The "Ooo Rah"

Newsletter of the Central Florida Chapter
1st Marine Division Association

Volume 16 Issue 6 | November/December 2019

Central Florida Chapter Officers:

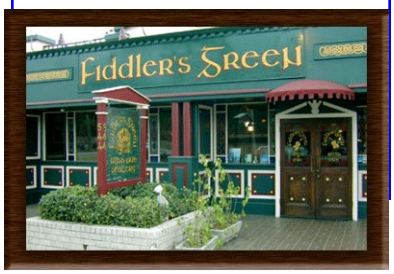
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Chapter Rep.	Jim Weinberg
Newsletter Editor:	Mike Galyean
(with a lot of help from Nancy)	

http://www.cfc1stmardiv.com/

Next Meeting:

Saturday, December 7
10:30 a.m.
(BRING A TOY)

Fiddler's Green Irish Pub
544 West Fairbanks Ave.
Winter Park, FL 32789
Ph.407.645.2050



PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

Marines and Friends,

The 244th birthday of our Corps has come and gone, along with Veterans Day for 2019. Now the planning for 2020 and our "SOS Breakfast" will begin. Please consider being part of the planning process for a successful event.

The December meeting of the Central Florida Chapter is coming up on December 7. In addition to a program that should be extremely interesting, this will be an important meeting for other reasons, as well. 1) We will be electing officers for the next two years. The proposed slate was announced at the October meeting and is published elsewhere in the "Ooo Rah." 2) Toys will be collected for the Marine Reserves Toys for Tots. Marines will attend the meeting to receive the toys we collect. Do not wrap your toys. Please make every effort to attend… don't forget your unwrapped toy! The Maries request no battery operated toys.

Our membership runs concurrent to the calendar year, so all annual memberships are renewable on January 1. Don't wait… You can bring your renewal to the December meeting or go to the chapter website and renew for 2020. Please fill out a new membership form to submit with your renewal. The membership form is found on the back page of this newsletter or on-line at http://www.cfc1stmardiv.com/ . A final note on memberships. As has been stated many times, since we are a chapter of the 1st Marine Division Association, our members should be members of the national association. That is true for associate members as well as regular members. The 1st Marine Division.Association has an "associate" category of membership, just as we do as a chapter. Go to the association website or call the office to get yourself registered as a member of the association.

I am excited about the future of our 1st Marine Division Association Chapter. We are beginning to attract younger Marines with energy and ideas that will take us into the future. I encourage you all to become recruiters. The infusion of new members brings new and fresh ways of doing business. We will continue to meet our mission with vigor and enthusiasm. Visit us on FaceBook, or on our web page.

Semper Fidelis,
Mike

Program for December—Steve Smith
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
VA Supportative Housing

Steve Smith will bring us information on how we can help solve the problem of veteran homelessness in Central Florida. Orlando Housing Authority issues 619 housing subsidy vouchers specific to homeless veterans and there are currently 95 of these vouchers that are not being used due to a lack of capacity: there are not enough landlords willing to take the vouchers.

HUD-VASH is a collaborative program between HUD and VA combining HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services to help Veterans who are homeless.

(*Continued on page 4)*

"ETCHED IN STONE"

By

Jacob Boynham

The Vietnam Memorial Wall endeavors to list every U.S. service member killed in the Vietnam War. As you can imagine, with over 58,000 kia's there are bound to be some errors. This article that appeared recently in National Parks magazine tells how much it got wrong.

It was a foggy summer morning about a decade ago when David Kies first visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and saw his own name listed among the dead. Kies' wife pushed his wheelchair along the 500-foot wall where more than 58,000 names are engraved on black granite polished so smooth it reflects like a mirror. He found the inscription on panel 14E: David F. Kies.

He knew it would be there. In the late '80's, someone at work left a note on his desk saying that they'd seen his name on the memorial. When a traveling replica of the Wall came to Madison, Wisconsin, Kies visited it with a friend and a flashlight in the dead of night—he didn't want anyone to watch him fall apart.

"It's kind of eerie seeing your name on something with a bunch of deceased people," he said. "I guess someday it will be true."



