1/5 Vietnam Veterans Newsletter – Summer 2021

The 1/5 leadership team would like to wish everyone a safe and productive summer.

As you will note we have included the message from Jerry Jobs and the First Marine Division Association regarding the necessity of canceling the planned reunion in 2021. Hopefully, by this time next year we will all be making our plans for the 2022 reunion wherever that will be held.

At this point in our lives many of us are deeply involved with our grandchildren (even great grandchildren) and tearing ourselves away from those priorities becomes more difficult; but what is more invigorating than seeing our old comrades from our youthful days as Marines? It is a time of reflection and remembrance of those departed comrades and of sharing memories with those still with us. We look forward to future reunions.

Semper Fi to Dale Greene who has been our point man with the Sergeant Davis Scholarship project. Dale's report on the 1/5's endeavors with the scholarship award committee is included.

On Saturday, September 25th the 1/5 Vietnam Veterans Association and the Marine Corp Scholarship Foundation will hold its annual fundraiser (The Sergeant Dougherty Memorial Shoot) at Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays near Allentown PA. Please plan on attending. A reminder with details of the event and a path for registration and/or donations will be sent out following this summer newsletter.

We have included the very thoughtful Memorial Day message from the chairman of the MCSF, General Robert Neller USMC (Ret.). All funds raised from our 9/25/21 event goes to the Rodney Davis and MCSF scholarships.

You will also find John Chang's 1/5 Treasurer's report in this newsletter and a couple old photos that should bring back memories.

Semper Fi,
1/5 VVA Leadership Team

From the Blue Diamond News regarding the 2021 Annual Reunion:

It is with deep regret that I must tell you that our 2021 Annual Reunion is cancelled. The Executive Committee met by telephone last Friday, and the Reunion Committee reported the situation. A Reunion this year just would not work out.

First issue was hotels. A decent room, after taxes and fees, would be $200. Rooms on base were available only in very small number. Hotels off base are expensive, rooms are limited, and multiple sites present a transportation problem. Aboard base, the Division offered to assist in any way they could. However, it is too early to commit buses to us, and we would likely be paying $800 to $1,000 a day per bus. MCCS has no plans yet to serve banquet meals in August.

We have about one hundred forty persons stating interest to attend. Running the numbers, for a small attendance, to a big attendance, the chance of spending more than we would bring in is too great. A big bust on the Reunion could spell the end of our Association. Other military associations have put their gatherings off to 2022, so we are not alone.

1st Recon and 1/5 Chapter may be meeting this year. We will keep you informed.

The Nominating Committee is making plans for the ballot counting. That might include meeting aboard Camp Pendleton in August.

If you are still coming to Oceanside in August, we could meet up informally and have dinner. Let us know if that interests you.

The opening of the Last Man Bottle is still in play. Details will be printed here as that develops.

We are mailing out 50/50 tickets with the ballots. That will be our major fundraising this year, so I hope you will participate.

This August is the end of my term as Association President. I would love to leave this office at the banquet of a grand Annual Reunion, but I do not want to hand over a broke budget to our next President. We cannot meet next year if there is no Association surviving.

One more to remember this Memorial Day: Longtime friend and member LtCol John R. Stevens, veteran of Okinawa, China, Pusan, Inchon, and the Chosin Reservoir, passed away this morning.

Hope you enjoy a safe Memorial Day Holiday.

Semper Fi

Jerry Johs, President
DJC

Navy's Newest Ship to Be Named for Marine Sgt. Maj. John Canley, Vietnam War Hero



Marine Gunnery Sgt. John Canley, who has received a recommendation from Congress to receive a Medal of Honor for his actions in the Battle of Hue City in 1968. (Image: Alpha Company web site)

Another Navy expeditionary sea base will be named for a Marine Corps hero who earned the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam.

The Navy announced on the Marine Corps' 245th birthday that a future mobile sea base will be named for retired Sgt. Maj. John Canley, who was awarded the nation's top valor award in 2018 for saving scores of his comrades during one of the Vietnam War's deadliest battles.

"ESB-6 will be named USS John L. Canley to honor a man who has exemplified all that has made our service strong, and our nation thrive," Navy Secretary Kenneth Braithwaite said Tuesday. "Then-Gunnery Sergeant Canley led his men through the Battle of Hue City, going above and beyond the call of duty as he carried wounded Marines to safety and drove the enemy from a fortified position."

