

NOW HEAR THIS!



PUBLISHED BY AND FOR THE UNITED STATES MARINES CORPS COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION

San Antonio: Something for All

If you have not yet registered or made your hotel reservations for the 2008 Annual Conference, what are you waiting for?

Don O'Neal and his hard-charging conference committee are promising a bit of everything for all comers. You'll enjoy a bit of ol' Texas when you sashay up to the Taco Bar at the Welcome Reception Tuesday evening, Aug. 12. With our corporate partner, Heineken furnishing free "product," we can't think of a better way to kick off our 2008 extravaganza.

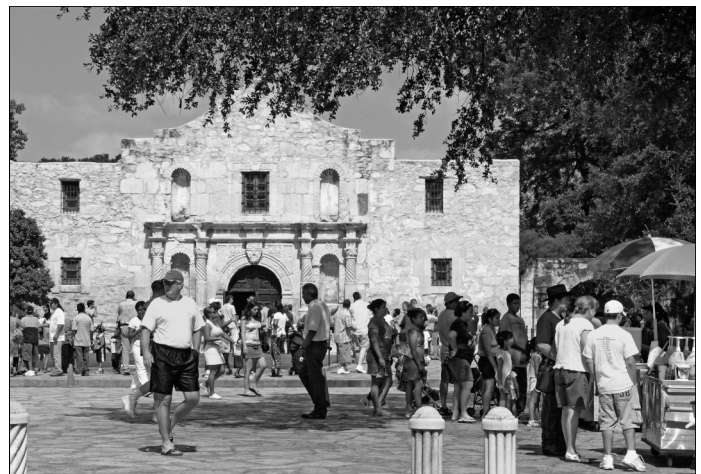
Wednesday evening, Aug. 13 will be an open night to allow you to partake of the charms of the River Walk.



On Thursday, Aug. 14 we will have our gala Merit Awards Banquet, presided over again this year by "The Voice of Raytheon" Pat Coulter.

Friday, Aug. 15 we will begin relatively early with a new wrinkle: The Business Meeting Brunch. This will start about mid-morning with a hearty repast, followed by our traditional business meeting with guest speaker. At about this time the wives will depart for a shopping tour followed by a luncheon overlooking the famed Riverwalk.

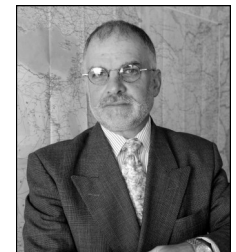
Pat Coulter



The historic Alamo is a prime attraction in San Antonio and located adjacent to the Menger Hotel, our headquarters. CCs are encouraged to reserve rooms early. (See P-11)

Mideast Expert to Beirut Panel

Claude Salhani, editor of the Middle East Times and a UPI contributing editor, will bring his renowned regional perspectives to the Beirut panel at the August Conference. Claude worked with our Marine Public Affairs teams in Lebanon throughout the 1980s and has solidified his standing as one of the most respected terrorism experts in the world today.



Claude Salhani



The famous San Antonio Riverwalk is less than a block from your headquarters hotel.

Dates to Remember

- Board Election: Nominations to CCHQ-June 30**
- Conference Registration: Member rate deadline: July 1 (\$120) - Page 11.**
- Non-members: July 31 (\$140)-Page 11**
- Hotel Reservations: July 18-Page 11**
- Journal Ads: April 15**

Transitions



Bill Bierd

Life CC Member Bill Bierd died Monday, March 3 following a lengthy illness and leg amputation. Bill, a mainstay of the CC organization for years is survived by his "best friend" wife Margaret. (See a more complete obituary and photo on Page 6).

Virginia Cruse

CC Bob McEwen reports the death of Virginia Cruse, 78, who worked in the El Toro Joint ISO in the early 1960s. She died Feb. 19 in Holiday FL. She is survived by a brother, James St. Clair. She was not currently a CC.

Remember AP's Horst Faas?

[Editor's Note: Horst Faas is a familiar name to Marine Combat Correspondents and Photographers. In helping report the Marine story for the Associated Press, he spent 12 years in Southeast Asia during the war and was severely wounded by an RPG in 1967. He also earned practically every photo prize there is, including two Pulitzer Prizes, the Capa Award and, most recently the prestigious Solomon Award from Germany for his lifetime work. With photographer Tim Page, Horst edited the acclaimed book, "Requiem, by the photographers who died in Vietnam and Indochina" which also won a Capa Award. In early 2005, Horst, who retired after more than 50 years with the AP, suffered a spinal stroke while teaching photojournalism in Hanoi to a group of photographers. He is paralyzed now from the chest down -- without feeling in his lower body and legs. He ambulates in an electric powered wheel chair, known as "The Race Car" in Munich where he lives.

By CC Steve Stibbens

Nothing, I mean nothing, can stop the intrepid Mr. Faas. I have just returned from a two-week visit in Munich and Berlin where I saw Horst in action every day ... 12 hours at a time. For example, when an AP photographer Horst had hired 15 years ago died suddenly at age 42, Horst instantly announced, "I will go to his funeral in Berlin."

