



NOW HEAR THIS!

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

Reno's Silver Legacy Ready for CCs

Those CCs who remembered to save their green "chip" from the 2009 Hampton Conference may honor them and receive a free Heineken product when they attend our 2010 annual event at the Reno, NV Silver Legacy Casino August 23-30.

Thanks to the efforts of CC and Conference Chair **Don Coleman**, who lives in nearby Fallon, we have received an excellent nightly rate of \$82.

The 2010 Conference will follow the same schedule adopted in recent years. The Opening Ceremonies will start Tuesday, August 23 at 8 a.m.

Tuesday evening there will be a Welcome Reception. On Thursday, August 25, the annual Merit Awards Banquet will be held. And, the following morning at 8 a.m., the



The Silver Legacy Resort & Casino, Reno, NV

Business Breakfast and meeting will be held.

CCHQ is working closely with Division of Public Affairs at HQMC to develop a program that will be of interest to all. Complete conference information will be carried in subsequent newsletters. As the TV stations continually advise: **For breaking news, tune in to the great CC website www.usmccca.org.**

Dues: Our Annual Problem

CCHQ struggles each year to increase membership, hold costs down and keep our Association afloat. Like any modern day veteran's association, we are losing many of our older members. This attrition is to be expected.

What hurts is the loss of members who forget to pay their dues.

We put notices of the dues year: **October 1 to September 30** in each edition of *Now Hear This*. We put similar notices on our website www.usmccca.org. Additionally, we send out a postcard notice. This is being written as we approach February and we still have 70+delinquent members. If you are one of these or are not sure of your status, contact CCHQ: Call **352.748.4698** or email us at usmccca@cfl.rr.com. We don't want to lose you!

2010 Merit Sponsors Sought

Foundation President Don O'Neal is seeking a few good men and women to become sponsors of the annual Merit Awards Program.

"Currently, we have close to 48 Merit Awards being given each year," he said. "While we have made great strides in obtaining sponsors, we are still about 20 short. As most of you realize, the Merit Awards program is ours and is an offshoot of the old DPA awards.

"By recognizing these young Marines, we are assuring that our legacy will continue."

O'Neal said that many of our current sponsors have pledged continued support. Beginning this year in the newsletter, *Now Hear This* as well as in the **Conference Journal** and on the website www.usmccca.org we will carry a column saluting these sponsors.

Sponsorships are available at \$200 and this can be paid either by check, on the website or to CCHQ by credit card. All checks should be made to the **USMCCCA Foundation**.



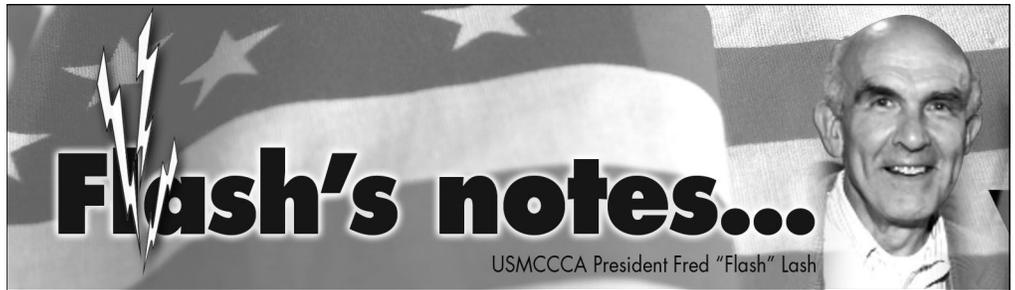
Transitions

Col. Tom Fields died Nov. 29, 2009 in College Park, MD after suffering a stroke in May.



Tom was 91 years old, and was a veteran of WW II, Korea, and Vietnam. He was an All American track star at Maryland in 1941. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in 1942, completed jump school at Lejeune in late 1942, and then headed to war in the Pacific aboard the USS Mt. Vernon. He was in New Caledonia in March '43, & later took part in combat operations on Guadalcanal, Vella Lavella, & Bougainville.

He was later on Iwo Jima with the 26th Marines, 5th Marine Division as a rifle company commander, & as a battalion Exec. Officer. He was awarded the Bronze Star on Iwo. He served 28 years in the Corps, from 1942 to 1970. He was PAO, III MAF in the mid-1960s. Tom's last active duty assignment before retiring was as Deputy Director, Division of Information. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday, Dec. 15th.



As most of you who've known me for a while certainly realize, I really enjoy our annual conferences. And the next **two** have me excited and energized (even more than is normally the case!). With **Don Coleman** having the "situation well in hand" for Reno this year, we're already looking forward to 2011, when we'll be in the "**Big Easy**"—that's right Nouvelle Orleans. There's so much to do in that great city, including the fabulous World War II-Normandy museum, that it has the makings to be a truly memorable experience.

