THE OLD BREED NEWS
VOL. LXX • NO. 1 JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2021
The Official Publication of the 1st Marine Division Association, Incorporated

PAST PRESIDENT TOM VETTER (1935 – 2021)



LtCol Tom Vetter (Photos courtesy of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department)

The Association lost a revered leader and friend on January 16, 2021 with the passing of Past President LtCol Tom Vetter USMCR (Ret). He served as Association President for the 2003-2005 term. Among his achievements was moving the Association HQ in 2004 from Chantilly, Virginia to Oceanside, California, to be closer to home ground. When space became available HQ moved into our current location, behind 1st Division HQ aboard Camp Pendleton.

"Most people did not know that Tom's middle name was Marion, a name he was not fond of. When asked by people over the years what the 'M' stood for, he would reply, 'Marine'."

Tom was born June 18, 1935 in St. Louis, Missouri. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1952, did his boot training at MCRD San Diego, and served in Korea in 1954. As Staff Sergeant his was a recon Marine. After being commissioned he commanded a tank company.

In 1958, as a Marine Corps Reservist, Tom became a Los Angeles Sheriff's deputy. He rose through the ranks to become the first captain of what is now the Walnut/Diamond Bar Station. He was promoted to Commander in 1990, and served until retiring in 1994. He retired from the Marine Corps Reserve in 1983 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

In addition to serving as FMDA President, Tom also served as the Bodfish Chapter President. He was active with the Los Angeles, Orange County, and Southern California Chapters.

LtCol Vetter leaves a son and a daughter. He lost the love of his life, his wife Barbara, in 2018.

Bodfish Past President Dale Turner said "There is no doubt, the Big Bodfish Saloon in the Sky will be rockin' and all the old Bodfish clan will be waiting to greet Tom as he checks into Heaven's Gate."

From the Sheriff's Department: "Most people did not know that Tom's middle name was Marion, a name he was not fond of. When asked by people over the years what the 'M' stood for, he would reply, 'Marine'."

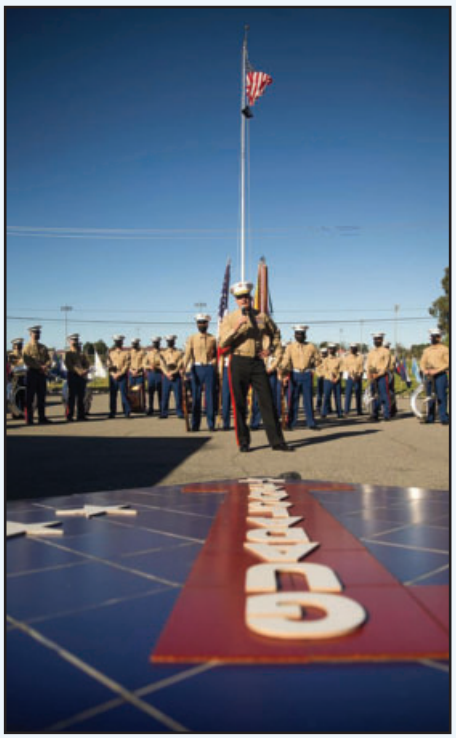
Thanks to Dick Cesaroni, Dale Turner, and the Los Angeles Sheriff Department for information about Tom's life.

1st Marine Division 80th Anniversary Commemoration

6 FEB 2021 Camp Pendleton, California — The 1st Marine Division commemorated the 80th Anniversary of its 1 February 1941 founding with rededication if the Division's battle colors. The ceremony was held as usual in front of 1st Division's Command Post, known as the White House, but without the usual gathering of veteran Marines. Attendance was restricted due to the ongoing pandemic, but the ceremony was broadcast live on Facebook.

The ceremony opened with the raising of the colors as the 1st Marine Division band played our national anthem. Commanding General MajGen Roger B. Turner wel-

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MajGen Turner addresses attendees at 1stMarDive anniversary event

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Updated 17 March 2020

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THE OLD BREED NEWS

The Old Breed News is published four times a year during the months of March, June, September, and December by the 1st Marine Division Association, Inc., P.O. Box 9000, Box# 902, Oceanside, CA 92051; Phone: 760-763-3268; Web Site: www.firstmardivassociation.com. It is provided to members in both digital or printed format depending on preference.

Send address changes to The Old Breed News, P.O. Box 9000, Box# 902, Oceanside, CA 92051. Periodical postage paid at Oceanside, California and at additional mailing offices.

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President's Message



Jerry Johs

1st Marine Division Association 80th Anniversary

Dear Members,

In a better time, many of us would have been aboard Camp Pendleton this week to commemorate the founding of our 1st Marine Division. In this special time, we attended virtually, via Facebook. The ceremony was broadcast live.

The Division's Commanding General, MajGen Roger B. Turner, invited us to attend this year's Colors Rededication ceremony to mark the 80th anniversary of the Divisions founding on 1 February, 1941.

This was the best we could do for this year's Anniversary. Here's hoping we are able to meet this August in San Diego for our Annual Reunion, and a full blown Anniversary Commemoration in 2022.

I asked for a show of interest in attending in San Diego this August, if we are able. About a dozen members responded in the affirmative. If you did not reply, and would like to attend, please let us know. We will continue planning if at least a moderately sized crowd would want to join us there.

If you, your family, or guests, plan to attend the Reunion this August, please RSVP to Dennis Coady, 1st Marine Division Association Administrative Assistant. Let him know if your family or guests plan to attend, how many, etc. Email or call Dennis at dennis.oldbreed@fmda.us or 760-763-3268.

The Executive Committee will meet on 5 March. We expect to decide "go/no go" at that meeting.

Semper Fi,

Jerry Johs, President

Note: We have combined this issue with the Winter (Oct/Nov/Dec) 2020 edition.

In better times

In better times we would have been able to attend the division's birthday celebration in person. These are not better times. So, we will let the nearby photo of the 2020 ceremony serve as a reminder of those better times—and a symbol of hope that we can resume our in-person gatherings next year.



U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Robert Castellvi, the commanding general of 1st Marine Division, is assisted by Guadalcanal veteran Sgt Elmer Hawkins, Deputy Vice President East, of the 1st Marine Division Association, with placing a streamer during the battle colors rededication ceremony on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 31, 2020.

Veterans and active duty Marines and Sailors who served in the division over the years participated in the ceremony celebrating the oldest, largest and most decorated division in the Marine Corps. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Melissa Marnell)

Attention All FMDA Chapters

Please send any updated information to FMDA headquarters when you have new officers with their updated address, telephone number, e-mail address and Chapter representative.

June Cormier,
june.oldbreed@FMDA.us
(760) 763-3267

Save the date!!!!

First week in August 2021
Oceanside, California

Blue Diamond Birthday Reunion

"Last of the First Bottle" in honor of our WWII Vets

The Reunion Committee welcomes your input. Let us know what you want. We of the Committee would also welcome your participation. If you want to get involved with the planning, please drop a line to Dennis Coady in the HQ office. email: dennis.oldbreed@fmda.us

For more info contact: Len Hayes, (760) 760-712 7088, Lenhayes@cox.net

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 02-22-2021

Life	Annual	Assoc. Annual	Friend	Total
4,863	965	83	22	5,933

Chapter Reps:

Please get your chapter news into us for inclusion in Old Breed News. Send it to the editor at 2473 New Haven Circle Sun City Center, FL 33573 or email it to sharp_arthur_g @ sbcglobal. net. Not many chapters are taking the opportunity to let the rest of the association know what they are doing.

The Editor's Desk©

Art Sharp



The Scrounger©

All is fair in love, war, and plywood

This incident happened about August or September 1952, when "Horton" and I were with Dog Co., 38th Inf. Regt. Our battalion had been pulled off the line and sent into reserve. Once we were settled in, my buddy Cpl. Charles Horton and I went out looking for anything that would improve our living conditions.

We ''borrowed'' a jeep and trailer and left the area. We went a couple miles down the road and passed a spot where someone had stuck a flagpole in the ground in a relatively flat area. We made a U-tum and drove slowly toward the pole. As we got closer, we spotted a neatly stacked pile of plywood off to one side.

"What do you think, Horton?"

Horton didn't even bother to answer. He stopped the jeep. Almost immediately, we started loading the plywood on to the trailer. In a matter of minutes we had the trailer loaded and were flying down the road toward Dog Company. When we got to the company area, we had the guys in the platoon unload the plywood and told them to use it as flooring.

It rained all night and turned the company area into a sea of mud. The next day our platoon leader, Lt. Rogers, came to look over our living arrangements. He almost fainted when he walked into our squad tent and saw that we were using ''nice clean plywood'' for flooring in our tents.

He said, "Cpl. Leyva, did you hear what happened yesterday? The Division quartermaster left a pile of plywood at the site where they were going to set up Battalion Headquarters. It was to be used to build a mess table for the battalion officers. But the plywood mysteriously disappeared. You don't happen to know anything about the missing plywood, do you?''

I replied, ''No Sir! It just goes to show you that this battalion is full of scroungers who will steal anything that is not nailed down."

Lt. Rogers knew I wasn't being candid and broke into a malicious smile as he walked out of the tent. He never mentioned the plywood again.

.....

Okay, what does that anecdote have to do with us? (Incidentally, it is a true story written by a U.S. soldier who fought in the Korean War.) It is a story about one of the most valuable members of any military unit, which has no MOS. That individual is a "scrounger."

In every movie and/or book about the military there is a "master scrounger," i.e., some clever person who can find anything and trade it for something everyone else covets. That is what I have become as the editor of OBN.

One of the first lessons I learned as a young Marine is that scrounging is necessary if you are going to survive. If you see an item of value lying around unguarded and you perceive that it might come in handy someday for you or someone else via trade, liberate it. (In the world of scroungers the definition of "value" is a subjective thing.) I am now using my scrounging skills to cobble together the OBN.

You will notice that this issue is replete with stories from a wider variety of sources than usual. That is because I have to scrounge material from more sources than usual. The reason is simple: FMDA members have all but given up contributing material. Some, such as Joe Henry, Jim Allison, and Vince Rios, have responded to past pleas for submissions. I thank them. I am asking other members to follow their lead.

Don't get me wrong. I enjoy scrounging. I learn a lot when I am doing that. How else would I have learned about Murray Rothman, Pedro del Valle, Robert Carroll, etc? There is information galore available about the First Marine Division and its history. All one has to do is find it so I can turn it over to our brilliant staff writer A. T. Wunz for editorial polishing. I suspect that there is a lot more waiting to be uncovered among the members of the FMDA.

(Incidentally, try saying "A. T. Wunz" fast three times and figure out what it sounds like. Anyone with an 0341 MOS might recognize it quickly.)

Please scrounge around your cellars, attics, foot lockers, sea bags, and other locations to find material that might be suitable for publication in OBN. I am betting that there is plenty of it sitting in your minds just waiting to be released and put down on paper. Feedback, chapter news, items about individual members whose exploits deserve mention, memoirs, photos, historical tidbits about the division …whatever you have and you would like to share with our readers, send it in.

Of course, no matter how much you submit I will still be out there scrounging for more. I want to continue producing an informational, readable magazine you and I can be proud of. You have earned it.

NEGRO MARINES WIN PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

SOMEWHERE IN THE CENTRAL PACIFIC (Delayed), Jan. 25. (ANP)—Members of the 3rd and 4th platoons of the Negro 3rd Marine Ammunition Company have been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for "outstanding performance in combat during the seizure of Japanese held islands" and for serving valiantly as one of the various attached units of the 4th Marine Division.

These are the Marine units which have won this coveted citation in World War II: Marine Aircraft Group 22, June, 1942; Wake Detachment—(including VMF-211 of MAG-21), Dec. 8 to 22, 1941; Wake Island; 1st Marine Division, Reinf., Aug. 7 to Dec. 9, 1942, Guadalcanal…

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comed the gathering of about one hundred active duty Marines, and a few guests. Active duty Marines carried each of the 24 streamers representing the Division's history in battle.

After the streamers were affixed to the Division's colors, MGen Turner addressed the gathering. He said "I am really proud of where we are. The changes we are making and the training we are doing, I think, has the division really well postured for the future."

The video of the ceremony may be viewed on the 1st Division's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/1stMarine Division/



The 1stMarDiv streamers



Affixing the 1stMarDiv streamers to the colors



Guests at Division's anniversary commemoration

'Konfusion' in Khafji

Many people forget that the 1st Marine Division fought in Iraq in 1991. Its participation tends to get overlooked by stories about Peleliu, Korea, Vietnam…But there were 1stMarDiv units in Iraq, and the conditions they faced were confusing to say the least. Consider this clip from the February 2, 1991 Cleveland [OH] Plain Dealer, p. 7.

"Marines told of confusion among the allies in the difficult counterattack on Khafji early Thursday. A member of a Marine reconnaissance unit in town throughout the battle said Saudi armored vehicles rolled into Khafji and "once they encountered fire they just started shooting all over the place—at Iraqis, at Marines, at other Saudis. Another Marine said communication was difficult among the American and Arab allies.

"Iraqi tanks struck again late Thursday about 50 miles west of Khafji, rolling south into Saudi territory from the Kuwaiti border town of Unim Hujul, news pool reports said.

"Units of the 1st Marine Division called in air strikes and artillery support, and three Iraqi tanks were destroyed, the reports said.

"Eleven Marines were killed early in the border action - the only U.S. combat deaths in the ground war thus far. But the military was investigating whether some of the Marines, in a light armored vehicle, were killed by a missile fired by a U.S. warplane.

"The U.S. command said allied forces destroyed 61 Iraqi tanks and armored personnel carriers west of Khafji, but gave no Iraqi casualty figures. In the Khafji battle, 15 Saudi and 30 Iraqi soldiers were killed, the Saudi military reported. The allies took some 500 Iraqi prisoners, the U.S. command said."

Lieutenant Henry: Memoir of a Marine

PART II

By Joseph Henry

This is Part II of excerpts from Lt. Joe Henry's memoir. We began it in the previous issue of OBN. He has graciously granted us permission to republish his remembrances here.

When we left him he had just arrived in Vietnam. Let's follow his adventures now.

§ § § § §

As the hydraulic rear door opened, a hailing rainstorm presented a dark mysterious configuration of shabby-looking makeshift structures of leftover wooden scrap and junk metal sections. Walls of sandbags, many of which were in need of repair, encircled everything. It looked like the original layout of a 1930 Depression-era shantytown, and was a cultural shock from the neatly manicured and perfectly spaced Marine bases I was used to.

The LZ adjoined the airstrip, which consisted of metal grates acting as a landing surface for the C-130's that expeditiously landed, unloaded and left before Charlie (VC) could greet them with assorted 122mm and 140mm rocket barrages. That was part of many rumors I'd heard over the last day about this outpost.

The base was spread over approximately four square miles of rolling terrain with the airstrip residing on one side and the entire perimeter encased by tiers of concertina, tangle foot wire, and trip flares with selected sections masking minefields to reject unwanted visitors. An elevated berm interrupted by enclosed bunkers was the final defense before the space opened itself.

The smell of diesel and dirt was everywhere. It was red dirt that the driving rain manufactured into gooey red clay that stuck to everything. The strategic placement of the base was presented at Division briefing: it blocked the infiltration of the NVA and VC and disrupted their supply routes to the Da Nang area. Its position was just east of the Thu Bon River and at the southern edge of a huge rice basin that covered several hundred square miles in Quang Nam Province.

Making my way to regimental headquarters, I noticed the breadth of the property. There were rows and rows of buildings, some of which were constructed with the Marine detail I was used to, while others were flimsy shed-type dwellings where squalor and ghetto acted as purveyor. Artillery, engineering equipment, tanks and trucks crowded the narrow streets and pathways with the sundry gear and equipment germane to their missions. It was a sight to behold, a mini-city buried in mud and muck but functioning at hyper-level amid a delirious downpour.

There was an oversized road that ran down the middle of the property which could handle tanks, 6x6 transport trucks and the large artillery pieces, especially the 8" Howitzers which were mounted on huge cart-like caricatures. The nicer facilities were of plywood construction with wooden posts as foundations raising the floor level several feet above ground, and sided with mesh screens for natural air conditioning. It was a standard design, which declared its visitors arrival to a rear area.

I soon learned rear meant a hot meal, shower and beer, but not safety. Anytime, anywhere in Vietnam, the enemy could rain down rocket, mortar, or small arms fire. There was no safe place.

