

THE PROUD WARRIOR



WORLD WAR II * VIETNAM * GULF WAR * SOMALIA * PEACE TIME

National Newsletter of the 1/9 Network, Inc.

WINTER 2004-2005 MARCH 2005



Col. John F. Mitchell, CO 1/9, October 1967 Con Thien

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is HERE. Thank you, thank you, and thank you. It's been a long cold winter here in New England. I haven't seen my lawn in 3 1/2 months; just a snowy driveway I've had to plow just about every week. Now that spring is here, it's Reunion and Rally time.

First one up is the Onifrey Beach Reunion held at Camp Pendleton April 1-3. This reunion has had a great turn out of 1/9er's in the past and this years promise's to be just as great, if not bigger and better. I know many of you are looking forward to Gunny Burns cooking his SOS. Tents, Motor Homes, and rental bungalows are available. Contact Past President Phil Sutherland at cpmsuth@gte.net, or South/West Membership Coordinator Doc Stubbs at: 2stubbs1@cox.net for more info.

The National Veterans Reunion in Melbourne FL will take place April 21-24; I know many of you will go to that one. Have a great time and I hope I'll get to see you there. Also, back by popular demand will be our Paris Island Rally. Col. Radcliffe and Southeast Regional Coordinator, Rob Fabian, are taking point. The scheduled dates are May 12-15. We won't have the Royal Frogmore to go to, but their looking for the best deals they can get. If you haven't been back there since boot camp, you really should try to make this one. It's always a great.

Roger Liggon tells me that the people in Branson have been great and are excited about having us there. He and Frank will go out there in April and do a little RECON.

By-law changes have been submitted and printed to go out to the Board of Directors for their recommendations and legalities. When that process is completed, the change recommendations will be printed up and sent to you all for your vote. The Board signatures are all in, except one, and I will take care of that this week. Next, they'll go to Virginia to update our records; then we'll file with the IRS.

There seems to be some question as to where to send your voluntary donation. Make your check payable to: 1st Battalion 9th Marines Network, INC. and send it to: 1st Battalion 9th Marines Network, INC., 66 Clinton St., Meriden CT 06450

I have talked to member Russ Lawler, who owns a Marine Store in New Haven Connecticut. He will have a 1/9 merchandise page on his web site and you'll be able to purchase 1/9 merchandise with a credit card and have it shipped to your house. His web address is: www.usmarinegear.com.

I've also been in contact with James P. Coan, who was a tank Platoon Leader in Vietnam and was with Alpha Company 3rd Tanks. He has written a book called Con Thien, The Hills of Angels. In his book, he gives a highly researched history of Con Thien and the battles on and around it. This book is well written and very informative, with many references to those of us who fought there. I enjoyed reading every page and seeing many of your names on its pages. I recommend that you look for this book and take the time to read it. All in all we're in pretty good shape and the Network is growing. It seems we get new members every couple of weeks. I've found the more you talk to people about the Network, the more people say they knew someone in 1/9. We search them out and sign them up.

Well Marines, time to make sure the M-16 is cleaned, socks are dry, water in the canteens and the ham and mothers are packed. Put on the steel pot and go looking for lost brothers. You can reach me at Deltabill@aol.com or my home phone at (203) 238-1949. You can always drop me a line at National Headquarters address.

Till this patrol returns,
Semper Fi is Forever,
Bill



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The group in the picture is the 3rd Platoon of Bravo Company at Fire Support Base Cates in January of 1969. The Marine on the far left is Sgt. Hugh Holden, my Platoon Sgt. I'm on the far right. We were gathered for an award ceremony. Lance Corporal Anastacio Baca, seated in the center, was presented his Purple Heart by our Company Commander, Captain George Meerdink, just moments before the picture was taken. A number of Network members are in this photograph including Corpsmen Willard Fowler and Charlie Evans, machine gunners Karl Pfeil and Mac McKenzie, riflemen John Forlivio and Gary Reece. (If I missed naming you and you are in the picture please let me know.)

The reason I started out with this picture for my column this time around is because of how we came to accept each other and rely upon each other and trust our lives in each other's hands OR NOT! Everyone was not an automatic member of the 3rd Platoon of Bravo Company, while I was its Platoon Commander in the early months of 1969. I had a system I used to help me evaluate who was a part of that group. As a Christian today, I still use that system to determine who I spend my time with. I don't use it to judge, that is God's job, but I do have to decide what I do with my time and who I spend it with.