Besides the usual hotel reservation in Berlin, for Horst, such a trip required more. The day before, in a sub-zero blowing snowstorm, Horst and his traveling nurse had to check out the S-bahn (subway) and the U-bahn (urban/train) stations to see if he could navigate the 6-inch gap between the platform and the train with his motorized wheelchair. He couldn't. Instead, a medical taxi/van would take him to

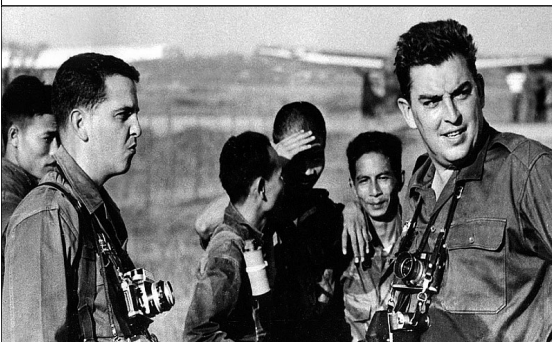
back to Munich required the meticulous planning and organization in reverse.

The point is that Horst takes everything in stride, with his usual dry wit and totally without notice that he isn't walking. The trip to Berlin and back was an extreme hassle to say the least. Not once in two weeks did I detect even a hint of complaining. Yet, rolling about in his chair is not without constant danger. Being narrow enough to negotiate doorways, the chair is top-heavy. A fall and consequential injury to his already damaged spine could easily prove fatal.

Horst and Ursula, his wife of 44 years, are now settled in their large, modern, comfortable 5th-floor apartment in the very center of Munich. After 30 years in London, the Faas' Kensington flat has been sold. The several truckloads of paintings, sculptures, furniture and belongings have come and gone. Horst's collection of 400 paintings and Asian scrolls all but covers the walls like a museum.

The world is nearby from the apartment overlooking the Marienplatz Square. Within a block or two in any direction are stores, shops and restaurants of all tastes. He is surrounded by museums and centuries-old history, including the thousand-year-old St. Peterskirche, Munich's first parish church. As well, there is the famous bustling Viktualienmarkt, one of Europe's great food markets. On Tal Street, directly below the Faas apartment, is the Pau-

(Continued on page 5)



Marine Sgt. **Steve Stibbens** (l) Pacific Stars and Stripes, and AP Photographer **Horst Faas** ® wait at an airfield in the Mekong Delta in 1963. Within hours they would cover the overthrow of the Diem government. (Photo: Stibbens Collection)

the Hauptbahnhof where a forklift-like vehicle would deposit him on the train for the 5-hour ride on the bullet train to Berlin at 200 mph. Another forklift would retrieve Horst from the train and a medical van would deposit him at the hotel. Likewise, trips to the church and cemetery services had to be arranged in advance. The 5-hour trip



Horst Faas with a Munich Lion advertising the Bavarian city's famous sausages. (Photo: Steve Stibbens)

National President Keith Oliver

CC Six sends...



Spring has sprung, and so has Boeing.

Sprung for \$5,000, that is, joining Raytheon and Heineken as major sponsors for our beloved Association.

Former Boeing staffer and our conference chair, **Don O'Neal**, secured the welcome gift, courtesy of **Kim Kierstead**, who manages the company's sponsorship and "global citizenship" programs. **Steve Little** and **Rowdy Yeatts**, recent CC re-ups, hold senior leadership positions at Boeing's St. Louis headquarters, by the way.

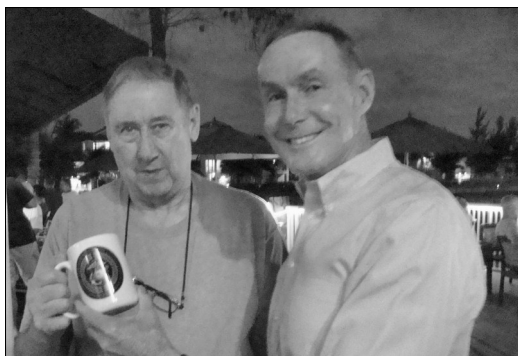
The fresh infusion of serious funding started with Raytheon's **Pat Coulter** (that's "St. Pat" as far as national CC treasurer **Tom Kerr** is concerned) in 2002.

Bob Jordan, who heads our Foundation, is excited about what this support trend portends.

"The USMCCCA is being viewed as a serious, professional organization," he said. "While we would never want to lose our camaraderie and reunion aspects -- that 'family touch' -- corporations seem most impressed with our various programs.

USAA, headquartered in San Antonio, will also be well-represented at our gathering, providing complimentary coffee for our seminars and special speakers tailored for our more senior members.

Author! Author! Congratulations to **Gunnery Sgt. Will Price** on the publication of *Devil Dog Diary*,



Presidential Surprise: National President Keith Oliver (r) presents a cup to Association Treasurer (and cruise director) Tom Kerr in appreciation for keeping mum about his surprise visit to Ft. Lauderdale to see cruisers off. See story and photos on Page 10.

his first-person account of life at Parris Island, lovingly nurtured by Marine drill instructors. Will's tome was the lead review (penned by **Capt. Al Eskalis**) in the March *Leatherneck*.

