



The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

December 2018 Newsletter

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Mission Statement of Marine Corps League

Members of the Marine Corps League join in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving traditions. Promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service. Effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy. Voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Chaplains, and former Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Chaplains, and their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.



COMMANDANT'S CORNER
Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment—744
December, 2018



Christmas with Generals Charles C. Krulak and James N. Mattis

This is a true story:

A couple of months ago, when I told General Krulak, the former Commandant of the Marine Corps, now the chair of the Naval Academy Board of Visitors, that we were having General Mattis speak this evening, he said, "Let me tell you a Jim Mattis story."

General Krulak said, when he was Commandant of the Marine Corps, every year, starting about a week before Christmas, he and his wife would bake hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of Christmas cookies. They would package them in small bundles. Then on Christmas day, he would load his vehicle. At about 4 a.m., General Krulak would drive himself to every Marine guard post in the Washington-Annapolis-Baltimore area and deliver a small package of Christmas cookies to whatever Marines were pulling guard duty that day. He said that one year, he had gone down to Quantico as one of his stops to deliver Christmas cookies to the Marines on guard duty. He went to the command center and gave a package to the Lance Corporal who was on duty.

He asked, "Who's the officer of the day?" The Lance Corporal said, "Sir, it's Brigadier General Mattis."

And General Krulak said, "No, no, no. I know who General Mattis is. I mean, who's the officer of the day today, Christmas day?"

The Lance Corporal, feeling a little anxious, said, "Sir, it is Brigadier General Mattis."

General Krulak said that, about that time, he spotted in the back room a cot, or a daybed. He said, "No, Lance Corporal. Who slept in that bed last night?"

The Lance Corporal said, "Sir, it was Brigadier General Mattis."

About that time, General Krulak said that General Mattis came in, in a duty uniform with a sword, and General Krulak said, "Jim, what are you doing here on Christmas day? Why do you have duty?" General Mattis told him that the young officer who was scheduled to have duty on Christmas day had a family, and General Mattis decided it was better for the young officer to spend Christmas Day with his family, and so he chose to have duty on Christmas Day. General Krulak said, "That's the kind of officer that Jim Mattis is."

The story above was told by Dr. Albert C. Pierce, the Director of the Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics at The United States Naval Academy. He was introducing General James Mattis who gave a lecture on Ethical Challenges in Contemporary Conflict in the spring of 2006. This was taken from the transcript of that lecture.

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year

HONOR--COURAGE--COMMITMENT

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie



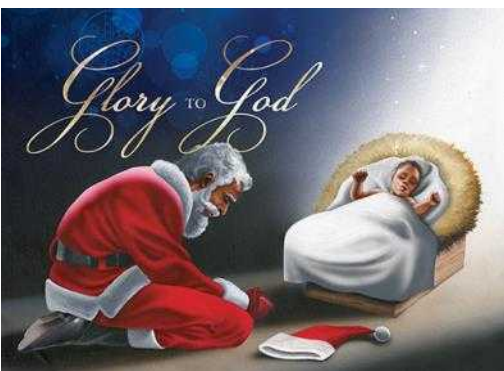
Chaplain's Page



The name *Santa Claus* is the English form of the Dutch name for St. Nicholas *Sinterklaas*. The modern Santa Claus is associated with a world of fantasy. The historical St. Nicholas was a godly man known for his charity and generosity. Nicholas born in the 3rd century to wealthy Christian parents in Patara. Nicholas and his parents could trace their spiritual heritage to the Apostle Paul, who stopped in Patara on his third missionary journey 200 years earlier. Nicholas' parents were devout believers who had long prayed for a child. When Nicholas was born, they devoted him to God. When Nicholas was a young boy, a plague struck his city, his parents died. Though a loss like this might turn some away from God, it seems to have drawn Nicholas closer. The loss of his parents also made the boy's heart tender to the suffering of others. Nicholas was left with a large inheritance, that he would use to honor God. He was chosen as Archbishop of Myra when he was in his early 20s, and indication that he must have demonstrated wisdom and maturity beyond his years. Nicholas' life was filled with kindness and generosity. After his death on December 6, a tradition of gift giving was begun in his honor. In Germany, parents encouraged their children that the Chris Child was the gift-giver. The name *Kriss Kringle* is the English form of the German name for "Christ Child." In America the name *Kriss Kringle* came to be used synonymously with St. Nicholas. St. Nick, Santa Claus and even the English name *Father Christmas*.