In the "Art of War," the classic treatise by Sun Tzu, it was stated, "Know your enemy and you know yourself, you need not fear the result of 100 battles." After reading Giap's book, I knew my enemy would be frugal, patient and deadly, and it was just a matter of time before my show would begin.

By nature I'm a neat person, always making sure things are in their proper place, hands and face clean and fresh clothing on the body. As I trudged to the regimental HQ, occasionally stepping in a mud pit, a faint mental realization appeared that caused mild discomfort. '

'This mud is everywhere, it's thick and heavy. I'm already soaked to the bone after just a few minutes off the bird, shit, maybe this is the way it's always going to be!" (Ha, was it ever!)

The memorandum endorsement to my orders stated I reported at 0845 (8:45 AM) on 3 October 1969 to the 5th Marine Regiment, and to further report to the 1st Battalion for duty. The Regiment had a briefing explaining its mission and the whereabouts of each battalion. 1st Battalion was currently participating in rice denial operations in the Chau Phang area, and was not in base.

"Where the hell is the Chau Phang area?" I thought. "All these funny names, who cares, show me the enemy," I mentally demanded.

I checked with Battalion after lunch and was assigned to Bravo Company, then directed to supply, where I was to store my sea bag and be outfitted for combat. This consisted of helmet, flak jacket, poncho and poncho liner, canteens, Marine Corps issue backpack and an air mattress (issued only to Officers) which was labeled -rubber bitch." I had no clue to what I really needed, but did try to show some savvy by inquiring about bug juice.

I was told Marine Corps packs were substandard compared to the Army's. The Army rucksack had a lot more side pockets and bigger bag volume for more storage. It was a common complaint—the Army had the best equipment and the Marines got the leftovers—but little hard evidence existed on this fact, and I surmised if Marines aren't bitching about something, they're not happy. At Battalion I was told all new personnel were required to attend a 3-day orientation.

Bravo Company Headquarters was housed in the standard wooden-screened construction. The company offices were all jammed into one area of the camp. The First Sergeant (Top) seemed surprised when I reported, then told me the Company was in the field and would be returning in a few days, and I could satisfy the orientation requirement in the meantime. Top made sure I was familiar with the placement of the Officer's quarters, chow hall and the Staff/Officer's club. I noticed that next to all aboveground structures without sandbag encirclement, belowground bunkers existed. This added to the odd configuration of the base.

The rain never let up. This was not Seattle rain, light constant drizzle, the kind I was nurtured with, but hard rain with huge droplets that saturated the skin on contact.

The Officers' sleeping area was the same wooden raised structure, devoid the office compartments of the Company HQ. A loosely arranged stream of military cots filled the space. It was the canvas-clad surface type cot supported by solid wood frames, with knots and knotholes for assemblage. I grabbed a cot tucked next to a screensided wall. The unwritten rule for reserving a space was storage of gear on top and under the apparatus.

After chow I decided to skip the club and tum in early. The barracks was empty, so I laid back flat, looked at the ceiling and listened to the monsoon raging on the metal roof. The sound was surreal and I tried to imagine having to function in such a deluge. My mind was trying to escape. Flashbacks to all the…the breakups [with old girl friends. It was a lust/love session, bad versus good. Then reality would pervade.

"I wonder what the CO of Bravo is like, what kind of platoon will I get, what are they doing exactly now?" I had questions, concerns and more questions. Other than the rain and an occasional artillery mission, in which the distant explosions of the cannons could be heard, it was a quiet night. Several others slipped in later in the evening for their required slumber, but no words were spoken.

The sludge seemed to grow as I slogged down the slight hill outside the main wire to a covered meeting area. The structure reminded me of recreation covered picnic enclosures used for cooking and meal gathering at the State Park. Every step on my stump I would gather more muck on already clogged boots, which translated to an increasingly laborious effort. The endeavor reminded me of trying to run in a swimming pool, where leg cycle speed is reduced to slow motion.

Two battle-hardened Buck Sergeants, who took turns relaying their experience with the surrounding terrain and enemy tactics, gave the orientation. I got a quiet impression from their briefing that Charlie was to be respected and feared. There were no safe zones. The enemy had suffered greatly from TET losses, but was rebuilding troop strength with arms and supplies. Booby traps and hit/run mortar and rocket attacks were the current tactics, no big unit actions, and a true guerrilla war. It was yet another reminder that the bravado required for survival was different than my images of Okinawa and Iwo Jima.

The CO jumped up in a rage, went over to the corner and grabbed a short wooden slat similar to a mini-baseball bat while declaring the only thing this SOB understands is violence, and then he and the messenger stormed out.

After the first session, on my way back to the main base, I noticed a small sign conspicuously placed against the berm welcoming incoming visitors to An Hoa. It read, "Welcome to the Arizona home of the Wild West." I paid little attention to this pronouncement other than to chuckle about how melodramatic Marines can sometimes be in their descriptions of people and places; Of course, Arizona referring to wild Cowboy and Indian country where anything goes. Little did I realize at the time how true that proclamation would be.

The rain continued, and I would later learn the northeast monsoon dumped record amounts of rain in the first ten days of October. The mud also grew, causing me to plan my steps wisely lest I become transformed into a giant mud man similar to the Northwest's fabled forester, Bigfoot. When the last session was finished I visited the Company Office and was told the troops would be returning sometime that night from their operation, and to report back next morning for a specific assignment.

I made my way back to the comfort of my cot and slowly fell to sleep, only to be awakened well into the night by the wrestling and whisperings of several bodies and the continuous pings of the ongoing torrent. I overheard one gentlemen offer his cot to a rain-soaked, sleep deprived warrior, only to be answered by, "Stay where you're at, I'm just glad to have a dry spot anywhere on the floor." This was another indication I had not yet experienced the real world of the field Marine.

I was anxious to get assigned and finally join a field unit after what seemed like an ongoing indoctrination and processing cycle. I promptly presented myself the next morning at "B" Company Headquarters. The First Sergeant walked me to the desk of the Commanding Officer. He had a Clark Gable appearance and was straightforward in his introduction and welcome. Suddenly a Marine burst in and announced, in panic mode, there was trouble in the enlisted billeting area. One Marine was intimidating another over cot placement, and I surmised the intimidator had a bully history.

The CO jumped up in a rage, went over to the corner and grabbed a short wooden slat similar to a mini-baseball bat while declaring the only thing this SOB understands is violence, and then he and the messenger stormed out. I stood dumbfounded, staring at the First Sergeant and thinking, "Oh my God, what have I gotten myself into?" After some uncomfortable seconds, Top presented me with company forms that needed completion, so I busied myself awaiting the return of my new boss.

"Division is requiring all new infantry personnel to attend a three-day land mine warfare school in Da Nang, Lieutenant, and since we're in the rear it would be a good time to get it out of the way. Besides, I noticed your birthday is coming and you could spend it in Da Nang. What do you say? You could catch the morning convoy tomorrow. Check out a .45 at armory before you go."

This Top Sergeant must have sensed my uneasiness witnessing the incident in the CO's office, and maybe knew other political happenings not yet announced. First Sergeants in the Marine Corps are mini-Gods, and along with Sergeant Majors, who are Gods, command instant respect. In my entire Marine Corps active duty career, I never met a weak one.

They were battle-hardened, mostly Korea, some World War II, and extremely intelligent. They handled the administrative functions of a company in conjunction with the Executive Officer. Most importantly, they were politically savvy. They knew the scoop: what was happening, what was coming down. If one crossed a Top, one was screwed. Eventually shit would happen. I knew this and responded accordingly. "Thanks, Top, I'll head out tomorrow."

§ § § § §

I was raised in a clean environment. Every Saturday morning, cleaning duties were assigned to each Henry child able to walk. Baseboards, walls, doors, floors, windows had to pass inspection or no play (for the later kids it was no cartoons). Each night before bed, Dad would inspect our face, hands, neck and ears. Beds were automatically made after rising and dish duty (no automatic dishwashers in my youth) after dinner was rotated among those tall enough to reach the sink.

Although our clothes weren't of the latest fashion, they were clean. The only sexist duty in the Henry household was washing and ironing clothes, which were dedicated to the females. Hanging clothes on the clothesline for drying (no clothes dryer), folding and delivering them was a shared duty, however. Consequently I hated being dirty and unclean and always made an effort, based on lifelong habit, to wash off dirt and muck when it arrived.

The spit and polish of training only reinforced this habit. Now the reversal had taken place. If one wasn't coated in mud when it was raining or smothered in dust when not, something was amiss. There were no clean bodies anywhere. I begrudgingly made the transition, but only after my trip north to Da Nang for land mine warfare school.

The school was a paradox of sorts. I was tired of training and wanted to prove myself in the field. I also wanted one last opportunity for quiet reflection and celebration on what could be my last birthday, the 25th, a quarter of a century!

I was clean and fresh as I mounted the 6x6-transport truck. I was allowed the cabin passenger seat (shotgun) due to Officer Privilege. The rain had miraculously stopped during the night, and I was greeted with bright sun and oven-cooked heat upon departure. The heat was so intense it instantly baked the mud converting the top layer to small dust particles. Red dust blew everywhere as the big diesel transports churned up the road.

As we approached Da Nang, an Old French colonial city, the landscape changed from rural rice farming countryside to urban slum with military presence. It was depressing to see how the environment transformed itself into ghetto in such a short distance. Makeshift huts and barriered plots of land with seemingly no organized arrangements, true urban sprawl, coated the landscape. Shabby kids running alongside vehicles seeking handouts and information. A few days earlier I'd left Da Nang by chopper, now I was returning by convoy, and it was a disheartening return.

The last day after lunch, we were shown a documentary on how medical advancements allowed a soldier who was blown to pieces by stepping on a 250-pound land mine to be put back together.

Dirty, dilapidated and derelict were my thoughts as our convoy skirted the city and made its way to the Division Depot. Road dust permeated every piece of surface area it could find on my body. Eyes, ears, neck, hair, head and hands were saturated in a red coat of powder. I couldn't wait to take a shower.

I checked into the 1st Engineering Battalion where the school was to take place, and then made my way to the Officers' quarters to get cleaned up. It was then that I discovered I had no change of utilities. Taking a shower then redressing in dirt reminded me of having bad sex (really there is no bad sex), then having to cuddle and kiss until an escape could be arranged, an ugly feeling, albeit temporary.

I asked around and found the place to party in Da Nang was either the Air Force Base Officer's Club or the Navy Club, which was called the "Stone Elephant," located in downtown Da Nang. I opted for the Air Force Club, as their general reputation for entertainment and food was excellent. It was my 25th birthday, October 10th, and I had two days to play before starting class on the 12th.

It was a nice club. A long entryway greeted one at the front double doors. The hallway had elevated shelves where covers (hats) could be placed before entrance into either the eating area to the right or the lounge to the left. A reception desk greeted one's decision. The Air Force unit Coat of Arms was proudly displayed on the wall. There is a Marine Corps tradition that if an Officer enters an Officer's Club with his cover still on his head and "the bell sounded", the violator would be obligated to buy the entire bar a drink! I wasn't sure what the Air Force tradition was, but I wasn't taking any chances. I briskly tucked my cloth utility cover in a side pocket and proceeded into the pub.

The bar itself was L-shaped, with the long leg paralleling the near wall and the short leg ending a few feet from the entrance door. There were a couple of stools neatly arranged on the entrance side. Scattered throughout the space were tables and chairs distributed in comfortable fashion that advertised functionality, not opulence. I settled on a middle barstool at the entrance end and ordered two birthday shots of Black Label Jack Daniels and a beer chaser.

I drank those libations quickly and reordered. The bartender gave me the "look," but it quickly disappeared when I informed him it was my 25th birthday and I was "up" from An Hoa to celebrate. I failed to mention I was boot green on required training.

The mind buzz was instant and caused intense self talk. "Have fun, Joe, 'cause your days are numbered. At least you made it to 25. Life has been good. You have no regrets." Negative self-effacing thoughts that were interrupted by pleas of prayers, "Help me make the right decisions in combat, please God don't let me lose any men, take my life, God, but please not my legs." I had heard horror stories of how the legless vets were treated back home. Legless vets couldn't just assimilate back into society. They stood out. It was a cruel trick for loving one's country.

By the second round, more people had arrived and the place was filling up. My buzz was up a notch, so I kept the beer and jacked the Jack. I had a good view of the entire space from my stool situated near the door. As I viewed the inhabitants partaking in conversation and quiet laughter, I noticed a back table where two guys were drinking and talking. One person looked familiar.

"That looks like Rick Mathews," I thought. I kept staring in their direction until they caught my observation. One guy nodded at me with an equally inquisitive look as I left my bar chair and approached him.

"You look just like a guy I knew in the States," I hailed.

"Joe Henry? What the hell are you doing here?" he countered.

I had met Rick Mathews several years earlier through my cousin Mike Byrne. Mike and I would seek out weekend playground basketball games around South Seattle. We thought we were hot stuff, having a year of junior college basketball under our belts. Mike had attended St. Edward's grade school in the Rainier Valley with Rick.

One Sunday we spotted Rick shooting hoops at Rainier Playfield. Rick was a basketball star at O'Dea High School in Seattle, then went the route of most Division I prospects who graduated from Seattle area Catholic high schools: Seattle University. Seattle U had a grandiose reputation for producing superstars—the O'Brien twins, Elgin Baylor and Eddie Miles, to name a few.

Seattle U lost to Kentucky in the finals of the NCAA tournament in 1958. Anyone playing for Seattle U, even a bench warmer, had to be good. Rick was no exception. He kicked our ass in every shooting game we could devise. In the free-for-all game of 21, where three players compete against each other in a series of free throws and court shots, Rick embarrassed us.

His attitude and character never hinted at his superior court skills. He was humble and non-assuming. Last time I saw Rick was at my cousin's wedding when we picked up a couple of girls at the reception, purchased a case of Olympia beer, parked and started peeling labels for luck. He was a great guy.

After graduating from Seattle U he went into the Air Force as a prop pilot. He flew C-47 transports from Da Nang to Saigon and back. When he found out it was my birthday, he wouldn't let me buy another drink the entire evening and was adamant about my staying the night in his bunk. "We have beds made with sheets and pillows with pillow cases," he declared.

It was a birthday I'll never forget. His buddy, who was decked out in camouflage fatigues, was a pilot who flew observation planes, a very dangerous endeavor. Rick shared with me his intention to fly jets and had a plan to achieve his goal. I promised that the next time I visited Da Nang, I would contact him. I never did. He was killed several years later (1972) in an aircraft carrier incident, flying jets. He achieved his goal.

Land Mine Warfare School was a polished version of the regimental indoctrination course, emphasizing how Charlie was utilizing every lethal tool available to fight us. His real potency, however, was measured in booby traps. Charlie was the ultimate scrounger. He would use our dud 250- and 500-pound bombs, refuse them, and set them as land mines. Our misplaced M-26 hand grenades would be trip-wired for our pleasure. The instruction reinforced my attitude and respect for the enemies' tenacity and ingenuity without ever having witnessed his effectiveness.

Trail signals, those ominous signs of impending traps only known to its indigenous occupants, caught my immediate attention. "So many details to be aware of in addition to the actual enemy," I pondered. My mind then flashed back to high school U.S. History class, where I heard an accounting of how the British were dismayed at the way the Revolutionaries were fighting using their "back country hit-and-run tactics."

The last day after lunch, we were shown a documentary on how medical advancements allowed a soldier who was blown to pieces by stepping on a 250-pound land mine to be put back together. It was a hot and humid afternoon. The instructors shut all windows and doors, cutting off airflow to encourage nausea and sickness as we witnessed the nightmare accounting of the reconstruction of eyes, ears, face, upper torso and limbs.

I was seated in the far back, and when I felt the seed of sickness approaching my gastric area I shut my eyes and redirected my thoughts to bikini boobs bouncing on a California beach. I survived without having to leave for vomiting.

TO BE CONTINUED

The unpredictable Chinese

We hear conflicting stories about the treatment of POWs in Korea by the North Koreans and Chinese. The consensus is that the North Koreans were far more brutal than the Chinese, although the Chinese could be unpredictable. Here is an example.