Next month's edition features a Hawaii "Space-A" trip report by our own overworked and underpaid "execdir," **Jack Paxton**, who visited the islands with wife Pat just before Christmas.

And, speaking of the "Magazine of the Marines," congrats to CC mainstay **Walt Ford** upon his assumption of publisher duties for both *Leatherneck* and the *Marine Corps Gazette*.

It is with a great sense of loss that we acknowledge the passing of one of the great ones, **Bill Bierd** (see page 6). Certainly our heartfelt prayers go out on behalf of **Margaret** at the loss of her larger-than-life Marine.

The aforementioned **Pat Coulter** spoke at the funeral of another institutional friend on March 6: **Johnny Grant**, the unofficial "Mayor of Hollywood" and a consistent cheerleader for Toys for Tots and other Marine initiatives.

Ever the selfless and energetic servant, Pat jumped on an eastbound jet after the services to keep his next-day commitment at Defense Information School. He was commencement speaker for the Public Affairs Qualification Course after lunching with a group of us that included CCs **John and Jerri Shotwell**, **Bob and Evi Jordan**, and **Maj. Rico Player**.

It's not too late to get an ad in the 2008 Conference Journal, and it's not too early to register for the conference itself. Will you please join me in checking both items off your to-do list this month?

As a reminder, one of our purposes in August will be helping CC **Randy Gaddo** (national prexy for the Beirut Veterans of America) observe the upcoming 25th annual remembrance of that dark day in USMC history when some 241 Marines fell to a terrorist's truck bomb.

Among the confirmed panelists for the Lebanon seminar are retired infantry officer, **Lt. Col Jim Diehl**; international journalist **Claude Salhani**; and **Bob Jordan**, who was our PAO on the ground Oct. 23, 1983. Randy intends to look beyond that tragic event as panelists reflect on our Corps' overall 1980s mission in Beirut and offer commentary on the state of Middle East affairs today.

Semper Fi, **Keith**

2007-08 Booster Club

Platinum

\$5,000 Up

Boeing
Raytheon
KNBC-TV
(LA Chapter)
Heineken
Florida Chapter

Gold

\$1,000-\$4,999

Tony Parzanese

Silver

\$101-\$999

Red Carpenter
John Funk
John Harmon
Norm Hatch
Keith Oliver
Jack Paxton

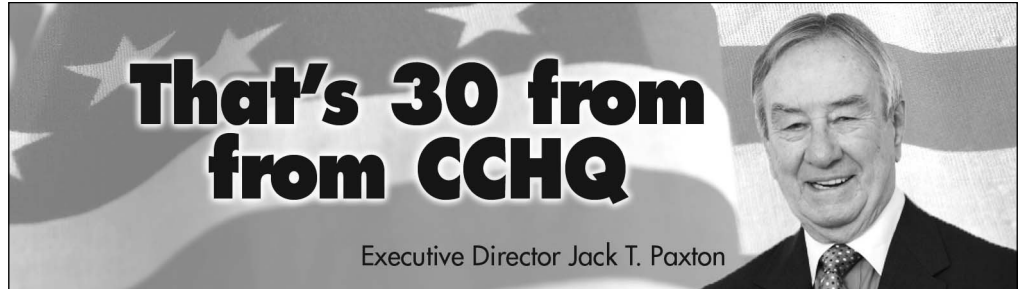
3d Division Needs You

The 3rd Marine Division Association is attempting to boost membership. Email Peter Schlesiona: pschles@comcast.net. Web: www.caltrap.com

Sayonara

We have tried every way we know to reach the following delinquent members. If you know them, have an email address or telephone number, let us know and we will pursue. But, as of this moment they are no longer members.

*David Bailey
Edward P. Benevente
Walt DeForest
Lisa Garland
Spencer R. Harris
R.W. "Rob" Henderson
Charles C. Jones
William F. Klumpp III
Margaret A. Kuhn
Richard Kulleck
Claudia M. LaMantia
Jake Messier
Peter Miro
Gary L. Miley
Victoria Modlin
Kevin Paul
Dwaine Roberts
Miguel Solorio
Nicholas A. Steek
Ken Tinnin
Angel J. Velasquez
Judy Western
Arthur M. Wood
David R. Zorn*



We hate to have to print the names of those members you see in the left column who we cannot locate but, after sending two postcards and printing their names as delinquent in the newsletter, we are stumped. If you do not let us know where you are we cannot possibly get mail to you. Postcards are first class mail and can be forwarded, yet 24 came back. Newsletters are bulk mail and will not be forwarded in most cases.

One of the joys of this job is connecting with old shipmates. Through the magic of the website Together We Served (<http://marines.togetherweserved.com>) we found 540 public affairs Marines listed, one of whom was our boss at the old 3d MCRRD in Philadelphia in 1954, a first lieutenant by the name of **John Lippard**. Now living in Knox City, TX, John quickly responded to our email. As a veteran of World War II (and POW), John rated HLM status and we have welcomed him as a new member. Hopefully, living only 200 miles from San Antonio, we'll see him in August.