When it comes to Christmas, we have it all
Jesus and Santa. Shepherds and Reindeer.
Bethlehem and The North Pole too!

Les Derbyshire, Chaplain



Service Officers Report



The Holiday season is upon us, and I am sure there is OH so much that needs to be done.

We had our last Rose Event at the Super Stop and Shop in Wyckoff, and it was again a great success. I want to thank all of you that took a couple of hours out of your time to come down and work this event.

Our next Bingo is as always on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (Dec 11th at 2 PM). This one is going to be special for our Veterans that are clients of the Nursing Home.

George Vankat and Joe Piazza drove down to Pitman NJ to see Mrs. Cathy Shaw and picked up 24 blankets that the wonderful lady made for our Vets. She is now 88 years young and is already working on next years blankets. She is one in a million.

As you might imagine Joe Piazza's rehab is going very well. Knowing Joe, we expect nothing else.

Our next Detachment meeting is December 20th.

I want everyone to be careful out there, it is getting cold and snow will be upon us before we know it.

If anyone has any questions concerning this report or needs help dealing with VA issues, don't hesitate to call at me at any time.



Ed Korek

201-317-1678

Service Officer



Editor's Page



"Tarawa, South Pacific, 1943"
painting by Sergeant Tom Lovell,

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukkah, Happy Quanza Marines,

As we celebrate our respective holidays this month with each of them having special meaning, let us remember that we have Soldiers, Sailors, Air Force Personnel, Coast Guard Personnel and Marines on active duty manning their respective posts throughout the world. Pray that they are safe from harm and they will return home in the near future.

I called to mind some of the more infamous Christmas holidays during war time and while I tried to find an official message from a commanding officer or the president, however, most of what was readily available was rather lacking in substance. There was a letter from George S. Patton to the Third Army during the Battle of the Bulge. His infamous prayer for good weather for battle was printed on the back of this letter. I also read the letter from General McAuliffe to the 101st Airborne at Bastogne. I did find an article about what was one of the most amazing events in wartime. During the early part of WWI long before US involvement, Allied forces found themselves in a grueling trench warfare with their Axis foes which unlike anything that the world had seen before (or since). On December 7, 1914, Pope Benedict XV formally requested that the warring nations declare a temporary hiatus from the war to celebrate Christmas. Sadly, none of the warring nations would agree to such a truce even if only temporary. This is one time that the troops took matters into their own hands. Starting on Christmas Eve night, troops sang Christmas Carols to each other across a battle scarred no man's land in their own languages. It was reported at some points across the line that a brass band even joined in from the German side. On Christmas day, German troops popped up out and over their trenches. Allied troops at first thought that it might be ruse for an attack but the German troops were unarmed. As tensions relaxed, British and French troops joined in and met their counterparts in No Man's Land to exchange small gifts of cigarettes and plumb pudding. They joined together in singing carols and songs. There is also a documented case of opposing sides joining together to play a friendly soccer match. This self imposed truce, gave time for the unpleasant task of clearing the battlefield of the dead from both sides. Sadly, this was to be a one time event during a conflict which cost millions of lives. It was never again to be repeated as officers on both sides threatened the severest punishments for what could be described as collaborating with the enemy in time of war. This last example of chivalry in time of war serves as heartening proof that beneath the brutal clash of weapons, the soldier's essential humanity endured.

In the November Grunt I focused on a bit on the Korean War. I was remiss in not mentioning The Battle for Tarawa which took place on November 20 through November 23, 1943. The main island (Betio Island) was heavily defended by 4500 Japanese Naval Troops with combat skills and training similar to that of our Marine Corps. They also had time to build up their defenses and for the first time in the war, Marines would have to invade a contested beach landing with a difficult reef to cross. While the Japanese battle plan concentrated on defending the beach, it lacked a counter defensive system should the beach defenses be breached. The 2nd Marine Division was tasked with this important task as part of the Island Hopping Campaign to strike out at the Japanese Empire. After 76, hours only 50 to 100 of the defenders remained alive when the island was called secured. Only 1 Japanese officer and 16 enlisted ranks would surrender. 4690 defenders died defending Bloody Betio. Marine casualties totaled 3166 including 894 KIA and 84 additional wounded that succumbed to their wounds. The public outcry over the heavy casualties was intense. Future operations used lessons learned to prevent heavy casualties.