First, let me tell you some things that didn't matter to me in the 3rd Platoon. Number one was a Marine's civilian past. I had one Marine who was a renowned car thief on Long Island before he was invited by a judge to choose jail time or Corps time. I won't mention his name here, but I will tell you no one ever asked to be removed from a patrol, LP, OP or any other combat activity with this Marine,

because of his past. I also didn't give one little tiny bit of anything for what race any of my Marines were or where they came from. My gun squad leader, Cpl. Franklin was black; my guide Cpl. Sanchez was Mexican American. I had Marines who were hillbillies and Marines who were tough guys from Philly and New York City. There were Marines from New England and California and just about everywhere in between. Finally, I didn't care what my Marines wanted to be when they got out of the Corps. Sgt. Holden retired a few years ago as Fire Chief in Mountain View, California. John Forlivio became a police Lt. in Hartford, Connecticut. Karl Pfeil became a manager at Raytheon Corporation in the Boston area. I'm proud of all of their successes after the Corps, but truthfully at the time I didn't care what they wanted to be when they grew up. I was more concerned with their contribution to all of us and having the chance to grow up.

And that is the point of this whole column this month. We spend so much time in our lives judging where others have been, what they have done, and poking holes in what they want to be, that we never have a chance to see who they are right now. We seldom give others the chance to show us, not tell us, who they are. Because of this, we miss so many chances to fulfill God's Plan for our lives.

You know, when I looked at a Marine in my platoon I wanted to know two things about him. Is he competent to do the job he is assigned, and if not, does he have the potential to become competent?

When I got to Vietnam, I had been in the Marine Corps for a couple of years. I had experienced Boot Camp at Parris Island, ITR at Camp LeJeune, OCS and the Officer's Basic School at Quantico. I had a lot of training, but I had a lot more "Potential" than I had "Competency." Fortunately, maybe it was my enlisted time, I recognized that and I developed for myself an on the job competency program. Sgt. Holden was the only member of the platoon to know about the program because I appointed him teacher. The speech went kind of like this, "Sgt. Holden since this is your second tour in Vietnam and you are still alive and seem to have all of your limbs and digits, I am going to rely heavily on you in these first few months. I'd like your input on all aspects of our activities. Bottom line I will make the final decision but it is going to take both of us to get the job done and to bring as many of these Marines home alive as we can."

Now, if I was willing to give myself a break and keep me as Platoon Commander didn't I need to give each of my Marines the same opportunity? The answer is yes and this is where he parallels begin to show up in our lives today. How can we continue to live our lives as imperfectly as we do and still hold those around us to a different set of rules?

Please don't misunderstand; I fired a Platoon Sgt. Before I got Sgt. Holden assigned to me. I also sent several Marines to the brig and one or two off to places where the toys they were allowed to play with didn't blow up and hurt

people. But, never did I do that without evaluating their competency and potential.

In my life today, I spend time with a diverse group of people, people of all races, beliefs, and income levels. I spend time with people who are young and people who are old, healthy and sick, wealthy and poor. I write to a group of men who are serving time in prison and I spend time with a man who is the pastor of the church he and I founded here in southern Arizona. The questions are still the same are they competent and do they have potential? I still don't care about the same things I didn't care about in 1969 but now instead of trying to "Do the job and bring my Marines home alive," my goal is to do the job and bring folks the Good News so that they might have everlasting life. I fall short every day but, I still think I have potential and over the years I've become fairly competent in a few areas of my life. After all, even though our bond is our common past it isn't where we've been it's where we are going.

Thanks for listening and Semper Fi.

Sky Six Out.

Semper Fidelis and May God Bless You in All You Do.

Blaine

E-mail: magblaine@msn.com

FROM THE EDITOR

It may be Spring, but it is still cold up here in the North. It's been a long three months since the last newsletter. Lots of events coming up in 2005. Everyone in these parts is ready for some warm weather. I for one am looking forward to the warm weather and camaraderie of the Parris Island Reunion in May.

Semper Fi!
Dana out!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

— Ronald Reagan

SICK CALL

From Bill Hesse: I received the dues from Bertil Olsen (B Co RVN) along with a note telling me that he was diagnosed with lung cancer and that he was not going to let it beat him. After a few weeks, I gave him a call to check on his progress. He said that he was hanging in there and still fighting. The Agent Orange related cancer had spread to his throat. He has received his 100% from the VA. Also, he regretted to inform me that on 12/6 he also lost his wife to cancer.

Doc Olsen has 5 grandchildren and lives in Rhode Island. He's one of our first members with a membership number of #O28. He would love to hear from anyone who remembers him.

I contacted the North East coordinator, Frenchy, and told him to contact Bertil and keep us informed on his condition. You can contact Bertie at 13 Sowams Dr., Bristol, RI 02809-4230; Phone 401-253-4823.

Howard Fix (A Co WWII) has been feeling under the weather and would like to hear from all. You can contact him at 5847 Pleasant Ridge Rd, Harrisonville, PA 17228

Joe Donnelly (H&S RVN) was in the hospital in early March and is recovering, but slowly. Send him cards, letters or email, **no phone calls please**. You can write him at 2509 Fripp St, Beaufort SC 29902.

