

NOW HEAR THIS!

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

San Antonio: Absolutely Awesome!

The 2008 annual conference is now history. The consensus of 233 registered CCs, Marines and their guests: Outstanding!

Starting with the Tuesday evening (August 12) Welcome Reception and continuing through the well-attended Business Brunch on Friday young warriors mixed easily with the “tribal elders” to create one of the better bonding sessions seen yet.

Going into the conference we only knew that the guest of honor was a former Director of Information. An official invite had originally been made to then-LtGen. John Amos. Because of his promotion to general and appointment as Assistant Commandant, he had to bow out. Then an invite was made to retiring Lt. Gen. John Sattler who, as a one-star, was Director of Information. Because of his busy schedule, he too, sent regrets.

We knew, going in, that MajGen. (select) Robert “Boomer” Milstead, our most recent Director of Information and now head of the Recruiting Command, had said he would be there. By default, he became Guest of Honor.

“Boomer” was quick to remind the Banquet audience that, although he was not the original – or even the second choice – he was honored. He is, as many agree, one great piece of work! His remarks were right on the money and appreciated by both youngster and oldster alike.

One of the highlights of the conference was the introduction of

BrigGen. (select) Gregg Sturdevant, our new leader at DivPA. He literally hit the ground running by participating in all of the confer-

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2008 William T. Perkins Combat Videographer of the Year Award winner, Sgt. Tim Shelby, MCB Quantico, is flanked by Guest of Honor, **MajGen. (s) Robert “Boomer” Milstead** (l) and incoming Public Affairs Director, **BrigGen. (s) Gregg Sturdevant** (r) and 2007-08 **President Keith Oliver**, far right.

Our Oldest Demon: Sam Stavisky-Passes at 93



Sam (l) and Al Lewis were Washington Post reporters before joining the Marines as CCs during World War II. (USMC photo)

Sam Stavisky, 93, one of the oldest (known) members of our Association and the fourth chosen to become a Denig Demon in 1942, died in Washington, DC following a heart attack. One of the leading proponents of CC (and Denig) recognition at the Quantico History Museum, had told CCHQ in late August how proud he was at having the Merit Award for Combat Reporting re-named “The Sam Stavisky Combat Reporting Award.”

His wife, Bernice, said that, of all the awards Sam had received, he was ecstatic at having that award named after him.

A long-time Washington Post reporter, Sam received a

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Final Photo with Obie O'Bryan (l) at DC Press Club reviewing 2008 Annual Conference Journal. (Related story P-___)

Transitions



Jackie Squires

Los Angeles Chapter member Jackie Squires, 78, died September 30. She was given the title of Honorary Sergeant Major by CMC for her work with Toys for Tots. She was administrative assistant to 9th circuit Judge Harry Pregerson (also a former Marine).

Sam Stavisky

(Continued from page 1)

waiver from the Corps in order to enlist. On Guadalcanal he interviewed Capt. Joe Foss, who shot down 16 Japanese aircraft. Sam later published his memoirs in the book "Marine Combat Correspondent."

Don Knight, Association Vice President, gave a stirring eulogy at Sam's Memorial Service which can be seen on the Florida Chapter website: <http://usmcccaflchapter.onefireplace.org/>.

He was buried with full military honors at Arlington Cemetery, October 28. A complete obituary is also contained at that site.

Jim Brady On "His" Marines

(Ed. Note: Jim Brady may be best known for his celebrity columns in Parade Magazine but he also is a former Marine platoon leader Korea (1951-52) and was awarded the Bronze Star for combat action. The following piece was carried online at Forbes.com August 21. We reprint it with their permission.)

Harry Truman, an old Army artillery officer who didn't much like the Marines, once sneered they had a better propaganda machine than Joe Stalin. And he may have been right.

They have the most gripping advertising ("The Few, The Proud"); the most effective PR for their multimedia recruiting and retention effort; and they even employ their own war correspondents, about 400 men and women, officers and non-commissioned officers covering today's wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, or wherever America fights.

Last week I was in San Antonio hanging out with some current combat correspondents and alumni at their annual meeting. There were a couple of generals and over a hundred active duty Marines, and even a best-selling non-Marine author and longtime United Press International war correspondent named **Joe Galloway** who, with his collaborator, Hal Moore, wrote a simply wonderful 1992 book called *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*. The book then made the cover of the book review section of the *Sunday New York Times*, and was later a big Mel Gibson box office hit.

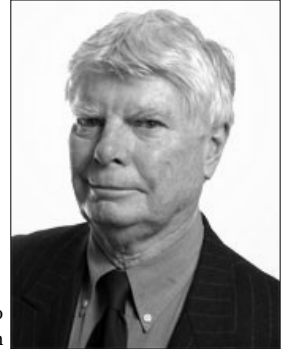
Sending Marine correspondents into combat was the idea in wartime 1942 of a feisty Marine one-star general named **Bob Denig**. Once the brass gave Denig its blessing all he needed was the reporters, and rather than train Marines to do the job, Denig stole them from Washington's dailies.

Striding briskly and geant into their city newsmen, demanding if they really wanted to see and cover the Pacific war, he could arrange it. Publishers and city editors went bananas as star reporters eloped to the Marines. But old Denig just kept talking fast.

The new recruits were rushed through boot camp and shipped out to the islands starting with Guadalcanal. I don't know quite what the rules of engagement were back then, but today's combat correspondents go armed in combat areas, and although they don't go looking for a firefight, they are authorized to fire if necessary. Over time, combat correspondents have been killed and wounded in action, one earning a Medal of Honor. One young Marine attending the San Antone meeting had been terribly burned in Iraq about the face and head and, more than a year later, is still undergoing reconstructive surgery and rehab therapy. Swell guy, lovely wife, cute daughter with another on the way.