Back for a minute to Reno, **Dave Hugel** has agreed to assist with the program planning and the two of us will endeavor to bring in some speakers and panelists who'll add a lot to the gathering. If one then imagines bringing in **Keith Oliver** to the planning 'triad,' you just know the program will include something for everyone.

Jack, Keith, and I will meet this coming week (February 3rd) with **Colonel Bryan Salas, LtCol Matt McLaughlin, MGySgt Phil Mehringer, and GySgt Brenda Varnadore** at the Division of Public Affairs, to coordinate plans for both the Reno and New Orleans conferences. All in all, we're attempting to look a bit farther out in our plans and better facilitate the awards program. On that topic, let me just say that for the past several years, we've had the very best Merit Awards Chairman that we could possibly ask for—**Don Knight**. Don in stepping down and his will be some very tough shoes to fill. One great big collective thanks to Don for all the hard work you've done and frustrations that you've endured!

On the financial front, **Tom Kerr** reports that we actually made \$6,200.00 in 2009

and since, he indicates, we're only supposed to break even, it was a very good year! He further notes that, "During the past year, the Association and Foundation moved forward in the transition to shift more Association financial support to the Foundation. In 2010, the Foundation is poised to further fulfill its mission of Association support, as well as meet its other charitable goals." As both **Tom** and Foundation Treasurer **John Dodd** agree: "We are solvent."

And, in reflecting for a moment on our most successful Hampton conference, I noted an article published in the *Newport News Daily Press*, regarding our very own **Cy O'Brien**. "In 1944, U.S. Marines landed on Guam in a furious bid to reclaim the island from the Japanese. **PFC Cyril J. O'Brien** hit the beach in the third wave with his 'weapon of choice,' a Hermes typewriter." And I put it to my fellow CCs, isn't this what it's all about?

Upcoming Deadlines

CC regular members are reminded of the following deadlines:

Nomination for national office: May 15.

Journal ads: Member-only quarter-page color ads now until June 1: \$150. After and until final ad deadline July 1: \$180.

Donald Dickson Memorial Award: April 30.

Denig Memorial Award: April 30.

All correspondence relating to these deadlines must be submitted to CCHQ, 110 Fox Court, Wildwood, FL 34785 either by mail, email: usmccca@cfl.rr.com, or telephone: 352.748.4698.

Making an HBO WWII Epic: The Pacific

By Capt. Dale Dye USMC (Ret), MCCA Life Member and Senior Military Advisor on HBO's "The Pacific."

It took nearly two years of hard campaigning to get it right but in March of this year American TV audiences will get an unflinching, historically accurate and very absorbing look at World War II in the Pacific as fought by men of the vaunted 1st Marine Division. In my billet as the Senior Military Advisor for this monster undertaking, Executive Producer **Tom Hanks** gave me a set of deceptively simple marching orders: "Get up under the helmet of those Marines and take the audience on the trip they made to hell and back between 1942 and 1945." That's what we did over the year we spent in shooting the project which HBO has given a simple, evocative title: "The Pacific."

And it's what HBO subscribers will see when the first episode of the maxi-series airs on **March 14**. Like its hugely successful predecessor "Band of Brothers," this series will be presented on HBO in ten one-hour episodes with plans to sell a boxed set sometime following initial TV release. A series of special sneak previews are being set up around the country including one for 1st MarDiv Marines and WW II vets at Camp Pendleton. Given what I saw every day for a full year on sets in Australia where we shot the series and the edits I've seen done over the past year in post-production, there's no question Marines are going to love this series but I believe it will also find a huge following among civilians and veterans of other services who will quickly lock on to the drama, pathos and hardships faced by men who fought the war in the Pacific. We certainly did our best and spared no expense to recreate it.

My orders to the Warriors Inc. cadre who assisted me in the training and in daily on-set advising were direct and specific. We will do everything in our power to give audiences an insight to the thoughts, emotions and passions of men who faced a brutal, tenacious and unfamiliar enemy in the Pacific campaigns of World War II. It was immediately obvious we were facing a big challenge and one that was quite different from what we faced in doing "Band of Brothers," which focused on one company of paratroopers from the 506th PIR of the famed 101st Airborne Division in the ETO.

This new project required us to raise, train and employ actors and special ability extras who would realistically portray WW II-era Marines from all three regiments of the 1st Marine Division. The focus is on three main characters: Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone from 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, PFC Eugene Sledge from 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines and Private Robert Leckie of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines as the division fought from Guadalcanal to Cape Gloucester, Peleliu and on

to Okinawa. Much of the source material for our scripts was taken from books written by the latter two Marines (With the Old breed at Peleliu and Okinawa by Sledge and Helmet for My Pillow by Leckie) so we had at least two early touchstones for historical research.

We immediately worked out a Table of Organization for a training unit and began to sketch in the details of a schedule designed to produce a credible WW II Marine infantry company in the fourteen days allotted prior to start of principal photography. All hands on

the Warriors Inc. crew were advised to pack their sea bags for a long deployment and begin researching WW II Marine Corps weapons, equipment, uniforms and tactics.