Casey Piatt (D Co RVN) is recovering from surgery to remove cancer from his neck. Casey needs to hear from everyone to help him through his recovery. You can contact him at; Casey Piatt, 134 Bridle St, Youngsville NC 27596..

Vince Petrella (C Co. WWII) had triple by-pass surgery in early March. He's at home and recovering you can send Vince cards at 3328 Elmstone Ct., Mansfield OH 44903.

1/9 NETWORK SOUTH/CENTRAL REGION

Mini-Reunion Announcement

Where: *San Antonio, Texas*

When: *June 2005* (exact day(s) yet to be determined)

All Hands - Listen Up:

Plans are underway for a South/Central Regional Mini-Reunion for 1/9 Network, Inc. The South/Central Region includes *Arkansas; Colorado; Kansas; Louisiana; Missouri; New Mexico; Oklahoma* and *Texas*.

Regional Coordinator Dennis "Top" Lee will announce more particulars upon completion of scouting the area for the best location to set up base camp. Hotels can be expensive if located in the main tourist areas, so we have some volunteers scoping it out for us and will release our selection at a later date.

No formalities, just a weekend of fun and camaraderie spending time with each other, swapping sea-stories and outright funny lies. We might even give out a prize or two for the best funny story or military joke.

Depending on attendee interest we may plan a casual group trip to the Alamo or some other point of interest. Again, this depends upon general interest. If we all want to just bunker down and shoot the shit, then that's the plan.

For you chowhounds, we will plan on pitching shelter-halves within distance of a suitable eating establishment. Nobody wants to be around a hungry Marine who needs something to feed his face. Be sure to bring sufficient funds as there will be no free eats provided. Perhaps we can go together to a restaurant of choice, but it will be dutch-treat.

In the meantime, we would like to hear back from you if you plan to attend and share some time with your fellow 1/9'ers in the Central/South Region. Then we can better estimate how many rooms to reserve, etc.

Primary Point of contact: **Dennis Lee, Regional Coordinator:** email topleeUSMC@msn.com

Secondary Point of contact:

John Freeman: jjftiger3@aol.com

Feedback on your plans to attend, preference of a site seeing or shopping trip (or not), etc. is invited and will greatly assist in planning for an enjoyable get together.

SEMPER FI,

Dennis "Top" Lee, Central/South Regional Coordinator
1st Bn 9th Marines Network, Inc.

CENTRAL NORTH REUNION AUGUST 2005

From Chuck Olson

Just cause you know I'm such a sweet and loveable ##@#@, I'm trying to set up a mini reunion in the central/north region and see who all I can piss off; Tracer's wife is willing to help. Let me know when I have to have details in for the newsletter, am looking at the dates of Aug. 11th thru the 13th.

Look for more details in the June newsletter – Editor

CHARLIE CO WWII REUNION

It's the last organized reunion for our World War II brothers. Charlie Company will have their reunion at the Holiday Inn in Canton Ohio on October 6, 7 and 8, 2005. Write Vince Petrella for information at 3328 Elmstone Ct., Mansfield OH 44903

USMC 40 YEARS AGO, MARCH 1965

March 8, 1965-The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) commanded by Brigadier General Frederick J. Karch, landed at Da Nang, RVN. The 9th MEB included two Marine Battalion Landing Teams (BLTs) - Third Battalion Ninth Marines (3/9) (Lieutenant Colonel Charles E. McPartlin, Jr.) which landed over Red Beach 2, and First Battalion Third Marines (1/3) (Lieutenant Colonel Herbert J. Bain) which arrived by air from Okinawa. The 9th MEB mission was to defend the Da Nang Airbase. This was the first U.S. ground combat unit to land in RVN. As always, the Marine Corps was the first service branch to make their presence known.

March 9, 1965-The Marine Unit, Vietnam was placed under operational control of the 9th MEB and designated Marine Aircraft Group-16, commanded by Colonel John H. King, Jr. HMM-163 remained in direct support of ARVN I Corps; other elements of the expanding MAG (Sub-Unit 2, MABS-16) were in direct support of the 9th MEB. The 1st LAAM Battalion was placed under operational control of MAG-16 with a mission to defend Da Nang Airbase from air attack.

March 9, 1965-Lieutenant Colonel Oliver W. Curtiss' HMM-162 arrived at Da Nang.

By April 20, 1965, the Marine Corps would have nearly 8,700 Marines in Vietnam. The first U.S. Army unit would not arrive until May 7, 1965. And by then end of May, 1965 there would be more then 17,500 Marine deployed in Vietnam.

www.thevietnamfiles.com

NOTICES & REQUESTS

1/9 PINS, T-SHIRTS ETC.