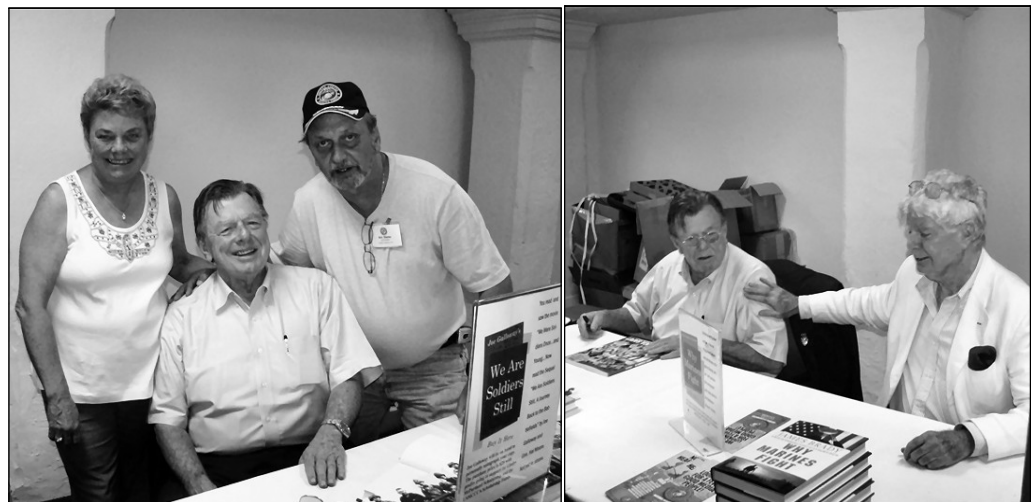
The material, print, audio, film, video that the Marine reporters gather and produce, is disseminated to U.S. media through a central gathering point in

uninvited with a single ser-rooms, Denig challenged the

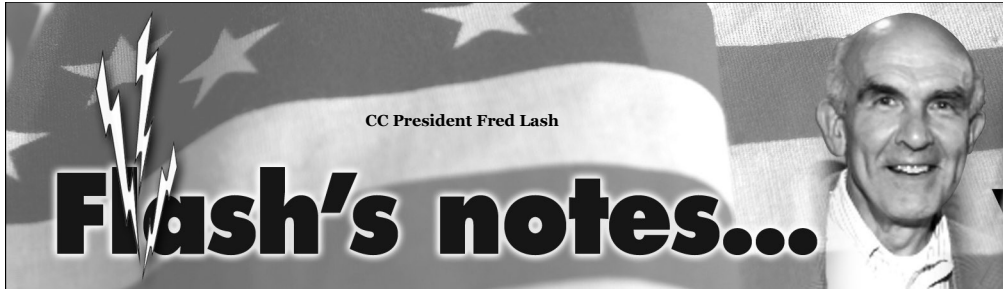


Jim Brady-Marine

(Continued on page 8)



Two famous authors staged book signings at the San Antonio Conference. At left, **Joe Galloway** took a minute from signing his new "We Are Soldiers Still..." for a photo with **Bob Stanley** ® and **Jacki Schey**, both of San Francisco. At right, Parade Magazine celebrity columnist (and former Marine) **Jim Brady** ® trades barbs with **Joe Galloway**. Brady received the **2008 Denig Award** at the Merit Awards Banquet August 14. Brady was signing his latest book, "Why Marines Fight." Both authors donated \$10 from the sale of each book to the Association. Contact CCHQ for a signed copy of "We Are Soldiers Still."



What a great feeling to be coming off a highly successful conference in San Antonio—thanks again to **Don O'Neal** and his wonderful cadre of assistants who made everything go ever so smoothly. One thing is for certain—we'll never have doubts about holding another conference in "Alamo City"!!

A short time before going in for hip replacement surgery (Sept. 19), I visited the office of the Director of Marine Corps Public Affairs and met with both **Colonels Gregg Sturdevant and Dave Lapan**, and we engaged in a highly spirited dialogue regarding our present relationship and ways it can be made even stronger. Overall, it was a conversation we plan to have several times during the coming year—this can only make our goals and objectives more closely linked and aligned.

On the Friday prior to that meeting at Headquarters Marine Corps, VP **Don Knight** and I were joined at the National Press Club for lunch by CC veterans **Cy O'Brien and Sam Stavisky**. With none of us at the table knowing what the next two weeks would bring, Don and I listened intently as Cy described his recent all-expenses paid trip to Guam, where he gave a keynote dedication speech at a new World War II memorial on that island. Then, it was Sam's turn and he posed a few leadership challenges for the USMCCCA that were worthy of much thought, discussion, and action. His main three points were these:

Your Dues are Due

Dues-paying members are reminded dues were to be at CCHQ prior to September 30 this year. As that date is now past, an amnesty period will end December 15.

Remember: \$30 for staff and above; \$20 sergeants and below. If you have a question regarding dues, either call the Executive Director (352.748.4698) or email him at usmccca@cfl.rr.com.

Dues can be paid by check or by credit card. If mailing: CCHQ, 110 Fox Court, Wildwood, FL 34785.

Establish even closer ties with the current Director of Public Affairs. This is an excellent time for CCs to strengthen relations with USMC leadership and continue looking for mutually beneficial projects.

Use this opportunity to help the Marine Corps in its public outreach activities.

Retain members' interest in the USMCCCA by providing them an opportunity to participate in activities of our organization.

Sam went on to mention other sage advice to Don and I, and I'll pass more along in future letters in our newsletters. It goes without saying that we'll indeed miss our good friend and fellow CC. His funeral at Arlington National Cemetery will be on October 28.

At this meeting, just prior to his death, I personally assured Sam that we would carry the torch forward and raise funds for the memorial to Brigadier General Denig and his Demons at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

At the next meeting of the National Marine Corps Council (NMCC) on 18 October, I'll once again advise council member organizations of our project and plans. It may very well be that your 'Prez' will succeed Mike Blum (Marine Corps League) as the Chairman of the NMCC Executive Committee. If so, we can move CC projects into a more open forum, thus gaining some momentum and support from fellow associations.

2008-09 Booster Club

**Platinum
\$5,000 Up**

*Boeing
Raytheon
Florida Chapter
Gene Smith, PGA
Anonymous*

**Gold
\$1,000-\$4,999**

*Tony Parzanese
Sally Pritchett*

Silver

\$101-\$999

*Ed Evans
John Fales
(Sgt. Shaft)
Jack Lewis
Don O'Neal
Jack Paxton
Randy Mitchell*

Dates to Remember

Annual Dues: September 30

**2009 Annual Conference:
Sept. 14-18 - Hampton, VA
Crowne Plaza Hotel**

**2010 Annual Conference:
Sept. 26—Oct. 1 Reno, NV
Silver Legacy Hotel,**

Board of Directors Nominations: May 15, 2009

Membership Directory Changes 2008-09

Please make the following changes in your new 2008-09 Membership Directory.