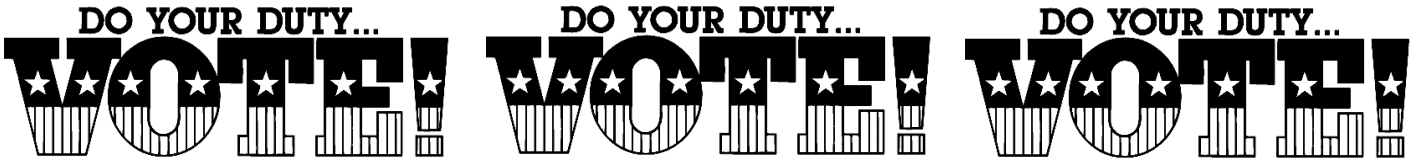
Two Marines, Cpls. William S. Blair, 7th Marines, and Bernard W. Insco, an artillery observer with the 1st Korean Marine Regiment, were captured at different points across the central front on April 23, 1951 by the Chinese. Their captors forced them to sign petitions demanding that President Truman and Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson be ousted.

Apparently the Chinese did not know that Johnson was no longer the Secretary of Defense. The Marines also said that the petitions called for the UN to leave Korea and the U.S. Seventh Fleet leave the Formosa area. The Chinese interrogated them intensely about other matters, such as how much property they owned in the U.S., if they had ever raped any Korean women, and whether the Japanese were going to take part in the fighting in Korea.

The Chinese held on to Blair, Insco, and several other POWs for twenty days. They traveled on foot at night and hid with their captors in caves and dugouts by day. Blair recalled seeing several American prisoners being used to drive Chinese trucks. Then on May 9, the Chinese gave the prisoners haircuts, handed them safe-conduct passes, and provided them with a guide for the long trek south. The guide and guards stayed with them until they neared UN lines.

On the night of May 11, the group spotted searchlights on the front lines near Chunchon. An Army patrol found them the next day. The prisoners were well-fed and in good physical condition. They enjoyed a far different outcome than many of the POWs interned in Communist camps. There was simply no way of predicting how POWs would fare under Chinese control

NOTE: This story is based on an account in the Washington D.C. Evening Star, June 26, 1951, p. B-7)



2021 Election of Association Officers

Ballot to be Mailed 1 April 2021

FIRST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC. BY-LAWS

Article V: Officers

B. Election: (Amended 7 July 2001)

8. No candidate shall campaign for any office in the Association, and no member or Chapter shall directly, or indirectly, electioneer or conduct any campaign for the election of any candidate to an office in the Association.

Violations of this provision by a nominee shall disqualify such nominee from holding the office for which nominated.

Violation of this provision by a Chapter shall be cause for revocation of such Chapter's Charter. All alleged violations shall be investigated and resolved pursuant to the standing Dispute Resolutions Procedure.

Article XIII: Local and Unit Chapters

D. Operations: (Amended 6 July 2002)

2. No Local or Unit Chapter shall, either directly or indirectly, endorse the candidacy of any person for any office in the Association.

CANDIDATES FOR FIRST MARINE DIVISION OFFICES 2021

PRESIDENT

- **Jerry Corrento, Sr**

VICE PRESIDENT

- **Jerry Corrento, Jr**
- **Vince Rios**

DVP CENTRAL

- **William Godfrey**

DVP WEST

- **Nick Warr**

DVP EAST

- **Mike Galyean**

SECRETARY

- **Pierre Sims**

CHAPLAIN

- **Carlos Mariscal**

TREASURER

- **AJ Burn**

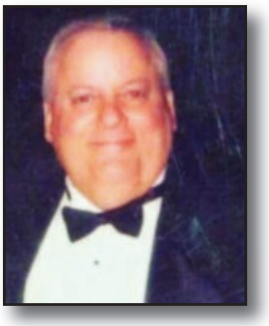
Ballots will be sent out on April 1. Members in good standing with active email addresses on file with receive a ballot by email, and respond via same. Other members will receive a ballot via USPS. Please respond to the email ballot, or return your paper ballot, no later than 1 July 2021 in order for your vote to count.

In this issue there is a picture and brief biography of each candidate who is standing for an elected Office of the Association in the 2021 election. You are urged to carefully review each candidate's qualifications and vote for the person of your choice to provide leadership to the Association for the next two years. Those elected will take office at midnight 29 August 2021.

The "Voting by Mail" process was approved by the members in 2001 to allow all members in good standing to have an opportunity to share in the selection of our leadership. This process also allows the Nominating Committee to review carefully the qualifications of candidates in a timely manner. Without this review, prior to 2001, we did elect several officers who were not in good standing and who had to be removed.

PRESIDENT

GERARD "JERRY" CORRENTO



Hello, my name is Gerard Corrento Sr. and I am a candidate for President of the 1st Marine Division Association. I have been a life member of FMDA since 1993. I served in the United States Marine Corps from 1967 to 1970. I am an In-Country Veteran of the Vietnam War having served with the 1st Marine Air Wing with MAG-36 from December 1967 to January 1969. I was stationed in Phu-Bai, South Vietnam for my entire deployment. I am married to Elaine and have 7 children. I am also a grandfather and a great grandfather.

I have been a member of the Executive Committee for quite a few years. I have held many positions within the FMDA including President of Liberty Bell Chapter. I was also a Director-at-Large and am currently serving as Chaplin of FMDA after being appointed by President Johs since the passing of the previous Chaplin.

I feel as President of FMDA that I will hold this position with much honesty and integrity. I believe that with proper leadership and a zest for doing things the right way that I can help lead the Association to attract new members and to lead our fine Association to financial stability and to help make our Association one that all members can be proud of.

VICE PRESIDENT

JERRY CORRENTO, JR.



My name is Jerry Corrento Jr. I am a 40 y.o, father of 4, from Levittown PA. I served in the Marine Corps from 1998 - 2002, achieving the rank of Cpl. I have been a life member of the FMDA for over 20 years, and have served on the Executive Committee as a Director at Large. I am running for National Vice President to not only try to attract new, younger members, but to bring some new life blood into the FMDA. With the Pandemic, and the Marine Corps not allowing visitors right now, I feel this position would serve me best to accomplish my goals of keeping this organization alive and well. With your vote, I will faithfully serve the FMDA to the best of my ability.

VINCE RIOS



Vince Rios was born September 20, 1945 in Houston, Texas, graduated from high school in Fort Worth then enlisted in the US Marine Corps. In 1965 he graduated from MCRD San Diego and was assigned to A-1-5, First Marine Division before deploying from Camp Pendleton to WestPac. In Okinawa his unit exchanged banners with another unit and deployed to Vietnam with E-2-9, Third Marine Division.

Before completing a 13-month WestPac tour in 1966 he was transferred to A-1-1. He returned to Camp Pendleton for a two-year assignment at the Camp Pendleton brig as a brig guard. In 1968 he returned to A-1-5 in Vietnam until his career was cut short by a rigged buried artillery shell explosion in 1969; he was subsequently medically discharged honorably.

Vince was a star athlete in junior and senior high school. He was a lineman on the varsity football teams where he played offensive and defensive tackle. He boxed on the boxing team in the light heavyweight division and ran the mile and the 880 yard dashes on the track team.

Sergeant Rios is the recipient of the Purple Heart Medal (3 awards), the Bronze Star Medal (2 awards w/ v device), and the Good Conduct Medal personal awards; he is also the recipient of a dozen unit awards - some awarded multiple times.

Mr. Rios received an A.A. degree from San Diego Mesa College in Behavioral Science, a B.A. in Psychology and a Masters degree in Interdisciplinary Social Science from San Francisco State University and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University.

In 1975, while completing work on his first masters degree the U.S. Department of Labor went on campus and recruited him as an entry level employment specialist. Several years later he was selected as a civil rights specialist by HEW, then HHS followed by a few years with the Small Business Administration and finally he spent his last years as a federal employee with the Veterans Employment and Training Service where he retired in 2001.

Mr. Rios joined the First Marine Division Association, held the chapter presidency for the Northern California Chapter then the Golden Gate Chapter. He served as Deputy Vice President - west, National Vice President and was elected President in August, 2015.

DVP CENTRAL

WILLIAM GODFREY



My name is William S. Godfrey, I was born in Detroit Michigan on August 13th 1963. I attended Parochial school until 1980. I joined the Marine Corps on October !0th 1980 and attended boot bootcamp at MCRD San Diego. On completion of bootcamp I was assigned to 3rd Battalion 5th Marines H&S Communication Platoon. I was assigned as a Field Wireman.

While I served with 3/5, I was deployed to Okinawa Japan, Pohang South Korea and the Philippines. I reenlisted in 1983 and was attached the 5th Marine Regiment. I then attended Hawk Missile School at Fort Bliss Texas. I then returned to the 1st Marine Division and was assigned to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion as a Wire Chief. I was honorably discharged on 07/30/1985.

While in the Marine Corps I was awarded the Good Conduct Ribbon, Overseas Deployment Ribbon. I obtained MOS 2512 Field Wireman, 7222 Hawk Missile Operator and 0321 Reconnaissance Marine.

I attended Montana State University Northern, located in Haver Montana and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Automotive Theory. I worked with Ford Motor Company as a Regional Service Representative, and then was promoted as Regional Director for Automotive training. Since then I have worked in the Automotive Service Management Industry until January of 2016.

I was recently appointed to the position as the Deputy Vice President, Central Region with the First Marine Division Association.

I currently live in Chula Vista, California and will be moving to Los Lunas, New Mexico in March of 2021. At this time, I am running for reelection for the position as Deputy Vice President for the Central Region.

DVP – WEST

NICHOLAS WARR



Nicholas Warr grew up in Oregon and attended Brigham Young University and the University of Oregon before enlisting, in 1966, at the age of twenty, in the United States Marine Corps. Warr was recommended for the Enlisted Commissioning Program by his Drill Instructors in Boot Camp, and subsequently attended OCS at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia. Warr graduated from OCS and was commissioned in March 1967.

After attending The Basic School and a six-week high-intensity Vietnamese language training course, his first assignment as an infantry officer sent him to the Republic of Viet Nam (RVN) from November 1967 until December 1968. He served with the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division as a Platoon Commander, Company Executive Officer and Company Commander during some of the toughest fighting of the Viet Nam War.

Warr's unit was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for participation in Operation "HU CITY" during the Tet Offensive of 1968, and completed his combat tour in the allotted 13 months. Mr. Warr was honorably discharged from the U. S. Marine Corps in March 1970.

His memoir about his experiences as a Platoon Commander during the fighting inside the Citadel Fortress of Hu , Phase Line Green, The Battle for Hu, 1968, was published by Naval Institute Press in hardcover in 1997 and subsequently in paperback in 1999 by Random House. Phase Line Green was on the Marine Reading List for over ten years, is well read within the Marine Corps, and is often used as a textbook during Marine Corps training for Leadership and Urban Warfare.

In conjunction with several other Marines who fought in Hu , Mr. Warr has developed a white paper, entitled Lessons Learned, Operation HU CITY which is available to all American military commands, and was studied extensively during the operational planning for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and subsequent combat operations in the Middle East.

Mr. Warr's 2nd book, Charlie One Five; A Marine Company's Vietnam War, was released in August 2013. This book includes stories experienced by Mr. Warr in combat, as well as the personal combat histories of nearly thirty U. S. Marines who served in the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines during the early years of the war. Mr. Warr's third book, which is under development, will complete a "trilogy" of books that document the combat history of one of the most highly decorated infantry battalions in Marine Corps History. Like his 2nd book, this book focuses on the Marines and sailors serving in Charlie Company, but it also documents many other combat operations and battles involving the other infantry companies of this legendary U. S. Marine infantry battalion.

Mr. Warr continues to write about the battles fought by the Marines during the Viet Nam War. He has appeared on radio and TV, most recently in a new documentary episode about the Battle for Hu City during the Tet Offensive of 1968, on the Military Channel, within their new "Ultimate Warfare" series, and the Marine Corps University has developed a decision-forcing course for young infantry leaders in training called "Charlie-One," based on his experiences as a Platoon Commander during the Battle for Hu .

Mr. Warr lives in Grants Pass, Oregon, with his wife, Susan, and their beloved Labrador Retriever, General Jim Mattis; he works as a freelance writer, and lectures inside and outside of the Marine Corps on urban warfare and leadership. Mr. Warr is also a member of the group known as Vietnam Veterans for Factual History and is in the process of producing a documentary film about the Marines and Sailors who fought inside the legendary Citadel Fortress of Hu . Mr. Warr can be contacted through his website: http://nicholaswarr.com or via email at nick@nicholaswarr.com

I joined the FMDA in 1998. I am a Life Member of the FMDA.

Over the past two decades I have served on the FMDA Executive Committee, chaired the FMDA Fund Raising Committee, and served as the President of the 1/5 Vietnam Veterans Unit Chapter of the FMDA.

I have attended every annual reunion since 1997, and attended many FMDA Anniversary Celebrations.

DVP- EAST

MICHAEL L. (MIKE) GALYEAN



EMAIL galyeanmike@gmail.com

MAILING ADDRESS 746 McIntyre Ave. Winter Park, FL 32789

CELL PHONE 321.276.7515

Education:

Corinth, Mississippi Public Schools

Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

University of Mississippi (ole Miss) – BaEd.

Rollins College, Winter Park, FL – MaEd

Military:

1968 - USMC Officer Candidate School (at 26 years old.)

1969 – TBS, Recon Replacement School

1969 – 70, RVN

A 1/3 – platoon leader

C 1/5 – platoon leader

III MAF – OIC, Prisoner of War facility

CO, Delta Company, 3rd MP Bn.

1970-71 – Staff, Officer Candidate School, Quantico

Decorations include Navy Commendation with combat "V" device.

Veterans work:

1983 – Founder and president of Vietnam Veterans of Central Florida

Received commendations from Florida Senate, House of Representatives and the NEA for work with veterans locally and across Florida.

1st Marine Division Association – member since 1990

National secretary – 5 years

DVP at large – 2 years

Scholarship Committee – former member and chair

By-laws Committee

FMDA Scholarship Foundation – secretary, 4 years

Central Florida Chapter – president, 13 of last 17 years.

Other: 3rd Marine Division Assoc.; Marine Corps League; VFW; Central Florida USMC Foundation

Career:

YMCA director — 6 years

Teacher –28 years (includes DoDS, Karlsruhe, Germany)

Other:

Married to Nancy for 50 years.

Winter Park Presbyterian Church, Elder, Deacon, Committee Chair

Hobbies: kayaking, bicycling, hiking, reading, bonsai gardening

If I am elected DVP- East, I am committed to work collaboratively and diligently with the incoming officers to reach out to the younger generation of Marine veterans, to diversify our membership, and protect the future financial security of the 1st Marine Division Association.

I grew up in Corinth, Mississippi and attended Corinth public schools through grade 12 and received a BAEd from Ole Miss and MAEd from Rollins College with post graduate work at UCF.

I worked in education and as a YMCA Director before entering Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in October of 1968 at 26 years old. After The Basic School and Recon Replacement School, I entered the fray in SE Asia, serving in the 3rd Marine Division and 1st Marine Division as an Infantry platoon leader. I ended my time in RVN as a Company Commander and OIC of the III MAF Prisoner of War Facility in Danang. After Vietnam, I was assigned to the staff of OCS at Quantico until my discharge in 1971. My personal decorations include the Navy Commendation with Combat "V" device.

I married Nancy in 1970 and will celebrate our 50th anniversary this December.

After my discharge from the USMC in 1971, I moved to Winter Park, FL, to work for the YMCA. After returning to education, I retired from the Seminole County School system in 2003 after 26 years of teaching, including two years spent with DoD Schools in Karlsruhe, Germany.

I have been active in veterans' issues since 1982. I founded and was president of the Vietnam Veterans of Central Florida and received commendations from the Florida Senate, House of Representatives and the National Education Association for my work with Vietnam Veterans locally and across Florida. My work with veterans has continued, with the 1st Marine Division Assoc.

I served as the National Secretary for FMDA for 5 years and as a Deputy Vice President at large for two years. I have also served on the Scholarship Committee and as its chairman for a number of years. I currently serve as president of the Central Florida Chapter, a post I have filled for 13 of the last 17 years. I hold memberships in the Marine Corps League, Third Marine Division Assoc., VFW and Central Florida USMC Foundation.