Dave Demick has a whole catalog of 1/9 related items he is offering for sale. The catalog includes, 1/9 pins, T-shirts, hats, shadow boxes and a whole lot more. His catalog is posted on the 1/9 Website or you can contact Dave direct at:

Dave Demick
35240 Perret Plantation Road, Callahan FL 32011
Email: rebeldave1nine@alltel.net
Or look for the catalog on the Firebase

1/9 T-SHIRTS

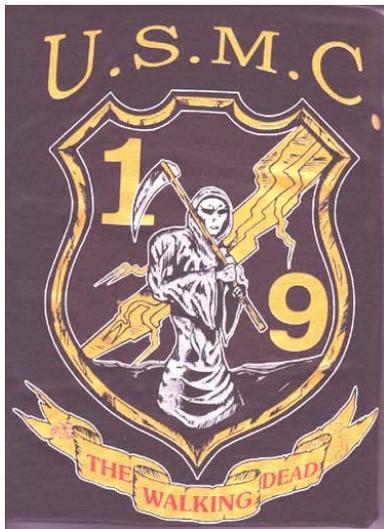
Frenchy Laverriere, has resurrected the "old style" 1/9 t-shirts with the original Grim Reaper look. The t-shirts are red or black, with the Grim Reaper inside a gold shield with a banner underneath that says "The Walking Dead". The shirts sell for:

Med, L, XL, \$16.25 plus \$3.25 shipping
XXL \$18.25 plus \$3.25 shipping
XXXL \$22.00 plus \$3.25 shipping

If you're ordering more than one shirt, add \$3.00 shipping for each additional shirt.

Thanks
Billy "FRENCHY" Laverriere

Order form: Billy Laverriere, 5 Celia Circle, Methuen, MA 08144.



Got items for sale? Let the Editor know what you have.

BOOK REVIEWS

CON THIEN

The Hill of Angels

One of the best books I have read. The story is not only about Con Thien, but everything that happened around the hill from 1966 through 1969. It starts out with chapters about before the Americans came, the Generals, and the NVA. A lot of what happened around this hill involved 1/9 and many 1/9 Marines are mentioned in the book. Jim was with the 3rd Tank Battalion and was assigned to 1/9 for a period. Jim is also a member of the 1/9 Network. This book is a good one, better get one before it is gone off the shelves!!

CON THIEN: The Hill of Angels, @2004, by James P. Coan, The University of Alabama Press (Tuscaloosa), 360 pages, ISBN 0-8173-1414-8

PATRIOTS

The Vietnam War Remembered From All Sides

As the book says, it is a book of remembrances from the very beginnings in 1945 to beyond the end in 1975. This book has stories from all sides and all walks of life. It is like readings 10 different books, but all about the same subject – Vietnam. You'll read stories from soldiers, both NVA and American, commanders, politicians and peasants. Interesting reading for those looking for "other" stories about the war.

PATRIOTS: The Vietnam War Remembered From All Sides, @2003, by Christian G. Appy, Penguin Press, 574 pages, ISBN 0-14-20.0449-9, paperback edition. First published in 2003 by Viking Penguin in hardback, ISBN 0-670-03214-X

IN MEMORIAM

Lloyd James Gugle, father of Larry Gugle (VP), died Monday March 7, 2005 at 11:07 P.M.

He has already been cremated per his wishes and will be buried in the Family plot in Ottumwa, Iowa on Friday April 22, 2005 at 11:00 A.M.

Born June 25, 1917 in Burnettsville, Indiana, he joined the Army as a Medical Officer on July 3, 1943 and served until August 26, 1946.

He attained the rank of Captain and his decorations include EAME Ribbon, Victory Medal WW2, AT Ribbon, Meritorious Service Unit Plaque, Occupation Medal (Germany). He served in the EAME 28 February 1944 - 29 December 1945.

Simp N. "Red" Beckham, father of Dan Beckham (Editor) WWII veteran, who served in the Marine Corps for 9 years from February 19, 1942 to February 19, 1946 and again from January 23, 1948 to January 22, 1953, died on January 7, 2005 in Jacksonville NC. He was 81.

Promoted to the rank of Acting Corporal after graduating from Boot Camp in March 1942, he went on to serve in the Pacific Area from May 1942 to September 1944 and was involved in actions against the enemy at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian.

Upon returning to stateside service at Camp Lejeune North Carolina he was a part of the Motorcycle unit of the bases Military Police. Red stayed in Jacksonville after leaving the Marine Corps and worked as a heavy equipment operator at Camp Lejeune for over 35 years.

After retirement he volunteered for the Shriner's Cripple Children's Hospital ferrying many young child from New Bern NC to the Shriner's Cincinnati Hospital and the Greensboro SC Hospital.

Member Kirk Kenneth Barnes (Bravo Co 42-44), 81, of New Bern, died Monday, December 30, 2002. Dr. Barnes was born January 6, 1921 in Denver, Colorado. He attended Gonzaga University and Whitman Collage and was a 1950 graduate of the Tulane University Medical School.