Kies' name isn't the only mistake on the Wall, which lists each U.S. casualty of the Vietnam War chronologically, by date of death. Since the memorial's dedication, family members have identified dozens of misspelled names. Others are duplicates. Some are out of order. Some, like Kies', belong to survivors. Last year, 4.7 million people visited the memorial and with all the errors, it's been difficult to definitively answer their most common question: "How many names are on the Wall?"

"This is an affair of the heart, it's not an exact science," said Bob Herendeen, a National Park Service ranger on the National Mall. "The Wall is part of a living memory, and memory can be faulty."

Now, after a comprehensive audit, the nonprofit that built the Wall finally has the most complete record of the memorial's mistakes. In May, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund released the results of its four-year review, which found that 58,390 names are inscribed on the Wall to honor a total of 58,276 killed or missing U.S. service members. The distance between those two figures speaks to how this country has imperfectly remembered the casualties of the controversial Vietnam War, which deployed a generation of young conscripts from 1955 to 1975 in a bloody and ultimately futile effort to prevent the spread of communism in Asia.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was built in 1982 to honor each fallen service member from that war—so many people that it takes volunteers more than four 18-hour days to read each name aloud. When the memorial was built, desktop computers were rare, and record-keeping was an arduous process. The names on the Wall initially came from casualty lists stored on magnetic tape, which VVMF staff checked eight times before inscriptions began.

Still, mistakes slipped through then and later, in the 279 names added to the memorial after its dedication. Those additions honor service members not included on the original casualty lists and were inscribed on lines with available space, as close to the member's date of death as possible.



Even by 2015, however, an accurate digital file with the precise location of each name didn't exist. By then, VVMF was updating a traveling replica of the memorial and had to learn exactly what was on the Wall, flaws and all. So Tim Tetz, director of outreach at VVMF, recruited 16 volunteers who spent months poring over an online photograph of the memorial and recording each name's location and spelling. Later, volunteers repeated this process at the Wall, and the digital file of 58,390 names was complete. The next step was to cross-reference that list with a casualty list maintained by the Department of Defense and conduct research to reconcile the inconsistencies.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

In this four-year process, VVMF discovered that 32 names on the Wall belong to people who survived the war. Thirteen names are duplicates, and 69 were reinscribed to correct an initial mistake. Those corrections weren't always successful. The second name on the wall was initially misspelled, then was reinscribed on a different panel with the wrong middle initial. (It should be Chester M. Ovnand.)

Rodney G. Heisel's name appears on the Wall three times—twice correctly and once misspelled. William F. Joyce enlisted under the name of a neighbor, Richard J. Preskenis. Joyce died in 1966, and Preskenis didn't serve. Both names are on the Wall.

The errors are impossible to erase. "You can't use white-out on black granite," Tetz said. "You can't spackle over it and re-engrave the name."

Tetz still receives about an email a month from someone whose loved one's name is inaccurate. He admits he'll never know every mistake, but VVMF will continue to make corrections the Department of Defense requests as space allows and will track exactly what is on the Wall and where the errors lie. That knowledge helps preserve the legacy of service members who died, Tetz said. And for him, the errors don't undermine the sheer power of 58,000 names etched in granite.

"They're not just names," he said, "they're stories. There's a tale behind each of them."

When David Kies touched the memorial that foggy day on the National Mall, he recalled the day in Vietnam that changed his life.

It was a Sunday morning in 1967, and Kies and two other soldiers from the 173rd Airborne were on a trail, gathering munitions after a night ambush. Kies stopped to light a cigarette when a claymore mine exploded in front of him. The blast cut Kies down at the knees, but his friend, Eric W. Zoller, took most of the shrapnel. Kies remembers he and Zoller were thrown onto a helicopter "like a couple pieces of wood." Zoller died en route to a field hospital, and a coding error listed Kies as killed in action, too. His name was among the first to be carved into the Wall. Zoller is one line down. I high school friend, William A. Beyer, is on the same panel. Kies feels honored to be alongside them, even mistakenly.

"I can keep them company, I guess," he said.

After his injury, Kies returned to Wisconsin and was fitted with artificial legs, which he used to march in anti-war protests. He had a career as an artist for the Lands' End catalogs. For33 years, no one invited him to a veterans reunion because his fellow service members thought he was dead.

Knowing that he's just one of many mistakes in the memorial only makes the Wall more like the war Kies remembers—inescapably human.