I am active in the Winter Park Presbyterian Church where I have served as an Elder, Deacon and Committee Chair. Nancy and I continue to volunteer in several different endeavors, including IDignity, the Homeless Coalition of Central Florida, and the Veterans Administration Community Life Center. My hobbies include kayaking, bicycling, hiking and bonsai gardening.

If I am elected DVP- East, I am committed to work collaboratively and diligently with the incoming officers to reach out to the younger generation of Marine veterans, to diversify our membership, and protect the future financial security of the 1st Marine Division Association.

SECRETARY

PIERRE SIMS



841 West Birchtree Lane

Claymont, DE 19703

Phone # (Home) (302) 792-1497 Cell # (215) 605-0723

Email pierresims@comcast.net

Served in the United Stated Marine Corps from April, 1974 to Feb, 1996. Retired from the United States Marine Corps as a Master Sergeant .

Education: West Catholic High School, Philadelphia, PA and Computer Learning Center, King of Prussia, PA.

Member of the Liberty Bell Chapter, 1st Marine Division Association, Life Member of the 1st Marine Division Association, Member of Delaware Veterans #1 Association, Marine Corps League.

Work experience: While serving in the United States Marine Corps, I was a Unit Diary Clerk, Personal Chief, Administrative Chief, Recruiter, NCOIC of Recruiters, Operation Chief in Charge of Recruiting in the Tri-State Area.

After the Marine Corps, I have worked with the TSA (Transportation Security Administration), Interratch (Computer Operator, Customer Service Support), Gettier Security (Manager, Security, Dispatcher, Human Resource), Legacy Inc. (Warehouse Assistance) and at present, Tri State Security working at Croda Inc., New Castle, Delaware as the Site Security Supervisor under the guidance of Homeland Security. I have done administrative as well as customer support for these organizations.

I have a vast knowledge of computers and a notary public for the State of Delaware.

Goals if re-elected to the Secretary of the 1st Marine Division Association: To continue to use my experience to help the 1st Marine Division Association to keep growing and be of help with my administrative skills.

CHAPLAIN

CARLOS MARISCAL



Military Chronology

1973 .....Joined United States Marine Corps

1973-1975 .....Schools Battalion, Camp Pendleton, CA (Admin Clerk)

1975-1976 .....MWSG-17, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan (Admin Clerk)

1976-1980 .....HMM-265, 1st Marine Brigade, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii (Admin Chief)

1980-1982 .....Inspector-Instructor Staff, Miami, FL (Admin Chief)

1982-1985 .....MAG-24, 2dFSSG, MCB, Camp Lejeune, NC (Admin Chief)

1985-1989 .....MSSG-26, 26th MAU, Camp Lejeune, NC (Admin Chief)

1989-1991 .....Schools Battalion, MCB, Camp Pendleton, CA (Senior Instructor)

1991-1993 .....1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division (Admin Chief)

1993 .....Retired from the Marine Corps

Military Awards

Navy Commendation Medal

Navy Achievement Medal

Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal

Southwest Asia Service Medal

Good Conduct Medal (w/1 silver star)

National Defense Medal) w/1 star)

Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (w/4 stars)

Meritorious Unit Citation

Education

1995 .....California State University, San Marcos, CA (Bachelor's Degree)

1996 .....California State University, San Marcos, CA Teaching Credential)

2004 .....San Jose State University, San Jose, CA (Master's Degree)

2016 .....Retired from teaching

2016 .....Alisal Education Foundation (Vice President)

2020 .....Retired California Teachers Association Central Coast (President)

Veterans Organizations

Vietnam Veterans of America (Life member)

Veterans of Foreign Wars (Life member)

Disabled Veterans of America (Life member)

Marine Corps League (Life member)

1st marine Division Association (Life member)

TREASURER

ARTHUR JOHN (AJ) BURN



Born on 6 Jan 1949 and raised in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Arthur John Burn had a normal childhood attending local schools graduating in 1966 at the age of 17. With a father, William, who was active in the local Marine Corps League and a 1st Division Marine with the Pioneers on Guadalcanal a young Arthur spent many hours with Marine WWII and Korean vets.

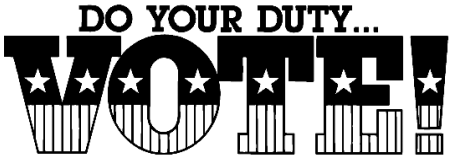
Growing up these men were like many uncles to him. Many of these men were 1st Division Marines and two things they were most proud of was the 1st was the finest fighting outfit and the Association had a scholarship fund whose monies were sacred and untouchable.

After graduation from Chichester High School, the next step in Burn's life was the Marines. While still 17 Arthur arrived at Parris Island on 13 Oct 1966. Boot camp was followed by Infantry Training at Camp Gieger. Most of 1967 was spent at MCRD San Diego for electronics school. It was here Arthur John acquired the moniker A J as well as an MOS as Teletype/Telephone repairman with crypto. The fall of 1967 saw the completion of school, promotion to corporal and orders to Viet Nam for this young Marine.

After spending the Marine Corps Birthday on Okinawa, A J was soon at Danang. This was one of A J's happiest days when Burn was assigned to the 1st Division. It was a 50/50 chance. Originally assigned to 3/7 on hill 37 A J was transferred to 7th marines on hill 55. Remaining with Regiment until Dec 68 Arthur extended his tour 6 months to return to 3/7, which soon moved from Hill 37 to Hill 10. There A J completed his time in Viet Nam with orders for Beaufort MCAS South Carolina.

Life with the Air Wing MAG-31 was quiet compared to foreign lands. A J was promoted to sergeant and finished his 4 years leaving on 13 Oct 1970. While at the Air Station Burn was awarded The Navy Achievement Medal with V device.

After the Marines Arthur utilized the GI Bill earning an A.A. degree at Goldey Beacom College in Wilmington, DE. Transferring to Widener University in Chester, PA, A J acquired a B.A in Political Science. Active with the Delaware County Marine Corps League Arthur served over 20 years as Paymaster. Burn also served on the Board of the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum for 10 years, 2 years as President. FMDA offices held were President, Treasurer, Secretary, Sgt-at-Arms and currently Vice-President. Presently A J works doing AP/AR for a landscape supply business with $2 million in revenues.





COMMANDING GENERAL
1ST MARINE DIVISION
CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA 92055-5380

February 5, 2021

Association Members,

Today we celebrate our 80th Anniversary of our illustrious Division! Due to the continuing pandemic we are unable to celebrate in person, however please join us as we live stream the rededication ceremony on 5 February 2021 at 0900. We celebrate the Marines and Sailors past and present, who have helped make this the most decorated Division in the Corps. We pause to reflect upon the achievements of Division Marines and Sailors in years past and on the legacy you bestowed on us.

Since your visit to the 1st Marine Division Headquarters last year, the Division has continued to deploy well-trained and effective units to worldwide commitments in spite of the continuing pandemic. Just as you did, our young Marines and Sailors continue to selflessly and faithfully serve our Country and Corps with honor, courage, and commitment.

As we share this time to reunite with friends and reflect on our many accomplishments, we do so with the deepest gratitude and greatest respect to thank those who have served before us. You have forged a legacy of strength, courage, and valor, one of which we are proud to carry on.

Thank you for your service, not only to our country and Corps when you were called, but also now on the home front. Your support of our Marines, Sailors, and their families in our local communities is both noteworthy and inspiring. Here's good health to you and to our Corps!

Semper Fidelis!

ROGER B. TURNER, JR.
Major General, U. S. Marine Corps

Chapter Scuttlebutt

News from the Chapters of the 1st Marine Division Association

CENTRAL FLORIDA

2020 "SOS Breakfast" Celebrating The 245th Anniversary Of The Birthday Of Our Corps

We had a good turnout, under the circumstances, for our "scaled down" version of the "SOS Breakfast." At the last minute (almost) due to the possibility of bad weather, the Mead Botanical Garden Club came to our rescue and offered us and the Central Florida Marine Foundation the use of their clubhouse, "Azalea Lodge." We had 42 people in all and 24 of them were chapter members.

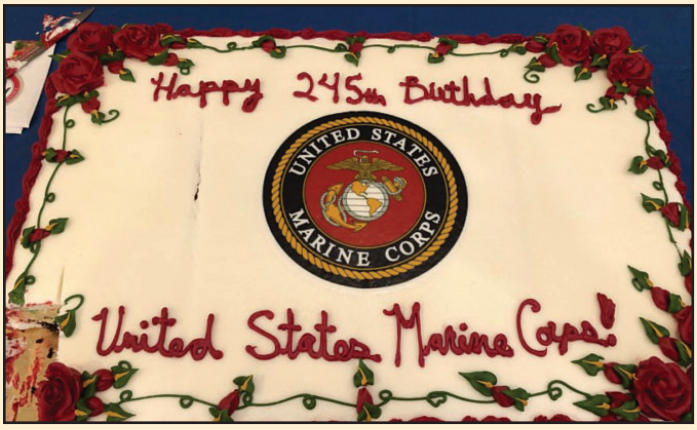


Jim Weinberg, Sgt. Christie Register, MajGen James Hartsell, Mike Galyean, Carlos Cuevas (L-R) at Central Florida chapter's 2020 Marine Corps Birthday observance



Color Guard from Company A, Motor Transport Company, USMC Reserves—Orlando at Central Florida chapter's birthday observance

A letter has been written to Cynthia Hassanau of the Mead Botanical Garden Club, Inc. with our thanks and a donation authorized by the chapter officers equal to what we would have paid the city for use of the pavilion.



The soon to be devoured Central Florida chapter's USMC birthday cake

General James "Hammer" Hartsell gave a very entertaining and birthday appropriate talk at our "SOS" Breakfast on November 10, 2020. His recall of an unexpected promotion to colonel by General Mattis while serving alongside Colonel Kelly and Colonel Dunford in the 1st Marine Division brought smiles to everyone. We appreciate General Hartsell's sharing of his time by driving over from Tampa for our birthday event.

Seminole Co. sheriff Sgt. Christie Register entertained us on the bagpipes. Elmer Hawkins, World War II veteran of Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester and Peleliu, gave his always emotional narrative on the "Aussie" melody of "Waltzing Matilda" and how it came to be the theme song of the 1st Marine Division, followed by a group sing.

Jim Weinberg's description of the empty MIA table, after "MC" Mike Galyean explained that his wife, Alice's father remains an MIA from the battle at Chosin Reservoir while serving as an Army Lieutenant attached to the 1st Marine Division, brought many a tear.

Many of our members remained to participate in the Marine Corps Foundation's cake-cutting event. As stated elsewhere, we owe a huge "Thank you" to the Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. staff for allowing us to move into their "Azalea Lodge" as weather threatened to spoil our outdoor event.

Mike Galyean, galyeanmike@gmail.com

COLORADO RIVER

Chapter celebrates 245th Birthday in Bullhead City, AZ

Every year on November 10th, the United States Marine Corps celebrates the history and memory of those who served before, and rekindles the bond that unites all generations of Marines. This year, the gala balls that were previously held in celebration across the country with hundreds of Marines in attendance have been postponed due to the pandemic.



MasterGY/Sgt Robert Krause and his wife Zonnie at Colorado River chapter birthday gathering



Col Good prepares to serve cake at Colorado River Chapter event



Sgt. Major A.J. Pompos (7th Marine Regiment), Colorado River Chapter President Jim Robinson, CO Colonel Matthew Good of 7th Marine Regiment, AZ State Senator Sonny Borrelli (retired USMC GySgt.), and Marine Veteran John Rodarte, Colorado River Chapter Sgt.-at-Arms (L-R) celebrate 245th Marine Corps birthday.

Because of the bond between the Colorado River Chapter and the 7th Marine Regiment from 29 Palms, CA, a smaller and more intimate dinner and 245th birthday cake cutting ceremony became a reality on this Veterans' Day in Bullhead City.

Special guest of honor, Jim Robinson, Chapter President, accompanied the Marines presenting the "Colors" to open the ceremony. The 1st Marine Division Band from Camp Pendleton played the traditional music as the cake cutting ceremony took place. Colonel Matthew Good served the first piece of cake to the guest of honor and the second piece was passed to the oldest Marine present. The third piece is passed to the youngest Marine present.

This year, Bullhead City resident and 92-yearold retired MasterGySgt. Robert Krause was honored as the oldest Marine. Krause is a veteran of WWII, Korea, a China Marine, and lastly Vietnam.

The 7th Marine Regiment at 29 Palms, CA falls under the 1st Marine Division with the motto "Prepare to March" with recent deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as previous engagements.

—from Cindy Frizelle

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

We are saddened by the passing of our President, SgtMaj Lonnie Long, on 15 December 2020. SgtMaj Long (1947-2020) had great plans for the Chapter and the Association. He was laid to rest at Miramar National Cemetery on 30 December. Lonnie is greatly missed.



SgtMaj Lonnie Long (Photo credit: Camp Pendleton Memorial Golf Association)

Quests & Queries

DPPA seeking information about Korean War MIAs

The Defense MIA/POW Accounting Agency (DPAA) needs your help in locating possible MIAs. If any Korean War veteran has any memories of a skirmish, gunfight, or battle and can write down the date, location of said event and names of any lost personnel that they might have witnessed it would be very helpful to the entire DPAA research team. This information would be used to assist with possibly identifying found remains.

Any information or letters written should be sent to DPAA, 2300 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301-2300 ATTENTION: Public Affairs.

Anybody serve with Steven Beck?

Sgt Steven Beck served from 1952 through 1955, assigned to 1st AAA AW Battalion, MCTG Twentynine Palms. His family is trying to connect him with anyone he may have served with. Please contact his son-in-law, Jeff Persico, at (517) 331-8380.

Want to be interviewed?

Hi, my name is Zachary Wolf and I live in Hagerstown, MD. I am a 23-year-old college student and as a hobby, I interview veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam. I am fascinated in those wars and the Marine Corps.

I would love to talk to veterans who served in those wars and I was wondering if you could help me. My questions are appropriate and respectful. Thank you so much and I hope to hear back from you!

Sincerely,

Zack Wolf, zackwolf1997@gmail.com

Contributions to the First Marine Division Association

General Fund

General Fund Donations = 66 Total = $14,275.60

• LTCOL WM A ALLANSON USMC(RET)	76th	15
• HM3 DOUGLAS J. DECKER	16th	100
• HOWARD E. DENTON	11th	200
• SGT CHARLES G. DIEZ	14th	25
• BGEN MICHAEL P. DOWNS USMC(RET) In Memory of all deceased Marines and Corpsman who served with F-2-5 in Vietnam	14th	100
• JOHN & PAMELA EAVES Memory of my parents: GySgt William Denny Weisgerber & Marianne Weisgerber	1st	500
• FRANKLIN MADISON (formerly AFFINION GROUP)	44th	168.46
• FRANKLIN MADISON (formerly AFFINION GROUP)	45th	121.23
• FRANKLIN MADISON (formerly AFFINION GROUP)	46th	334.50
• FRANKLIN MADISON (formerly AFFINION GROUP)	47th	153.54
• FRANKLIN MADISON (formerly AFFINION GROUP)	48th	127.87
• MSGT DAVID M. FRANKLIN	56th	100
• 1STSGT GEORGE E. GALVAN USMC(RET) To Honor All Marines	87th	100
• 1STSGT GEORGE E. GALVAN USMC(RET) Honor of All Marines!	88th	100
• SGT ROBERT M. HALL In Memory of Capt John Yancey, Little Rock AR, Two Navy Crosses Guadalcanal and Chosin	2nd	25
• SGT ROBERT M. HALL	3rd	10
• CAPT STEPHEN S. HANWAY	18th	100
• PFC PETER N. HEALY	4th	100
• IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	124th	11
• IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	125th	11
• IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	126th	11
• IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	127th	11
• IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	128th	11
• IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	129th	11
• IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	130th	1
• IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	131st	11
• IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	132nd	1
• IBM EMPLOYEE SERVICES CENTER	133rd	1
• CPL THOMAS LADNER In memory of my dad: John "Red" Ladner, 482nd Bombardment Group, 812th Bomber Squadron, WWII	33rd	10
• SSGT JERRY ISMAEL MAGALLANES	5th	5
• SGT JOHN E. MANSFIELD	99th	25
• 1STLT GREGORY E. MELNICK JR	14th	65
• E-5 DIRK P. MOSIS III	16th	500
• CAPT W. D. NAREMORE	33rd	65
• CPL JAIME L. OBRECHT	14th	15
• MGYSGT CHARLES D. PICKERING	38th	25
• SSGT JERRY P. REED	7th	65
• LTCOL MICHAEL A. SCHWARZKOPF	17th	100
• SGT ROBERT E. THARP	18th	200
• USAA	13th	10,000
• COL ERIC P. VISSER USMC(RET)	7th	100
• LTCOL KEITH S. WEINSAFT	2nd	15

General Fund–Life Members

Life Member = 23; Total = $687.00

•1STLT BARRY L. DENES	2nd	35
• 1STLT BARRY L. DENES	3rd	35
• CPL PAT F. FRALEIGH	7th	35
• 1STSGT GEORGE E. GALVAN USMC(RET)	86th	100
• CPL JOSEPH R. LANTZ	19th	15
• CAPT RAYMOND LEE MALOY	4th	17
• CPL IRVIN A. MAY USMC(RET)	26th	50
• SGT RICHARD G. MITCHELL	14th	50
• SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	134th	10
• SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	135th	10
• SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	136th	10
• SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	137th	10
• SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	138th	10
• SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	139th	10
• SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	140th	10
• SGT JOHN S. O'KEEFFE	141st	10
• CAPT WILLIAM R. OTTO USMC(RET)	58th	25
• CAPT WILLIAM R. OTTO USMC(RET)	59th	25
• MGYSGT CHARLES D. PICKERING	37th	25
• CPL JAMES E. PRECOUR	11th	100
• LTCOL KENNETH P. RUMBURG USMC(RET)	36th	35
• SGT DONALD L. SONDERGAARD	3rd	35

Scholarship Fund

Donations = 2; Total = $200.00

• HM3 CHARLIE HALL	1st	150
• SGT EDWARD S. SMITH	57th	50

OBN Plea/Donation

OBN Plea Donations =4 Total = $130.00

• CPL THOMAS LADNER	34th	5
• CPL JOSEPH R. LANTZ	17th	25
• CPL JOSEPH R. LANTZ	18th	25
• CPL CARL F. SCOTT (Gen. Fund Donation)	20th	50

Adapt, Improvise, Overcome

Those are three words that are familiar to Marines of all eras. Marines who have applied the strategy have overcome daunting obstacles in a variety of circumstances. This snippet regarding Guadalcanal demonstrates how the application of those three words. Leads to success and innovation.