Barwell, John
New email address john-barwell2@gmail.com

Gee, Don (telephone):
215.822.9094
215.822.6598

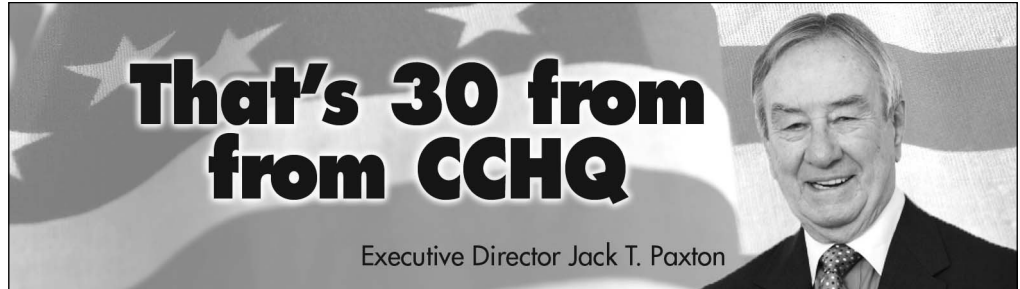
Harmon, John
Calif. Veterans Ret. Home,
Oceanside, CA (h)
760.252.5144 ©
760.577.5359

Haddock, "Katie"
New life member. 7741
Boyd Ct., Springfield, VA
22152
kthaddock@gmail.com

Crum, Rob C.
13604 Black Meadow Rd.
Spotsylvania, VA 22553.
540.972.7989

Stare, James
New member
PSC 557, FPO-AP 96379
james.stare@kadena.af.mil
(AFN Okinawa)

Raughter, John. 10835
Running Brood Rd., Indi-
anapolis, IN 46234 (name
correction).



As **Dick Enberg** might say about the San Antonio Conference: Oh My! With about 233 attending the various functions I think we can say it was a great success!

Don O'Neal, with a great assist from wife, **Yvette**, made sure everything was as advertised and came off as planned. And, with our hotel guru **Red Carpenter** bird dogging the hotel staff, there were few screw ups that we were aware of.

Great seeing many of the old timers but equally great seeing many of our new "warriors" that have been in attendance since we took the job three years ago.

With **Keith Oliver** in attendance this year all ran smoothly. We will miss him as our national president. If we can keep up with **Flash Lash's** rapid delivery we are sure to have an interesting time on his watch.

We welcomed new Board of Director members **Mike Mink, John Dodd** and **Bryan Salas**. Mike recently retired at Camp Lejeune and is now editing a Navy publication in Norfolk. John, a senior DINFOS instructor, has served a year of an unexpired term and now will have two years to leave his mark. Elsewhere you will read about John's other new duties as Treasurer of the USMCCCA Foundation. **Bryan Salas** is Public Affairs Officer, Marine Forces Atlantic, returning to CONUS earlier this year after serving as PAO, I MEF, in Iraq. He has been selected for colonel.

We wish all could have heard the banter between HLM **Joe Galloway** and new HLM (and Denig-winner) **Jim Brady** in the conference registration area as each were signing copies of their books. The exchange became hilarious when each tried to sell the other a book, claiming author discounts you never heard of. We still have some signed copies of Joe's new book, **We Are Soldiers Still** at \$25. Jim's **Why Marines Fight** went fast. Each made sure we made \$10 from each sale. Because of the generosity of both authors, we made nearly \$1,000. Joe arranged with his publisher to give us advance copies before the book went public. No, the first book sold is not available. It's mine! You can still get a copy of Jim's at the MCA Book Store. If you want to support us and get one of Joe's, get with me.

We made an interesting liaison at the Conference. **Judith Paixeo** and **Kevin Lombard** (they are husband and wife) contacted Joe Galloway as well as Walt Ford and Les Palm at Leatherneck/MCA prior to the conference. Joe was the first to contact CCHQ, then Walt. Essentially, this husband and wife team mortgaged their home to set up a Foundation/training program for wounded Marines to teach them the fundamentals of photography, videography, producing, writing, et al. The first 10 trainees have been accepted into the motion picture union, thus guaranteeing them jobs. Now, think about it: Ten Marines with no prior training, are now qualified to join a union and hold meaning full jobs—with no prior training before this. If ever an organization rated support by our organization, this has to be it.

Your board of directors felt so strongly that they voted an initial contribution of \$2,000 to the Foundation. We proudly herald the Florida chapter's exploits but this contribution could not have been made without their generosity.

Sam's death was devastating. Sometimes you tend to forget that no one lives forever (present company included). We talked to him on the phone shortly before the conference and he was excited about having the Combat Reporting Award named after him. Sam told us (and anyone else who would listen) that the Association had to commit to getting BrigGen. Denig's accomplishments recognized in the Quantico History Museum. We certainly can agree to that!

We also had talked to **Mike McClung** after your Board named the Sports Photography award after his daughter, **Megan**, killed by an IED in Iraq. He and Re will perpetuate the award.

During our after-conference vacation, we happened to be in Coupeville, WA on our way to Alaska and **Mike and Re** invited us to dinner at their beautiful Puget Sound home. They spend much of their time journeying to various events which herald her life; marathons, etc. Certainly this young Marine major did not die in vain as so much good is being accomplished in her name.

Don't forget your dues. We need you.

A Gala Night With Many Awards

(Continued from page 1)

ence activities. There is an old show business adage that you should “never follow a banjo act with a banjo act.” In this case we feel comfortable that our new Director will bring the same great enthusiasm and camaraderie to the job that our outgoing Director did.

We were a bit disappointed that only a few of the first place Merit Award winners were able to make it but given the demands of the Corps in Iraq, and now Afghanistan, we understood and gave the 23 winners, which included second place and honorable mention, enthusiastic applause.

A possible new record for honors in the Merit Award competition was achieved by **Sgt. Ethan Rocke**, who picked up five first place awards, as well as several lesser ones. Rocke was on hand and received a thunderous ovation.

We honored **Sgt. Tim Shelby** with our own William T. Perkins Combat Videographer of the Year award. Shelby stood tall as **National President Keith Oliver** made the presentation with **Gen. Milstead** and **General (s) Sturdevant**. Equally proud were Tim’s parents who came for the presentation.

Col. Walt Ford, Editor/Publisher of Leatherneck Magazine, presented the Ronald Lyons Award to **Cpl. Warren Peace** for his article “Trekking in The Gobi Desert,” published in the September 2007 issue. **Cpl. John Parry**, MB, Washington, received the coveted Tom Bartlett Award for January 2008 Best Cover.

Walt also honored three of the six Marketing and Public Affairs (MPA) winners in attendance with Kabar Plaques. The three were **SSgt. Roman Yurek**, and **Sgts. Andy Miller and Chris Berryman**.