In 1942, "Doc" served in the U.S. Navy Reserves as a Hospital Corpsman attached to FMF So-Pacific, he participated in the V-12 Program and remained in the USNR until 1976.

From 1959 to 1975, Kirk practiced general surgery in Brunswick, Maine, where he also served as Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery at the Regional Memorial Hospital. From 1976 to 1986, he served in the United States Public Health Service at the United States Coast Guard Academy, reaching the rank of Captain before retiring to North Carolina. He was a member of the American Board of Surgery, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a member of the New England Surgical Society and the American College of Sports Medicine.

Dr. Barnes is survived by his wife, Judy Barnes of New Bern, N.C.; a son, Kirk Barnes of Lamoine, Maine; a daughter, Sandra Barnes of Glen Arm, Maryland, a stepson, Kirke Blenkhorn of Raleigh, North Carolina, and five grandchildren.

A memorial service for the family will take place at a later date. Burial at sea will be performed from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy tall ship "Eagle," with cadets and officers participating. Dr. Barnes sailed on Eagle many times with great pride.

The family has asked that any donations in Dr. Barnes's name be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 50, Memphis, Tennessee 38101-9929.

Member Agrippa Warren Smith (H&S HQ 1968), 82, of Jacksonville, died June 29, 2003 at his residence. A funeral was held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday July 23, 2003 at the Protestant Chapel, Camp Lejeune, with Chaplain Robert Lancia officiating. Burial will take place in Coastal Carolina State Veterans Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Fannie Smith of the home; a daughter, Gwendolyn Cunningham of Lorton, Va.; three brothers, Clayton Smith and Allen Smith, both of New York and Elbert Smith of Virginia; and a sister, Marie Jones of New York.

Member Col. Michael V. Palatas (H&S HQ 67-68), USMC, retired, one of Pueblo's most decorated heroes and a veteran of three wars, passed away on May 6, 2004, at the age of 80.

Michael enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in July 1941, and subsequently participated in the amphibious assaults against Namur Island, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima, where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant.

In August 1950, he joined the 1st Marine Brigade on the Naktong River in Korea and served as a machine gun platoon leader with B Company, 5th Marines, through five major campaigns, including the Chosin Reservoir battle.

In 1968, he served in Vietnam as commanding officer, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines (The Walking Dead) and then as executive officer, 9th Marine Regiment through three campaigns. His decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit with combat "V", the Bronze Star with combat "V", two Purple Hearts, six Presidential Unit Citations, the Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, two Navy Unit Commendations, the Meritorious Unit Commendation and many lesser campaign and service medals. Col. Palatas retired in 1975 after 34 years in service to his country, and with his family, moved to their ranch in Lake George, Colo.

After 17 years in the mountains, Mike and his wife Jane moved to Colorado Springs, where they lived for seven years as parish members of St. Paul's Catholic Church in the Broadmoor.

In 2000, they moved to the Hatchet Ranch area and became parishioners of St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Rye. Col. Palatas is survived by his wife of 49 years, the former Jane Longanecker of Falls Church, Va.; sons, Michael of Kansas City, Mo., Mark of Louisville, Ky.; daughter, Sharon Pattee of Colorado Springs; and eight grandchildren. In addition, he is survived by his two sisters, Margaret Ospeck of Salem, Ohio, and Jean Batcha of Warren, Ohio; and nine nieces and nephews.

Michael will be buried with a hero's full military honors at 9 a.m. Wednesday, June 9, 2004, at Arlington Nation Cemetery in Washington, D.C. A memorial Mass will be held in Pueblo at a time and date to be announced later. Col. Michael V. Palatas, United States Marine Corps. May he rest in peace. "Semper Fi (Always Faithful)"

Member Robert A. Fowler (Charlie Co RVN), age 55, of Bethel Park, died suddenly on Wednesday, December 22, 2004; beloved husband for 33 years of Melanie; devoted father of Brett A. and Lt. JG. Craig A. Fowler (Lori); brother of Keith and Dreu Fowler and Grace Knezovich; also survived by nieces and nephews. Bob was retired from the Port Authority.

Friends will be received at Laughlin Memorial Chapel, Mt Lebanon, Sunday evening. Services will be held in the funeral home Chapel on Monday December 27, 2004. Interment at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery.

Member Bertil Olsen lost his wife to cancer on December 6, 2004. No other information is available.

Our sympathy to our brothers and family members who have passed.

As you can see, some of our members passed without the Network being notified. Some of the information above was obtained through the internet. Please help us in remembering, in a timely manner, our deceased brothers and family members; notify us of the passing of any brother or family member.