.....

Landing Unopposed

There was no opposition to the landing on Guadalcanal. The Japanese took one look and high-tailed for the jungle. On Tulagi, Gavutu, and Tanambogo there were short, sharp skirmishes over a three-day period. Almost the entire 1,500-man Japanese garrison was killed.

On these islands the Marines encountered for the first time the caves that were to become so much a part of their lives. The parachutists developed the technique of closing the caves with blocks of TNT carried in a satchel.

Nobody who was there will ever forget the half-naked officer, later identified as Capt. Harry L. Torgerson. "Torge" found that the Japanese in the caves would often hurl the TNT out before it exploded.

Thereafter, the black-haired, square-built captain lashed the charges to boards and held them in the mouth of a cave until they went off. "Torge" broke his wristwatch that day and had his pants blown off, but the only wounds were to his dignity.

Here the Marines learned for the first time that Japanese prisoners would talk their heads off, that some kept diaries in which operations, present and future, were detailed. Thereafter nearly every dead Japanese was searched for papers. They were gold mines of information. (Portland, OR, *Oregonian*, Aug. 5, 1962, p. 18)

Member's Story

"From this day to the ending of the world, But we in it shall be remember'd; We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he today that sheds his blood with me Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile…." (William Shakespeare)

In Lt. Henry's memoir starting on p. 6, we read about places like An Hoa and Arizona Territory. Here is another perspective, as presented in the December 2020 A-1-5 Scuttlebutt.

CPL Robert Carroll (25 May, 1948—4 Dec 2019)

My name is Robert Carroll. I joined the United States Marine Corps February 15, 1967. I entered active duty the first week of June 1967, at M.C.R.D. Yes, a Hollywood Marine! I was called a Marine for the first time on August 26, 1967. The night before graduating we were given our M.O.S. numbers. Almost all of us 0311, November draft for Vietnam.

The next morning, the buses pulled up next to the Quonset huts; we got on board for a short ride to Camp Pendleton. Yes, it was called I.T.R. then. Yes, infantry training. It was four or five weeks that year, then a short 20-day leave. The Marines were fighting it out that fall in Vietnam all along the D.M.Z., in places like Con Thien, and all along the border.

The casualty rate was very high for the Corps that fall, our training short, but to the point. After leave, I went straight back to Camp Pendleton, on to two or three weeks to staging battalion. Then that short bus ride on to El Toro Marine Corps Air base. Out to Okinawa they flew us.

When I reached Vietnam, 1st Marine Division was stamped on my orders the first night. I was driven up to Fifth Motor T. My first night in Vietnam, pulled bunker watch in Da Nang. Then down to Joi An to become a member of the First Bn. Fifth Marines, Alpha Company. We were not there long.

The Battalion was moved up north, to Phu Loc, and the regimental quarters sent to Phu Bai. February 1, 1968, the Tet offensive broke out. After 12 days of constant fighting NVA units around Phu Loc, we were told to saddle up and head up to a place called Hue City, and we fought inside the Citadel block to block for almost two weeks.

Our company was put on bridge duty off Hwy 1, south of Phu Bai. Sometime around the middle of July that year the company was flown up to An Hoa. Yes, we fought in what the Marines called Dodge City, Arizona territory. I was one of the few lucky Marines to walk out of Vietnam that year after 13 months of mostly bush fighting. The Marine Corps prepared us well.

In Vietnam I served as squad leader, radio operator, etc, etc.—on the job training. I had the privilege of fighting with Sergeant Vince Rios, 1st Lt. Nicholas Warr, Stagg Sargent, John Mullan, and so many others who now are members of the First Marine Division Association.

I think Sergeant Rios was an acting platoon commander for half of the three months we fought together outside of An Hoa. I flew back home early December 1968, somewhat saddened to leave my squad out in the bush around An Hoa. That is when you realize the Marines are truly a band of brothers for the rest of our lives. What a sad flight home for me, knowing my fellow Marines were out in the bush night after night doing ambushes, and patrols day after day while I went home.

Another 'Go Figure' Story

John "Doc" Loudermilk

By Nick Warr

Doc John Loudermilk is the only U. S. Navy Corpsman I know of who took command of a Marine Infantry Squad while under fire. John was with Sawaya's squad on the night of December 16, 1967, taking his usual place in the center of the squad as they left the Hoi An Combat Base for their assigned night ambush patrol route. At this point, Doc had been "In Country" for several months and was a very savvy "Doc" who had already saved many lives, so his Marines protected him as best they could.

Suddenly, the night was shattered by the explosion of two 105mm dud artillery rounds that had been "daisy chained" together about 40 meters apart on the narrow road that the Marines were walking on. The horrific explosion threw John into the air and several meters into an adjacent dry rice paddy, where he was initially unconscious and suffering from a concussion. Blood was coming out of his ears, and he couldn't hear a thing, but John quickly recovered his faculties.

Hearing the screams from those who were badly injured or dying, he realized that his squad was completely exposed to enemy fire, but that the squad leadership were either dead or dying. He found that only two other Marines on that patrol were still combat effective, so he immediately assessed the situation, deployed the assistant machine gunner into an effective firing position should there be a follow-up attack by the enemy, and positioned the other rifleman. Then, he started saving lives.

Three Marines died that night, but all the rest, many badly wounded, were saved, thanks to Doc John Loudermilk.

I got a phone call from John's wife, Sandy, a few years back asking me for my help. She let me know that although John suffered from a traumatic brain injury that night, the U. S. Navy, in its inestimable wisdom, refused to award him the Purple Heart. It seems that John bled, but he did not suffer a penetrating wound. I told Sandy that I would do everything I could to help, but not to hold her breath.

I was able to get in touch with the Assistant Machine Gunner, "Irish" McShane, who survived that night, and he told me the complete story. I was also able to obtain affidavits from Mother Mullan, who took out the reaction force that night, as well as our company commander. With this support and information, I decided that John deserved recognition for his heroism that night, so I submitted a request to HQMC to not only award John the Purple Heart, but also the Bronze Star with V.

After several months, the Navy finally decided that John deserved the Bronze Star, but not the Purple Heart. Go figure.

John "Doc" Loudermilk, along with all our terrific U. S. Navy Corpsmen, were the best of us. Every time they heard the cry "Corpsman Up!" they ran toward the gunfire and saved countless lives. Tragically, for them, the ones they remember most are the ones they lost.

Thanks to the A-1-5 newsletter, January 2021, p. 3.

A medal winner many Marines have never heard

By Staff Writer A. T. Wunz

Who holds the Marine Corps record for participating in the most wars?

a) "Chesty" Puller
b) Dan Daly
c) Sgt. Stryker
d) None of the above

The answer may be "None of the above." A good candidate for the record might be former First Marine Division commander Brig. Gen. Pedro Del Valle, the first Hispanic to reach the rank of lieutenant general. World War II was his sixth war. He was a veteran of Guadalcanal, Guam, and Okinawa in WWII. Prior to that he fought in the Philippines during the insurrection, Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico, and WWI. That didn't give him much tome for peace time activities.

COL. PEDRO DEL VALLE HONORED BY MUSSOLINI

Even when he was at peace he was at war.

Medal and Sword Given Former Washingtonian for Service in Ethiopia.

Lieut. Col. Pedro a del Valle, a former Washingtonian who is now assistant naval attaché at Rome, has just been awarded a medal and sword by Premier Mussolini for his part in the recent Ethiopian campaign in which he was an official observer, Marine Corps Headquarters announced today.

The Marine Corps officer has been given the East African Commemorative Certificate and Medal, with Roman Quadius. The decorations are bestowed by the chief of government and minister of armed forces of Italy, officials here explained. These are awarded "for services in the East African theater of operations."

Col. del Valle served In Washington at the Marine Barracks and he also has been on duty at the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, Va.

WILL WED TOMORROW.

Miss Nelson to Become Bride of Lieut. del Valle, U.S.M. C. – A Home Wedding.

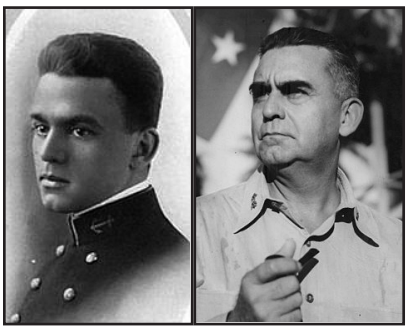
Commander and Mrs. Valentine Sevier Nelson, have sent cards to the marriage of their daughter Katharine Marchand, to Lieut. Pedro Augusto del Valle, U. S. Marine Corps.

The ceremony will take place tomorrow evening, June 15, at 8 o'clock at 211 Prince George Street.

The groom-to-be is a graduate of the Naval Academy, Class 1915, but was transferred to the Marine Corps.

Miss Nelson is one of the popular girls of the younger set. (Annapolis, MD, Evening Capital and Maryland Gazette*, June 14, 1915)*

Maj. Pedro del Valle of the staff of the Marine Corps Schools in Quantico, who returned from duty in Nicaragua last week, is with his family in Annapolis for a few days before going on leave to visit his mother in Cuba. Maj. del Valle will return to his work as instructor next month.



Pedro Del Valle

HISTORICAL NOTE

Pedro Augusto Del Valle was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico on August 28, 1893. He was educated at public schools in the city of Baltimore and graduate from the Mercersburg Academy at Mercersburg, PA in 1910. Del Valle entered the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis and graduated with a B.S. degree in 1915, the same year in which he married Katherine Marchand Nelson. His professional training after his graduation for the Naval Academy included attendance at the Marine Corps School in 1928-1929, and the Army War College during 1937-1938.

Del Valle's career was in the United States Marine Corps, where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant General and commanded the 1st Marine Division in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II. His military exploits during the war were exemplary. Apparently his political views were not well received according to the following write-up:

Del Valle was a rarity in the Marine Corps. He was only the second Puerto Rican to earn an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, from which he graduated in 1915.

On March 1941, del Valle became the commanding officer of the 11th Marine Regiment, (artillery). Upon the outbreak of World War II, del Valle led his regiment and participated in the Guadalcanal Campaign, providing artillery support for the 1st Marine Division. In the Battle of the Tenaru, the firepower provided by del Valle's artillery units killed many assaulting Japanese soldiers before they ever reached the Marine positions. The attackers were killed almost to the last man.[5] The outcome of the battle was so stunning that the Japanese commander, Colonel Kiyonao Ichiki, committed seppuku shortly afterwards.[10]

Major General Alexander Vandegrift, impressed with del Valle's leadership recommended his promotion and on October 1, 1942, del Valle became a brigadier general. Vandegrift retained del Valle as head of the 11th Marines, the only time that the regiment has ever had a general as their commanding officer.[5] In 1943, he served as Commander of Marine Forces overseeing Guadalcanal, Tulagi, and the Russell and Florida Islands. He was decorated



US Marine Corps officers Pedro del Valle, Thomas Holcomb, and Alexander Vandegrift inspecting 11th Marine Regiment at Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, North Carolina, United States, 1942

with the Legion of Merit for his merits during Guadalcanal campaign.[11]

On April 1, 1944, del Valle, as commanding general of the Third Corps Artillery, III Marine Amphibious Corps, took part in the Battle of Guam and was awarded a gold star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit. The men under his command did such a good job with their heavy artillery that no one man could be singled out for commendation. Instead, each man was given a letter of commendation by del Valle which was carried in their record books.[12]

In late October 1944, he succeeded Major General William H. Rupertus as commanding general of the 1st Marine Division, being personally greeted in his new command by Colonel Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller. At the time, the 1st Marine Division was training on the island of Pavuvu for the invasion of Okinawa. He subsequently led the division throughout the campaign.[13] Del Valle was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal for his leadership during the battle and the subsequent occupation and reorganization of Okinawa.[5]

The "very surprising and unpatriotic utterances" del Valle had been making since 1941 led however to three separate investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of Naval Intelligence and the War Office's Military Intelligence Department. Colonel Housewitz, an aide to Marine Corps General Clifton B. Cates, stated that although del Valle had formerly been "a very important figure in military circles", he was now "more or less an embarrassment to the Marine Corps as a result of his loudly voiced antisemitic statements."[8][9]

NOTE: The footnotes included above were in the original Wikopedia bio of Del Valle, from which the preceding five paragraphs were extracted.

After the war, in 1946, he became Inspector General of the Marine Corps and Director of Personnel until his retirement in January 1948. Following his military service, Del Valle accepted a position as vice-president of International Telephone and Telegraph, and traveled, with Mrs. Del Valle, to twenty-six countries with periods of residence in Italy, Spain, and Argentina.

In 1952, he retired from ITT in order to devote his energies to a defense of his beliefs in American ideals. The following year, in 1953, Del Valle, working closely with Colonel Matthew O. McKeon, Gordon Small, and Josephine Powell Beaty, organized the Defenders of the American Constitution (DAC).

Chartered in Washington, D.C. and dedicated to defend the ideals of patriotism, constitutionalism, and Christian society, the DAC was a non-profit, educational organization. Under its auspices, Del Valle produced two publications, Task Force and Alert. The former was a regular paper, which carried articles about national security, and constitutional matters, while the latter publication, usually a single sheet, attempted to clarify the specific context of actions by governmental agencies.

In addition to his work on behalf of DAC, Del Valle gave active support to other conservative organizations such as the National Economic Council, Christian Crusade, National Youth Alliance, the Committee to Restore the Constitution, and Liberty Lobby. He died in 1978.

In retrospect, the Puerto Rican-born Del Valle was one of the United States Marine Corps' most accomplished, but enigmatic, officers between 1915 and 1948, when he retired. He did not exactly fit the mold of other well-known Marine Corps heroes such as "Chesty" Puller, Dan Daley, or the mythical Sgt. Stryker, the hero of the 1949 Hollywood movie "The Sands of Iwo Jima," starring John Wayne. And, there were times when the Marine Corps wanted to disavow all knowledge of his membership because of his sometimes radical political views. That was the enigma of Pedro Del Valle.

Del Valle was a rarity in the Marine Corps. He was only the second Puerto Rican to earn an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, from which he graduated in 1915. Based on his accomplishments, Del Valle would have been an ideal subject for a movie based on his life. But who would portray him if there were?