It was then announced that **SSgt. Roman**



Col. Walt Ford (l) Editor/Publisher, *Leatherneck Magazine*, presents the 2008 Denig Award to **Jim Brady** as **Gen. Milstead** (2d from l) and incoming Public Affairs Director, **Brig-Gen. (s) Gregg Sturdevant**, looks on



MPA of the Year, **SSgt. Roman Yurek**, RS Milwaukee, receives the Navy Achievement Medal from MajGen. (s) **Boomer Milstead**, Director of Marine Corps Recruiting, as National President **Keith Oliver** (l) looks on.



Our National Chaplain, **Mawk Arnold**, was the 2008 Donald Dickson Award Winner.

Yurek had won the Marine Corps saber as MPA of the Year. **SSgt. Yurek** was then awarded the Navy Achievement Medal, by Gen. Milstead, who is Director, Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

Jim Brady, Parade Magazine celebrity columnist and former Marine platoon leader in Korea, was honored with the 2008 BrigGen. Robert L. Denig Memorial Distinguished Performance Award.

The personable 80-year-old was humbled by the award, telling the audience that of all things he was proudest of in his life was being a Marine.

The following morning at the Business Meeting Brunch Brady regaled the audience with the trials and tribulations (most times humorous) of interviewing some of the best known “and beautiful” celebrities as well as his efforts in getting his many books published.

Following Brady’s remarks at the Business Brunch outgoing President Keith Oliver presented Brady with an Honorary Life Membership for his Denig selection.

Jim also sat through an autograph session of his most recent book, “**Why Marines Fight.**”

The 2008 President’s Award was presented to past **President Red Carpenter** by **Keith Oliver** for Red’s many contributions to the Association this past year, including the negotiation with hotels for the next two conferences.

Thanks to Red’s efforts, which included visits to three East Coast sites, the 2009 conference will be held in Hampton, VA and the 2010 conference will take place in Reno, NV.

The finale of the evening was the awarding of the 2008 Donald L. Dickson Memorial Award to our National Chaplain, **Mawk Arnold**.

Mawk, choking back tears, acknowledged this as the highlight of his life with our organization.

More Conference/Brunch Highlights



Florida Chapter President Red Carpenter (2d from r) was the 2008 recipient of the President's award for his many contributions to President Keith Oliver and the Association during Oliver's tenure. From left are Oliver, Gen. Milstead, Carpenter and Director of Information, BrigGen. (s) Gregg Sturdevant.



CCs Jim Jarvis, Don Gee and Chuck Kester visit with Brady following the Business Meeting Brunch.



2008 Denig Award Winner Jim Brady accepts an honorary life membership from President Keith Oliver.

A 43-year friendship was renewed at the conference between National Exec **Jack Paxton** (l) and **Joe Galloway**. The two first met in Danang in 1965 Paxton was with the Danang Press Center and Galloway was a UPI correspondent



Cochise Cash (l) had an absolute "ball" (his words) meeting old friends, including Keith Oliver ®, Jack Lewis and others.

Our Banquet Hosts, Don Knight (l) Merit Awards Chair and incoming CC VP, with the "emcee of emcees" **Pat Coulter**. For the second year in a row the two worked together to keep the awards "parade" moving without a hitch. "The Voice of Raytheon," Pat has already agreed to handle the chores in 2009



National President Keith Oliver accepts a check for \$7,500 from **Florida Chapter President Red Carpenter**. The check represents proceeds from the Chapter's Annual Golf Tournament. This is the second year in a row the chapter has made such a donation to the national association.



Great Welcome Reception
A great time was had by all hands at the Tuesday Welcome Reception...the free Heineken and the taco bar helped. More photos P-13



2008 Merit Awards Banquet: Was Rockin'?

The Menger Hotel ballroom was rockin' and jumpin' with excitement. The cheers, the applause, and the "Oorahs" echoed in the hallways and could even be heard on nearby Crockett Street, adjacent to the historic Alamo.

The USMCCCA's annual Merit Awards banquet was in full swing at San Antonio. Active duty Marines, in dress blues, stepped forward, accepted their award plaques and certificates, then shook the hand of

Vintage Jim Brady...

(Continued from page 2)

Atlanta, which, according to **Jack Paxton** of the Correspondents Association, functions much as a wire service, making the video and other material available to TV stations, and other customers. They also service Marine base newspapers and magazines with feature and news material, and send on stories of local news interest to civilian papers, radio and TV stations, regional magazines and the like, wherever an item is focused on a Marine or unit from their market area.

General "Boomer" Milstead, who as director of public affairs used to command the combat correspondents, but now directs recruiting, says Marines are meeting or exceeding quotas (other services often do not), and without lowering standards or increasing financial incentives. When he told one heavily recruited youngster the Army was offering more, the kid said, "Yeah, but I wouldn't be a Marine."

Last year the combat correspondents gave their **Robert L. Denig** award to former Marine Officer **Jim Lehrer**, and I was this year's fall guy, a Marine who'd also written about and otherwise promoted the Marine Corps. I'd not been in San Antonio since at 8 years old I toured the Alamo, thrilled to see where they chopped Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett, and a café where I learned to sing "Cielito Lindo," first ate Mexican food and promptly threw up. My kid brother, then only three, says he doesn't remember anything about that trip but is pleased I was the one who got sick.

San Antonio is a lovely old town, largely Hispanic, very hot in August, and the Menger Hotel, built in 1859 just across from the Alamo, is a grand place, which functioned once as **Teddy Roosevelt's** headquarters when he was recruiting cowboys and other Texans to his Rough Riders headed for Cuba. There's a more contemporary war-time feel to the local airport these days, with soldiers in field boots and camouflage queuing up for flights from Fort Sam Houston or the big military medical center, to duty in the Middle East.

My own flight home was via Dallas/Fort Worth, where thunderstorms had played merry hell with flight schedules all over the south-west and delayed my La Guardia plane a couple of hours. But the delay did provide a joyous dividend, when I was carded while ordering a Corona at an airport bar. With a mischievous delight, I handed over an old Marine ID card I'd been carrying since Korea in 1952. "Oh, man!" the bartender said. Never dull in Texas.

BrigGen. (S) Gregg Sturdevant, MajGen. (S) R.E. "Boomer" Milstead, and Association President Keith Oliver. Gen. Sturdevant is the new director for public affairs, headquarters Marine Corps, succeeding Milstead, who now serves as director of the Corps' Recruiting Command at Quantico.

Banquet Master of Ceremonies **Pat Coulter**, the melodious Voice of Raytheon, put the evening in proper perspective. "This," he said, "is a moment to celebrate, to honor the outstanding work of combat correspondents worldwide as writers, photographers, broadcasters and artists in telling the Marine Corps story. Tonight we honor the best of the best."