"A few errors out of 58,000 is pretty good for government work," he said. "Humans aren't perfect. Humans make mistakes,



In 1982, Mike Galyean, alonng with 5 other members of the Vietnam Veterans of Central Florida, drove an RV to Washington, DC for the dedication of the Vietnam Wall. Along with them was Ken Tyndall, who was just hired by Channel 9 and a Ch. 9 cameraman., Their journey and the dedication was followed on the ABC affiliate for the next four days.



The years others knew as youth,
I spent learning the meaning of death

The times others spent learning about love,
I passed hoping to live through endless nights.

The moments others recall as laughter in a classroom, I remember as terror in the jungle.

The instants of pleasure taken for granted
By others, I remember as forgotten hopes…
Long ago crushed by the reality of war.

The unfulfilled dreams of others are yet to be
Thought by me since I am in search of my
Elusive youth, looking for years lost in
Combat, which are no more… and will never be.

Anonymous

(Continued from page 1—Dec. program)

Through public housing authorities, HUD provides rental assistance vouchers for privately owned housing to Veterans who are eligible for VA health care services and are experiencing homelessness. There are 28 families that have been issued vouchers (they are valid for 120 days) who have yet to find a residence. There are 67 more vouchers that have not been issued at all because of the lack of capacity.

Steve Smith currently serves as an appointee of Mayor Buddy Dyer to the Orlando Housing Authority board of commissioners, where his primary interest is the reduction of veteran homelessness and the development of housing alternatives that allow for better coordination of veteran benefits. An Ohio native, Steve received a BA in Finance from Baldwin-Wallace College and his MBA from the Rochester Institute of Technology. He leads the state and local business development efforts at Tenable, a company that uses advanced analytics and predictive prioritization to help state and local government reduce exposure to cyber risk. His thirty-five year professional career includes assignments as an active duty Navy surface warfare officer, in various executive roles at three Fortune 500 companies, as president of a non-profit, and as a senior policy maker in state government.

This program will highlight a problem that exists in our community that we need to help correct. Steve will give us ideas how we can do this. Don't miss this informative program.

Mark Your Calendars



Sat., December 7 ... Regular Scheduled Chapter meeting. Bring a toy.

Wed., December 25 ... Merry Christmas!

Wed. Jan. 1 … Happy New Year!

Sat.,, January 4 … Chapter Exec. Comm. mtg. TBD

Thurs., January 9 … Lake Nona VA CLC Trivia and Bingo

Sat. February 1 … Regular Scheduled Chapter meeting

Friday, February 14 … Valentine Day

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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. Info:mclcfl@gmail.com or

I would like to give a "Shout Out" to the outstanding and professional printers who have been printing and mailing the "Ooo Rah" newsletter for about 15 years. They have always been fast, accurate and accomodating to our needs.

Ponce Inlet Printing Inc.

1726 S. Nova Road in Daytona Beach, Florida, Zip 32119

Contact
Mary Racila—386-761-3355

ponceinletprinting@gmail.com



~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 webssite 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