Early candidates might have been the dashing star of yesteryear, Errol Flynn. Or perhaps Anthony Quinn or Gilbert Roland. Unfortunately, Flynn died in 1959, Roland in 1994, and Quinn in 2001. Not many people today would remember any of them. Then again, not too many people know who Pedro Del Valle was, either.

Sources:

San Mateo, CA, Times, July 31, 1944, p. 7)
Washington D.C. Evening Star, Nov. 16, 1936, p. A-6
Washington D.C. Evening Star, Dec. 7, 1930, p. 9
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv35240#historicalID
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pedro_del_Valle

FirstMarDiv on Facebook

The 1st Marine Division has a significant presence on Facebook. Here are a couple items you will find out there. Check it out for yourself. It's a great source of information on what the division is doing currently, and you may connect with Marines you served with.

Go to https://www.facebook.com/1stMarineDivision

On the Humbling Mountain

Our Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Roger B. Turner, Jr., visited Marines and Sailors with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment during Mountain Training Exercise (MTX) 2-21 at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, California.

The purpose of MTX is to prepare Marines for harsh weather conditions while enhancing winter warfare skills in cold weather environments.



Maj. Gen. Roger B. Turner, Jr. at Bridgeport, CA mountain training facility



2/7 Marine in cold weather gear at mountain training facility



Marine from 2/7 participates during mountain training

(U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Lance Cpl. Cedar Barnes)

Here are some of the comments followers left. There are many more. Access them on the Facebook site.

Scot P. Wilson

That looks familiar!! Nothing like Winter Warfare training up in the mountains of Bridgeport, CA. Lost so much weight in that long extended military exercise. The USMC really brings out the best in an individual.

Edward Rumpeltin

Loved my time there - summer course and assault climber. Always wanted to go back as an instructor.

Mike Wifler

Did two cold weather packages. 1/1 did training there in 1961. Delata Co was agressor company so we bivoaced separately and harassed the other three companies throughout the training. Then in 1976 did another package with a composite group (25 aviation enlisted with 100 ground) Now a 35 year old Lt, I froze my behind off sleeping in pup tents in the snow. A lifelong skier, I always enjoyed the opportunity to schuss the slopes.

T. Brian Tolan

Did training there in late 58. Never saw so much snow in my life. Never really got really cold. Maybe 10deg. being from Minneapolis that wasn't really cold. After training I was shipped to the land of bad things. govt logic i guess

Urban Assault Training

Check out Marines with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment as they participate in an urban assault training lane as part of Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 2-21, on Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms.

The ITX is intended to produce combat-ready forces capable of operating as an integrated Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Brian Bolin Jr.)



3/5 Marine participates in assault training exercise at Twentynine Palms

Don't forget you can shop online at the PX

All honorably discharged veterans can shop online through the Army & Air Force Exchange Service. Shoppers can save significant amounts of money doing so, since there is no state sales tax and shipping on purchases over $49 is free.

The Exchange's commitment to veterans includes veteran shoppers—in 2017, the Department of Defense concurred with extending a lifelong online military Exchange shopping benefit to all honorably discharged veterans. Veterans can visit ShopMyExchange. com/vets to learn more.

All you need is a DD-214 to get registered and get shopping.

Marines as 'Raiders' in Korea

Marines Combat Bound Again

First Division off for Pacific Almost 8 Years to the Day They Sailed in '42

Did you know there was a plan to use the Marines as "Raiders" for the U.S. Army in Korea? That was a possibility according to a newspaper article that appeared in 1950.

(Editor's Note: James P. Hackett, Associated Press correspondent, at Atlantic City, enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Dec. 19, 1941 and served as a combat intelligence officer through the Pacific war. Discharged as a captain in November, 1945, he is a Marine reserve officer.)

By James P. Hackett

ATLANTIC CITY. N. J. - July 10 (AP) Eight years ago almost to the day a large force of U.S. Marines put out into the Pacific—combat bound. The First Division of Marines was on its way to Guadalcanal to stem the southward drive of the Japanese. The division went into action Aug. 7, 1942.

Combat Bound Again

Today, the First Division is combat bound again—on its way to help stem the southward drive of Communist forces in Korea.

Eight years has made some difference in the first division. Very few, if any, of the Marines who slogged through the mud of Guadalcanal will land 1n Korea.

The 1950 First Division is just about one-third the size of the 1942 force. Three out-sized battalions make up today's First Division, compared to three full regiments in 1942.

General Douglas MacArthur is no stranger to the First Division. It was assigned to MacArthur in 1943 and under his command took Cape Gloucester on New Britain to clear the



If Korea is the pot in which World War III is being brewed, the Marines will be disappointed. They like to say they fired the first and last shots of any war involving America.

wat for the army's sweep around the eastern shore of New Guinea. The Cape action was considered a classic of World War II.

Korea in the rainy season presents the kind of country over which Marines are accustomed to fight. Like other American kids the Marines will gripe about the mud, the rain, the food. But they'll squirm through the mud and up and down the hills. The First Division has its own tradition as well as that of the Marine Corps to push it on.

If Korea is the pot in which World War III is being brewed, the Marines will be disappointed. They like to say they fired the first and last shots of any war involving America. But they'll take their places alongside the army in Korea without a grumble.

Always Ready

The Marines have been ready for combat ever since they put up their rifles on Okinawa in 1945. General Clifton B. Cates, Marine commandant, always said, "We're ready to move at midnight or any other time."

How many other Marines will be shipped to Korea is up to the Defense Department. The Marines still have their Second Division, a force about the same size as the first, located at New Bern, N.C.

If the Marines follow the same manpower policy employed in World War they will build their divisions to full strength overseas. The Marines developed six full divisions during the war in the Pacific, using New Zealand and the Hawaiian islands as primary training bases.

It may be necessary in Korea to form raider battalions again. The raiders were used first on Guadalcanal to penetrate Japanese lines and raise havoc while the First Marine Division contained the main body of the enemy. The three battalions of Marines that make up the First Division could be used as raiders, leaving the front line fighting to the army. (Source: Boston, MA, Traveler, July 10, 1950, p. 10)

Membership is Our Strength

It's not the price you pay to belong, It's the price you paid to become eligible to join

1st Marine Division Association

Whatever happened to the Hawk Missile in Nam?

By Staff Writer A. T. Wunz©

The first Marines assigned to Vietnam, the 1st Light Aircraft Missile Battalion (LAM), Marine Control Group-18, First Marine air Wing, were sent with Hawk Missiles (Homing All the Way Killer). On February 7, 1965 then President Lyndon B. Johnson deployed 550 Marines there to accompany the missiles. The following month he dispatched another 3,500 Marines to Vietnam, followed by 1,400 in April. Whatever happened to the Hawk Missiles?

Hawk history

The history of the Hawk Missile dates back to 1952, during the Korean War. The U.S. started a program then to develop a medium-range semi-active radar homing surface-to-air missile. Two years later the Army awarded development contracts to Northrop for the launcher, radars and fire control systems and to Raytheon for the missile. The first test launch of the missile, then designated the XSAM-A-18, happened in June 1956.

The missile was initially deployed by the U.S. Army in 1959 and by the U.S. Marine Corps in 1960. Technically, Marine missile units comprised non-combat air wing troops, but as the old saying goes with the Marine Corps, every Marine is a rifleman. They needed to be in Vietnam.

The initial missiles were not highly effective. The high complexity of the system, and the quality of tube-based electronics, gave the radars in the early Hawk systems a mean time between failures (MTBF) of only 43 hours. That was improved quickly to between 130 and 170 hours. Later versions increased the time to between 300 and 400 hours.

Okay, the mean time between failures was increased tenfold, but the Hawk still had one glaring fallacy: it had problems engaging targets at low altitude because picking out targets against ground clutter was difficult. The Army addressed that drawback in 1964 via the Hawk Improvement Program (Hawk/HIP). The redesign also resulted in numerous upgrades to the Hawk system:

1.A digital data processing central information coordinator for target processing, threat ordering, and intercept evaluation.

2.An improved missile (MIM-23B) with a larger warhead, smaller and more powerful M112 motor, and improved guidance section.

3.The PAR, CWAR, HPIR, and ROR were replaced by upgraded variants.

The improved system entered service during 1972, with the first unit reaching operational status by October—too late for useful service in Vietnam. The Marines started pulling out their LAM units in 1968 without ever firing a missile on anger. They hardly fired them at all.

Marine LAMs in Nam

One of the drawbacks to operating a Hawk Missile unit was the lack of opportunities for live firing exercises due to the expenses involved. Each missile cost $50,000, and each radio-controlled drone that was used as a target cost $5,000. At $55,000 a shot, live-fire exercises were limited. (Just for the record the dollar figures presented in various accounts differ greatly, depending on the source,) Missiles, incidentally, were fired from a launcher with 3,500 pounds of thrust.

The Marine Corps introduced Hawk missiles with a 50,000-foot range into a combat environment primarily to provide protection against air attacks on the Da Nang air base, from which U.S. aircraft launched their raids against North Vietnam. The first Marine missile unit to reach Vietnam, the "just in case" 1st Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, was not particularly busy. As late as 1968 it had still not fired a missile in a live situation. Captain Everett Cowley, commander of one of the two missile batteries at Da Nang, described the Marines' early duties there as mostly sandbagging—in a literal sense.

His missile installation ringed Hill 327, about 1,000 feet above the air base, with the sleek white missiles pointing skyward from sandbagged bunkers. There was a perpetually turning illumination radar unit adorned with long "Mickey Mouse" ears at the crest of the hill. The location was far from safe though.

Surprisingly, the Hawks were not a significant target for the enemy, although Cowley suspected any attack would come from mortars rather that aircraft. "You can imagine if they'd just throw a couple mortars in, how we'd tighten up," he said. "Maybe they're waiting for the big one. I don't know."

He concluded with a prescient statement.

"They're pretty good with the mortars," he advised. "So were the Chinese."

Certainly any Marines who fought against the Chinese in Korea could attest to that. But attacks on the 1st Light Antiaircraft Battalion were rare. In fact, there was only one of note. Early on May 14, 1967 a Communist demolition team, presumably North Vietnamese regulars, sneaked undetected up the heavily guarded hill overlooking Da Nang, five miles southwest of the base, and damaged at least 12 U.S. Hawk antiaircraft missiles and 36 missile launchers with satchel charges. They also destroyed a 10,000-gallon diesel fuel farm. .

One of the missiles was ignited by a satchel charge and shot off across the rice paddies below, leaving a flaming trail. As many as nine Marines were wounded in the hit-and-run attack, while no enemy casualties were reported. The irony was that even though there were eighteen Hawk missile sites circling the base none of them had ever been fired. Yet, they were fired on.

An October 10, 1968 article in the Lubbock, TX, Avalanche Journal focused on the battalion's experience in Vietnam. "For three years Charlie Company of the 1st Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion has been sitting on this hill waiting to fire a $3 million Hawk missile at an enemy aircraft. None has ever appeared on the horizon."

The battery commander, Captain John Moore, citing the unit's position high above Da Nang, said, "But we sure do have

a fine view of the war."

That view did not make all of the unit members happy. Some of them preferred to be with the infantry Marines, "This duty is the same old thing, dull," said Lance Corporal Dennis Grabowsky. "About all we're doing is holding down this hill. I wish I was in an infantry outfit."

Even the battalion commander, Major Norman Fitzgerald, hinted that life at the missile site was less than exciting and possibly non-essential. Their job, he said, was "to use what we have, to do a job we think exists." He found ways to keep his Marines as busy as possible though.

From a recreational standpoint there was plenty to do. In fact, people back home reading about life aboard the site may have thought the missile site was as far removed from a military installation as one could get. As the reporter, John Lengel, wrote:

"There are hot water showers and cold beer. A volleyball game is usually in progress on the helicopter pad and the same goes for pool in the enlisted men's club. The club also has a juke box, popcorn popper, and a weight lifting room. There are nightly movies and a weekly day off for everyone to run down to the South China beaches and post exchanges. There are Sunday services in an air-conditioned chapel."



Hawk-3MIM-23 Hawk missile

Idyllic as Lengel made that sound, the Marines were reminded constantly that they were in a danger zone. They received occasional sniper fire and had to serve regular guard duty. The missile crews traveled to Chu Lai, 58 miles south, every now and then to hone their skills by firing at target drones. And Air Force and Marine fighter pilots flew over the site occasionally in attack patterns to give the crews an opportunity to practice their tracking skills.

Even the missiles seemed bored at times. For example, they sometimes had minds of their own. On June 30, 1966 two Hawks were fired inadvertently as a result of an electrical malfunction in the launching equipment. As soon as the missiles reached a safe distance from the ground battery controllers destroyed them in the air. No one was injured and there was no damage.

"LAM"ming it for home

Eventually military administrators realized that there really was no need for Marine Hawk Missile units at Da Nang or Chu Lai. In 1968 the U.S. command returned two Army and Marine battalions to the states to make room for more combat troops. That did not diminish the need for protection for the Da Nang air base or the service of the 1st Antiaircraft Missile Battalion.

As battalion member Cpl. Bill Boyd said, "Anybody that's got any sense knows that a LAM outfit is a good one to be in." That was a sentiment shared by his battalion buddies. Its Marines did their job and did it well. That is all anyone can ask of them—or any Marine.

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Did you know…

U.S. Marines from 1st Marine Division are currently deployed to the Middle East?

In these photos, Marines with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, attached to Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command, patrol an urban environment during a regularly scheduled exercise in the United Arab Emirates.

The exercise was designed to sustain proficiency and enhance MAGTF integration in a realistic training environment. The SPMAGTF-CR-CC is a crisis response force, prepared to deploy a variety of capabilities across the region.

(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Lance Cpl. Andrew Skiver and Cpl. Robert Kuehn)







3/1 Marines on patrol in UAE

TAPS

* Life Member

***GYSGT GARY G. ARABIAN** USMC(RET), 1SIG CH KO VN, SAN CLEMENTE, CA, 11/9/2021

***CPL JOHN F. ATTENISIA,** C-1-7 KO , DESERT HOT SPRINGS, CA, 12/23/2020

***LCPL GEOFFREY J. CARMAN**, L-4-11 CW, WOODBURY, MN, 8/29/2020

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LTCOL DALE N. DAVIS USMC(RET), D-2-1 DIV RECON CO, PORTALES, NM, 1/13/2013

PFC JOHN F. DONOVAN, A-1-5 KO, VALLEY STREAM, NY, 1/27/2020

SGT JOHN H. DRISCOLL, C-1-1 KO, VENICE, FL, 12/18/2008

MR. MICHAEL DRURY, OBN, CINCINNATI, OH, 8/6/2020

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SGT JERRY L. DUDDING, WPNS-2-1 1ST MAR DIV, SHREWSBURY, MO, 9/16/2010

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MGYSGT THOMAS J. DUFFY, COMM-1SVC WWII CH KO VN, LEMON GROVE, CA, 10/10/2020

WILLIE P. DUFOUR, 9DEF SPL WPNS WWII BOSTON, MA 11/13/2020

***SGT LEO F. DUGAN**, 1SIG KO, MECHANICVILLE, NY, 6/20/2005

***SSGT ROBERT EUGENE DUGAN,** D CO 2-5 KO, COSTA MESA, CA, 6/1/2017

***SGT JOSEPH W. DUH**, HQ-11MAR KO, PISCATAWAY, NJ, 1/9/2015

RONALD DUKE, CHESAPEAKE, VA, 6/16/2019

***DON R. DUNFORD**, F-2-1 KO , WEST LAFAYETTE, IN, 12/21/2016

PFC ERNEST S. DUNHAM, I-3-1 KO, DOVER, NH, 5/26/2007

***CAPT JOHN F. DUNN** USMC(RET), B-1RECON KO VN, WESTERLY, RI, 9/6/2018

***LCPL MIKE P. DUNN**, 1SHPTY VN, Palm Coast, FL, 8/26/2020

***SGT CHARLES A. DUNNING**, COMM-HQ KO, PONTIAC, IL, 7/20/2014

***SGT ROBERT T. DUPONT,** 1CSG KO, SAN MATEO, CA, 5/3/2015

***SGT CARL C. DUVALL,** H-3-1 KO, KANSAS CITY, MO, 11/22/2005

***CPL NORMAN DYER,** D-2-5 KO, OLD ORCHARD BEACH, ME, 10/14/2020

***PHM2 HARRY W. EARHART,** C-1-1 WWII, FAIRFIELD BAY, AR, 9/8/2017

***CPL EARL J. EAVES,** ORD-5-7 KO, DELTONA, FL, 3/5/2008

***SGT JAMES O. ECKERT,** H&S-11MAR KO, MILLSTADT, IL, 11/1/2020

MARGARET ECKHARDT, BOGOTA, NJ, 5/2/2015

BARBARA EDDINS, ASSOCIATE, OCALA, FL, 6/2/2017

CPL LLOYD D. EDMISTON, HQ-11MAR KO, ALTOONA, PA, 1/23/2010

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SGT DANIEL L. EDWARDS JR USMC(RET), D/F-2-5 WWII CH KO, CALLAHAN, FL,

