The "Ooo Rah"

Newsletter of the Central Florida Chapter
1st Marine Division Association

Volume 18 Issue 3 | May/June 2021

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http://www.cfc1stmardiv.com/

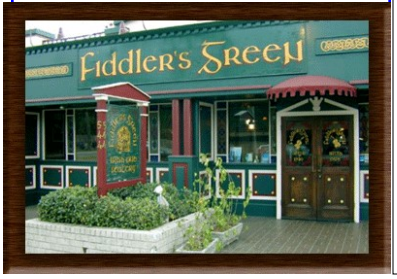
Next Meeting:

Saturday, June 5

10:30 a.m.

(Masks required)

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



PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

Our June 5 meeting will mark an Historic milestone… a return to Fiddlers' Green Irish Pub! After a serious discussion by the chapter officers at the May Executive Committee meeting, it was decided that the time had come for us to make our return "home." This decision was not made lightly, and several issues were considered. The officers hope that our membership will welcome this move back to Fiddlers' Green. We look forward to seeing you all there.

However, in making this move, we still want to remember that, in respect to those with immune issues and other conditions that prevent vaccination, face coverings will be worn. With the latest recommendations from the CDC, we feel that we have reached the time when a return to indoor meetings is possible.

With deep disappointment, I must announce that the 1st Marine Division Association reunion planned for August at Camp Pendleton has had to be cancelled. The Executive Committee met Friday (today) and reviewed the availability of hotels and room rates in the Oceanside area. The exorbitant rates, the extremely high travel costs, combined with the numbers anticipated left the association with little choice but to cancel.

The "Last of the First" bottle of cognac to be opened by the last surviving combat veteran of WWII was tentatively to be opened at the August 7 banquet during the planned reunion. It is more than a little disappointing that this opportunity for Elmer Hawkins, Paul Wojahn, and their buddies from WWII, will have to wait a little longer. Perhaps something can be scheduled at the Marine Memorial Hotel in San Francisco just for them. The association is scheduled to move to the Central region for the 2022 reunion, so, if the "Last of the First" bottle has not already been opened, perhaps we'll be able to observe this historic event next year.

The Central Florida Chapter normally skips the August meeting because of the conflict with the reunion. With the reunion cancelled and the easing of restriction from the COVID pandemic, let's start looking at something to do sometime in the late summer in the form of a social event. The chapter officers will be looking at possibilities, so stay tuned

Semper Fi,
Mike

FOURBLOCK
VETERAN CAREER READINESS

BARRON MILLS TO PRSENT PROGRAM ON THE "FOURBLOCK" VETERAN SUPPORT PROGRAM

When Major Barron Mills retired from a distinguished and rewarding career in the Marine Corps 5 years ago, he began searching for something that would give him the same feeling of self-worth that he had enjoyed during his career as a leader of Marines. The 1st Marine Division Assoc. chapter has benefitted from his civilian contributions. But another program that caught his eye and has also benefitted from his attention is the "FOURBLOCK" program to help other veterans make the transition from active duty to a second career in this new-found world as a civilian.

(Continued on page 3)

My Little Red Marine Corps Cap

By Rick Kennedy

Editor's note: We, unfortunately, lost Rick Kennedy in 2012. But prior to that he was a regular contributor to the "Ooo Rah." He wrote some wonderful articles recounting both his experiences in Korea and as a civilian Marine veteran. This is one of his articles. We miss Rick and eloquent way with words.

Prior to our Boston reunion of C-1-5 Korea, Robert Smith mailed me a red baseball cap with the simple inscription in gold embroidery as follows:

C-1-5



Korea 1950– 53

I proudly wore the cap as I left from my home in Port Orange to the Orlando airport for an early flight to Chicago to attend grandfather's day for four of my grandchildren at Holy Angels grade school. By coincidence, this was located in Robert's hometown in Aurora, Illinois.