In history, on December 6, 1928, a small detail of Marines under Captain Maurice G. Holmes defeated Nicaraguan bandits near Chuyelite. GySgt Charles Williams was mortally wounded during the fighting. Capt. Holmes was later awarded the Navy Cross for gallantry, and a posthumous award was given to GySgt Williams.



Marines during the Sandino Rebellion



National Museum of the Marine Corps

Also, on December 11, 1941, the Japanese made their first attempt at invading Wake Island. The heroic defenders of Wake Island, Led by Navy Commander Winfield Cunningham, successfully repelled the initial assault. Major James Devereaux, commander of Marine 1st Defense Battalion, ordered his 6" Naval Batteries to hold fire until the assault ships were in range. Once the open fire command was given, the destroyer Hayate took 2 direct hits to her magazines at 4000 yards from Battery L on Peale Islet. The resulting explosion broke her in half and she went down with all hands except 1 survivor. Battery A claimed to have registered hits on the light cruiser Yubari, but her after action reports contained no reports of any damage. 4 Wildcats of VMF-211 took to the air and successfully dropped a bomb on the stern of the destroyer Kisaragi which exploded where her depth charges were stored. The resulting explosion sank the Kisaragi with all hands. The Hayate was the first Japanese surface combatant to be sunk in WWII. The second landing attempt began on December 23, 1941 and the invasion force was re-enforced by 2 aircraft carriers and 1500 Japanese Marines. The understrength Marines of the 1st Defense Battalion put up a strong defense. Former destroyers Patrol Boats 32 and 33 were beached and burned during the Japanese landing attempts. After continuous fighting through out the day and night and into the morning of December 24th, Commander Cunningham and Major Devereaux realizing that they were running out of ammunition and facing an overwhelming force with no hope of relief, decided to surrender at midday on December 24th.

Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Editor



Quartermaster's Report

At the December Breakfast, the Ship's Store (Or the Marine Corps League Store) will be located in the far left corner just after the Emergency Exit. The stage area will be occupied by a special visitor and the Christmas Tree.

I hope to have some more goodies in stock by then. Also, I have 2 additional orders for our "Red Satin Detachment Jackets". I would like to give her at least 4 orders so we need to get at least 2 more orders. If you are interested in getting a jacket, please contact me as soon as possible.

Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster

3rd Saturday Breakfast Ship's Store



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Calendar of Events

November 2018

- 12/08/2018: Holiday Stroll and Parade--Color Guard will lead the parade--Pompton Lakes
- 12/11/2018 Bingo--Paramus Veteran's Home--1400
- 12/11/2018 Executive Board Meeting 1900
- 12/15/2018 3rd Saturday Breakfast 0800-1200
- 12/20/2018 **Detachment meeting--1900 (Please note the date change)**
- 12/21/2018 Eagle Scout Court of Honor--Max Sayre--Livingston Community Center,
204 Hillside Avenue, Livingston--1830



Honoring the 1st Marine Division at the Chosin Reservoir in December 1950 and the 2nd Marine Division at the Battle of Tarawa (Bloody Betio) the end of November 1943.



SEMPER PARATI MARINES.



Marines of LakeLand Detachment 744 Make a Difference

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744 through the efforts Marines Ed Korek and Peter Alvarez, coordinated with Wyckoff Stop and Shop to give out 150 turkeys for Thanksgiving to Veterans Charities. The charities that received these turkeys were The Vets Centers in Secaucus and Bloomfield, and “Tracers” of Bergen County.

The following was posted on the Bergen County Tracers Facebook Page:

“Thank you to the Wyckoff Stop and Shop and Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744 for their generous donation of 75 turkeys for our TRACERS program. Our veterans in need can now look forward to a Happy Thanksgiving! Thank you to everyone who supported from Bergen County Veterans Services. “



Marines, while detachment funds were not used for this awesome donation from Stop & Shop, Marines Ed Korek and Peter Alvarez put a lot of behind the scenes work and effort to coordinate this event and make it a reality. However, events such as this are why we work so hard to raise funds. If we reduce the fund-raising efforts by lack of participation by the detachment, our ability to make a difference for veterans in need diminishes greatly. Our last Rose Event at Stop and Shop did very well but it's not enough. We need to do it better. Lets look forward to an even better 2019. Remember, many hands lighten the work load. Editor





IMPORTANT NOTICE!
MEETING DATE CHANGE

Please be advised that the Detachment Meeting original scheduled for Dec 27th, (the 4th Thursday) has been rescheduled for Thursday December 20th at 1930.

