREEK GOLF CLUB

Central Florida Marine Corps Foundation's annual golf tournament is our largest fundraiser and helps ensure we can continue to support the local community and provide scholarships to amazing local students.

For more information and to register, visit:
https://cfmarinecorpsfoundation.org/

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Contact
Mary Racila—386-761-3355
ponceinletprinting@gmail.com

I would encourage you to visit the website of our Central Florida Chapter. Thank you, Rick Dreves!

http://www.cfc1stmardiv.com/

Use the "PayPal" button to pay your chapter membership dues for 2020.

In addressing all ship board personnel at Pearl, CINCPAC advised, "Female sleeping quarters will be "out-of-bounds" for all males. Anyone caught breaking this rule will be fined $50 the first time." He continued, "Anyone caught breaking this rule a second time will be fined $150. Being caught a third time will cost you a fine of $500.

Are there any questions?"

At this point, a Marine LCpl from the security detail assigned to the ship stood up in the crowd and inquired... "How much for a season pass?" God bless, the enlisted Marine!

The Central Florida Chapter

wishes to recognize and honor its members
now serving in the Corps Eternal

Flt.Sgt. Joe Adamik (2014)
Capt. John Adamson 2015
Sgt. Ray Bauer (2015)
Cpl. Chester Bened (2012)
Joyce Bowden, assoc. (2017)
Sgt. Tim Broughton (2013
Sgt. Glenn Brown (2011)
Col. Harry Clarke (2013)
Amy Clarke, assoc. (2017)
Pfc. John Cromwell (2010)
M.Sgt. Louis Curtis
Wade Curtis (2011)
Col. Ed Danowitz (2012)
1stSgt. Richard De Vasto (2019)

Sgt. Arthur Dreves (2019)
Plt. Sgt Robert Fincher (2014)
Capt. William Harwood (2010)
Lt.Col. Dick Holt (2008)
Carolyn Immerman, assoc. (2017)
Sgt. Wade Jones (2012)
Sgt. Joe Karlberg (2019)
Cpl. John "Rick" Kennedy (2012)
Cpl. Louis Lang (2010)
Sgt. Maj. Les LeBlanc (2005)
C.W. "Bill" Marks (2014)
M.Sgt. Malcolm MacLean (2007)
Gy.Sgt. Rudy Miller (2008)
Ray Nielsen (2007)
Sgt. Donald Neiss (2009)

Col. Patrick Otoole (2018)
Pfc. Athanasse "Al" Parsons (2013)
MSgt Edward Payton (2015)
Sgt. Victor Petris (2015)
Gy.Sgt. Charles Ross (2013)
1Lt. George Schultz (2008)
Cpl Don Schyberg (2017)
Col. Bill Tate (2019)
Pfc. "Wild Bill" Taylor (2010)
Col. John Terry (2018)
Lt.Col. John Tomlinson (2014)
M.Sgt. Dale Wasson (2009)
Sgt. Carl Wenhold (2017)
Col. Paul Wilson (2019)

Semper Fi, Ladies and Gentlemen.

You'll always be remembered.

Minutes
Executive Committee
May 2, 2020
174 W. Comstock Ave.
Winter Park, FL

Attendees: Greg Melnick, Mike Galyean, Barron Mills, Jim Weinberg, Carlos Cuevas, Susan Finnigan

Call to order: 10:34am

June meeting - Zoom meeting will be in the newsletter. Instructions will be included with a telephone option. June 6th
IDiginity will be the presenter. Anne Taylor is still on board and is prepared to provide a meeting in Zoom format. Discussed prayer and pledge. Agreed to include them both. Barron showed the screen share feature to show the flag.
Review of Zoom features.

FMDA Reunion Update - Unknown on the status of the event if it will be cancelled or now. *(Edited to state that the 2020 reunion in DC is cancelled… only uncertainty is regarding the necessity to pay penalty fees, or not. 2021 is being planned for Oceanside/Camp Pendleton celebrating the 80th birthday of the 1st Marine Division.)*

Jim and Carlos - SOS Breakfast
Discussed placing a deposit on the venue. The risk of losing deposit is a concern. A backup plan to use the previous location but caterer is needed. Good faith first right of refusal is in place until June 1st to make the deposit.

Bingo at Lake Nona on hold indefinitely right now.

FMDA Spring Directors' Meeting … April 23 - 26, 2020, Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel – CANCELLED

Updates from Hawk anticipated at the Chapter meeting.

Newsletter and June Chapter meeting to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 11:14am.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Finnigan, Secretary

N E W M E M B E R S

Sgt. Luis A. Cambal **1st Bn., 4th Marines, 2nd Bn 8th Marines** **Iraqi Freedom (OIF/OEF)**



Welcome aboard! We are glad you are here!



"The man who will go where his colors go without asking, who will fight a phantom foe in a jungle or a mountain range, and who will suffer and die in the midst of incredible hardship, without complaint, is still what he has always been, from Imperial Rome to sceptered Britain to democratic America. He is the stuff of which legends are made. His pride is his colors and his regiment, his training hard and thorough and coldly realistic, to fit him for what he must face, and his obedience is to his orders. As a legionnaire, he held the gates of civilization for the classical world ... today he is called United States Marine."

LTCol. T R Fehrenbach, US Army, in "This Kind of War"

Central Florida Chapter
1st Marine Division Association
746 McIntyre Ave.
Winter Park, FL 32789



In order to belong to the Central Florida Chapter, you must...
Be a member of the 1st Marine Division Association
World War II ~ North China ~ Korea ~ Cold War ~ Vietnam ~ Gulf War ~ Iraqi Freedom ~ War on Terror

Call the 1st Marine Division Association in Oceanside, CA at (760) 763-3268 *or email* june.oldbreed@fmda.us *for information*

Central Florida Chapter

Select Membership type: ___ Regular ($20) ~ ___ Associate ($20) ~ ___ Life ($200) ~ Active Duty($10) ___
___ New ___ Renewal

PLEASE PRINT: _____
(Rank / Grade) (First Name) (Middle Initial) (Last Name)

_____ _____
Number and Street or P.O. Box #) *Spouses name*

_____
(City) (State) (Zip)

I was with: (list two units, max) _____
(Company - Battalion - Regiment/Squadron - Group)

WWII____ China____ Korea____ Cold War____ Vietnam____ Gulf War____ Iraqi Freedom____ War on Terror____

Email address: _____ Phone No. (___) _____ Recommended by _____

Please enclose $20 for Regular / Associate Membership; $200 for Life Membership; $10 for Active Duty
Make checks payable to: Cent. Fla. Chap., 1st Mar. Div. Assoc.. ~~~ Return to Mike Galyean, 746 McIntyre Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789
You can now pay on-line by using PayPal. Go to the chapter website at http://www.cfc1stmardiv.com/