– Editor

Vietnam War Victims of Agent Orange Poisoning Sue US Chemical Companies

*Published on Friday, March 4, 2005 by the [Independent /UK](#)
by Andrew Buncombe*

Vietnamese citizens who say they have suffered a lifetime of health problems after being poisoned by Agent Orange during the Vietnam War are suing the American chemical companies that provided the Pentagon with the toxic defoliant.

The case has huge implications. If successful it could open the way for claims against companies that produce weapons such as depleted uranium-tipped munitions, which have been strongly linked to cancer.

In the lawsuit filed this week, it was alleged that up to four million Vietnamese suffered persistent respiratory and reproductive problems as a result of being contaminated by Agent Orange. They are seeking compensation that could run to billions of dollars from 30 companies, such as Dow Chemical and Monsanto. One of the plaintiffs, Dr Phan Thi Phi Phi, told the court in New York she had worked in an area that was heavily sprayed with the defoliant and suffered four miscarriages during the early 1970s. "We did not know what happened to us, what was the cause of it, so we were very sad because we had so many miscarriages and we could not have children," she said.

US forces routinely sprayed the defoliant to clear areas of jungle where they believed Communist forces were hiding, and to destroy their crops.

Although \$300m (£160m) has been paid out to American troops who fought in Vietnam, there has never been any compensation paid to the Vietnamese. Scientists have stated that the defoliant can cause cancer, diabetes, birth defects and other problems.

Jonathan Moore, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, said: "The companies ... knew Agent Orange contained high levels of dioxin and did not care because ... they figured the only people getting sprayed were the enemy."

The firms have sought to dismiss the claim. This week their lawyers argued that the US courts had no power to penalize companies for executing the orders of a president exercising his powers as commander in chief. Lawyers also stated that companies normally enjoyed exemption from criminal and civil liability for alleged war crimes. The Justice Department also sought dismissal of the lawsuit, arguing that opening the US courts to former wartime enemies could threaten presidential power to wage war. The US government has argued that the effects of Agent Orange are not supported by direct evidence.

District Judge Jack Weinstein questioned whether presidential orders exempted the firms, citing the actions of German corporations during the Second World War.

Dave Cline, of Vietnam Veterans against the War, supported the action. He said US veterans had fought for years to receive compensation for 11 separate conditions and illnesses linked to Agent Orange. "In Vietnam they say three million people still suffer," he said.

No one from Dow Chemical was available to comment.

From Tom Stubbs

PARRIS ISLAND REUNION

1/9 Mini Reunion Parris Island May 12-15, 2005

COST: \$15.00 - a one-time registration fee per person or \$25.00/couple. Children under 18 are \$10.00 each; the registration fee is waived for Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Wives. The fee includes a welcome packet, a 50/50 raffle ticket, name tags and souvenirs. Please send in the fees as soon as possible; anyone who can't afford it should call Mac Radcliffe or Rob Fabian (numbers below).

MOTELS: Rooms blocked at the Days Inn, 1660 South Ribaut Road, Port Royal SC 29935, about 1.5 miles from Parris Island. The rate is \$50.60 per night, which includes breakfast and tax, the number to call, is (843) 524-1551. Tell them you want rooms for the 1st Bn 9th Marines reunion; use confirmation number P61416-00. **You must book your room before April 22nd.** If you have any problems ask for Sheila.

EVENTS: Several events are scheduled that will cost from \$12.00 to \$20.00. We ask that you pre-pay for these events and return the fees with your registration fee; that way we can have a head-count and better plan the events.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(A complete schedule will be in your welcome packets)

- Thursday May 12: Free passes available for the base PX. Shrimp feast Thursday evening; cost \$15.00 per person.
- Friday May 13: Morning Colors, Graduation Ceremony, Fishing, Rifle Range, Tours, Dinner (Casual Dress) Friday evening dinner at the Legend; cost \$20.00 per person. Dress will be casual, but no jeans and T-shirts (must have a collar). Free passes will be available for the base PX.
- Saturday May 14: Cookout at the pavilion, serving hot dogs, hamburgers, sodas, beer, snacks and chips. The cost of the cookout is \$12.00 per person. A raffle will be held; we have a few items being donated to the raffle already. If anyone would like to donate an item, please contact Rob Fabian.
- Sunday May 15: Good-byes.

INFORMATION & QUESTIONS: Contact Rob Fabian fabi778@cox.net
Col. Radcliffe mactgfusmc@aol.com

TEAR OFF AND RETURN REGISTRATION FEES AND EVENT FEES.