SGT EARBY R. EDWARDS, 1ST MAW KO, BAKERSFIELD, CA, 7/28/2009

***CPL GEORGE SHELBY EDWARDS**, HQ-1-1 WWII CH KO, PHOENIX, AZ, 10/23/2012

***JOHN C. EDWARDS**, E-2-5 1MP-HQ WWII CH, SOUTH PRINCE GEORGE, VA, 2/28/2019

***MSGT LEROY B. EDWARDS** USMC(RET), RECON 5MAR CH KO, TAMPA, FL, 3/25/2010

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LCPL BRETT R. ELCOCK, BRAVO CO 1ST BATTLION 5TH MAR, HURRICANE, UT, 1/26/2015

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***RADM EUGENE H. FARRELL** USN(RET), BB42 USS IDAHO WWII, SAN ANTONIO, TX, 4/28/2019

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***SGT DANIEL P. FEERY,** HQ KO, WESTMONT, NJ, 4/17/2014

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***CPL LEWIS H. FESSLER JR,** H&S-SPLWPNS WWII, READING, PA, 7/16/2004

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BILL FIGUERAS, 7TH MAR VN, NICEVILLE, FL, 2/11/2007

1STLT ANTONE T. FILEFF USMC(RET), RECON-HQ WWII CH KO, SCOTTLDALE, AZ, 6/2/2017

***1STSGT FRED W. FILKINS,** 1ENGR WWII CH KO VN, PRESCOTT, AZ, 11/29/2019

***WILLIAM J. FINCH,** F-2-7 VN, SOMERVILLE, MA, 1/31/2018

***CPL C. W. FINK**, E-2-5 WWII, AUBURN, CA, 6/13/2014

CPL DONALD R. FINKLE, I-3-11 WWII CH, NEWARK, OH,

JOHN W. FINLEY, D-2-5 KO, CLIFTON, NJ, 12/10/2016

***SGTMAJ MICHAEL (MICKEY) J. FINN** USMC(RET), K/M-3-5 VN, OCEANSIDE, CA, 5/28/2010

LCPL JOSEPH FINNERAN, F/G/H-2-5 VN, WALPOLE, MA, 9/12/2015

***SGT JAMES L. FINNEY,** 1TK WWII, DECHERD, TN, 12/16/2008

***1STSGT CARL D. FINSTAD** USMC(RET), H&S 1ST MAR REG KO, RIVER FALLS, WI, 3/22/2016

***SGT BERNARD M. FISHER**, D-2 1MT WWII, BAY PINES, FL, 5/28/2014

SGT BILL FISHER, 1MAW A-1-11 WWII KO, NEW BRIGHTON, MN, 7/24/2006

***TSGT JAMES JOHN FISHER**, 1MAW WWII, WILLIAMSBURG, VA, 2/13/2013

***GYSGT RAMON A. FISHER JR,** 1ORD WWII CH, RICHMOND, VA, 7/18/2004

SSGT ROBERT FISHER JR, B-1AMTRAC KO, WALTHAM, MA,

CAPT RONALD F. FISHER, HQBN-VN, HAMILTON, MT, 7/11/2006

***SGT JERRY L. FITCH,** 1-5MAR WWII KO, LAS VEGAS, NV, 3/21/2016

***SGT ROBERT R. FITCH JR,** H-2-1 F-2-7, HAMILTON, NJ, 6/15/2016

EDNA MAE FITZGERALD, 1/25/2019

SGT EDWARD F. FITZGERALD, 1KMC RCT KO, RICHBORO, PA, 2/10/2018

SGT ROBERT M. FITZGERALD, HQ-HQ KO, BOCA RATON, FL, 11/11/2017

PFC RONALD A. FITZGERALD SR, C-1-7 KO, REDDING, CA, 11/22/2010

SGTMAJ RAYMOND T. FITZHUGH, C-1-5 K-3-7 KO VN, IRVINE, CA, 10/23/2020

SGT THOMAS J. FITZMAURICE, L-3-7 H-2-4 VN, CASTRO VALLEY, CA, 9/25/2020

***CPL JAMES M. FLAHERTY**, I-3-7 B-7MT KO, SAINT LOUIS, MO, 1/18/2014

RICHARD R. FLANERY, HQ-1SIG MABS31 KO, WHEELERSBURG, OH, 10/7/2015

PFC JAMES J. FLAVIN, A-1-5 KO, HAMILTON, NJ, 12/28/2008

CPL CHARLES F. FLEIG, WPNS-1MAR WPNS-3-1 CH KO, CODY, WY, 7/15/2015

PHM1C JACK M. FLETCHER, 1-3-3, SUBIACO WEST AUSTRALIA , 5/26/2018

***CPL RICHARD J. FLIPPIN,** 1ST MAR DIV 9TH ENG BN FMF, NORTON, MA, 1/10/2020

NORBERT J. FLISS, K-3-5 B-1-9 VN, WATERLOO, IA, 11/8/2019

***CPL JOSEPH K. FLORENCE**, H-3-1 KO, WETHERSFIELD, CT, 8/31/2010

***SGT BARRY L. FLOYD**, H-3-11 VN, SUNDANCE, WY, 11/7/2019

***SGT CHARLES D. FOGARTY,** ANGLICO-3-1 KO, WESTWOOD, NJ, 10/18/2011

***SGT WILLIAM E. FOGARTY,** SIGNAL KO, BRISTOL, CT, 10/10/2009

DALE L. FOLAND, NEW PHILADELPHIA, OH, 1/17/2016

MAJ WINSTON F. FONTAINE, C/B-1-1 HQ WWII KO, PENSACOLA, FL, 2/2/2016

CAPT RICHARD F. FOOTE, H&S/F-2-11 WWII CH, KENT, OH, 8/16/2009

CPL CHARLES L. FORBES, B-3-1 1TK KO, NORA SPRINGS, IA, 7/4/2014

***PFC RONALD J. FORD**, WPNS-1-1 KO, FREDERICTON NB, 7/31/2009

***COL WESLEY W. FORD** USMC(RET), AT-1-1 KO, SAINT CLOUD, FL, 7/7/20163

MR & MRS WILLIAM FORD, BEDFORD, PA, 10/20/2020

***CPL RICHARD V. FORE,** A-1-7 KO, LOS LUNAS, NM, 9/12/2019

***SSGT HARRY J. FORGIE,** B-1-1 MAW CH KO, TURTLE CREEK, PA, 10/4/2014

***SGT JAMES A. FORREST,** F-2-7 KO, BAKERSFIELD, CA, 3/27/2018

CPL WESLEY E. FORSE, VMO6 1MAW KO, CONROE, TX, 1/14/2017

***CPL THOMAS C. FORSLIN,** H&S-3-11 WWII, KING, WI, 11/11/2020

CPL JOHN W. FORSYTHE, HQ-1-5 WWII CH, LAKE CITY, MI, 2/2/2002

PFC EUGENE F. FORTENBERRY, C-1-1 WWII, MOBILE, AL, 6/4/2002

CPL GEORGE 'ROCKY' L. FORTNER JR, G-2-5, NINE MILE FALLS, WA, 4/8/2013

PVT EUGENE H. FOSTER, C-1-7 WWII CH, SAGINAW, MI, 6/15/2009

SGT JOHN E. FOSTER, 1MAR WWII, LEITCHFIELD, KY, 11/16/2014

***REV. FRANK L. FOWLER JR**, MARDET KO, HOT SPRINGS, AR, 7/3/2014

MSGT JOHN E. FOWLER USMC(RET), H&S-3-7 A-1AMPHIB KO VN, SEABROOK, NH, 5/13/2006

***SSGT BILLY G. FOX,** C-1-1 KO, DEL CITY, OK, 2/3/2006

CLIFF H. FOX, H&S-R2-1 WWII, LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA, 4/29/2006

LCPL JOHN M. FOX, H-2-5 VN, BROOKLYN, NY, 7/17/2017

***HMCM MIKE 'MAX' FOX,** I-3-5 KO VN, WEBSTER, TX, 1/24/2018

***SGT FRED D. FRAINI,** H&S-1-11 WWII, EAST FALMOUTH, MA, 9/20/2010

RAYMOND J. FRANCE, OCALA, FL,

***CPL RICHARD L. FRANCHINO,** 4.2MRTR-WPNS-5MAR WWII CH, POMPANO BEACH, FL, 1/4/2013

***MGYSGT J. A. FRANCIS** USMC(RET), SERV BN WWII KO VN, JACKSONVILLE, NC,

***SGT JOHN J. FRANKLIN,** B-1ENGR KO, LAKEWOOD, NJ, 1/12/2021

***CPL D. T. HARTY,** F-2-11 VN, WEYMOUTH, MA, 10/4/2020

***GYSGT JAMES E. KERLEY** USMC(RET), WPNS-2-5 KO VN, ANN ARBOR, MI, 10/21/2020

CAPT NORMAN W. LARSON, SVC SQU MAG 23 1MAW WWII, ROSEVILLE, CA,

***CPL HEDLEY E. LEBLANC**, HQ-5MAR WWII, COSTA MESA, CA,

SGT PAUL E. LEBLANC, H-2-1 WWII, WALTHAM, MA, 6/6/2010

SGT ROBERT J. LEWIS, H-3-11 KO, VOORHEES, NJ, 5/16/2018

SGT HORACE (BUD) LOGAN, HQBTRY 11TH MAR KO, SILVERTON, OR, 11/19/2020

SGTMAJ LONNIE R. LONG, HQ-1MAR 2-1MAR VN, OCEANSIDE, CA, 12/15/2020

***SGTMAJ LAWRENCE K.T. LOO**, HQ-2-11 KO VN, SAN DIEGO, CA,

HM2 JOHN "DOC" LOUDERMILK, C 1/5 VN, SHEPHERDSVILLE, KY, 12/4/2020

SGT WALTER G LOVELY, B-1MT WWII , EDEN PRAIRIE, MN, 3/6/2009

***SGT MICHAEL R. MALLERY,** H&S-3-1 VN, SCOTTSDALE, AZ, 11/23/2020

***COL JOHN O. MARSH** USMC(RET), H&S/D-2-7 C-1-1 KO VN, CYNTHIANA, KY, 4/12/2019

***MAJ JACK D. MATHIS** (RET), RECON VN, ATLANTIC BEACH, FL, 12/15/2008

CPL MICHAEL J. MULLIN, HQCO 1ST MAR DIV, EDINA, MN, 1/23/2015

***SGT JOHN D. MYERS**, A-1 ENGR KO, COLUMBUS, OH, 6/25/2015

***PFC HAROLD NICKELS,** I-3-1 WWII, BRISTOL, VA, 3/14/2007

***SGT LENVER E. NORRIS**, HQ-1ENGR KO VN, SOUTH BEND, WA, 1/7/2019

***1STLT WILLIAM T. O'CONNOR III,** F-2-7 KO, DALLAS, TX, 10/26/2019

***CPL WILLIAM A. O'TOOLE,** 1AMTRAC CW, BLUE BELL, PA, 1/19/2020

MRS HELEN J. SOKOLOWSKI, ASSOCIATE, BALDWINSVILLE, NY, 10/8/2015

CPL WAYNE E. SPARKS, 3-11, GLADSTONE, OR, 1/17/2021

***CPL LIONEL D. SPENCER**, K-3-1 HQ-HQ WWII CH, SAN FRANCISCO, CA, 10/18/2018

***CAPT J. W. STARR**, 5MAR WWII, SAN FRANCISCO, CA, 2/7/2013

JESSE EUGENE STROTHER, 1/8/2021

***SGT RICHARD A. SUAREZ**, I-3-7 WWII CH KO, SAN FRANCISCO, CA, 6/24/2020

SSGT JACK SUTER, B CO 1ST ENBN VN CW, REDDING, CA, 12/1/2018

SGT OLIN E. THOMPSON, H&S-1-1 KO, SAN DIEGO, CA, 11/28/2020

CPL JOHN E. TUNGATE, 4.2-7MAR KO, CINCINNATI, OH, 11/18/2020

***LTCOL THOMAS M. VETTER SR** USMCR(RET), H&S-4-11 KO, DANA POINT, CA, 1/16/2021

***CPL ALBERT F. VOLTOLINA,** AT-1MAR KO, METAIRIE, LA, 9/8/2017

***SSGT FRED H. VONHINKEN JR,** 1SIG KO, ROSCOMMON, MI, 2/17/2016

***REV. DON E. WHITE,** YUCCA VALLEY, CA, 11/8/2017

"The relation between officers and men should in no sense be that of superior and inferior nor that of master and servant, but rather that of teacher and scholar. In fact, it should partake of the nature of the relation between father and son, to the extent that officers, especially commanding officers, are responsible for the physical, mental, and moral welfare, as well as the discipline and military training of the young men under their command."

MajGen John A. Lejeune, 13th CMC 1929

Chaplain Rothman and Corporal Oehl cross paths

By Staff Writer A T. Wunz©

"This is truly a happy New Year for us," said Arthur Oehl, who refused insurance money when his son Sidney was reported killed in action.

There is no predicting whose paths Marines and Sailors will cross in their military stints or under what circumstances. That is evidenced by the brief meeting of one of the few Jewish chaplains to serve in the Korean War and the only Jewish Marine captured in the Korean War. They were both in the right place at the right time, which had a positive impact on both their lives.

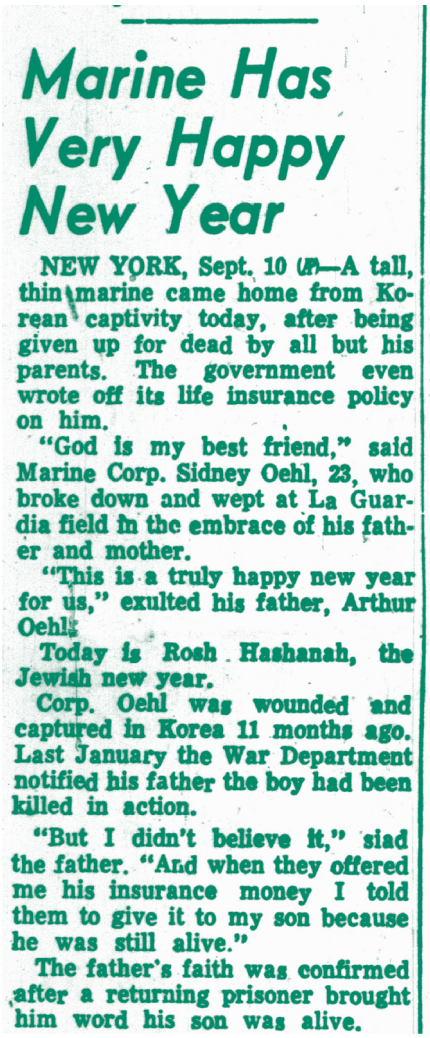
Chaplain Murray I. Rothman, Lt, (j.g.), Jewish chaplain with the First Marine Division in Korea, has been commended "for the performance of outstanding service during the recent operation 'Little Switch.' " The citation, signed by E. A. Pollock, Commanding General, First Marine Division, notes that Chaplain Rothman's efforts in providing for the religious welfare of American prisoners of war, being repatriated, "contributed to the success of this operation and were a wholesome influence upon the morale of dependents at home."

Rothman received the first Jewish POWs. He was one of seven Jewish chaplains in Korea who recognized the folks back home for their concern about POWs.

"Seven Jewish chaplains serving in Korea thanked American Jewry for the way it met "the religious, morale and recreational needs of our fighting forces" appeared in an open letter released here today by the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB).