The "best" included 46 first place awards and 75 certificates in the Merit Awards program, a total of 121. Six Marketing and Public Affairs (MPA) Marines were honored for their achievements in their districts, with one, **Sgt. Roman Yurek** of Milwaukee selected as "MPA of the Year." Leatherneck Magazine honored three other Marines for their contributions to the publication over the past year.

Sgt. Ethan Roche, recently transferred from Okinawa to the Marine billet in Los Angeles, had the biggest "haul" of the night: five first place awards including those for print and broadcast journalist of the year, plus two certificate awards. He already has a sea bag full of plaques and certificates from other merit award competitions.

Other multiple award winners: **SSgt. Scott Dunn** of the Public Affairs Division, Headquarters Marine Corps; **SSgt. Eric Arndt** of the 31st MEU; **Sgt. Andy Hurt**, also of the 31st MEU, and **Sgt. Timothy Shelby**, production chief for channel Q-TV at Quantico. One of Shelby's two citations included the William T. Perkins Combat Videographer of the Year Award.

Sergeant Arndt, deployed overseas, was among the many award winners unable to attend the ceremony. Plaques and certificates will be forwarded to the various commands or state chapters for presentation.

Also recognized at the banquet were 36 sponsors of individual and unit awards. Their contributions will help underwrite the cost of the award program. Also saluted from the podium: some 20 professionals from civilian ranks who served as judges.

The San Antonio event marked the 41st year of the USMCCCA awards program. In 1967 there were 11 award winners. This year there were 121 first place and runner up awards involving 80 individual Marines and unit citations.

This ten-fold increase over the past four decades represents an expansion that the USMCCCA and the Marine Corps can fully endorse and support. **(By National VP and Merit Awards Co-Chair Don Knight)**

New National Website Being Readied

Thanks to the talents of Kate Stark the national website is rapidly taking shape. By the time you read this, usmcca-org should be up and running. From it you can link to the Florida website, the Rosenthal Chapter site and DINFOS.

Conference Trips, Panels Entertain All

Conference Chairman Don O'Neal arranged a visit to the Center for the Intrepid at San Antonio's Brooke Army Medical Center, just one part of an overall push this year to raise CC awareness (and financial support) for some of America's best "wounded warrior" programs. CC Cpl. Aaron Mankin, severely burned in an IED attack in Iraq, helped Don squire members on the special tour. Later, Aaron received a standing ovation from the membership in recognition of his toughness and continuing, remarkable recovery.

Pictured (below) are (from left), Conference Chair Don O'Neal, Intrepid Program Manager Dr. Rebecca Hooper, Marine Corps University Foundation (MCUF) President and Chief Executive Officer, Brig. Gen. Tom Draude and newly-elected National USMCCA President Fred Lash.



Proud parents, **Dianna and Aaron Mankin** pose for a pre-Banquet photo with SSgt. Angie Mink (l) who is holding their daughter, Madeline. Since the photo, the Mankins have become parents again, this time a son, Hunter, born October 17. Aaron continues to recover from his wounds received from an IED in Iraq several years ago.



MCUF also sponsored a lively Professional Military Education session for the CCs - a 25th Year Beirut retrospective that included Middle East expert Claude Salhani; former French Liaison Officer, Lt. Col. Jim Diehl, USMC (ret); and veteran PAOs, Maj. Bob Jordan, USMC (ret) and CWO Randy Gaddo, USMC (ret), both of whom were serving on the ground in Beirut when the Battalion Landing Team headquarters was destroyed on Oct. 23, 1983. The event served as a *de facto* national kickoff for ceremonies marking the event, including services at Camp Lejeune. Jordan and Gaddo continue to have major roles in this fall's activities as their writing and photography were featured in a wide array of current publications.



CWO Randy Gaddo (l) and Claude Salhani share Beirut stories at the Merit Awards Banquet. Salhani, an expert on Middle East affairs, was the guest of the Marine Corps University Foundation during the Conference.



Never one to mince words, "We Are Soldiers Still" co-author **Joe Galloway** makes his point during the Military and Media Panel while Barbara Ferguson, Washington Bureau Chief, Arab News looks on. She encouraged Marine CCs to learn as much as they can about countries and people they are involved with.

Cy O'Brien Returns to Guam-No Rifle

Former Marine Sgt. Cyril "Obie" O'Brien has vivid memories of the first time he set foot on Guam. It was in July, 1944 and he was running across Asan Beach in the third wave of the Third Division's assault on that Japanese-held Pacific island.

He was, as a combat correspondent, carrying both a rifle and a typewriter.

"I got halfway across the beach," he said, "and there was so much firing going on with bullets in the water. So I jumped into a shell hole and stayed there for a little time."

Obie recounted his experiences on Guam as the keynote speaker during ceremonies last August 16 marking the 30th anniversary of the War in the Pacific National Historical Park and dedication of a new visitor center near the U.S. naval base and the World War II landing beaches.

He had visited Guam several times since the war but this time it was something special. He called it a "wonderful honor" to return, this time as a guest of the National Park Service. "They needed a veteran of the battle and they chose me," said Obie, who also laid a wreath at a memorial which honors two Third Division Medal of Honor recipients.

Obie fought on Bougainville in the Solomons before becoming a CC and participating in the capture of Guam and later Iwo Jima.

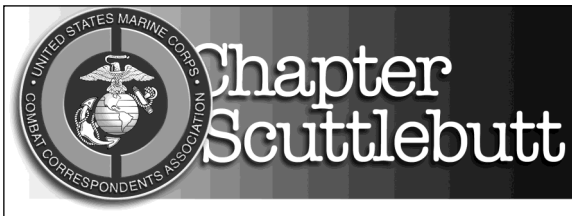
His visit this year to Guam might be his last. He's closing in on age 90, occasionally uses a cane and lives in a retirement community in suburban Silver Spring, Md. He often visits the National Press Club, where he belongs to a select group with 50 years of membership and rarely

misses a monthly meeting of the Lucas Chapter of the USMCCCA.

Obie attended St. John's and American Universities. He covered



Rosenthal Chapter members are saluted by LtCol. John Hampton who was celebrating his 101st birthday earlier this year. From left: Bill Wasson, Wes Tilton, Norb Malecki, Dale Cook, Hampton, Don Hester and Earle Holt (cutting cake).



Dale Cook Returns to Iwo Jima

Rosenthal Chapter President Dale Cook (l) holds the Marine Corps colors with former Navy veteran Joe Farrell on their return to Iwo Jima recently on a Military Historical Tour. Cook, also President of the 4th Marine Division Association, and Farrell were veterans of the fierce fighting on that famous island.