See you there.



Mariner Corps League
Lakeland Detachment 744
Important Dates for 2018
Executive Board Meetings

7 PM 2nd Tuesday of the month

Tuesday February 13th, March 13th, April 10th, May 8th, June 12, July 10th, August 14th,
September 11th (subject to change), October 9th, November 13th & December 11th

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Breakfast Dates

3rd Saturday of every month

0800 to 1200 Hours

**February 17th, March 17th, April 21st,
May 19th, June 16th, July 21st, August 18th,**

September 15th, October 20, November 17th & December 15th

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Regular Monthly Meeting

1930 Hours (except for Oct Meeting which is at 1900 hours for installation of officers)

4th Thursday of the month (Except November)

February 22nd, March 22nd, April 26th, May 24th, June 28th, July 26th, August 23rd,
September 27th, October 25th, November 15th & December 20th (**REVISED**)

Please mark your calendars accordingly!



Desert Storm by Jake Hayes



Marine Hornet Flyover Kuwait



Desert Storm First Offensive Ground Attack



Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment #744

Invites you to our Third Saturday Monthly Breakfast

At The American Legion Hall

65 Oak Street, Oakland, NJ 07436

SATURDAY December 15th 8AM-12 NOON

Come have an Outstanding Breakfast and a Good Time

Enjoy Fresh Eggs Made to Order

Eggs Benedict

Omelets; Scrambled Eggs & Sausage Gravy

Pancakes; French Toast & Waffles

Bacon; Sausage; SOS & Corned Beef Hash

Home Fries & Biscuits

Donuts; Bagels & English Muffins

Coffee; Orange Juice & Pastries

December Special: Carving Station with Prime Rib

Adults \$12.00, Seniors \$10.00 & children under 5 free

Bring your family and friends

Most Important Support Lakeland Detachment #744

Be sure to visit our Marine Corps League Store in the back Left Corner.

How to Help Veterans During the Holidays

From Purple Heart Magazine November/ December 2018

I read through a lot of sources in the course of search for material and every now and then something presents itself that I feel needs to be put out there. Please feel free to pass on this article.

Over the Holiday, there are various ways to help our veterans through what may be challenging times, and to assist those veterans who may not have family to be with. You can help veterans who serve, honor and protect by volunteering your time, donating items or simply by making a cash contribution to a worthy cause.

Here are some ways you can reach out and make a difference in the life of a veteran this holiday season:

- Call a local USO branch or area Armed Services Recruiter. They may have a local donation list available.
- Help a specific group of veterans, such as homeless veterans or veterans in need of employment.
- Contact a local Veterans Association residential home or hospital. Often times there are older veterans who are either hospitalized or in residence, without family or friends around to keep them company during the holidays. Most of these centers plan fundraisers where you can further help. Contact them and check how you can best provide your service and time.
- Reach out to local military hospitals where disable vets are in recovery. Typically there are predetermined donation lists consisting of typical things that service members may need to aid in their recovery such as blankets, gloves, DVDs, cookies and home baked goods, socks and much more.
- Knit a veteran a lap blanket or a quilt for use at a convalescent home.
- Donate your used car.

Ways to Help a Veteran

- Give monetarily
- Planned giving—wills, trusts, charitable gift annuities
- Organize a fundraiser (you can do this online through Facebook)
- Volunteer
- Donate the following:
 - . Airline/ hotel and credit card points/miles
 - . Entertainment tickets
 - . Bonds or stocks
 - . Furniture
 - . Car
 - . Household items
 - . Clothing
 - . Toys
- Volunteer with Wreaths Across America. Each December they coordinate wreath laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, in locations nationwide at sea and abroad. If you are unable to participate, you can donate to help buy wreaths.