In Melbourne, the city in which the 1st Marine Division rested after the grueling campaign on Guadalcanal in 1943, my XO Mike Stokey (1st MarDiv CC in Vietnam from 1966-69) and I began to recruit Special Ability Extras who would be trained along with the cast members and support the mission throughout the production. All of the three hundred or so young Australian or New Zealand men we saw in the process of selecting fifty candidates were avid to be a part of the production but few of them had much more than a rudimentary knowledge of World War II. These guys - and the actors who were being cast back in the States and in the UK - would need plenty of background information to effectively portray the young Americans who volunteered for Marine Corps service in World War II.

Stokey and I also used this trip to interview and hire thirty Asian extras that would be trained as Imperial Japanese infantrymen to oppose our Marines. We've always believed that the most effective portrayals of combat derive from using a skilled adversary rather than cartoon characters in enemy uniforms. For "The Pacific" we deemed this a vital concern. Despite propaganda portrayals from the period, IJA soldiers were anything but cartoons. Just ask any WW II Pacific combat veteran.

As the principal actors began to arrive in Australia, we moved to Far North Queensland and set up for training in a huge patch of triple-canopy jungle running up the slopes of steep hills. With our CP established, we began to amass the weapons, ammunition, rations and canvas we'd require when the troops arrived. From this remote site we'd conduct a curriculum that ran the military gamut from terrain appreciation, through tactical formations and movement, to fire and maneuver and into combat engagements between our Marines and the Japanese forces training at a site nearby. We took an absolutely minimalist approach to creature comforts as we wanted our trainees to experience life in the field as it was lived by World War II Marines who were chronically short of everything except Japanese enemy.



Executive Producer Tom Hanks (l) and Dale (c) confer with Steven Spielberg on the set of "The Pacific"

Association '10

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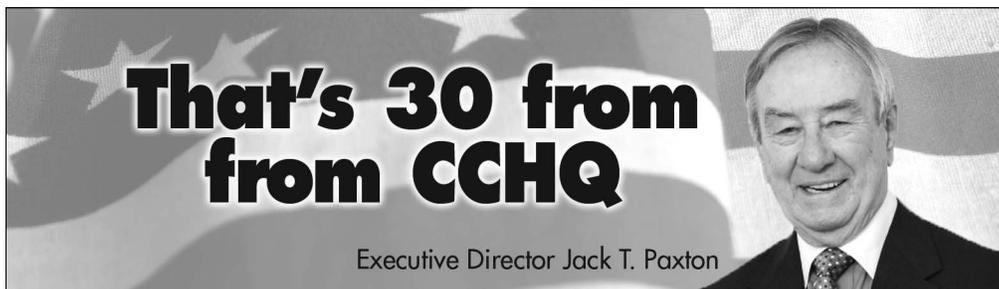
Walt Ford

Agostino VonHassel

Keith Oliver (ex officio)

All present Directors of the Association Board.

Executive Director
Jack Paxton



We've devoted a lot of space in this issue to the HBO series "The Pacific" for a couple of reasons: One, if the series is anything like "Band of Brothers" or the movie, Saving Private Ryan" it will be well worth watching. Second: **CC Life Member Dale Dye** is a living, breathing fireball when it comes to making sure technical aspects of productions he works on are correct. For newer members of our organization, there were few years when Dale was on active duty that he didn't win several Merit Awards. He has always been a strong supporter of our "cc band of brothers."

Elsewhere you will read that we lost two stalwart CCs since our last issue. **Col. Tom Fields** held a special place in many of our hearts for many reasons. For me, his recommendation resulted in my commissioning in 1966 in RVN. He took over the reins of the Danang Press Center in 1965, bringing order to the chaos caused by way too many civilian correspondents and too few Marine CCs to handle them.

Jim DiBernardo—Diber--was very special. He was my sports editor on the old Kaneohe Bay Windward Marine in the early 1960s. We both shared a love of cooking but he was head and shoulders better than I was. Our staff parties, usually convened by Mo Morrissey, were legendary. When Diber was captured during the Tet Offensive at Hue we held our collective breath for five painful years until news of his release. By this time I was retired and working for GTE. Spotting him on TV getting off the bus on the morning of his release, I immediately picked up the phone and called Mo in San Diego—forgetting that I was in the Eastern time zone and Mo was in the West where it was 4 a.m. Need-

less to say both Mo and I shed a happy tear or two that morning. Diber later presided over our "band of brothers." Both he and Tom will be missed. My personal thanks to **Roger Combs**, **Bob Springer**, their wives and to CC **LtCol. Chris Hughes** and his gang at Camp Pendleton for attending the services.