Canley said he was surprised to find out this week he'd have a ship named for him, calling it a fitting tribute since he spent considerable time at sea during his career. He's more grateful for what it will mean to the troops who fought alongside him in the brutal battle more than five decades ago, he added.

"They'll be so excited to know that there's been a little recognition since 1968," Canley told Military.com.

Braithwaite said the expeditionary sea bases will deploy future Marines while carrying the names of those from the service's past. Those the mobile bases are named for, he said, embody the sea services' core values.

"The future crew of USS John L. Canley, both sailors and Marines, will carry on his legacy, character and professionalism throughout the lifespan of this vessel," Braithwaite added.

Canley was serving as a company gunnery sergeant with 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, when he led more than 140 men through the weeklong 1968 battle to retake Hue City. The Marines were heavily outnumbered, but Canley repeatedly braved enemy fire to bring his Marines to safety, advising and reorganizing his men when their company commander was seriously injured.

He was originally awarded the Navy Cross for his actions in Hue City, but some of the Marines Canley led through the battle spent years fighting to see the award upgraded. Their efforts paid off when President Donald Trump announced two years ago that Canley would receive the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony.

Canley will be the fourth Marine hero to have an expeditionary sea base named for him. Three others have been named for Lt. Gen. Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hershel "Woody" Williams, and Lance Cpl. Miguel Keith. Puller is one of the most decorated Marines in the Corps' history. Williams earned the Medal of Honor for heroism in World War II, and Keith was posthumously awarded the medal for heroism in Vietnam.

The ships, according to the Navy, will support a variety of missions, including those carried out by special operations forces. The 785-foot ships have a four-spot flight deck and can carry a crew of nearly 150.

The floating bases could prove vital in future missions in the Pacific, where the Marine Corps is preparing for possible missions to counter China. Canley said he likes the idea of his namesake ship helping get Marines the equipment they need in a fight.

"As long as they have equipment and the training," he said, "I don't care what the situation is -- with the right leadership, the Marines are undefeatable."

Marine Commandant Gen. David Berger said in Tuesday's announcement that Canley represents a generation of Marines "who have sacrificed and fought for our way of life."

"His actions in Vietnam forever changed the lives of so many Marines around him," Berger said. "His legacy will continue to live on."

- Gina Harkins

Source: https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/11/11/navys-newest-ship-be-named-marine-sgt-maj-john-canley-vietnam-war-hero.html

MARINE CORPS
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
Honoring Marines by Educating Their Children™

Memorial Day Reflections from the MCSF

On Memorial Day, our Nation pauses to remember those who have served and made great sacrifices for all. We also remember their families and all Veterans who have served America. Because of their efforts we will do so freely, secure in the knowledge that our unique way of life is protected by those who are willing to give everything for the liberties and blessings of America.

It is also during such moments of reflection that we can pay a most lasting tribute to those who have given all.

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation aims to perpetuate the legacy of our fallen Marines and Navy Corpsmen by educating their children and providing scholarships for them to attend college or technical school. Our Nation's heroes gave their all to secure our future, and it is our honor to help their children build their own futures through higher education.

On behalf of the Scholarship Foundation, our board of directors, staff, and Marine families everywhere, I hope you and your family have a meaningful and safe Memorial Day.

Sincerely,

Robert B Neller

General Robert B. Neller USMC (Ret.)
Chairman
Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation

Rodney Davis Scholarship Update from Dale Greene

The Davis scholarship award committee met on April 27th by Zoom. The first order of business was approval of renewable scholarships. We had four previous recipients eligible for renewals. The committee approved three and put one on hold pending his successful re-enrollment and demonstration of eligibility.

The three renewal applicants will receive $1500 each.

We have never run into this before but the young man on hold is in the National Guard and was activated for training and had to withdraw from school. The committee wanted more information regarding this situation and the folks at the Community Foundation are attempting to track it down for us. We basically set the dollars aside and pending documentation, may make his award in arrears. Another $1500.