John "Gunny" Harmon reported in late February. Wanted to make sure he was "locked and loaded" for San Antonio. While on phone he signed on as 2008 Booster and gave us a quarter-page Journal ad. Returned not long ago from a Guadalcanal visit with a tour group. Somehow we know he provided a great commentary for those who did not fight there. Great to see this 80+-year-old going strong.

The death of **Bill Bierd** is yet another reminder that we and many of our shipmates are getting a bit older. We're glad we had the opportunity to speak to him very recently. We don't know too many members as dedicated as Bill was and **Margaret** is. One thing she made clear on the phone following

Bill's death was that we'd better not stop sending the newsletter. She needn't worry. Bill will be missed.

When you read the Cruise story and see the photos on Page 10 you should not forget that these "cruisers" are directly helping the "coffers" of our Association. Tour Director and CC Treasurer **Tom Kerr** estimates the CCs will receive approximately \$1,000 from the 2008 cruise.

We need Journal advertisers. For a mere \$150 Journal Art Editor **Chuck Beveridge** will personalize a quarter page ad for you. If you have close ties to a business, solicit them. Selling points: We are a strong supporter of the Wounded Marines programs; we provide scholarships to active duty, former Marines and dependents, we sponsor the Merit Awards program annually for active duty Marines. If you need ad rate cards or last year's Journal, call me.

Rosenthal Chapter now sporting interesting newsletter "Bay Area Reporter" and brand new website. The latter is being constructed by CC Bob Stanley. You can visit it at www.usmcccajoerosenthalchapter.com/home.

Veteran CC **Herb Schlosberg**, LA Chapter, had a nice reunion of sorts with **Earle Holt** of the Rosenthal Chapter. Both last served together on the PAO staff of the 1950s 12th Reserve District in San Francisco.

Let's also not forget that we have several openings for Merit Awards sponsors. We say this assuming all of last year's sponsors will "re-up" again this year. Your \$200 helps guarantee that an active duty practitioner gets his or her "15 minutes of fame" at this year's Merit Awards Banquet. Checks, credit cards welcome at CCHQ.

Meet Heineken USA's Patrice Webb

Patrice Webb, Public Affairs Manager, Heineken USA, was recently appointed to the USMCCCA Foundation's Board to serve ex officio for corporate relations.



Patrice Webb

Patrice has been Public Affairs Manager for Heineken USA Western Region since 2007.

Prior to that she spent 10 years as a federal lobbyist and community advocate in Washington DC. As a Baltimore native she started her career volunteering on numerous local election and

social issue based campaigns.

After graduating from Towson State University she spent several years working for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation helping to build numerous programs and increasing the foundations corporate sponsorship. She then went on to fundraise for several congressional races on the east coast. She also was a National Organizer for the American Civil Liberties Union as a national spokesperson building coalitions of influence to scale back the USA PATRIOT Act, highlight Racial Profiling issues & policies and the Voting Rights Amendment as well as many other civil liberties issues. After which she went on to accept a position at Free Press as Government Relations Manager working on the 2006 telecom re-write bill.

She now resides in Southern California.

Horst Appreciates Friends' Good Wishes

(Continued from page 2)

lander Im Tal, a warm, friendly brewery-owned restaurant where Horst has become a welcome and frequent patron.

Horst begins his day at 6:30 a.m. when a medical assistant hoists him from his bed and sets him in his wheelchair. From then on, not a moment is wasted until he is deposited in bed 12 hours later. A therapist exercises Horst's limbs until about 10 a.m. to help keep his organs functioning. Next, Horst wheels to his G5 Macintosh where he dumps a ton of spam e-mail, reads and responds to e-mails, writes letters and otherwise handles the family business until noon or so. Typing at the keyboard can be a problem. Without feeling from mid-chest down, remaining upright with his arms while typing can be a problem. Between 11 a.m. and noon are the best times for phone calls.

Afternoons are spent shopping the many fine stores and shops around the Marienplatz or directing craftsmen who build and install things in the apartment.

Around 6:30 p.m., Horst is ready to be hoisted into his bed. He can only sleep on his side. An assistant returns twice each night to turn him to the other side.

Through it all, Horst remains the same old Horst I've known for 45 years. He has become more intense, often lost in deep thought as he sorts the details of the day. Smiles and outright laughter are less frequent but in the mornings when he feels good, he can be quite cheerful.

Asked what he would have me say to his many friends, he said,

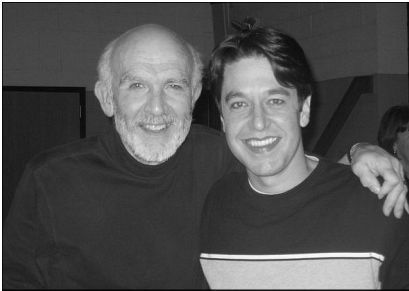
"I appreciate their good wishes but they keep telling me I'll get well. I won't. This is the way it is. Let's move on."