HLM Joe Galloway wrote "30" to a distinguished 50 year career late last month and we have to wonder why? Hell, he's *only* been covering wars and the political scene for 50 years. He's been a personal friend of ours for nearly 45 years. Well do we remember that red-headed, pink-cheeked youngster making a name for himself with the old United Press International organization. We met him in 1965 shortly after he was "blooded" at the battle for Ie Drang Valley with the Army. He holds the distinction to this day for being the only civilian correspondent to receive the Bronze Star with "V" for his work recovering wounded during that battle. He has long been a great friend of the CCs, making most Conferences and always willing to participate or chair a panel. With Joe, you always knew where he stood on any issue. Well done, old friend.



We've said before that one of the pleasures of this job as Tribal Elder is hearing from you CCs. Our the website **www.usmccca.org** is causing many former CCs to want to reconnect. We've heard from at least 10 of you in the past two months. Others have Googled the site or heard about us from various sources and want help either finding CCs or with background info. Whatever, we hope you will keep on calling. -30-



At our recently concluded conference in Hampton, VA, I had the opportunity to speak with several of our members who want to contribute monetarily to the Foundation's efforts to provide financial support for our Association but for a number of valid reasons, find themselves unable to do so in this tough economy. I have taken those thoughts and ideas into consideration as we plan the coming year's fundraising efforts and I think we have found several ways that each and every CC can put his or her imprint on the fundraising success of our Foundation.

The first way is through your support of our **Booster Club**. To make it easier for you to contribute or contribute more, we are going to allow you to pledge support for the coming year and pay that pledge in installments through our website. If you want to contribute a \$100 or more instead of writing a check for that amount today, simply make a pledge and then make monthly payments by check or by credit card through our website. You'll be recognized as a **Booster Club** member in upcoming issues of this newsletter and on our website as soon as you make your pledge.

We still need sponsors for our **Merit Awards program**. The cost of sponsorship is \$200 for each award and while we have recurring supporters for most categories, two or more CCs can join ranks to sponsor an award for which we have no current commitment. Contact your friends and see if can't forge an alliance to take on the sponsorship of one these unsupported awards. The outstanding Marines whom we recognize certainly are due the recognition the awards provide.

Finally, it recently came to the attention of Jack Paxton, our Executive Director, that

an opportunity exists to take part in the Community Outreach/Grants Program sponsored by **Wal-Mart and Sam's Clubs**. This program encourages each and every Wal-Mart or Sam's Club outlet to make grants to non-profit organizations in order to provide the financial ability that makes our nation better. These grants primarily support local non-profits but the opportunity is there for the local stores to support organizations like ours. The grants range from \$500-\$10,000 (most are in the \$1,000 range) and they are there simply for the asking.

Each store has a budgeted amount and those organizations that make the most compelling arguments for support are funded. While this is no sure thing, the

(Continued on page 9)

New Booster Year, We Need Your Gift

As a reminder, the annual Booster Club year begins with the election of new officers at the annual business meeting each year.

Booster Club contributions to the Foundation may be tax deductible, depending on an individual's situation. We encourage you to consider this as we move into 2010.

As you can see from the adjacent column there is plenty of grey space open. We hope to fill it quickly.

Obviously we hope you will consider the Booster Club. Checks may be made payable to the USMCCCA Foundation, 110 Fox Ct., Wildwood, FL 34785. You can also contribute on the website at www.usmccca.org.

2010 Booster Club

Platinum
Florida Chapter

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

Sally Pritchett

Silver

\$101-\$999

Don O'Neal

Jack Paxton

Tom Kerr

Bob McEwen

Bronze

\$50-\$100

Cochise Cash

Cold Florida No Problem for Eames Run

By 1st Lt. Caleb D. Eames. PAO, MCLB Albany

On Jan. 9 and 10, I ran Disney's 2010 Goofy Race-and-a-Half Challenge in Orlando, Florida as part of Team Athletes for Special Kids to raise financial support for a little guy named Austin. Special Kids is a not-for-profit Christian organization located in Murfreesboro, Tenn. that provides speech, physical, occupational, and recreation therapy and skilled-nursing for children with special needs. Austin is two years old, and was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis shortly after he was born. Because of that, he suffers from cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and was deaf.

When I saw Austin's story and found out that Team ASK was recruiting runners to raise money to support his needs, I immediately thought of my two sons, Jacob (4) and Boaz (1). This touched my heart incredibly, and I immediately knew that Austin deserved to have the same opportunities that my sons have. So I signed up to run the Goofy Challenge, a half marathon (13.1 miles) on Saturday, and then a full

marathon (26.2 miles) on Sunday, for a total of 39.3 miles in two days.

What I didn't know, what nobody expected, was that on the weekend the race was held, Orlando weather felt more like what you would expect in Fargo, North Dakota in mid-winter. The morning of the first race, when I woke at zero-dark-thirty, the temperature was only 33 degrees with winds gusting over 30 miles an hour. My wife gave me that "you are crazy, but I love you so come back alive" look I've come to love as I snuck out of the hotel. Runners gathered on one of the major roads leading into Walt Disney World, and as we shivered, waiting for the starting gun, a wintry mix of freezing rain, ice and snow started falling. While running, I spotted more than one runner dashing along with icicles forming in their hair before I finally finished in just over two hours.