"We Jewish chaplains assure you that the tears of the first Jewish lad to be repatriated from an enemy PW camp–and his first shy smile of thanks for a gift from the Jewish women of America–were worth all the effort and expense that have gone into the maintenance of JWB's armed forces service program," the letter said.

The chaplains–Louis Barish, Meyer Blech, Nathan Estersohn, Milton J. Goldberg, Norman T. Goldberg, Murray I. Rothman and Howard Singer–called for continued support of the JWB program



Marine Has Very Happy New Year

NEW YORK, Sept. 10 (AP)—A tall, thin marine came home from Korean captivity today, after being given up for dead by all but his parents. The government even wrote off its life insurance policy on him.

"God is my best friend," said Marine Corp. Sidney Oehl, 23, who broke down and wept at La Guardia field in the embrace of his father and mother.

"This is a truly happy new year for us," exulted his father, Arthur Oehl.

Today is Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year.

Corp. Oehl was wounded and captured in Korea 11 months ago. Last January the War Department notified his father the boy had been killed in action.

"But I didn't believe it," siad the father. "And when they offered me his insurance money I told them to give it to my son because he was still alive."

The father's faith was confirmed after a returning prisoner brought him word his son was alive.

which they said is needed "to meet the undoubtedly greater morale and spiritual needs that are bound to arise" among Jewish servicemen still in Korea.

One of the Jewish service members Rothman greeted was PFC Tibor Rubin, U.S. Army, who was the first Jewish prisoner who entered Freedom Village as the exchange began. He had been a POW for 2-1/2 years. Rubin was awarded the Medal of Honor years later—in 2005.

Rothman presented Rubin with a mezuzah (a piece of parchment called a klaf contained in a decorative case and inscribed with specific Hebrew verses from the Torah) and a prayer book written in English. Ironically, the chain for the mezuzah was provided by a Catholic chaplain. Rubin was dissatisfied with the prayer book, since he had not seen anything written in Hebrew since being captured. Rothman immediately gave Rubin a prayer book written in English and Hebrew.

There was one Marine among the first Jewish POWs to be processed through "Little Switch." He was Cpl. Sidney Oehl, of Brooklyn, NY. He had been listed at one time as killed in action. Rothman described Oehl's return.

§ § §

"It's all like a dream—all like a dream," the 22-year-old Marine kept repeating. "I will tell you," he said again and again, "I can hardly believe I'm free."

Captured last October [1952] while on duty with 4.2 mortars of the 7th Marine Regiment, he was not told by his captors that he was to be released until just before he left the Communist PW camp. Even then he had his doubts about where they were taking him. He had never heard about Freedom Village—did not even know that such a place existed—until he was brought here by the ambulance which transported him from slavery to freedom.

Deeply moved when he found a Jewish chaplain waiting to greet him with a warm and heartfelt "Sholom Aleichem," Sidney was quite overcome. These scenes, I can tell you, are quite a drain on one's emotional system. The liberated Marine didn't say very much, but his eyes went moist and his whole demeanor was one of profound gratitude.

I escorted Sidney into the Jewish chapel and using JWB tallesim (a shawl with fringes at the four corners, worn around the shoulders or over the head) by Jews during prayer. and siddurum (a Jewish prayer book for everyday use), we thanked God for his safe return. Afterwards we had a very cordial chat and at the end of it he promised to come and visit me in my home town, Pittsburgh, the first chance he gets. We are both looking forward now to that day of reunion.

§ § §

Before he could visit Pittsburgh—and there is no evidence he ever did—Oehl

simply wanted to revisit Brooklyn. He returned to his Brooklyn home on September 10, 1953, just in time to celebrate Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, with his family, relatives and friend. Over 75 people were at LaGuardia Airport in New York to greet him when he arrived. There were so many people in the welcoming group that it took ten cars to get them to and from the airport.

Sidney and his father, Arthur, his mother, Faye, and his girlfriend, Zelda Chorne, who thought Sidney was out of their lives forever, got to light the traditional candle together. The light they were sure had gone from their lives forever was shining brightly once again—even though Sidney's 47-year-old father had never believed he had been killed.

The Prudential Life Insurance Company had offered to pay Sidney's father $1,300, about $12,682.25 in present value, as beneficiary of an insurance policy after the Defense Department notified the family that the young Marine had been killed in action. Arthur Oehl refused to accept either the money or the notification. He just would not accept the fact that Sidney was dead. No wonder he told reporters after Sidney's return that "This is a truly happy New Year's for us."

Sidney found a job as a rug salesman and resumed his civilian life. But Oehl's connection with the military was not over. In February of that year he was called upon to be a witness in a Marine Corps inquiry into the conduct of Marine aviator and POW Col. Frank Schwable, who signed a statement while a POW confessing to participating in bacteriological warfare. Schwable said later his confession was signed under duress.

Oehl testified that he and his fellow prisoners laughed off the confession when they heard about it at another POW camp. He said everybody was convinced that it was simply a big lie. Besides, he said, "The Chinese thought we were all crazy." But, Oehl averred, contrary to one witness's testimony that Schwable was not in his right mind, he had seen the colonel in one camp and he appeared to be perfectly sane. (Schwable was eventually cleared of any criminal wrongdoing.)

While Schwable was being tried and Oehl was testifying on his behalf, Rothman was re-entering civilian life. After he returned to the states he was elected to serve as Rabbi of Temple Shalom in Newton, MA. The article that announced his new position also carried this piece of information: "He received the Marine Medal for courage beyond the call of duty behind enemy lines." A later edition clarified the reference to the medal as "in ministering to men behind enemy lines."

Seven years after "Little Switch," when he was the spiritual leader of Temple Shalom, Newton, Massachusetts, he was notified he could share in the Presidential Unit Citation awarded to the First Marine Aircraft Wing for service in Korea. The authorization came to Rabbi Rothman from the commandant of the First Naval District on behalf of the Navy Department in Washington. Rabbi Rothman was also awarded the Naval Commendation Medal with combat "V" and two stars.

Sidney Oehl got to enjoy a long life after his captivity. The only Jewish Marine to be captured in Korea lived to be 81 years old. He died in New York on March 4, 2012. Rothman passed away on January 28, 1999, just short of his 78th birthday. Both men, whose paths had crossed ever so briefly in Korea, had served their country and the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps well. Hopefully they have reunited as they guard the gates of Heaven together.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If anyone remembers either Cpl. Oehl or Chaplain Rothman, please share your information with the author at sharparthur@aol.com

SOURCES

The Southern Jewish Weekly, Sept. 11, 1953, p. 107

https://www.jta.org/1953/08/20/archive/seven-jewish-chaplains-in-korea-thanks-american-jewry

The Phoenix, AZ, Jewish News, May 22, 1953, p. 1

Long Beach, CA, Press-Telegram, Arp. 21, 1953, p. 6

Newark, NJ, Advocate, Sept. 14, 1953, p. 16

Atlanta Southern Israelite, 4 Dec 1953, p. 16

Lawrence, KS, Daily Journal-World, Feb, 23, 1954, p. 1

Boston Herald, Dec. 1, 1953, p. 5

Source: Boston, MA, Herald, Apr. 3, 1959, p. 20)

Sarasota, FL, Herald Tribune, Sept. 11, 1953, p. 8

Ask me what I was

This poem has apparently been around for a while, although information about its origins are sketchy. It is a great paean to Marines however.

ASK ME WHAT I WAS
I'll reply with what I've done.
Those things others would not do, I did.
Those rivers others would not swim, I swam.
Those hills others would not climb, I conquered.
Those bridges others would not cross, I crossed.
I have celebrated. I have mourned.
I have smiled and I have frowned.
I have seen death and felt its warm breath. It did not faze me.
For I was different. I was a warrior.
You ask me what I was? It was my destiny,
Until my last breath,
To be a United States Marine.
And my spirit shall live forever.
SEMPER FIDELIS
For I was, am and shall forever be a
"UNITED STATES MARINE."

Welcome Aboard!

* Life Member

New Members of the 1st Marine Division Association

NAME	UNIT	ADDRESS	PHONE	RECRUITER
New Members				
*LTCOL R L BUB SR	1ST RECON BN	11500 LEEHIGH DRIVE, FAIRFAX, VA 22030-5614	703-371-6101	
CPL PATRICK D. COKER		3392 SUNBURST DR, BULLHEAD CITY, AZ 86429	661-755-1773	
GYSGT XAVIER CORDOVA	HQ BN G-3, COMM BN	3732 FAIRMONT ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306	760-681-8132	
DR STANFORD N. GERBER	B/1/5	2525 MAIN UNIT 407, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108	312-636-5696	
MGYSGT MANUEL HERRERA	1st Tank Bn	61007 SANDALWOOD TRL, JOSHUA TREE, CA 92252	910-859-0808	
SGT RICHARD ROLLAND HOULE	H&S Co, Sup N, 3FSR	7668 KALMALII AVE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89147	702-524-1669	
1STSGT EDWARD L. LORENZO	H&S CO 3/7	1602 SCARLET OAK CT, HANOVER, MD 21076	240-319-3470	
LTCOL MARK L. MULLINIX	1/1	3965 W 83RD ST PMB 291	909-763-1046	
LCPL WILLIAM P. O'MELIA	MAG 26 - MABS 26	47814 CALLE DIAMANTE, INDIO, CA 92201	760-333-5176	Robert Fuentes
*SSGT JASON THOMAS REVELL	1 RECON, 2 BN 1MAR	CMR 480, BOX 1445 APO, AE 09128-0015	+49 160 92123225	
*1STLT M. G. PAT ROBERTSON	HQ 1MARDIV KO	977 CENTERVILLE TPKE SHB-301, VIRGINIA BCH, VA 23463		
CPL MICHAEL SEGURA	K BATT 1STBN 12 MAR	1182 FRREEDON LN 1, WINTER SPRINGS, FL 32708	407-415-1504	
LCPL BRADLEY WILLIAM SOKOLY	5/11	1765 OLD RIVER TRAIL, CHULUOTA, FL 32766	407-353-4096	
LCPL RICHARD B. TAYLOR USMC(RET)	3MAR HQ DIV	P.O. BOX 20035, BULLHEAD CITY, AZ 86439	909-732-5898	Bill Gomes
*MGYSGT ROBERT LEROY WOOD JR	DASCC	107 MAGNOLIA MILL PL, HAVELOCK, NC 28532	252-447-5175	
Renewal To Life				
*CPL EDUARDO CONTRERAS	1ST SHORE PRTY BN 7 MAR	16045 SW 2ND ST , SHERWOOD, OR 97140-9330		
*SGT E-5 PAUL GARCIA	1/1 MAR	2210 CANYON DR F-1, COSTA MESA, CA 92627		
*HM3 CHARLIE HALL	1STBN 1STMAR BRAVO VN	11130 E MARK LN, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85262		
*CAPT JOSEPH JAMES HENRY	D CO 1BN, H&S CO 1BN 5MAR	9120 58TH AVE SE, OLYMPIA, WA 98513		
*SGT DAVID J. MACKIN	D-MCB133 VN	153 S 4TH AVE, ILION, NY 13357-2015		
*SGT ROBERT J. MITCHELL	B-1-7 KO	3021 ROSEFIELD, HOUSTON, TX 77080-2609		
*SGT JOHN F. RUSSELL	HQ CO MAR CORPS BAND VN	1020 NW 87TH ST, VANCOUVER, WA 98665-6924		
*FRED R. SCHNEIDER	C CO 1ST ENG BN	3020 S WENTWORTH AVE, MILWAUKEE, WI 53207		
Reinstate				
LCPL SAL DIPAOLA	9TH MAB CW VN	33 SPRUCE ST, FARMINGDALE, NY 11735		
CPL EUGENE P. FAUGHNAN	I-3-5 VN	194 LOINES AVE, MERRICK, NY 11566-3214		
SGT KEVIN D. KELLER	A-1-11 SWA	14030 LARA TRACE, BLOOMINGTON, IL 61705		
GYSGT JOHN P. MISHIK	1MAW CW	1021 RIVER PLANTATION DR, WOODSTOCK, GA 30188-2384		
SGT ROBERT E. THARP	2-1MAR CW	1511 LUKER LN, SAPULPA, OK 74066-6048		

Reunion Calendar

NOTE: Some contributors are submitting reunion notices barely a few days or weeks before the actual gatherings. Please allow at least four months—six or more is better—if you want your reunion notices printed in more than one issue and in enough time to give potential attendees adequate notice to make plans to be there.

NOTE #2: All dates are subject to change due to Coronavirus considerations. Check with contacts listed re changes, cancellations, postponements, etc.

The Old Breed News is not responsible for the content or accuracy of reunion notices.

JUNE

Hotel 2/7, USMC Vietnam Reunion (1965-1970), June 24-27, 2021, Jacksonville, FL 32218, Crowne Plaza. Steve Cone; (843) 424-8279; scone1948@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER

USS Hornet & USS Essex Joint Reunion (CV-8, CV/CVA/CVS-12) & (CV/CVA/CVS-9, LHD-2), Sept. 13-18, San Diego, CA, Crowne Plaza San Diego - Mission Valley, 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA, 92108, (619) 297-1101. All Ship's Officers, Air Groups, Crew, Marines and Families Welcomed. **Hornet Contact**: Sandy Burket, PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, cell: (814) 312-4976, hornetcva@aol.com, Hornet website: https://usshornetassn.com/. **Essex Contact:** Tom Ferelli, 19808 N43rd Ln., Glendale, AZ 85308, cell: (602) 882-0375, tferelli@gmail.com, Essex website: https://ussessex-association.com/. *Must be a Member of Hornet or Essex to receive the room block rate*

USS Yellowstone (AD-27) Assn., Sept. 20-24, Branson, MO, Westgate Branson Woods Resort. Karen A. Bowen, 30 Briar Dr., Rochester, NH 03867, 603-948-2821, pkbowen@atlanticbb.net

OCTOBER

25th Infantry Division Assn., Oct. 3-11, Honolulu, HI. Sarah Krause, PO Box 7, Flourtown, PA 19031. Fax: 215-366-5707; TropicLtn@aol.com; website at www.25thida.org

Korean War Veterans Assoc., Oct. 25-29, Orlando, FL. The Avanti Palms Resort and Conference Center. Details to follow.

A Message from the Commandant

On behalf of all Marines and Sailors, past and present, I extend my congratulations to the 1st Marine Division on the 80th anniversary of its founding.

Members of the Blue Diamond have served with honor and distinction in every clime and place - from the steaming jungles of Guadalcanal and the frozen mountains of North Korea, to the battlefields of Vietnam and the mountains and cities of Afghanistan and Iraq. You answer every call with legendary tenacity and devotion to duty.

Since 1st Mar Div was formally established on 1 February 1941, the division has earned a distinguished place in our Corps' and our Nation's history. On this significant milestone, we recognize all who have served and continue to serve in the Blue Diamond - especially those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for Corps and country.

Happy Anniversary and Semper Fidelis!
David H. Berger, General
U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps



1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION
DONATIONS

By making your contribution by credit card, your donation can help more quickly the FMDA fundraising and administrative costs. (Note: Credit Cards can be personal or Corporate. If the donor uses a USAA card - any USAA card - the First Marine Division Association, Inc. gets a small, but helpful, rebate.

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1st Marine Division

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WORLD WAR II
1942-1945

Guadalcanal

New Britain

Peleliu

Okinawa

NORTH CHINA
1945-1949

KOREA
1950-1953

Pusan Perimeter 1950

Inchon-Seoul 1950

CCF Intervention 1950

Chosin Reservoir 1950

UN Counteroffensive 1951

CCF Spring Offensive 1951

UN Summer-Fall Offensive 1951

2nd Korean Winter 1951-1952

Korean Defense 1952

3rd Korean Winter 1952-1953

Korea Summer-Fall 1953

VIETNAM
1965-1971

Vietnam Defense 1965

Vietnam Offensives I–III 1965 to 1968

Tet Offensive 1968

Vietnam Offensives IV-VII 1969 — 1971

Tet Offensive 1969

Vietnam Summer-Spring 1969 — 1970

Sanctuary Offensive 1970

Vietnam Offensive VII 1970 — 1971

KUWAIT
1990 — 1991

SOMALIA
1992 — 1993

AFGHANISTAN
2002 —

IRAQ
2003 —