Florida Chapter Meeting—Proving their versatility in developing meeting sites, members of the Florida chapter arranged to hold their third quarter meeting during the National Conference in San Antonio. From left are Tom Kerr (back to camera), Hank Ehlbeck, Bob McEwen, President Red Carpenter and Chuck Beveridge.



When USMCCCA President **Fred Lash** asked me to serve as President our Foundation I was both flattered and honored. Those of you who know me (I hope most of you do), know that I have a true passion for the success of the association. I look forward to evolving my passion into a continuing effort to improve the Foundation's financial position to better serve the ideals and programs of the USMCCCA.

As I assume office, I want to thank those who serve the Foundation's interests, especially **Tom Kerr** our Treasurer and Executive Director **Jack Paxton**.

Tom has managed the steady moderate growth of each of our financial accounts, even as the current economic crisis has decimated investments held by others.

Jack, on the other hand, has worked tirelessly to communicate with our members, attempted to re-establish contact with those we have lost track of, managed our booster club and generally been the glue that has held our Association together.

I also want to thank my USMCCCA mentor, past President **Red Carpenter**, upon whom I rely for advice, encouragement and inspiration.

The Foundation was created to receive, hold, invest and manage the financial resources of the Association. Among its stated purposes is to subsidize publications, establish fellowships, to endow our scholarships and to support our awards programs.

Over the years there has been an ongoing internal debate over just how the Foundation should operate so as not to jeopardize the tax exempt status of either the Foundation or the Association it was created to support. As the result of what I deem an excess of caution, I believe the true potential of the Foundation has yet to be fully achieved.

As president, I hope to eliminate some of the confusion and move forward with an aggressive fund raising program to better position the Association to carry-out its programs and expand benefits to its membership.

As currently structured, the Board of Directors and officers of the Association also serve in like capacities on the Foundation. From an oversight and accountability standpoint, this creates the potential for perceived, if not real, conflicts of interest in day-to-day management of the Foundation.

One of my first priorities is the amendment of our bylaws to create greater separation between the two organizations and the establishment of distinct financial oversight by appointing a separate treasurer for the Foundation. Other management changes will be made as necessary to achieve our goal of independent oversight while guarding the Association's assets.

After the first of the year, I will be embarking on an aggressive fund raising program to generate contributions from outside sources.

Having managed philanthropy in two major corporations, I think I have an insight into what it takes to secure corporate grants and sponsorships. I'll be relying on this past experience to grow our treasury and thereby increase the benefits available to our scholarship recipients and award winners. I'll be communicating more on this front as our plans and programs firm up.

Additional Chapter Chatter

Maryland Golf a Winner

It was wet at Arnold, Md.'s Bay Hills Country Club Sept. 27 but that didn't stop 26 golfers from driving and putting their way to a good time at the Maryland Chapter's first annual outing.

Patterned after the successful Florida Chapter golf events, CCs Bob and Evi Jordan (who split time between the Sunshine State and Maryland) teamed with local chapter president Tiffany Carter and Marine Detachment commander Danny Chung to clear nearly \$2,000.

John Hoellwarth's foursome took top honors in the tourney, halted on the 16th hole due to driving rain. Thanks to a tasty barbeque luncheon and an impressive array of door prizes, no player walked away hungry or empty handed. Gifts and auction items included drivers, putters, golf hats and Navy Football tickets.

Other CCs working hard to make the tournament a reality included John and Dale Dodd, Jason Fischer and hole sponsors Fred Lash and Walt Ford (on behalf of *Leatherneck*).



Newly-Promoted DINFOS Chapter President SSgt. Tiffany Carter is shown with **Capt. Russ Blazer**, former XO, RS Frederick, MD following the early October ceremony.

Tucker's Florida Find-38 Years Later

This USMCCA Sea Story actually began 27Aug65, when as a young WO, I reported to the Combat Information Bureau, Da Nang Press Center for duty, and was billeted in Room 5, with **WO's Red Carpenter** and **Jim Smith**.

Life-long friendships developed. Jim's gone now, but I will fast-forward to a continuing four decade-plus friendship with Red.

Seems CC's **Red Carpenter**, **Tom Kerr**, and **Jack Paxton** were taking their wives on a cruise, and "**Fast Eddie**" **Evans** and I (w/spouses) accepted Red & Ann Carpenter's generous offer of the use of their home in Spring Hill, FL during their cruise.

Needless to say, we enjoyed the use of their beautiful home, eating their fresh tangerines and grapefruit, relaxing, checking out different restaurants, beach-combing, and sight-seeing.

On Wednesday, 20 February, we were driving south on U.S. Highway 19, when Ed and I received mixed messages from our

spouses...flea market/curio shop/pit stop. As any good CC's would do, we acknowledged their wishes, and as soon as we spotted a curio shop, service station & Gun/Pawn Shop sitting like ducks in a row in Port Richey, we stopped.



Addressing individual priorities, we went in different directions, and I headed for the Gun/Pawn Shop. Upon entry, an SKS carbine, with a silver presentation plate on the stock immediately caught my eye. The presentation plate was too familiar.

The inscription read: "Presented to LtCol Thomas W. Gavey USAF by The DOD MoPic Team Marines. "Taken from Enemy Weapons Cache in Cambodia 5 May 70. Semper Fidelis" I had presented this same SKS to Tom Gavey at MACV MACOI-AV on behalf of the DOD MoPic Team-Marine nearly 38 years ago!

Cameramen **Lorenzo Wright** and **Bill Layman**, **Soundman Ben Marrufo** and I made numerous inserts into Cambodia during the two months in Spring of 1970 that U.S. Forces were legally operating there. We filmed actions in Neak Luong, Parrot's Beak and Fish Hook regions and areas unnamed while attached to the Vietnamese Marines who didn't recognize Secretary McNamara's 21.7 mile limit imposed on U.S. Troops.

Invading the NVA Sanctuary paid off in numerous enemy casualties and tons of individual and crew-served weapons, ammo and supplies. **This particular weapon was one of 4,000 brand new SKS carbines captured 5May70.**

Figure the odds...the only Gun/Pawn Shop in which I entered between Nashville and Key West...held a war souve-

nir collected by a questionable group of Combat Correspondents/Heart-Breakers & Widow-Makers nearly 38 years ago.