Six professional photographers gathered at Marine Corps headquarters, Pentagon, on March 6 to judge more than 357 entries in the photo competition for the annual USMCCCA Merit Awards. Seated (l. to r.), **James Wallace, Christy Bowe, Cherie Thurlby, Tessa Ferrario, J. Ross Baughman, Stacy Pearsall**. Standing, **Don Knight**, co-chair for this year's awards program. The photo review launched a two-day period during which a record 640 entries in photography, print, broadcasting and art were reviewed by more than 20 different judges. (Photo by **Robert Jordan**)

CC's "Flash" Also a Versatile Performer

When he's not prowling around the endless corridors of the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. in his day job, you might find



"Old Man" Flash (l) and fellow cast member (also former Marine) **David Vargas**.

Fred "Flash" Lash pursuing his nighttime career as a thespian on any one of several northern Virginia community theater stages. The vice president of USMCCCA, a former Marine combat correspondent, has been starring in lead roles for more than a decade.

Fred showed up for a recent dinner meeting of the Lucas CC Chapter in Alexandria, Va., sporting a heavy beard and non-regulation side bars, explaining to his startled colleagues that he had one more performance as the "Old Man" in the Vienna, Va. Theatre Company's presentation of "Prelude to a Kiss." (The Hollywood film of the same name starred Meg Ryan and Alec Baldwin).

Fred, in the view of this viewer, might have made a good living in the post-Corps world as a great character actor. The play comes off as just a bit quirky but Fred makes the plot manageable. The "old man" role works well under his command.

Fred says he hopes to resume a leading role as a founding father in resurrection of the popular theater hit "1776", which actually was his first show with the Vienna players 12 years ago. Other shows since then have included "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Our Town."

Among his other favorite roles on other neighborhood stages: Henry Drummond in "Inherit the Wind" and H.C. Curry in "The Rainmaker."

The playbill for his recent performance notes that he has been nominated for acting awards by a number of local community theater alliances.

His daytime role: Assistant to the Deputy Assistant, Secretary of Defense, Joint Communication, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Fred was chair of the 2006 annual conference for the USMCCCA at McLean, Va. and won the Association's coveted Dickson Award for his service. (Story and photo by CC **Don Knight**)

Jon Abel Goes 'Hollywood'

Lucas CC Chapter member **Jonathan Abel**, of Alexandria, Va. has gone Hollywood, without actually going there. Jon is a professional actor who appeared in the Mount Vernon scene of "National Treasure 2". He said a few words on film and consequently received a brief credit at the end of the flick.

Jon, responded to a casting call for another movie being filmed, at least in part, in Washington, D.C. called "State of Play," also starring Russell Crowe and Ben Affleck. He was told that he will be used in some part of the filming scheduled through April 12. "That and four dollars," says Jon, "will get me a latte." (Story by CC **Don Knight**)

Bill Bierd Loses Final Battle March 3

William Victor Bierd, loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and a "Forever Marine" passed away peacefully on March 3, 2008.

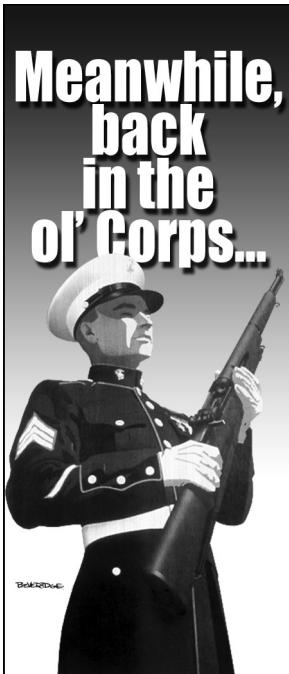
Bill was born June 5, 1927 in Madison, Wisconsin where he spent his early youth until he enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was a 30-year career Marine serving in WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Wars retiring in 1975 and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division. During that time he operated radio stations XBOR and XONE in Tientsin and XABU in Tsing Tao, China and continued with the Far East Network in Okinawa. After returning to the States, he was assigned to be the Marine Corps advisor on uniform protocol in Hollywood for the TV series, "Gomer Pyle".

After returning to his home in Ocean-side, CA he became active in the US Marine Corps Combat Correspondence Association (USMCCCA). He was president of the San Diego Chapter for a num-



Happier Days- (from l) former President **Don Gee**, **Bill** and **Margaret**

(Continued on page 12)



JISO Camp Pendleton (July 14, 1967) -Seated (l-r): SSgt. A.A. Denes, GySgt. H. "Jack" Butts, MSgt. Walt Stewart, WO E.A. Piel, 2dLt. H.G. Duran, 2dLt. J.C. Sternberg, LtCol. D.J. Hunter, 2dLt. M.H. Handelsman, MSgt. J.S. Ferguson, GySgt. John Boring, GySgt. V.A. Mros, and SSgt. H.W. Blake. Second row (l-r) Sgts. R.L. Tudor, M.D. LaBonne, Pfc. R.M. Henson, R.P. Licciardi, Cpls. M.J. Gundeson, N.A. Washington, Pfc. E.E. Perez, J.L.Gramling, and LCpls. E.J. Sargent and P.S. Lewis. Third row (l-r) Sgts. D.R. Vernon, G.W. Walbridge, J.P. McMahon, R.G. Boaseuf, LCpls. D.L. Carlson, D.F. Schuldt, and Cpl. E. Henderson. (Photo furnished by CC John Boring).