The next morning was quite difficult, both physically and mentally. My body did not want to do it all over again. But I couldn't let little Austin down, know-

(Continued on page 7)



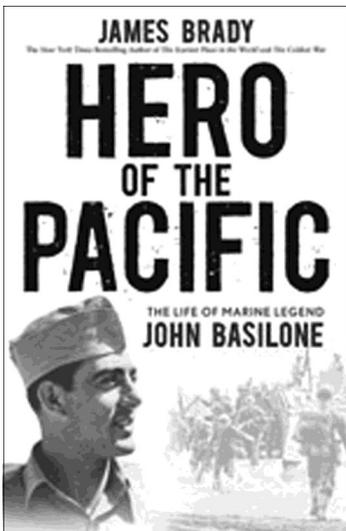
CC Life Member Caleb Eames

Brady's Basilone Book Out

"**Hero of the Pacific: The Life of Legendary John Basilone**" is now out. Noted journalist, author and Marine **James Brady**, who received our prestigious **Denig Award** at the San Antonio Conference, died suddenly several months ago following the conference.

The book was completed just prior to his death. The **MCA Bookstore** is now carrying copies.

The book may be ordered from MCA's online store: [http://www.marineshop.net/browse.cfm/professional-books/wwii/hero-of-the-pacific-\(hb\)/4,8931.html](http://www.marineshop.net/browse.cfm/professional-books/wwii/hero-of-the-pacific-(hb)/4,8931.html). Non-member pricing \$25.95. Member \$23.36.



CC member **GySgt. Joe Espinosa** completed **DINFOS' Instructor Training Course** Dec. 15. He is being congratulated by graduation guest speaker, mustang Lt. Cmdr. **Bruce Colkitt**. The **Guns** serves as NCOIC for the Public Affairs Leadership Department where he has the daily challenge of dealing with the likes of **John Dodd, Scott Woosley, Glenn and Laura Holloway, John Hoellwarth, Keith Oliver, Bob Jordan** and **USMCCCA affiliate member Dave Phillips**. (Photo by Lt. Col. Frank Urben, USAF ret.)

Past President, POW Jim DiBernardo Dies

USMCCCA past president, **James Vincent DiBernardo**, USMC (ret) passed away at the age of 75 from prostate cancer on November 20, 2009, at his home in Temecula, CA surrounded by his family.



A very somber **Jim DiBernardo** is shown immediately following his release from five years as a POW in the Hanoi Hilton.

field. Prior to his Vietnam tour he was commissioned, retiring as a major.

As officer in charge of the AFRS station in Hue, he was captured on February 3, 1968 during the TET offensive and served five years as a prisoner of war in the Hanoi Hilton. He was released March 5, 1973.

For his exemplary service as a POW, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, three Purple Heart Medals, two Navy Commendations, and the Vietnamese Medal of Honor.

His cellmate, Bill Baird, whom was severely injured by a landmine, stated that without Jim's encouragement, he would have given up and died.

Photo Icon Anderson Dies

Ralph Eugene Anderson, 70, of Spotsylvania County died Dec. 15, 2009, at Mary Washington Hospital.

Mr. Anderson was a U.S. Army veteran. He was the director of **Combat Visual Information Center at Quantico** for 29 years. He was a beloved husband, father and friend.

Survivors include his loving wife of 35 years, Ellen Anderson; his son, Christopher Anderson of Richmond; his daughter, Jennifer Bartholomew and her husband, Tony, of Leesburg; his father-in-law, Norman Sedgley of Stafford County; and his extended family in Omaha, Neb.

A funeral was held Saturday, Dec. 19, at **Covenant Funeral Service**, Fredericksburg.

Born October 18, 1934 in Fulton, New York, Jim (Diber to his many friends) lived in Temecula since 1976.. After high school, he entered the US Marine Corps, serving for 30 years. A "mustang," DiBer spent his entire career in the Public Affairs

DiBernardo was interred with full Military Honors on Nov. 25, 2009 at the Riverside, CA National Cemetery.

Jim is survived by his wife of 52 years, Sharen DiBernardo and his children Vincent, Tony, Joy, and Susan: Their spouses Melissa, Carolyn, Bud, and grandchildren Douglas, Isabel, Dominic, Mike, Vinnie, Anthony.

Journal Advertisers Sought

Very shortly we will begin working on the 2010 edition of the Annual Conference Journal.

As is our custom, we will solicit ads from both members and commercial entities. **Art Director Chuck Beveridge** will perform his customary "magic" for any member who takes an ad.

There will be no change in the ad prices for 2010. Members "early bird" prices for quarter-page color ads are \$150 from this reading through June 1. After that the price becomes \$180.

The full ad campaign begins March 1. Contact CCHQ.