My baggage was checked at 6:30 a.m. and I walked toward the gate and passed a colonel dressed in Marine Corps khaki. He gave me a nod and I returned with a casual salute. Approaching the security section, the head of security also observed my red cap and shouted a loud SEMPER FI. He informed me that he was a retired Lieutenant Colonel, and we exchanged our Marine Corps assignments. I proceeded through security to the tram and on to gate 52 for the first leg of my flight to Charlotte. Waiting at the flight gate, a couple from Puerto Rico seated near me noticed my cap and commented on this being the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War.

Across the aisle from me was a US Airways Captain deadheading to Charlotte to pick up another flight. He saw my hat and moved to the seat next to me. He introduced himself as Joseph Griffin, a F-4 Marine Corps pilot in Vietnam. He asked if I served under Ray Davis. I said no, that we were Ray Murray's boys of the Fifth Regiment. Joseph is a lawyer when not flying. He said that the country owed a lot to the Marines that served in Korea. We were also an inspiration to those that flew with him in Vietnam.

When the plane landed in Charlotte, I had to walk from C plaza to B plaza to catch a plane to O'Hare where my daughter, Krista, would meet me. Walking to my next flight, I was stopped in my tracks by a young man in blue jeans with a military haircut. He saw my red cap and introduced himself as Lieutenant Colonel Steven Held, Navy-Marine Coordinator, 50th Anniversary Korean War Commemoration. His card stated that he is stationed at the Washington Navy Yard. I was stationed there in 1946. The Colonel will forward me copies of the Korean War from start to finish. This will be good material for future use in the "PASSWORD." (*Editor: The colonel was true to his word and sent a wealth of historical information to Rick.)* He also stated that he met General Ray Murray at a meeting last week in San Francisco. He will also send me a CD covering the entire Korean War. My next stop was at a gate agent to report myself as a non-revenue passenger. I would have to wait until everybody was on board before getting a seat assignment. My daughter Kim is a flight attendant with US Airways which allows me to fly free. The gate agent asked about my red cap with C-1-5 Korea and I proudly advised the purpose and meaning. I was assigned a seat and boarded the plane immediately.

At O'Hare, while waiting for my daughter to pick me up at the arrival driveway, a very attractive young lady approached me and thanked me for my service to my country. My eyes swelled up with emotion and she said, "I don't know how you guys did it." I replied, "Thank you; I don't know how we did it either." Soon my daughter arrived with my grandchildren and my week with family was about to begin.

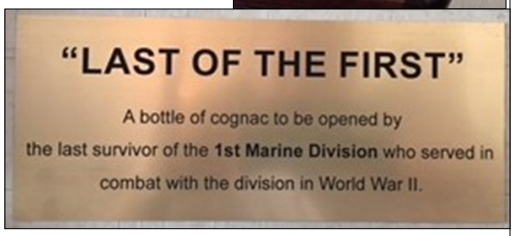
This was an exceptionally nice day for me, and I must thank Robert Smith for providing me with the little red cap that made these special acknowledgments possible. The thousand miles of mountain trails and the 100 fox holes dug in hard dirt all seemed so meaningful and worthwhile this day.

The old USMC gunnery sergeant opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend, Gunny Finney.
'Did you see the paper?' he asked. 'They say I died!!'
'Yes, I saw it!' replied Finney. 'Where are ye callin' from?'



2021 1st Marine Division Association Reunion Cancelled





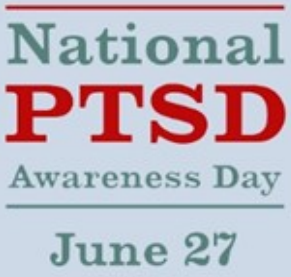
Due to rising cost of facilities and transportation, the Executive Committee of the 1st Marine Division Association has just decided that there will be no reunion this year. The event had been planned for the Camp Pendleton area. The opening of the "Last of the First" bottle of Cognac will have to wait until another time. The official announcement will be coming ASAP.

"I know now why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep on one another's knee. Comrades gather because they long to be with men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the U. S. Marine Corps. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never since given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried by reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another."