160 Iwo Jima Veterans Gather in Arlington

They are not as agile as they were 63 years ago in February, 1945. Today, some of them use wheel chairs, canes or crutches to maintain mobility. They are a proud few and their numbers are shrinking. They are the Marine combat veterans of Iwo Jima and on Feb. 15-16 of this year they gathered at a hotel in Arlington, Va. for at least one more reunion.

It was an emotional scene as they assembled, embraced old friends, old buddies and introduced spouses, other relatives, even grandchildren. They squinted at wall maps and pointed to specific landing beaches for the three Marine divisions that assaulted and captured that first piece of Japanese soil in the final phase of World War II.

Two veteran combat correspondents from the Jim Lucas Chapter of the USMCCCA, **Norman Hatch** and **Cyril O'Brien**, were among the 160 veterans, family members, historians, and other guests.

Hatch, who retired as a Marine major after 41 years of active and reserve duty, opened the program with his presentation on "Marine Corps Combat Photographers in the Pacific." He was a combat cinematographer for the 3rd and 5th Marine Divisions at Tarawa and Iwo Jima. The Tarawa film



Cy O'Brien (l) and Norm Hatch represented CCs

won an Oscar for the Marine Corps in 1944. This presentation, however, focused on Iwo Jima. There was dramatic raw, black-and-white footage of the initial naval bombardment, then of the first wave of Marines scrambling from landing craft to gain a foothold in the sand.

Hatch urged his fellow vets to let their kids and grand kids interview them. "Tell them how you did your job, why you did your job, what went wrong and what went right. If you don't tell your story, you're doing your service an injustice."

"Obie" O'Brien arrived in the South Pacific, later served as a combat correspondent on Guam and Iwo Jima. His unit was not immediately scheduled to go ashore, but he wrangled some special orders and got to the beach, wielding rifle and typewriter. For this latest reunion he was assigned to contact the media, hopefully to generate news coverage.

Frank Caldwell, was a captain with Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines, 5th Division when he went ashore. He was awarded the Navy Cross for action on Iwo, and relived a bit of those historic moments at the reunion. "This is Red Beach," he said in pointing to a map. "That's the spot." His wife nodded. Looking over his shoulder was a young grandson of another Iwo vet. "That's cool," he said.

Pfc. Rutherford Meets the Tsingtao Queen

I really wasn't a correspondent – it was in name only. I got off one of the first boats to arrive in Tsingtao, China in February, 1946 – met by Lt. Forrest Elkins who assigned me to motor transport. When I got there, I just had to tell Sgt. Major Burgess that I didn't drive well and didn't even have a license. He asked me what I could do – I told him I could type a little and I ended up in PIO under Lt. William Zudtke.

All real war correspondents had headed home when the Japanese surrendered. The place was near empty except for a great photographer named George Theis whom I happened to attend high school with in Dallas, Texas. Lt. Zudtke was waiting to get out of there so he pinned a used correspondent badge on my private's uniform, gave me a press pass, a requisition for a jeep and told me to go get 'em. Tsingtao was an old German Seaport – beautiful and charming – especially mind boggling to a 17 year old who had never been out of Texas before he laid eyes on

Paris Island. That was the way it was until I met the Queen of the Tsingtao Daily Herald, a reporter for the English language newspaper. Educated at the University of California, she spoke and wrote perfect English. Course, she had worked with some of them real correspondents but they were a little older – and family men – and she – well, she



Pfc. Tom Rutherford

– eh – she was kind of enamored by my fresh uniform and a younger guy so she took me under her wing.

She was a fireball – especially about that time when the Commies and Chang-Kai-Shek's forces were hooking up. She knew everybody that was anybody. I just tagged along and that little correspondent badge spoke volumes. One time she called me and told me she had arranged for me to speak to one of the Army Officer's Training Schools.

WELL, they had a Chinese band break out while all the officers in training stood at attention. They looked liked the welcome band in that war movie. The Commander invited me to inspect the troops and I paraded around like I knew what I was doing.