Christmas Programs For Military Families In Need

Military budgets, which are often already stretched to their limits, do not contain a lot of money for buying Christmas presents. However, military families are also some of the most deserving people during the holiday season. To help thank military families for their sacrifices made year-round, many organizations offer programs to make Christmas possible for deserving military families, especially those with children who deserve to have a joy-filled Christmas. Here are some programs and options available to military families in need and how people can assist:

Pay Away The Lay Away: Military Benefits is proud to have partnered with Pay Away the Layaway to support military families by paying off their layaway balances at the Exchanges and retail stores. Pay Away Layaway is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit all volunteer organization, which means most of the money goes directly to military families.

Adopt-a-Family for the Holidays: Numerous organizations offer adopt-a-family programs. Military families who can show proof of need submit their wish lists to the organization and donors adopt the families by purchasing items from their wish list for Christmas. Because of the popularity of adopt-a-family programs, you must fill out an application months before Christmas in order to get on the list. Pay attention to deadlines and get your application in as soon as the window opens, because spaces fill up fast.

Full Circle Home: Full Circle Home gives deployed servicemen a chance to send a gift box to their wives back home. Gift boxes contain pampering items, such as lotions, bubble baths and spa sponges. They also feature a handwritten note from the serviceman.

Military Installation Support: The family centers at military installations offer assistance in many forms during the holidays, including programs such as Santa's Shop, in which donations are taken for military families in need. Contact the local installation for how you can help. For assistance, reach out to the Family Readiness Group, Chaplain or MWR.

Operation Christmas Spirit: Operation Christmas Spirit supports local military families in the form of holiday gratitude by: "Adopting" over 100 families and fulfilling their Christmas wish lists with gifts for all family members and gift cards to do their own shopping; Sponsor gifts and crafts at unit holiday parties; "Adopt" single Marines and sailors, giving them gifts and gift cards to celebrate whether near or far from their families.

Operation Holiday Joy: Donate to Operation Holiday Joy. One hundred percent of your donation goes to food and toys for this holiday season and you can designate your donation to a specific program.

Operation Homefront: Operation Homefront offers many programs for military families throughout the year and Christmas is no exception. The organization partners with Dollar Tree to provide toys for military children. To receive a gift, you must register for your local Operation Homefront Toy Distribution. If your family lacks the funds for a holiday meal, you can also attend one of the organization's holiday meal events and receive all of the fixings for the perfect Christmas dinner.

Red Cross: The Red Cross provides many military families services including but not limited to financial assistance and deployment services.

Spirit of Sharing: The Adopt-A-Military Family program provides commissary cards. Gifts, toys, and much more to military families in need.

Soldiers' Angels: Soldiers' Angels sponsors Operation Outreach Holiday Support. Lower enlisted families can sign up to receive a \$50—\$100 gift card to help pay for holiday meals and gifts for children 15 and under. Families must sign up for the program by December 15 and are matched with donors from around the United States.

Toys for Tots: The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program collects new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year and distributes these toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. The program is for all children, including military kids.

Veterans Service Organizations: Many Veterans Service Organizations provide a wide variety of holiday support to service members, veterans, and their families. Program benefits often include meals, food, gift cards, and adopt-a-family or adopt-a-veteran programs.

USO: Local USO offices provide a variety of holiday assistance programs including holiday dinners, events with Santa, toy and food drives and much more. Contact a local USO office.

Wreaths Across America: Donate to Wreaths Across America which coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies on a specified Saturday in December at Arlington as well as other veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. They organize a week of events including international veterans tributes, ceremonies at state houses and a week long "Veteran's Parade" between Maine and Virginia.

Additional Ways to Support the Military This Holiday Season:

Care packages, Holiday Cards and Letters, thanking our veterans and military families are all ways we can provide additional support.

The following is not part of the above article but is pertinent information:

While filling your Christmas Cards this year, take one card and send it to the following address:

A Recovering American Soldier
C/O Walter Reed Army Medical Center
8901 Wisconsin Ave
Bethesda, MD 20889

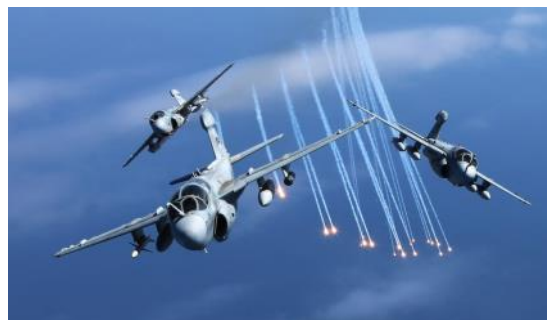
Important: It must be addressed as above. Cards or packages addressed differently will not be delivered.