Michael Norman from his book These Good Men





(Continued from page 1—"FOURBLOCK")

Mills, who has found his own niche as Executive Director of the Florida Association of Veteran Owned Businesses," serves as a mentor and trainer for those who would also like to help fellow veterans make that, sometimes difficult, transition.

FourBlock http://fourblock.org is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit started in 2010 to equip high potential veterans to achieve great careers in our nation's top companies. FourBlock's primary focus is their 8-12 week Career Readiness Program that runs in the Spring (February to April) and Fall (September to November) in line with college semesters.

The target for cohorts are student veterans graduating soon while transitioning military and other veterans regularly participate as well. The program's curriculum was built in cooperation with Columbia University. One night of each week, the cohorts meet with established corporate partners in respective locations (sessions have been virtual with COVID precautions).

Cohorts are typically 30-40 students (vetted by FourBlock) and provide an opportunity for the students and companies to learn about one another. Participating companies are also connected into the FourBlock network of 2,500+ alumni nationwide and can post job openings on the internal FourBlock Connect platform. The Career Readiness Program came to Tampa in 2018, Orlando in 2020, and will start in Jacksonville in 2021. Contact the Southeast Regional Director, Roger Roley, at rroley@fourblock.org for more information.

Barron will bring this worthwhile program to our attention with a presentation at the upcoming June 5 meeting of the Central Florida Chapter, 1st Marine Division Association. If you know student veterans, or others in the process of transitioning from a stint in the military, you might be doing them a huge favor to invite them to this meeting to learn more about this valuable program.

June 27th PTSD AWARENESS WALK AT LAKE BALDWIN BEGINS AT 9:00 AM.

Meet at the Veterans Park across from the VA.

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Bring water

"The Marine Wife"

by Col. Edward F. Danowitz
1/18/1921—1/24/2013

No monument has yet been cast
In marble, bronze or stone.
No songs of praise have yet been raised
For the valor she has shown.
And but those few who lived life through
Are mindful of the strife,
That came to those who bravely chose
To be a Marine Corps wife.
It mattered not when came the call
To move in new directions,
The choice was but to take what came
With all its imperfections.
To be alone in peace or war,
To anchor firm this union,
And pray that God would grant the gift
Of a lasting, full reunion.
No Saint deserves more glory,
No hero more acclaim,
Than the wife who lived life in the Corps,
In service without fame.
So stand with me, my brothers,
And let our toasts ring true,
For we know that it was only she
Who made a Marine of you.

Mark Your Calendars



Saturday, June 5…
10:30 a.m. Regularly scheduled chapter meeting. Fiddlers' Green Irish Pub.

****Saturday, July 10 …**
Chapter Exec. Comm. Meeting . Location TBD
**(changed from 7/3 because of holiday)

August 5—7, 2021…
CANCELLED
FMDA Reunion.
Camp Pendleton.

****

The Larry E. Smedley Detachment of the Marine Corps League—
Monthly Meeting, **2nd Tues,** - 7pm – 8pm
American Legion Post 243
491 W. Broadway St.
Oviedo 32799
Info:mclcfl@gmail.com
Or call Michael Segura
(407)415-1504

****

Central Florida Marine Corps Foundation
Email: CFMCF1775@gmail.com

<<<<<<<<<< save the date >>>>>>>>>>

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY "SOS BREAKFAST"

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021

WHERE: Sheraton Orlando North (Maitland)

Speaker: Colonel Michael J. Roach

More details soon!



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 OF THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION



CENTRAL TRAINING AREA, OKINAWA, JAPAN - Lance Cpl. Gentrie Fanini, a machine gunner with Alpha Company, Battle Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, stands in a column formation at the Central Training Area, Okinawa, Japan, on Dec. 11, 2019. The 31st MEU is currently preparing for deployment through MEUEX, a two-week evolution that prepares the Marine Air-Ground Task Force for amphibious operations launched from naval vessels. The 31st MEU, the Marine Corps' only continuously forward-deployed MEU, provides a flexible and lethal force ready to perform a wide range of military operations as the premier crisis response force in the Indo-Pacific region. (Official U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Andrew R. Bray)