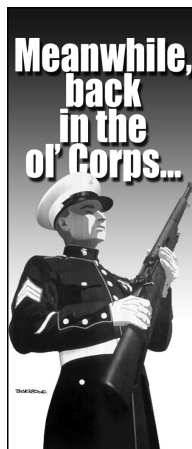
Next, I was led into this giant hall– placed on the stage with the all the big shots. The Commandant welcomed me and polite applause given my introduction when he motioned for me to come to the podium and speak. Uh oh!. What to say – I was

(Continued on page 9)

Maryland Monument Shows War Coverage Not a New Science

When Marine CCs gathered after World War II to commemorate their work as wartime journalists, their inclination to recall exploits and remember the lost wasn't a new one. In 1896, George Alfred Townsend – believed by some to have been the American Civil War's youngest battlefield journalist – erected a monument honoring correspondents and artists who had documented the bloody fighting from 1861-1865. He did so on Maryland land he purchased not far from Antietam. Along the

Appalachian Trail – in Gathland State Park near Burkittsville, Maryland – the interesting but somewhat un-gainly brick structure is inscribed with names of 157 correspondents and war artists who reported on the war. (Submitted by **CC Chas Henry**)



Staff of ISO, 1stMAW/MCAS Iwakuni—(l-r) TSgt. Bob McEwen, Cpls. Gary Handfiner, Marcoux, Ott, Page, Warnick (later foreign editor, *Toronto Star*) and MSgt. Tim Timrud. Staff not shown: Maj. R.H.W. Pett and SSgt. Harry Duke, both now deceased. Photo contributed by **Bob McEwen**.

Obie Knows of Iwo Jima Press Club

Cyril “Obie” O’Brien of Silver Spring, Md., a member of the Lucas Chapter of the USMCCCA came to the National Press Club in Washington recently to inspect something he had not seen before – the so-called “Iwo Jima Wall” occupying a small space adjacent to a club dining room.

Adorning the wall are two items. One may be the only photograph of what the Marine and civilian combat correspondents dubbed the “Iwo Jima Press Club.” This was a large dugout on the landing beach. The photo was donated to the NPC by the late S. Lowell Parker, city editor of the *Indianapolis Star*, a



Club member and a combat correspondent during the epic battle.

The other is a “top secret” aerial photo, in color, taken in 1944 and identifying key air and gunnery targets for the im-

pending U.S. invasion of the Japanese island. Encased behind the glass is a sample of the black volcanic ash, or sand, from the invasion beach. It was donated by John Rupert, an artist who created a popular 9/11 poster for the Club several years ago.

O’Brien knows the beach well. He points to the spot where he went ashore as a young Marine combat correspondent from one of three divisions assaulting that first piece of Japanese territory, 63 years ago in February-March of 1945. He has returned to the island four times since then for a reunion of American and Japanese survivors of the battle. Some 20,000 Japanese, almost the entire garrison, perished in the six-week struggle. There were 6,800 Marine fatalities.

O’Brien, 89, likely will not attend another reunion on that far away Pacific island. But he has many memories, stories to tell and he has that Iwo Jima Wall at his beloved National Press Club. (Story and photo by Lucas Chapter Member **Don Knight**)

Queen “Interprets” Well

(Continued from page 8)

no speaker. Well, The Queen knew it and jumped to my side “Just say a few words – I’ll do the rest”. So I gave a few platitudes about how nice it was to be here and how proud we were of those that served for the freedom of China. Then she made her interpretation.

All of a sudden, the place erupted. She translated about twice as long as I had spoken. When she finished, the audience started cheering – clapping – yelling. Boy was I a hit! I said a few more words and she said more – I heard her say Roosevelt and Pearl Harbor and the Chinese Officer Candidates cheered some more – some even stomping their feet. One guy even got up on a chair. Gee! they were happy. I must be good. Pretty soon we headed back and I just had to ask her about that fireball speech I gave and what I said.

“Oh, I told them that you had spoken personally with President Roosevelt and he had assured you that the United States would assist the Chinese Nationalists in every way!” (Submitted by **CC Tom Rutherford**)



Florida’s 1st Qtr Chapter meeting dealt with 2008 planning which includes fund raising for the national organization as well as the June Golf Tournament. In the upper photo members are (from l) **Hank and Trudy Ehlbeck, Kevin Doll, Red Carpenter and Gene Smith**. In the bottom photo, **Gene Smith**, a CC and also Champions Golf Tournament Director, loads up **Red** with equipment donations which will be used as prizes in the June 6 tournament .

Another Successful and Fun CC Cruise

Proving CCs will travel great distances for good “chow” and a worthy cause, Tony Parzanese, his wife Anna flew into Ft. Lauderdale, FL February 18 from their home in Henderson, NV. Earlier George Chrisman and Helen Bays flew in from Peoria, AZ. They would join Florida CCs Tom and Sheila Kerr, Red and Ann Carpenter, Charlie and Elva Ross and Jack and Pat Paxton for a cruise the following day to Panama, Costa Rica, and Belize. Also joining were Tom and Sarah Seater, Ross’ friends, and the Kerr’s daughter and son-in-law, Jacki and Karl Boehm.

The group were joined at the Florida port by four couples from the Florida Mustang Chapter. The Mustangs and the CCs joined forces last year on a Caribbean cruise. Two Mustangs would be recruited

into the CCs on this cruise.

Another CC also flew from Maryland to Orlando, picked up his brother and drove another 200+ miles to Ft. Lauderdale to surprise the group at their pre-cruise cocktail party.

This would be CC President Keith Oliver and his brother Steve, who lives in Eustis, FL. Keith, on leave from duties at DINFOS, had sworn Tom Kerr to secrecy about his visit. Brother Steve wandered up to the group seated poolside and asked Pat Paxton if she wasn’t from Lake County. He claimed he was in town for business and “just happened to be staying at the same hotel.