While reading through the Marine Times issue from November 19th, I was saddened to read an article about the final deployment of the last EA6B Squadron VAMQ2. When the squadron returned from it's last deployment to the US Central Command area of operations in support of current operations in battling ISIS in Iraq and Syria, it will begin the de-activation process which is scheduled to be finalized sometime in March of 2019. The historic EA-6B Prowler electronic warfare platform is also being retired. After nearly 50 years of service conducting enemy communication jamming and other electronic warfare missions, this venerable but aging aircraft is being retired.

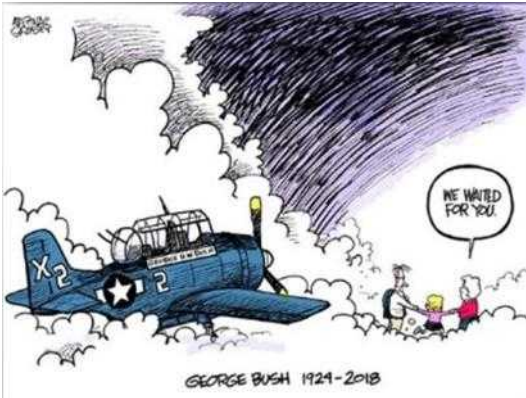
During my enlistment, I worked with many aircraft in the Marine Corps inventory. The aircraft I worked with include the following: CH53, CH46, Huey, Cobra, AV8 Harrier, A6 Intruder C130 and the EA-6B Prowler.

The Prowler was one of my favorite aircraft. I don't know if anyone remembers but at some point in the early 1980s, North Korea attempted to shoot down an SR71 Blackbird with one of the latest SAMs. The same missed by about twenty mile or so because the SR71 was broadcasting an electronic image of itself as one of its few defensive measures. The Prowler had much high capabilities. In 1979, while operating out of MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, 4 EA-6B Prowlers were testing a recently upgraded radar installation that was tied into the base defenses. In the blink of an eye, the 4 aircraft produced over 300 electronic images that appeared on the radar screen. The radar technicians and computers were unable to sort out which images where the actual aircraft. If it had been an actual attack, all of the attacking aircraft would have penetrated the based defenses.

One of the primary missions of the Prowler was SAM suppression. It would jam the SAM radars and direct supporting bombers as to the location of the SAM Site or at very least the SAM Operators Site. VAMQ2 was also one of my favorite squadrons. The mechanics knew their stuff and I rarely had to call when I was trying to identify a part. I was one of the guys that would get a parts order from the Squadron maintenance office and have to figure out what the actual part number was and cross it to the National Stock Number so we could deliver it and keep the aircraft operational and mission capable. The Prowler will be replaced by the EA-18G Growler. Of the aircraft I worked with, only the C130, the Cobra and the Harrier are still in operational Marine Corps inventory. With Osprey becoming fully operational, I fear that the CH53 will also be retired soon.



Tribute to a President

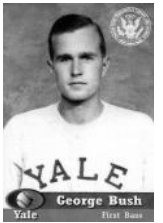


On November 30th, President George H.W. Bush, our 41st President passed away. His life was a life of service both to his family and to our nation. Bush enlisted in the U.S. Navy on his 18th birthday, June 12, 1942, as a Seaman 2nd Class. He was commissioned an ensign and a pilot. He served aboard the USS San Jacinto flying Grumman Avenger bombers with the 3rd and 5th Fleets. On September 2, 1944, Bush was assigned to take out a radio station located in the Bonin Islands. In the course of the action, Bush's plane was hit with enemy fire. Though the plane was

on fire, he completed his strafing run on the targeted Japanese installation before flying towards sea to bail out offshore from Chichi Jima, a Japanese-held island near the more well-known Iwo Jima. He was rescued by a Navy submarine, the USS Finback. A genuine hero, Bush was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals. He was discharged in



September 1945 with the rank of Lieutenant JG. Bush next turned his energies toward completing his education and raising a family. In January 1945 he married Barbara Pierce. They had six children--George, Robin (who died as a child), John (known as Jeb), Neil, Marvin, and Dorothy.