29 Palms - U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Tanner Reihm, a squad leader with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, provides security during a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation (MCCRE) at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 28, 2017. MCCREs are conducted to ensure unit standardization and combat readiness in preparation for operational deployments. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Joseph Prado)



29 Palms - U.S. Marines with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, dig fighting holes during a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation (MCCRE) at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 29, 2017. MCCREs are conducted to ensure unit standardization and combat readiness in preparation for operational deployments. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Joseph Prado)



2021 Marine JROTC Awards Presented Virtually

Apopka High School - Cadet Bergin Hartzell … "Outstanding NCO"

Edgewater High School - Cadet SSgt Kaylee Fletcher … "Outstanding Cadet"

University High School - Cadet Layevska Espinalez ... "Outstanding Cadet"

April Meeting—Mead Gardens



Certificates of Appreciation presented to Tommie Maldonado and Rusty Keeling, VSO's from Orange and Seminole Counties by President Mike Galyean



A few of the twenty members and guests who attended the April meeting. An interesting program by the Veteran Service Officers Tommie Maldonado and Rusty Keeling.

Ponce Inlet Printing Inc.

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

Contact

Mary Racila—386-761-3355

ponceinletprinting@gmail.com

Central Florida Chapter.

Thank you, Rick Dreves!

http://www.cfc1stmardiv.com/

Visit the "In Their Own Words" page for anecdotal articles by members.

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 DeVasto (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)
Capt. Jack Paxton (2018)
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.

Central Florida Chapter, 1st Marine Division Association
Minutes
Saturday, April 3 2021
Mead Gardens pavilion
Winter Park, FL

Call to Order, Opening comments……. Mike Galyean

I. Opening Prayer …… Dick Connell

II. Pledge to the Flag … ……..…… Jim Weinberg

III. Welcome to guests… Member Introductions – 20 members and guests in attendance.
Mike Galyean, Nancy Galyean, Mike Pomakis, Janet Pomakis, Carlos Cuevas, Barron Mills, Elmer Hawkins, Mary Ann Smith, Greg Melnick, Susan Finnigan, Jim Weinberg, Alice Weinberg, Ron DeVasto, Brad Sokoly, Mike Segura, Dick Connell, Craig (USAF Ret), Nelson Cole, Rusty Keeling, Tommie Maldonado, Bob Garnett

IV. Secretary's Report …….. Susan Finnigan - Accepted

V. Treasurer's Report …….. Greg Melnick
$40 – PX Chits,
$2,268.11 – Savings Account,
$4,126.42 – Checking,
TOTAL - $6,434.53 – Accepted

VI. PROGRAM: Orange/Seminole Veteran Service Officers…. Barron Mills
Tommie Maldonado, Orange County; Rusty Keeling, Seminole County

VII. Business
A. Chapter ad in 2021 Reunion Journal, ½ pg. b/w - $175 - Mike Galyean – Motion Approved
B. 1st Marine Division Assoc. report……. Elmer Hawkins
C 2021 Annual memberships - Current: Total - 61; …… Life - 21 –; Annual – 38; "comped" - 2 Regular – 47; Associate - 14
D Review 2021 MC Birthday "SOS Breakfast," – Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021.
1. Orlando Sheraton North (Maitland)
Chair – Jim Weinberg, Carlos Cuevas
Speaker – Col. Michael Roach

VIII.. Announcements
A. Barron Mills – Local Veterans Programs; Camaraderie Program; Veterans Beer Club
B. Next Chapter meeting? …Saturday, June 5, 2021 – Will we be ready for indoors?
C. Lake Nona VA Community Life Center Trivia and Bingo – cancelled until further notice
D. FMDA Reunion – August 5—7, 2021, Oceanside/San Diego area… TBD
E. Women Marines Association reunion pushed to 2022 in Las Vegas, NV.
F. Raffle drawing ……..Mike Pomakis
G. Closing (see back of agenda)……. Dick Connell

Adjourn… 11:58am

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Finnigan
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/