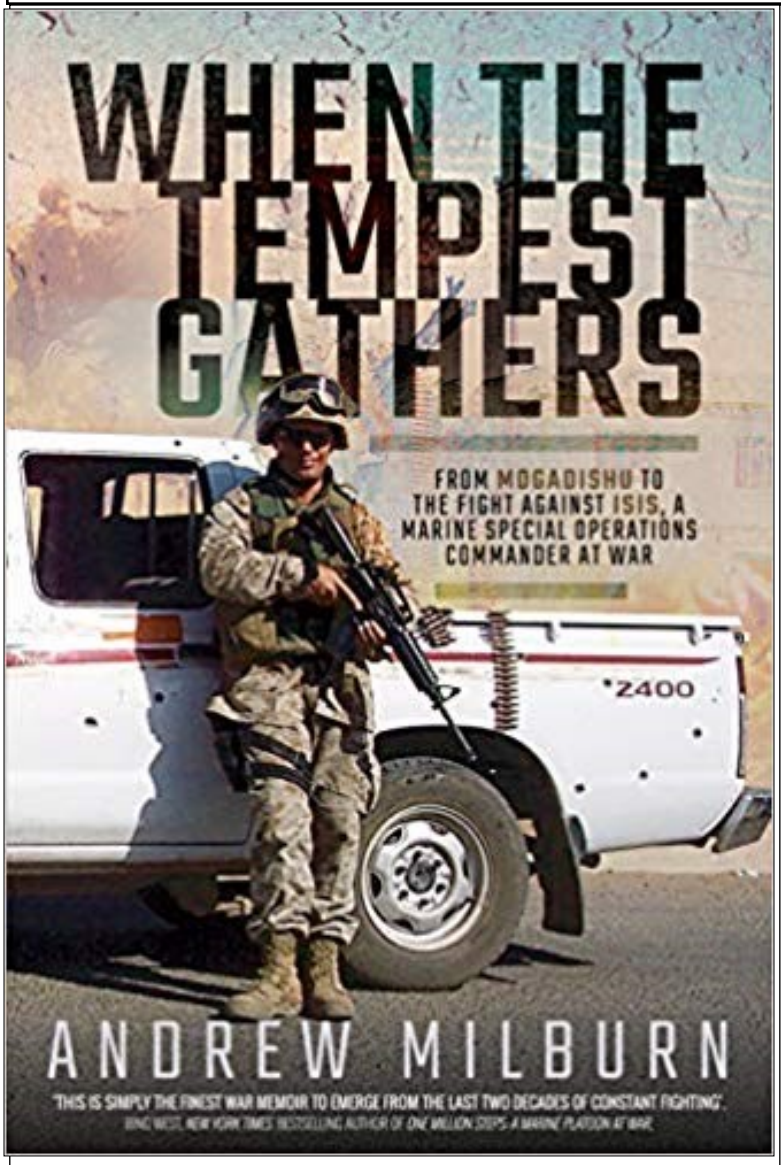
Email

Office: oldbreed@fmda.us

Association President
Jerry Johs
geronamo0122@gmail.com

Office hours remain the same:
Monday thru Friday 8am to 4pm PCT

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Many of our "Ooo Rah" readers will remember the inspirational comments delivered by Colonel Andrew Milburn, USMC (ret) at our 2018 Marine Corps Birthday "SOS Breakfast."

Bing West author of Call; Sign Chaos with Jim Mattis says, "*Quite simply the finest war memoir to emerge from the last two decades of constant fighting."*

These are the combat experiences of the first Marine to command a special operations task force, recounted against a backdrop of his journey from raw Second Lieutenant to seasoned Colonel and Task Force Commander; from leading Marines through the streets of Mogadishu, Baghdad, Fallujah and Mosul to directing multi-national special operations forces in a dauntingly complex fight against a formidable foe.

Milburn's story is ultimately a tribute to his fellow Marines. He retired in 2019 as the Chief of Staff of Special Operations Command, Central (SOCCENT)

When the Tempest Gathers Is now available for pre-order on Amazon.

1st Marine Division News

Belleau, France - U.S. Marine Corps Col. George C. Schreffler III, commanding officer of 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, receives a wreath during a ceremony at the Aisne-Marne Memorial near Belleau, France, May 26, 2019. The ceremony commemorated the 101st anniversary of the Battle of Belleau Wood, which marked the first occasion in World War I for U.S. forces to operate on a large scale against the German Army.



Photo By: Lance Cpl. Roxanna Ortiz

Chronic Marine Syndrome (CMS):

(continued from Vol 16, Edition 5)

5. Does not succumb easily to political correctness.

6. Is sure of who they are.

7. Is often either respected or hated by others, due to their abilities and talents.

8. May donate toys to needy kids at Christmas. (Remember to bring a toy to the December meeting.)

244th Marine Corps Birthday Ball



Elmer Hawkins and Mary Ann Smith



Mike and Nancy Galyean



Barron Mills and Susan Finnigan



Jim and Alice Weinberg



Michael and Michele Woodman



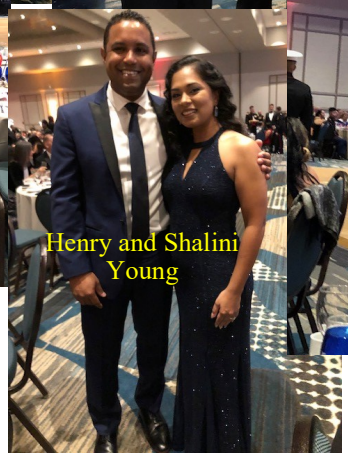
Mike and Janet Pomakis



Dave Smith and Natalie Kelly

Carlos and Erika Cuevas





Henry and Shalini Young



John and Erica Blackwood



Elmer Hawkins, the oldest Marine, with the youngest Marine

The Central Florida Chapter

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

Plt.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)

Semper Fi, Ladies and Gentlemen.