After his graduation, George and Barbara Bush moved to Texas, where he worked as an oil field supply salesman for Dresser Industries. In 1951, he co-founded a small royalty firm, The Bush-Overbey Oil Development Company. Two years later he co-founded the Zapata Petroleum Corporation. In 1954, at the age of 30, he became co-founder and president of a third firm, Zapata Off-Shore. Zapata pioneered experimental offshore drilling equipment.

Following an unsuccessful bid for a Senate seat in 1964, Mr. Bush was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1966 from Texas' 7th District. He was reelected to the House two years later without opposition. Mr. Bush lost a second campaign for the Senate in 1970. In 1980 Bush campaigned for the Republican nomination for President. He lost, but was chosen as a running mate by Ronald Reagan. As Vice President, Bush had responsibility in several domestic areas, including Federal deregulation and anti-drug programs, and visited scores of foreign countries. In 1988 Bush won the Republican nomination for President and, with Senator Dan Quayle of Indiana as his running mate, he defeated Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis in the general election. He was defeated by President Clinton in 1992. After a week filled with a national displays of mourning, President Bush was laid to rest at the President George H. W. Bush Library next to his beloved wife Barbara and their daughter Robin. President George H. W. Bush was remembered as a loving father and a devoted husband as well a patriot who saw the needs of these United States rather than the lines of Democrat verses Republican.



After being rescued he was always looking to justify his life in the eyes of the almighty by looking for ways to serve the country he loved and fought for. Perhaps one of the most touching tributes was when Senator Bob Dole was assisted out of his wheel chair to salute his friend and fellow Navy Veteran as he lay in state.

Ed Korek w/ Bob Dole

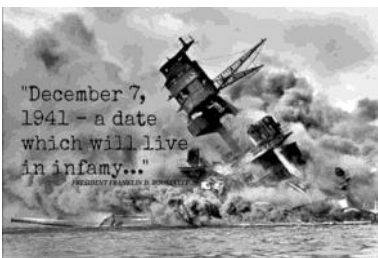
Rest in peace, Mr. President.



Remembering Pearl Harbor

On December 7th, we also remember the “date which will forever live in infamy”. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese government successfully staged a surprise attack on the American Naval Base at Pearl Harbor. While the armed forces of the United States were surprised by the attack, the degree of success was rather limited as the primary targets, our Aircraft Carriers and their supporting vessels were all out to sea.

The attack commenced at 7:48 AM Hawaiian Time. The base was attacked by 353 Imperial Japanese aircraft (including fighters, high level and dive bombers, and torpedo bombers) in two waves, launched from six aircraft carriers.[17] All eight U.S. Navy battleships were damaged, with four sunk. All but the USS Arizona were later raised, and six were returned to service and went on to fight in the war. The Japanese also sank or damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, an anti-aircraft training ship and one minelayer. One hundred eighty-eight U.S. aircraft were destroyed; 2,403 Americans were killed and 1,178 others were wounded.[19] Important base installations such as the power station, dry dock, shipyard, maintenance, and fuel and torpedo storage facilities, as well as the submarine piers and headquarters building (also home of the intelligence section), were not attacked. Japanese losses were light: 29 aircraft and five midget submarines lost, and 64 servicemen killed. One Japanese sailor, Kazuo Sakamaki, was captured.



Military Humor

It was a dark, stormy, night. The Marine Private was on his first assignment, and it was guard duty. A General stepped out taking his dog for a walk. The nervous young Private snapped to attention, made a perfect salute, and snapped out "Sir, Good Evening, Sir!"

The General, out for some relaxation, returned the salute and said "Good evening Marine, nice night, isn't it?"

Well it wasn't a nice night, but the Private wasn't going to disagree with the General, so the he saluted again and replied "Sir, Yes Sir!"

The General continued, "You know there's something about a stormy night that I find soothing, it's really relaxing. Don't you agree?"

The Private didn't agree, but them the Private was just a Private, and responded "Sir, Yes Sir!"