\$1250 Raised for Austin

(Continued from page 6)

ing I had committed to run for him. So I overcame the obstacle of my cozy warm bed and again got up at 3:30 a.m. to head to the race line, this time to do the full marathon, 26.2 miles! The weather was even colder, with the thermometer hovering at 29 degrees. The full marathon took us through the Disney's Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, Hollywood Studios, and finished at Epcot. I was pleased with my four hour and 40 minute finishing time, considering the previous race and the weather.

Due to generous family, friends, and coworkers, I was able to raise \$1250 for a little guy who will now be doing some everyday things we take for granted. It isn't often that one has the chance to really make a substantial difference in someone's life. And it isn't always easy to make that commitment when the chance presents itself. But I assure you, it is so rewarding to help where you can. Special Kids accepts donations at www.specialkidstn.com and every dollar is put to good use. I am so happy to have been a part of it.



Los Angeles Chapter Members **Pauline Tallent**, wife of the late Bob Tallent, is shown with Chapter Treasurer **Tom Peters** at the Chapter Birthday Ball celebration.



CC **Bob Stanley** (right) and his friends at Flannahans Pub 3805 Noriega St., San Francisco, Ca. display toys donated to fill a Toys for Tots barrel at their favorite watering hole. Friends from left, Mario, Andrew, Carlos and Steve. The toys were picked up by Marines from 4th Recon I&I Staff, Alameda at the **Joe Rosenthal Chapter, USMCCCA, Jingle**



Florida Chapter President Red Carpenter (r) presents a mounted and inscribed Kabar knife to Chapter member **Gene Smith** in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Chapter's Annual Golf Tournament. Gene, Tournament Chair of the PGA Legends (Senior) Tour, regularly solicits golf suppliers for donations of balls, caps and clubs which the Chapter uses for auction items. Gene resides in Ocoee, FL and is an active member of the chapter. (Photo by **Charlie Ross**)

Florida Chapter Golf Tournament
Red Carpenter reminds all CC golfers they are eligible to play in the annual Chapter Tournament at Ridgewood Lakes near Orlando on Friday, June 4. Contact Red at 352.688.6720.



Joe Rosenthal Chapter members, wives and supporters share the holidays with **SSgts. Mat Moore** of Sacramento, California and **Val Saucedo** of Dallas, Texas, both I&I 4th Force Recon based in Alameda, California.

What Does It Mean to You To Be a CC ?

We continually look for ways to attract younger Marine CCs into our CC brother(and sister)hood. For years we have recognized that younger Marines or those retiring don't always rush to our website www.usmccca.org and send their money in to become members.

Why? We have rationalized they are too busy earning a livelihood. We know that to be our case and it wasn't until we were out of the Corps for about 10 years that we realized what and who we were missing. Well do we remember Bob "Mo" Morrisey chiding us: "Pax, this is your professional organization. You need us just as we need you." Of course, Mo was right as always and we immediately



CC SSgt. Luis Agostini takes time out during a routine patrol to pose with Afghan children. Agostini's blog is being carried on our website www.usmccca.org. He also managed to take this photo.

Foundation Notes...

(Continued from page 5)

odds are good that with the USMCCCA Foundation scholarship programs and our support for the active duty Marines in our **Merit Awards Program**, we can successfully compete for these funds.. Watch the website and "**Now Hear This**" for more details about this exciting opportunity.

To sweeten the pot and boost participation in this effort, the Foundation will formally recognize the CC who brings in the most money both on our website and at the upcoming conference in Reno. The winner will also receive free registration for the 2010 or any future conference for the member and a guest.

These are opportunities for each and every CC to make a significant contribution to our future success. As Marines, I know you'll step up to the challenge.

joined.

We really want to push the CC concept during 2010 and are asking all members to participate. It doesn't matter how long you have been a member. Just take a minute or two and think about what this organization has meant to you or what it has done for you.

If you use email send your thoughts along to CCHQ at usmccca@cfl.rr.com. If you have a photo of yourself, attach it. If you are still using the old Remington, limber up your fingers and mail your thoughts to us at 110 Fox Court, Wildwood, FL 34785. Again, if you have a photo—recent or old—send it along.

We will publish your piece in both the newsletter and on the website. Hopefully your thoughts will attract others.



Marietta, Ga. Kiwanis Club members, **Sally Macaulay**, left, and **CC Victoria Turney** place a smaller-scale copy of a statue called 'Forever Remember' to honor the families of Americas heroes at the Marietta-Cobb Museum of Art. Macaulay, the museum's executive director, and Turney, president of the Kiwanis Club of Marietta, are part of a club project to put a full-size version of the statue in a park on Roswell Street in downtown Marietta. (Photo by Staff/Mike Jacoby)

Galloway Writes –30 to Great Career

By Joseph L. Galloway. **McClatchy Newspapers**

To quote Mr. Dickens they were the best of times and the worst of times. This is Galloway writing -30- and a farewell to this weekly column after almost seven years and wrapping up half a century in the newspaper business. Oh, I will still write an occasional op-ed piece when the bastards in Washington, D.C., blast across the line into moron territory, and there's always another book waiting to be written.