You'll always be remembered.

Minutes
October 5, 2019
Fiddlers Green Irish Pub
Winter Park, FL

The meeting was opened at 10:39 with a prayer by Chaplain, Dick Connell. During the past two months, we have lost six of our valued members. Dick led a moment of silence in their memory.
The pledge of allegiance was led by Sgt. At Arms, Jim Weinberg. Fourteen attending members and guests introduced themselves.
Jim Weinberg gave the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Greg Melnick… $6050.51 in Treasury.
The minutes of the June meeting were approved as printed in the "Ooo Rah" newsletter.



Barron and Mike present Certificate of Appreciation to Crystal Morris from UCF

Program: Crystal Morrison - UCF Restores was introduced by Vice President Barron Mills. Crystal provided an extremely interesting program on how UCF Restores is studying research in trauma and anxiety disorders.

Business:

SOS Breakfast - Jim Weinberg announced that the 2019 Marine Corps Birthday "SOS Breakfast" was being cancelled. He explained that there were too my conflicts and other issues that the officers felt could not be overcome.

2019 1st Marine Division Association reunion – "Hawk", Mary Ann Smith, Mike and Nancy Galyean, Carl Miller and Jim and Alice Weinberg attended the reunion that was held in Louisville in August. Officers were elected for 2020-22. Current president staying for six months due to health of elected president. January will be date to address president's position. Our own Elmer Hawkins will serve 2 more years as Deputy VP east. Reunion will be held in DC next year during first week of August.

By-laws changes:

ARTICLE TWO – MEMBERSHIPS AND DUES , SECTION A. - ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP, 2. – Other Membership Categories, (b) as follows… to read: (b) "**Associate membership may be granted to Marines and Corpsmen who did not serve with the First Marine Division; and Associate Membership may be granted to spouses, children, parents or guardians of those persons, living or deceased, who are or were members, or eligible for membership in the association.**

(2) Also, in order to clarify the membership on the **Executive Committee**, the following is proposed under ARTICLE THREE, - MEETINGS, SECTION A – MEETINGS OF THE CHAPTER, 2. Meetings of the Executive Committee to read:: "**The Executive Committee shall consist of all elected officers and the Chapter Representative to the Association if not already an elected officer. The Executive Committee shall also include the immediate past president of the chapter and all committee chairs."** …

3. **Add: SECTION D – ELIGIBILITY**

1. Officers of the Central Florida Chapter may be REGULAR or ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.
2. No more than three (3) officers may be ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.
3. The Chapter Representative must be a REGULAR MEMBER.

All proposed by-laws changes were approved unanimously without changes.

Nomination Committee Report:: Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Chris Hoey, announced proposed slate of chapter officers for 2020-22: President - Mike Galyean; VP - Barron Mills; Treasurer - Greg Melnick; Secreatary - Susan Finnigan; Chaplain - Dick Connell; Sergeant at Arms - Jim Weinberg

Announcements:

- Hawk - Showed Legacy of the Old Breed book. Hawk announced that a "last man standing bottle" for WWII combat Marines be shared with all who can travel at the 2020 reunion. Col Lynn Hayes and Hawk are contacting all the WWII veterans. Each veteran will have a thimble full of cognac at the reunion and will sell any non-WWII a thimbleful for $10.
- Barron announced that the MC Foundation - Raised $3,000 at Casino Night - Supports Foundation scholarship and IDiginity
- Next Lake Nona Bingo: November 14 (Odd months)
- Birthday Ball - Nov 9, 2019 - $85 tickets centralfloridamarines.org Cocktails 6pm starts at 8pm
  Rooms are availble at the Rosen - $109 per night.
- Barron is establishing a chapter FaceBook page.
- Next meeting: December 7 meeting - Toys for Tots - Reserve Marines, Speakers

Raffle drawing with Crystal Morrison, Alice Weinberg and dick Connell winners.
Meeting was adjourned with the repeating two verses from the Navy Hymn and singing the Marine Corps Hymn.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Finnegan, Acting Secretary

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/