Tom Gavey was probably a good sport prior to exposure to the Marine DOD MoPic Team, but we broadened his parameters. When he collected his USAF dungaree shirt after a stand-down party outside the Marine Team office, he



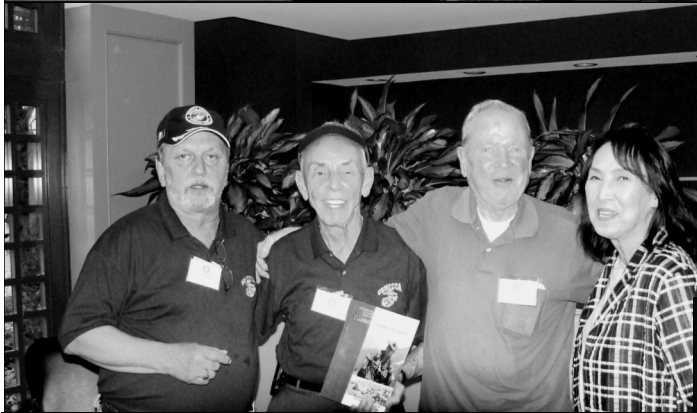
discovered a Marine emblem ironed on same, neatly above his embroidered USAF Pilot's Wings.

I have no idea how Tom's SKS ended up in this Pawn Shop. I have lost contact with **Tom Gavey** and **Lorenzo Wright** since 1970, but on 20Feb08, I

called **Bill Layman** in Pensacola & **Ben Marrufo** in Aurora, CO, and said, "You guys ain't gonna believe this s--- ! But I held in my hands today the SKS we presented **Tom Gavey** in Saigon nearly 38 years ago!"



Could You Guess who this 1942 "Twinkletoes" was? He was a corporal and was receiving Maori dance lessons during a Christmas trip from combat action in the Pacific. He would win many awards for his combat footage and is today one of our more distinguished members. Yes, we cleared this through **Norm Hatch's** wife.



Executive Summary: Old Board Meeting

2008 (old) Board of Directors Meeting August 13, 2008

President Keith Oliver called the meeting of the 2008 USMCCCA Board of Directors to order at 3:25 p.m. Present were: President Oliver, Vice President Fred Lash, Secretary Chris Whiting, Directors John Dodd, Don Knight, Don O'Neal, and Vickie Conkel-Turney. Executive Director Jack Paxton and Historian Frank Burke were also present. A quorum was present.

President: President Oliver started his report by saying, "There's good news at DINFOS." He said max credit must be given to three former presidents – Red Carpenter, Don Gee and Mike Pitts – who had a vision for DINFOS to be our bastion for recruiting. He said it's happening. All graduates get a certificate and a complimentary one-year membership card at the graduation ceremony.

Oliver said Red Carpenter has taken up the conference coordinator job. Thus, next year we'll be in Hampton, Va. and in 2010, Reno, Nev. Then, in 2011, an east coast location can think about hosting the conference.

He said Don Knight has done journeyman's work on the awards program. Knight wrote the centerpiece (awards) article for the journal and between him and Chuck Beveridge, we have an award winning journal.

He praised Jack Paxton for the great job he's done as executive director, highlighting the fact the Paxton is our biggest member-getter and fund-raiser..

He honored Michele Kurland, long-time TAVSC liaison, for her years of service. Capt. Tony Lopez will be our new Combat Camera liaison, and Oliver called him "passionate about his folks getting recognition and becoming a part of this franchise."

Executive Director: Executive Director Jack Paxton reported that he would save most of his report for the Friday Business Meeting. He said we have approximately 223 conference attendees.

Paxton said he has been in contact with the Wounded Marine Careers Foundation. They give combat-wounded Marines training in photography and videography. His feeling is, if there ever was an organization we should be affiliated with, this is it.

Paxton reported that the merit award sponsors increased from 28 to 36 this year. The objective is to get sponsors for every first place category. He expressed a concern that we are asking the members for too much money. He said the booster club earned less this year and that we need more corporate sponsors.

Paxton said we gained 23 new members this year. But, he added, there are too many honorary life members and that we lose money on life memberships. He said we need an idea to help out this situation, possibly a sustaining life membership of some sort.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tom Kerr reported that he already e-mailed a full report to the board. He said we are reporting differently now. We went to a calendar year for tax purposes, which made this a short year. He said that, as of December 31, we the total balance of all funds was \$116,000. He said this is an increase from five years ago when we had \$87,700.

He said we're making progress on the Foundation side, but the Association funds are going down.

Kerr said this is not a bad thing because associations are not supposed to grow funds. Associations are supposed to have an even balance, but we can put money into a reserve fund.

He said he will probably set up some kind of reserve fund at the end of the year, and then the Association books will be in order. He said he is at a point where he can now submit a budget.

He said it has taken three years to get to this point, but he will submit a budget for 2009, and that it will include a request for support from the Foundation.

He said the Foundation is beginning to live up to its purpose as the Association's fundraising arm. He will ask to new board to look at alternatives for making the Foundation operations more separate from the Association.

Kerr reiterated his concern for the health of the Gladys McPartland Scholarship Fund. He said he thinks the word is getting out because people are beginning to respond and contribute.

Compensation for Art Director: Oliver asked Paxton to give information so the board could consider giving compensation for our art director, Chuck Beveridge.

Paxton said we voted to give him \$2,000 last year and said this amount was adequate to meet Beveridge's needs. Kerr pointed out the income from the journal has gone up since Beveridge began doing the layout and artwork.

Paxton said last year we made \$4,000 to \$5,000 and this year it cost \$8,300 and we made \$17,000 to \$18,000. A motion was made to pay Chuck Beveridge \$2,000 for journal composition costs. The motion was seconded, passed and carried.

Wounded Marine Careers Foundation: Lash said he has been working with the Wounded Marine Careers Foundation. He said he been working on Warrior Care for the Secretary of Defense and he will ask Wounded Marines Career Foundation to do the documentation for National Warrior Care Month in November. He assured the board that we are tied in with them and CCs will push the writing and videography for Warrior Care Month.

Absentee Ballots: After discussion, it was determined that the money saved by not sending the absentee ballots (for uncontested elections) is not worth taking away the members' right to vote. In the future, absentee ballots will be sent for each annual election.

Executive Summary: Business Meeting

Annual Business Meeting August 15, 2008

President Keith Oliver called the 2008 USMCCCA Annual Business Meeting to order at 10:48 a.m. Chapters present were: Florida Chapter, Eddie Adams (NYC) Chapter, Joe Rosenthal Chapter, Los Angeles Chapter, Jim G. Lucas Chapter and Maryland (DINFOS) Chapter. A quorum was present.

President: President Oliver began his report on a personal note, thanking the CC family for the fantastic support given to his and Ceresse's family over the past year.

He said the brainchild of Presidents Carpenter, Pitts and Gee to give memberships to all DINFOS grads has come to fruition. Each graduate of an entry-level course gets a certificate and complimentary membership as part of the graduation ceremony. Oliver said we get fantastic command support from DINFOS and there is "much to feel good about."