Somewhat disappointingly, we only had two applicants for first time awards. The two candidates were neck-in-neck in terms of their application and accomplishments. The tipping point was one candidate was already accepted to her school of choice and the other applicant had no acceptances at this point. He will be our backup candidate.

The award is $1500.

I am assured by the folks at the Community Foundation that the low number af applicants is indicative of what they have seen with all the other programs they administer. All related to COVID, distance based learning, etc. and they feel next Spring will be close to back to normal.

We had no Vo-Tech applicants. We will be revisiting this concept and working on a plan that may even include "recruiting" Vo-Tech students. I will keep you informed on how we progress.

Lastly, I went down to Macon on May 17th to assist in making the award to this year's recipient.

The fund is over $250,000.



This year's scholarship recipient. Due to a change in plans by the school folks, we were unable to present in person. The work around was to make the announcement and have her hold a copy of the check.

Treasurer Report - Summer 2021

• Please pay your annual dues for 2021 using the form at the end of this newsletter. All donations are welcome and appreciated.

• Ending Balance of 1/5 Vietnam Veterans Association Checking Account as of June 14, 2021: $16,221.42

• 1/5 Vietnam Commemorative Coins are sold out. New coins will be ordered if there are enough requests.

2021 Donations to 1/5 Vietnam Veterans Association

Niziol, Charles	$100.00
Coxen, Jim	$100.00
Mullan, John	$100.00
O'Connor, Richard Jr.	$75.00
Havens, Gerald	$15.00
Engle, Ed	$10.00
Britt, Roy	$25.00
Jenkins, Charles	$10.00
DeWitt, Price Sgt.	$100.00
Harrington, Myron	$25.00
Norman,Howell	$100.00
Miller, Carl	$25.00
Rusth, John	$25.00
Torretta,Tony	$15.00
Sprinkle, Gary	$100.00
Strode, Gerald (DOC)	$25.00
Greene, Dale	$25.00
Petrous, Gary	$50.00
Bierman, John	$100.00
Prince, Garnett	$25.00
Wills, Raymond	$75.00

2021 Donations forwarded to Sgt. Davis Scholarship

Hibarger, Walt	$100.00

New Lifetime Members

Apple, Charles - 2019
Henry, Joseph – 2021
Cate, Harry - 2021
Mankowski, Jon - 2021

2020 Annual Dues Paid

Borvansky, Glenn

2021 Annual Dues Paid

Casselman, Larry (Doc) – New Member
Walters, Richard – New Member
Dougherty, Beth – New Member
Dr. Joseph Pilon – New Member
Borvansky, Glenn
Coxen, Jim
Mullan, John
O'Connor, Richard Jr.
Havens, Gerald
Engle, Ed
Britt, Roy
Jenkins, Charles
Harrington, Myron
Miller, Carl
Rusth, John
Torretta,Tony
Strode, Gerald (Doc)
Greene, Dale
Petrous, Gary
Prince, Garnett
Wills, Raymond
Hibarger, Walt
Mullis, Arthur Jr.
Pine, Robert
Rojas, Marco
Becker,Alvin
Welsh, Mike
Thigpen, Bernard
McPherson, Morgan
DeSpain, Gary
Cupp, Larry
Johnson, William
Murdock, John
Tonkyn, Michael
Iwinski, John
Becker, Alvin
Longtin, Ronald Jr.

Looking for Rory O'More

Navy Corpsman, 1969-70 timeframe. If anyone has any information, please contact Jeff Lippincott at maddogdoc25@hotmail.com.

Edna McGhee who so graciously maintains our mailing list and publishes our newsletters will be going on maternity leave this fall as she is expecting the birth of her first child on September 10th. This will be the first grandchild for Edna's parents who emigrated to the U.S. from South Vietnam, so it is a big occasion for the entire family. Edna, we all wish you the very best and look forward to your return at the end of your maternity leave.

Pictures From the Past







1/5 Vietnam Veterans Association

Form for Dues & Donations

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Annual Dues ($25.00) $_____

Life Membership Dues ($250.00) $_____

I wish to make a donation in the amount of: $_____

Total: $_____

Please complete the order form, make your check out to "***1/5 Vietnam Veterans***" and mail it to Doc John Chang at:

John Chang

PO Box 8271

Surprise, AZ 85374