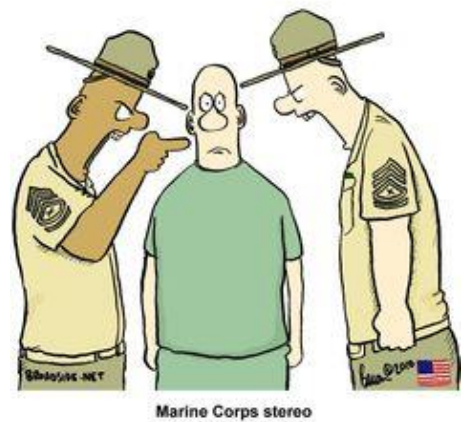
The General, pointing at the dog, "This is a Golden Retriever, the best type of dog to train."

The Private glanced at the dog, saluted yet again and said "Sir, Yes Sir!"

The General continued "I got this dog for my wife."

The Private simply said "Good trade Sir!"

At one Army base, the annual trip to the rifle range had been canceled for the second year in a row, but the semi-annual physical fitness test was still on as planned. One soldier mused, "Does it bother anyone else that the Army doesn't seem to care how well we can shoot, but they are extremely interested in how fast we can run?"





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- The call center's Veterans provide information and referrals as needed.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Important Numbers and Websites

	Phone Number
Health Care Benefits:	1-877-222-8388
Bereavement Counseling	1-202-461-6530
Children of Women Vietnam Veterans	1877-345-8179 (or) 1-888-820-1756
Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA)	1-800-733-8387
Dept Management Center (Collection of Non-Medical Depts)	1-800-857-0648
Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Call Center for Homeless Veterans	1-877-424-3838
Psychological Health Outreach Program Fort Devens, MA MFR-PHOP .North	east@serco-na.com
eBenefits (General Questions & Technical Issues)	1-800-983-0937
Education (GI Bill)	1-888-442-4551
Federal Recovery Coordination Program	1-877-732-4456
Foreign Medical Program	1-888-820-1756
Gulf War Veterans Hotline	1-800-749-8387
Homeless Veterans	1-877-222-8387
Income Verification and Means Testing	1-800-929-8387
Life Insurance	1-800-669-8477
Meds by Mail	1-888-385-0235 (or) 1-866-229-7389
National Call Center for Homeless Veterans	1-877-424-3838
National Cemetery Scheduling Office	1-800-535-1117
National Personnel Records Center	1-314-801-0800
National Resource Directory	https://www.nrd.gov/
Pension Management Center	1-877-294-6380
Presidential Memorial Certificate Program	1-202-565-4964
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned or Veteran-Owned Small Business	1-202-303-3260
Special Health Issues	1-800-749-8387
Spina Bifida/Children of Women Vietnam Veterans	1-888-820-1756
Status of Headstones and Markers	1-800-697-6947
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)	1-800-829-4833
VA Caregiver Support Line	1-855-260-3274
VA for Vets	1-855-824-8387
VA Inspector General	1-800-488-8244
VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs	1-202-461-7600
Veteran's ID Theft Hotline	1-800-333-4636
Veteran's Employment and Training Service (VETS)	1-866-487-2365
Women Veterans	1-202-461-1070
Wounded Warrior Resource Center	1-800-342-9647

Veteran's Information

Ed Korek

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Veteran's Service Officer

201-317-1678

Veterans Administration

Department of Veteran's Affairs

20 Washington Place

Newark, NJ 07102-3174

800-827-1000

Veterans Campus Lyons

151 Knollcroft Rd

Lyons, NJ 07939

908-647-0180 (Phone)

908-647-3452 (Fax)

Veterans Service Officer

Vietnam Veterans of America

Margaret Wojciechowicz

973-297-3227

Passaic Veterans Service Officers

930 Riverview Dr Suite 200

Totowa, NJ 07512

John Harris / Richard Mannes

973-569-4090

Bergen Division of Veterans Services

One Bergen County Plaza , 2nd Floor

Hackensack, NJ 07601

Richard Paul, Director

201-336-6325, 26, 28, 29 & 7406

Marine Corps League Information

Marine Corps League

National Web Site:

<http://www.mcnational.org>

Marine Corps League

Department of New Jersey

Web Site:

<http://njmcl.org>

Lakeland Detachment 744 Web Site:

<http://www.usmcl744.org>

Lakeland Detachment 744 Face Book Page:

[http://www.facebook.com/pages/](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Corps-League-Lakeland-Detachment-744/165447603504657)

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