REGISTRATION PI MINI REUNION MAY 12-15, 2005

NAMES (S) _____ NO. IN PARTY _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
PHONE NUMBER _____ DATE OF ARRIVAL _____

REGISTRATION FEES (# X \$15.00): \$ _____, CHILDREN (# X \$10.00) \$ _____ TOTAL \$ _____

SHRIMP FEAST (# X \$15.00) \$ _____
FRIDAY DINNER (# X \$20.00) \$ _____
COOKOUT (# X \$12.00) \$ _____
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks out to: Robert Fabian and send to: Robert Fabian, 3829 Boysenberry CT, Virginia Beach VA 23456

NEW STAMP HONORS FOUR LEGENDARY MARINES



The achievements of John Basilone, Daniel J. Daly, John A. Lejeune and Lewis B. Puller—four legendary Marines who served with bravery and distinction during the 20th century—will be immortalized on postage stamps next year; the issue date is November 10, 2005

The faces on the "Distinguished Marines" stamp series include Gunnery Sgt. John Basilone of Iwo Jima fame; Sgt. Daniel Daly from World War I; Lt. Gen. John Lejeune, the World War I commander and Camp Lejeune's namesake; and Lt. Gen. Lewis "Chesty" Puller, one of the most famous Marine commanders of World War II and Korea.

- The John Basilone stamp features a detail of a 1943 photograph of Basilone and the insignia of the 5th Marine Division. Basilone served and died with the 1st Battalion, 27th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division during the invasion of Iwo Jima in February 1945.
- The Daniel J. Daly stamp features a detail from a circa 1919 photograph of Daly and the insignia of the 73rd Machine Gun Company, which is a variation on the Army's 2nd Infantry Division insignia. During World War I, Daly served as a Marine with the 73rd Machine Gun Company in the 2nd Infantry Division.
- The John A. Lejeune stamp features a detail from a circa 1924 photograph of Lejeune. The stamp also depicts the insignia of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, which Lejeune commanded during World War I.
- The Lewis B. Puller stamp features a photograph of Puller at Koto-ri, Korea, in 1950, and the insignia of the 1st Marine Division. Puller was a battalion commander and regimental commander with the 1st Marine Division during World War II and the Korean War.

VETERANS BENEFITS

Get a **FREE** copy of the documentary film
AGENT ORANGE: THE LAST BATTLE

Go to the site below and let them know you would like the free DVD sent to you.

www.agentorangefilm.com

VA News Release:

VA To Grant Benefits To More Vietnam Veterans

Based upon a recently released review of scientific studies, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi has decided to extend benefits to Vietnam veterans with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). "Compelling evidence has emerged within the scientific community that exposure to herbicides such as Agent Orange is associated with CLL," Principi said. "I'm exercising my legal authority to ensure the full range of VA benefits is available to Vietnam veterans with CLL."

The ruling means that veterans with CLL who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War don't have to prove that illness is related to their military service to qualify for Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation. Additionally, for more than 20 years, VA has offered special access to medical care to Vietnam veterans with any health problems that may have resulted from Agent Orange exposure, and this decision will ensure higher-priority access to care in the future.

The decision to provide compensation was based upon a recent report by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) that found among scientific studies "sufficient evidence of an association" between exposure to herbicides during the Vietnam War and CLL.

The IOM review, conducted at VA's request, was the latest in a series spanning the period since 1993 when the independent, non-governmental agency first published a report for VA that examined thousands of relevant scientific studies on the health effects of various substances to which American service members may have been exposed in Vietnam.

"On the modern battlefield, not all injuries are caused by shrapnel and bullets," Principi said. "This latest IOM study and my decision to act upon it are the latest examples of VA's continuing efforts to care for the needs of our combat veterans."

VA requested the IOM panel of experts to focus on CLL in their report because of veterans' concerns that CLL shares some similarities with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, which the IOM had previously connected to Agent Orange exposure.

Principi ordered the development of regulations to enable VA to begin paying compensation benefits once a final rule takes effect. Publication of that regulation is expected in the near future. VA will publish further details, when available, on its Web site at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide/>.

In the meantime, veterans with questions about health-care, compensation and survivor benefits may call a toll-free help line at 1-800-749-8387 for information. VA also encourages Vietnam veterans who have not done so to request a subscription to Agent Orange Review, VA's free newsletter that will keep them abreast of developments on this issue and other policies and scientific findings in the future. Newsletter subscription information is available from the help line number above. Back issues and additional information about Agent Orange are available at another VA Web site at <http://www.va.gov/agentorange/>.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

WHO DID IT?

An 80-year-old man went to his doctor for his annual check-up. The doctor asks him how he's feeling. The 80-year-old says, "I've never felt better. I now have a 20 year-old bride who is pregnant with my child. What do you think about that?" The doctor considers his question for a minute and then begins.

"I have an older friend, much like you, who is an avid trophy hunter and never misses a season. One day, when he was going out hunting, he was in a bit of a hurry and accidentally picked up his walking cane instead of his gun. When he got to the creek, he saw a prime beaver sitting beside the stream of water. He raised his cane and went 'bang, bang'. Suddenly, two shots rang out and the beaver fell over dead. What do you think of that?"

The 80-year-old said, "I'd say somebody else pumped a couple of rounds into that beaver."