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Charlie Ross, Red Carpenter, Elva Ross at pre-sail happy hour



George Chrisman and Helen Bays “hurrying up to wait”



Cruising CCs—Top to bottom (l-r): Red and Ann Carpenter (partially hidden), Pat Paxton, Sheila Kerr in front of Tom, Jack Paxton, new CC Frank Walker, his wife Karen in front of him, Tony Parzanese with wife Anna in front of him, George Chrisman and Helen Bays, Elva and Charlie Ross. Not shown was new CC George Fritschi and Marylon Lee. Both Frank Walker and George Fritschi are Mustangs. (All photos by the Executive Director except one.)



Gatun Lock, Panama Canal



Front: Sarah Seater, Elva Ross, Anna Parzanese and Helen Bays. Rear: Tom Seater, Charlie Ross, Tony Parzanese and George Chrisman.



Costa Rica “Critter” - This yellow viper greeted us at a Shaman’s Village during shore excursion.



Kerr Family Affair— From (l) Tom, Sheila, daughter Jacki and son-in-law Karl Boehm

Book Your Hotel Room Now

July 18 is the deadline for making reservations at the Menger Hotel. Last year, some registrants were forced to use other hotels at a higher rate because they failed to secure their reservations at the headquarters hotel before the room allocation ran out.

You are encouraged to book your room NOW. The Menger has less than 400 rooms. **They have allocated a certain number at our special reservation rate of \$112.** After that allocation is used up available rooms will be charged at a higher, rack rate.

Also, if full, late-comers may be referred to adjacent hotels at whatever rate can be negotiated.

To make a reservation, call 1.800.345.9285. Tell the reservations person you are making a reservation for Marine Corps Combat Correspondents 600638. If there is a problem ask to speak to Stephanie Pheanis, Sales Manager.

Unfortunately, you will not be able to make your hotel reservation on line this year.

Let's see you there!!!!

Get Your Members-Only Registration Discount

No more Early Bird Registration. Instead, we are offering a members-only discount of \$120 which will be good from the time you read this until **July 1**. After that date and through Thursday, **July 31** the full registration of \$140 will be assessed.

The non-member registration fee is \$140 and will be good through July 31.

The registration fee will cover the Welcome Reception on Tuesday, the Merit Awards Banquet, Thursday and the Sanyara Business Brunch, Friday.

At press time a **Wives Event** was being planned for Friday. As this materializes we will publish details in the 3d Quarter newsletter. As planned, the registration fee will cover the event for wives on Friday, August 15.

Registration Fees

I am a member. Sign me and my guests up for the special Members-only rate of \$120 (ends July 1). No. registered: ___ \$ ____.

No, I'm not a member. Sign me up for a rate of \$140 (ends July 31).

No. registered: ___ \$ ____.



The historic Menger Hotel is located on Alamo Plaza, literally next door to the famed Alamo. Built in 1859, it's one of the oldest buildings in the city and is the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi River. In-room amenities include coffeemakers, iron and ironing board, data ports, cable TV and radios. Children's cribs are available.

Individual Event Registration

Please note, if you elect not to take the full registration fee of \$120 (members) or \$140 (all others) the following individual, or ala carte, rates will apply for the various events:

<u>Event</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Welcome Reception:	__@ \$35	\$ ____
Awards Banquet:	__@ \$75	\$ ____
Business Brunch:	__@ \$40	\$ ____
Total:		\$ ____

Credit Card Info - (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Zip: _____

Card # _____

Expires: _____ 3-Digit Code: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Name Badge Information

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Bierd's Military Rites Later at CamPen

(Continued from page 6)

ber of years. He was a life member of that organization.

In 2001 he and his wife moved to Green Valley, AZ where he became active in the Elks Lodge and was a charter member of the Green Valley Marines.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret of Green Valley; son Richard of Albuquerque, NM; son James (Donna) of Keller, TX; step-children De Jay (Sara) Unger of Escondido, CA; Mark Unger of Yukon, OK; Jackie Scibilia of Yukon, OK; Dan (Jeanie) Unger of Mantorville, MN; and Chris Unger of Murrieta, CA; sisters Betty (Edward) Witek of Madison, WI and Beverly (John) Broome of Poynette, WI, and brother Robert of Stoughton, WI as well as loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

There will be no memorial services held in Green Valley. A military service will be performed at a later date at Camp Pendleton, CA.

In lieu of flowers or considerations to the family, please con-

sider a donation in his memory to the USMCCCA Foundation, 110 Fox Court, Wildwood, FL 34785-9081.

He will be missed. Once a Marine, always a Marine! Semper Fi!

Surprising Long Distance Call

(Continued from page 10)

"Hey, I have an idea, let's call Keith in Maryland." At that point he handed his cell phone to Jack Paxton.

"I can't tell you what a surprise it is, running into Steve," Paxton said. "If you think that's a surprise, how about this," Keith said, tapping Jack on the shoulder.

Yes, it was!



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