From that first day in November of 1959 when **Jim Rech**, managing editor of **The Victoria (Texas) Advocate**, hired me as a reporter to this day when I say my goodbyes I have, with few and momentary exceptions, loved all of it.

This is not going to be an obituary for the newspaper business. I have loved being a reporter; loved it when we got it right; understood it when we got it wrong. I hope print-and-ink daily newspapers will outlive me by many years. Somehow.

I was a state bureau chief for **United Press International (UPI)** before I could legally take a drink or vote. My friends and mentors were former **President Harry Truman** and former Governor and presidential candidate **Alf M. Landon**. I stood in courthouse corridors on smoke breaks and talked to **Richard Hickock** and **Perry Edward Smith**, the In Cold Blood killers. On a freezing cold midnight I watched as the State of Kansas hanged **Lowell Lee Andrews** by the neck until death for shooting his mom and dad for the insurance money.

In 1964, at age 24, I headed off to Asia to cover a war I was certain was coming in a little-known country called South Vietnam. Within four months the first American troops, Marines, were landing on the beaches of Danang and I was right behind them.

It would be 16 years before I returned to work in the U.S.—years of wars, coups d'état, disasters natural and otherwise in places like Vietnam, Laos, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, East Timor, Afghanistan, the U.S.S.R.

You grew up fast covering the infantry at war in the jungles and mountain highlands and broad rice paddies of Vietnam. Seventy reporters, photographers and cameramen, many of them friends, were killed covering the war. We mourn their loss even now, four decades later: the scholarly **Bernard Fall**, Life photographer **Larry Burrows**, UPI shooters **Kyoichi Sawada** and **Kent Potter**, old colleagues like the effervescent **Henri Huét**, my buddy **Sean Flynn** and his sidekick **Dana Stone**, and a mentor **Dickie Chappelle**.

There were great characters, some left over from covering World War II or fighting in it, like former Guards officer and

former rubber planter turned war correspondent **Don Wise**, **Jim Lucas** and **Jack Foisie** and **Keyes Beech** and **George McArthur**. There were others: **Dave Halberstam**, **Neil Sheehan**, **Syd Schanberg**, the AP's **Horst Faas** and **Pete Arnett** and **Bob Poos**, a Korean War Marine who fought at the Chosen Reservoir. My good buddy **Leon Daniel** of UPI, a Korean War Marine. Also **Kate Webb**, **Gloria Emerson**, **Betsy Halstead**, **Maggie Kilgore** and **Tracy Wood**.

We were privileged to march with and get to know some great military commanders at all levels—soldiers and Marines—like my best friend and co-author **Hal Moore**, Marine commander **Lew Walt**, **Hank Emerson**, **David Hackworth**, **Charlie Beckwith**, **Sam Wilson**, **Norm Schwarzkopf** and on and on. Too many great infantry non-coms and too many bold, brave, insane helicopter jockeys to even begin naming.

It was a pleasure to share a foxhole or a watering hole with any one of them, especially on a very bad day.

There were some fine editors who were willing to gamble that you could deliver on a risky or occasionally even a fanciful proposal. The best one of all I worked for the longest—**John Walcott**—who was my boss and friend for nearly 20 years at U.S. News, Knight Ridder Newspapers and at McClatchy Newspapers more recently.

Then there were two others who were a delight to work for and with—**Mike Ruby** and **Merrill McLoughlin**, husband and wife co-editors at U.S. News who each possessed their own unique skills that fit together perfectly.

In the end it all comes down to the people, both those you cover and those you work for, with or alongside during 50 years. I can only thank God for putting me on paths that crossed all those named above and all the others not named here but still alive in my heart.

Finally, I have to say that when I was given this weekly opinion column to write in April of 2003, it was strange new ground for someone who had spent 22 years at UPI where you might be allowed to have an opinion but could never let one creep into your stories, and nearly 20 years at U.S. News whose founder believed in presenting the facts and letting the readers make up their own minds.

There was never a shortage of topics or targets during the remainder of the Bush administration. Nor is there any seeming shortage as the Obama administration wraps up a first year of one disaster after another. But in the words of Kenny Rogers "You've got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em."

After 50 years it's time to fold 'em and move on with the rest of my life.

“The Pacific” : Guadalcanal First Episode

(Continued from page 3)

Our training command was organized into three platoons: Assault Platoon, Machinegun Platoon and Mortar Platoon, each commanded by a Marine veteran and member of my Warriors staff. I commanded the training company with Stokey as my XO. When the troops arrived for transport to the training area, they were issued a sea bag with World War II Marine dungarees, boondockers and period field equipment which left them both clueless and apprehensive. That situation was reinforced as the NCOs gave them a typical welcome based on personal experience with Marine Drill Instructors. It was loud, profane and scary which served to put our trainees in the desired mind-set: numb, sweaty and confused. That’s precisely the way we wanted them to be for reasons based on my own Marine Corps experience and what I’ve learned over the past 25 years about performing in military movies.

