



The Breed

**Southern California Chapter,
1st Marine Division Association, Inc.**

**"WE FEW, WE HAPPY FEW, WE BAND OF BROTHERS:
FOR HE TODAY THAT SHEDS HIS BLOOD WITH ME
SHALL BE MY BROTHER..." Henry V**

WWII*NORTH CHINA*KOREA*VIETNAM*KUWAIT*IRAQ*COLDWAR*AFGHANISTAN*PEACE TIME

President:	Ed Brundage	760 521-3090	Chaplain:	Tony Aguilar	858 335-5705
V. President:	Bob Adwell	760 805-1997	Board #1:	Gib Bolton	760 433-7746
Secretary:	Tony Aguilar	951 302-8298	Board #2:	Vacant	
Treasurer:	Dan Smith	323 240-4652	Board #3:	Marshall Varano	858 453-0642
Membership:	Corkie B. Lee	760 707-6661	Board #4:	Alex Morales	909 646-0364
Legal Officer:	Vacant		Historian:	Vacant	
Sgt. at Arms:	Bill Unger	760 703-7774			
Immediate Past President:	William Mimiaga	949 233-6036			

BOARD MEETINGS * UPCOMING EVENTS * ADDITIONAL CHAPTER'S SCHEDULED EVENTS

Date Day Time Location

May 2026 Board Meeting Cancelled – Memorial Day Holiday

25 June Thursday 1100 Board Room, Building 33421, Area 33, Camp Pendleton, California

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, 1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

New Address:

Southern California Chapter, 1st Marine Division Association, Inc.

3784 Mission Ave Suite 148/608

Oceanside, California 92058

News for Chapter Members:

The Southern California, 1st Marine Division Association, Inc., has a new user-friendly website. Website address: www.socalchapter1stmardivassn.org. Chapter members will be able to pay dues using PayPal. Dan Smith, Treasurer.

A QUOTE FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON:

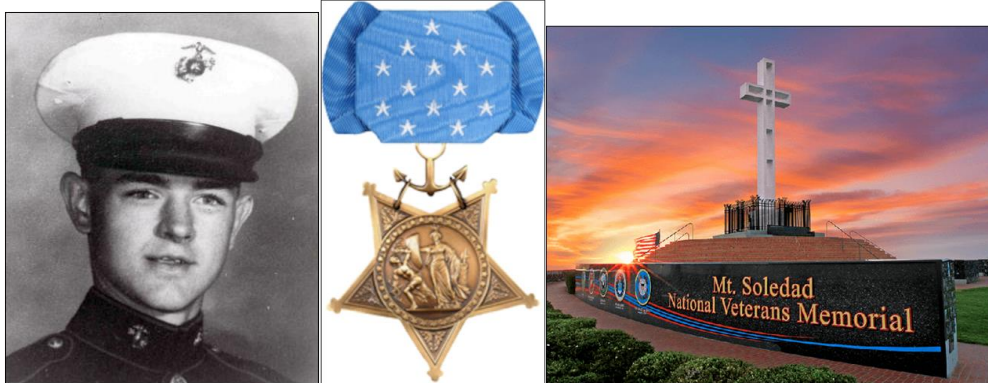
"Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth."

Chapter Board Positions still vacant: Legal Officer, Chaplain, Board #2, and Historian. If you are interested in anyone of these positions, please contact Chapter President Ed Brundage at: 760 521-3090.

Marines and Friends,

Cpl. Larry Smedley, from Orlando, FL, was awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously, in December of 1967 as a squad leader for D Company 1/7 in Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam. We have an opportunity to honor Cpl. Smedley's memory in conjunction with the 1st Marine Division Association's annual reunion in San Diego.

Please take a look at the attached description of how Cpl. Smedley can be remembered, and how you can help.



Corporal Larry Eugene Smedley, USMC kia, MoH

Cpl. Smedley was awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously, in December of 1967 as a squad leader for D Company 1/7 in Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam.

What you may not know is that Smedley's platoon commander, 2nd Lt. Mike Neil, was awarded the Navy Cross for his efforts to relieve Cpl. Smedley's squad and subsequent action the nights of December 20 and 21, 1967. 2nd Lt. Neil rose through the ranks and retired as a Brigadier General. BGen Neil is a retired attorney living in San Diego.

When he learned that the 1st Marine Division Association was having their annual reunion in San Diego, he suggested to me that we have a "plaque" placed at Mt. Soledad National Veterans Park to honor Corporal Smedley. Here is the website for the beautiful veterans' park overlooking the city of San Diego. <https://www.soledadmemorial.org/>

The "plaques," which are provided by the park, come in three sizes and range from \$1,500 to \$2,500.

Susan Finnigan and I have found that Wednesday, afternoon after the day's excursion to Camp Pendleton would work, and I am coordinating the dedication with General Neil and the park's staff. The only thing we need now is to raise the money for one of the plaques.

If you would be willing to contribute to this project to honor Cpl. Larry Smedley, our Orange County USMC, MoH, hero, please email me at galyeanmike@gmail.com or text me at 321.276.7516 and I'll get back to you with instructions on how to contribute.

Semper Fidelis,

Mike

Interesting Facts:

- 4 May 1942 – The Battle of the Coral Sea begins.
- 4 May 1943 – First Marine Corps class of female Marine Officers graduated.
- 7 May – National Day of Prayer.
- 8 May 1945 - V-E (Victory in Europe) Day.
- 10 May - Mother's Day.
- 11 May 1991 – President Bush announces Operation Sea Angel, Bangladesh.
- 11 May 1943 – The Battle of Attu begins.
- 25 May – Memorial Day Holiday.
- 31 May 1900 – Marines arrive Peking to defend Legation Quarter (55-day siege) during the Boxer Rebellion.

Treasurer's Report:

2026 March financials. Checking: \$2,227.67, Reserves: \$16,229.22. Total: \$18,456.89. Dan Smith, Treasurer.:

The following Chapter Members should be renewing their Chapter Annual Dues for 2024 and 2025

Len Hayes, Michael Lathrop

The following Chapter Members should be renewing their Chapter Annual Dues for 2026

LaRock Benford, Willy Buhl, CO Fowler, Jesse Griffin, Thomas Hawkins, Len Hayes, Robert Holub, Michael Lathrop, Edward Ortiz, Pete Sandro

Dues are: Association: \$50 Chapter: \$10 Active Duty: Association: \$50 Chapter: \$5

Dues can now be paid by using **Paypal** or by making a **check payable to:** Southern California Chapter, 1st Marine Division Association, Inc. Please mail to: Corkie B. Lee, 964 Mendocino Drive, San Marcos, California 92078.



ACROSS AMERICA – PLACES TO CELEBRATE OUR 250

Charleston, South Carolina: July 4th celebration on the waterfront will feature a peninsula-wide fireworks display, the largest in the Southeast.

Fort Campbell – Kentucky: July 4th - The home of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), will host a July 4 festival for military families and the public.

Los Angeles, California: July 4th, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum – America 250 Concert. Headlining talent to be announced.

Washington, D.C.: July 4th - National Independence Day Parade will be a historic highlight of the nation's 250th anniversary (America 250). It will take place along Constitution Avenue NW, from 7th to 17th Street NW, starting at 11:45 a.m.