He thanked Red Carpenter for his role as conference coordination chair. Carpenter brought in three conference sites, San Antonio, Hampton, Va., and Reno. Oliver acknowledged his hard work and also thanked Don Coleman, who will be the conference chair in Reno, 2010.

Oliver announced that Capt. Tony Lopez, who is currently in Iraq, will be the new Combat Camera liaison. He said the renewed relationship with Combat Camera will help the success of the CCs. He thanked Michele Kurland for her many years as the TAVSC liaison.

He said we would probably see changes in the USMCCCA website. He said it might be hosted by the Florida Chapter for the short term. He praised Kate Stark for her work on the Florida site and thanked Paul Younghaus for his help with the national

Executive Director: Executive Director **Jack Paxton** started his report with a comment about the conference. He said there were some glitches, but overall, things went right more than they went wrong. He said the hardest part is getting an accurate count for the hotel events, as the hotel wants a number 72 hours in advance. This year, he said, he pre-registered 213 attendees, thanks to HQMC support, and only missed the banquet count by two.

Paxton said the Booster Club is flourishing. Paxton said the USMCCCA asks for a lot from the members and he thanked them for it. He said he's especially proud of the Merit Award sponsors. At \$200 each, we have 36 categories sponsored. He said that means a lot to the active duty Marines who win. He said most sponsors are sustaining members. Paxton said he'd like to continue to name the awards after appropriate Marine CCs. We already have named the Combat Reporting Award after Sam Stavisky, honoring Denig's Demons.

He brought up the idea of writing a sequel to the CC history, Last to Know, First to Go. He said we'd have to start from scratch and completely re-do it.

He said membership is an ongoing proposition and needs hands-on from all of us. Each year we show these young warriors that the "tribal elders" can still do a few tricks, but we need new members. He said we have 23 new members out of DINFOS and "out of the blue" Col. Katie Haddock signed up for life membership. But he told members he had to cut the rolls by 45 because we can't find them. Bulk mail is not forwarded, so unless the person contacts him, he has no way of knowing a change of address. He said we have 532 members now and 300 or so are life members. He said we need new blood.

On the subject of chapters, Paxton said they're all eating well, but he'd like to see chapters give better support to national. He reiterated that members of chapters must also be national members. He said the San Diego County chapter has all but folded; they sent him the last of their treasury. He said that chapter's old timers are all getting older and the active duty Marines are all gone to Iraq. He said the Eddie Adams Chapter in New York still exists, but he doesn't know how much they're doing. He said Augustino Von Hassel is holding it together. He said the DINFOS chapter is doing well and planning a golf tournament.

Treasurer: Treasurer Tom Kerr said, "Traditionally, when the CC treasurer stands up, he says, 'We're solvent,' and then sits back down." Kerr said that's what he'd like to do, but that he needed to add a few things.

Kerr said we changed the fiscal year to the calendar year, so we had a short year. But he said that shouldn't affect the general membership, except, when your money comes in for an event, it's counted that same year.

He said the USMCCCA Foundation is growing while the Association funds are shrinking. He said that's how it's supposed to be. The accountants he spoke with said associations are not supposed to grow. That's the direction we're moving, he said, and it should make the Association stronger.

He said in three years, we've averaged a \$10,000-a-year gain across all our funds. That's great, he said, but we have one corporate sponsor giving us \$10,000, the Florida Chapter contributing \$10,000 in 2007) and other contributors giving \$5,000. He said if just one of those fell off, we'd be breaking even. He thanked the members for supporting the Booster Club, award sponsorship, advertising, and dedicated member efforts. He said these member contributions come to about \$10,000 per year. He reiterated that if any one of these types of support fell off, we'd only break even; if two fell off, we'd be in a deficit. Kerr added that we all want to try to avoid that.

Election results: Oliver said there were no contested positions among the officers and board members. He asked the members for acclamation of the following slate: President – Fred Lash; Vice President – Don Knight; Secretary – Chris Whiting; Treasurer – Tom Kerr; Directors – Bryan Salas, Michael Mink and John Dodd.

A motion was made to accept the slate, it was seconded, passed and carried.

Summary: New Board; Foundation Board

2008 USMCCA New Board Meeting, Friday, August 15, 2008

In the Absence of President-elect Fred Lash, acting Chair, Treasurer Tom Kerr called the 2009 New Board Meeting to order at 12:38 p.m. Present were: Vice President Don Knight, Treasurer Tom Kerr, Secretary Chris Whiting, Directors Don O'Neal, John Dodd, Michael Mink and Vickie Conkel-Turney, and Executive Director Jack Paxton. A quorum was present.

Following a welcome to all new members and a review and clarification of several items of business from both Old Board and Business meeting, the board voted to shut down the USMCCA website ASAP and put the information on the Florida Chapter site temporarily. Research will be done to determine the next step.

2009 Foundation Board Meeting, Friday August 15, 2008

Acting Chair Tom Kerr called the 2009 Foundation Board meeting to order at 12:38 p.m. Kerr reiterated his previous comments

about the Foundation. He stressed that the Foundation has grown. He said we are paying for things from the Foundation moneys, and he thinks it's legal to do so. But he said it has gotten convoluted and the Foundation needs its own identity and officers.

He added that work must be done on the Foundation bylaws to examine Bob Jordan's original concept of the Association controlling the Foundation.

Kerr announced that President **Fred Lash** has appointed **Don O'Neal** as the President of the Foundation. He then turned the Foundation board meeting over to O'Neal.

President O'Neal said the first order of business was to discuss revising the Foundation bylaws. He said the Foundation is registered with the state of Florida. The bylaws were written in 1992 and modified in 1999.

He appointed **Paxton, Red Carpenter and Kerr** and himself to a committee to modify the Foundation bylaws. He established a target date of November 15, 2008 to submit a draft to the board.



Officers & Directors 2008-2009

Fred "Flash" Lash.....President
Don Knight.....Vice President
Chris Whiting.....Secretary
Tom Kerr.....Treasurer

Directors, USMCCA

John Dodd.....2010
Michael Mink.....2010
Bryan Salas.....2110
Don O'Neal.....2009
Victoria Turney.....2009
"Mawk" Arnold.....Chaplain Frank
Burke.....National Historian
Phil Mehringer.....HQM Liaison
John DoddDINFOS Liaison
Lopez.....CVIC Liaison

USMCCA Foundation

Don O'Neal.....President
John Dodd.....Treasurer

Jack T. Paxton.....Executive Director
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