The doctor replied, "My point exactly."

From Danny McWain

AHHH...FATHERS

It's the summer of 1957 and Bobby goes to pick up his date, Peggy Sue. Bobby's a pretty hip guy with his own car and a duck tail hairdo. When he goes to the front door, Peggy Sue's father answers and invites him in.

"Peggy Sue's not ready yet, so why don't you have a seat?" He says, "That's cool." Peggy Sue's father asks Bobby what they are planning to do. Bobby replies politely that they will probably just go to the malt shop or to a drive-in-movie.

Peggy Sue's father responds, "Why don't you kids go out and screw? I hear all of the kids are doing it." Naturally this comes as quite a surprise to Bobby and he says "Whaaaat?"

"Yeah," says Peggy Sue's father, "we know that Peggy Sue really likes to screw, why she'd screw all night if we let her!" Bobby's eyes light up and smiles from ear to ear. Immediately, he has revised the plans for the evening.

A few minutes later, Peggy Sue comes downstairs in her little poodle skirt with her saddle shoes and announces that she's ready to go. Almost breathless with anticipation, Bobby escorts his date out the front door while Dad is

saying, "Have a good evening kids," with a small wink for Bobby.

About 20 minutes later, a thoroughly disheveled Peggy Sue rushes back into the house, slams the door behind her and screams at her father:

"DAMMIT DADDY! THE TWIST!!! IT'S CALLED THE TWIST!!!!!!!!!!!"

BLIND MAN AT BUS STOP

Husband and wife are waiting at the bus stop with their nine children. A blind man joins them after a few minutes. When the bus arrives, they find it overloaded and only the wife and the nine kids are able to fit onto the bus. So the husband and the blind man decide to walk.

After a while, the husband gets irritated by the ticking of the stick of the blind man as he taps it on the sidewalk, and says to him, "Why don't you put a piece of rubber at the end of your stick? That ticking sound is driving me crazy."

The blind man replies, "If you would've put a rubber at the end of your stick, we'd be riding the bus, so shut the hell up."

U.S. POST OFFICE

A guy goes to the U.S. Post Office to apply for a job.

The interviewer asks him, "Have you been in the service?" "Yes," he says. "I was in Viet Nam for three years"

The interviewer says, "That will give you extra points toward employment" and then asks, "Are you disabled in any way?" The guy says, "Yes 100%...a mortar round exploded near me and blew my testicles off."

The interviewer tells the guy, "O.K. I can hire you right now. The hours are from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. You can start tomorrow. Come in at 10:00 A.M."

The guy is puzzled and says, "If the hours are from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. then why do you want me to come in at 10:00 A.M."

"This is a government job" the interviewer says. "For the first two hours we sit around scratching our balls.....no point in you coming in for that"

From Bob Grubb

MEMBERS PASSED AWAY

Kirk K Barnes, 81, Bravo Company 1944-1942, Passed December 20, 2002

Robert A. Fowler, 55, Charlie Company, RVN, Passed December 22, 2004
 Michael V. Palatas, 80, H&S Company HQ, 1967-1968, Passed May 6, 2004
 Burnett Potaski, Charlie Company, 1944-1945, Passed away Fall 2004
 Fredrick S. Poweziak, Alpha Company, 1966, Passed April 20, 2002
 Agrippa W. Smith, 82, H&S Company HQ, 1968, Passed June 29, 2003

NEW MEMBERS

ABLE/ALPHA COMPANY

Kenneth	R.	Coleman "Doc"	All	69
Charles	T.	Duncan	1st Plt	65-66
John	P.	Johnson	Unk	9-12/65
John	L.	Knipp	Unk	1/66-5/66
Gilbert	B.	Velez		67-68
Frank	H.	Wisegarver III	Unk	68-69

BRAVO COMPANY

Otis	H.	Glenn Jr.	1 st Plt	67-68
Brain	J.	Downey	Unk	69-70
Henry	F.	Parsons "Doc"	Unk	66-67
Pete		Ross (Sgt Maj)	3rd	69-71

DELTA COMPANY

Lewis	A.	Becker	Wpns	67-68
Peter	G.	Kenny	Unk	67-68
Wayne	R.	Weiker	2nd	2-5/67

HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE COMPANY

George	A.	Miller	H&S FAC	1968
Albert	R.	Thompson	H&S Comm	1965
William	J.	Woodside	105's	66-67

**DID YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS? DID YOU MOVE?
 IS THERE A YELLOW STICKER ON YOUR NEWSLETTER?**

We get 10 to 20 newsletters returned with every mailing. Please let us know what your new address is. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter let us know that also, we will comply with such requests.

**If a member has died, please let us know.
 Thanks – Editor**

**You can send your address changes to:
 Tom Stubbs
 15852 N 50th St.
 Scottsdale AZ 85254**