I’ve always believed the most effective training tactic is to work from the inside out rather than the other way around. You can train actors to walk, talk, maneuver and handle weapons appropriately – and that’s been done by others before me – but the real convincing performances come from the heart and from places deep in the brain that are unreachable without full and complete immersion in the alien experience of intimacy, lack of privacy, total interdependency, deprivation, hardship and unselfish devotion to a larger ideal that only those who have served in the military can understand. The idea is simply to give the performers a large, unavoidable dose of experience with the way real military people must feel, think and function to survive.

Any Leatherneck would recognize the regimen. Isolate them completely; no cell phones and no contact whatsoever with the world outside their training unit. From the start, work them hard in physical training and manual labor such as calisthenics, long formation runs and digging their own fighting positions until they are numb and focused exclusively on surviving the next five minutes. At that point, you have a blank slate and an open heart. We quickly launched on a steep learning curve during which the trainees gradually worked their way up into the appropriate positions of leadership and followership called for in the scripts.

A typical training day in the field went something like this. All hands muster at 0500 which was a bit shaky since we’d been on fifty percent

alert throughout the previous night which was punctuated in thrilling fashion by a Japanese probe of our lines. No breakfast was allowed as we felt two ration meals in a 24 hour period would reduce body fat and give us the slim, slightly underfed look we’d need in the first episode covering Guadalcanal. We formed for PT at 0530, did calisthenics and then launched on a four-mile formation run. Following PT, we set the platoons against each other in full-contact close-quarters battle and bayonet drills with sheathed blades on M-1 rifles and carbines.

By 0800 we were on our firing line with blanks ammo streaming through Garand rifles, BARs and carbines. During our field training period, our people had to become intimately familiar not only with the M-1 rifle, carbine, Thompson SMG and BAR infantry combinations that Marines carried beginning in 1943 but they had to master the M1903A1 Springfield bolt-action rifles and M1917 water-cooled heavy machineguns required for the Guadalcanal sequences prior to the

Corps’ adoption of the more modern weapons systems during WWII.

While the riflemen worked on the firing line, Machinegun Platoon conducted gun drills – blank fire in support of maneuvering squads, displace, and re-engage area targets – while the Mortar Platoon conducted missions with the 60mm mortars firing creeping barrages with shells that give a satisfactory and attention-grabbing blast via 12-gauge shotgun shells embedded in the base of dummy HE rounds.

After noon chow, we briefed a company-

sized reconnaissance patrol that would take us via compass heading through the heavy green to the top of a jungle covered hill where listening posts had reported enemy movement. Prior to moving out we issued the machetes we’d need to cut through the bush and conducted a review of field telephone and wire procedures that would keep everyone in contact with the CP. Field radios were notoriously unreliable in World War II and we reinforced that concept by requiring the Wire Section of Assault Platoon to constantly run lines and keep maneuvering units in contact via EE-8 field phones.

As we began to climb and cut through the tangle of vines and undergrowth under field marching packs (approximately 40 very real pounds of weight including rations and water) the heat smashed into us. The humidity in this jungle often matched the air temperature and those who rolled up their sleeves or unbuttoned their dungaree shirts rapidly became familiar with stinging nettles that added significantly

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Reality is everything in a Hanks and Dale Dye production. Here, Dale corrects as episode director Tim Van Patten demonstrates a firing position



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Production A Tribute to The Marines Who Fought

(Continued from page 11)

to the agony of the march. The jungle climb was particularly difficult for machine gunners and mortarmen who had to hump all their T/E gear and a basic unit of fire. A pre-planned firefight with our Japanese training on the reverse slope of that jungle hill significantly lightened their load and gave them some excellent feeling for fighting at close range in a thick jungle. Machinegun crews had to constantly displace in support of the creeping infantry squads closing on enemy hard-points. Mortars were working their sights and tubes according to a rapid rate of adjustments I was sending to them via wire with the student officers observing the technique.

When we returned to the CP, cleaned all weapons and ate parts of a second meal, we opened the schoolhouse to conduct lectures on Marine Corps history, the state of the world and the U.S. in the war years, and worked on 1940s vocabulary and Marine jargon. When the inky darkness particular to Pacific jungles descended we set the watch and waited for the pre-planned, full-scale banzai assault that we'd arranged for some time close to 2200 when heads would be nodding on our perimeter. By the time we were hit in a sector defended by a pair of water-cooled machineguns, the troops were demonstrating admirable fire discipline. Our mortars fired a night area suppression mission to drive off the attackers.

And that was just one training day. Our final field exercise at the end of two weeks involved a full scale amphibious assault via period LVTs and LCIs on a heavily-defended beach. That was truly gratifying and as close as I'll ever get to experiencing what our brothers in World War II faced on beachheads at places like Tarawa, Peleliu and Iwo Jima.

We paid meticulous attention to the details in uniforms, weapons, equipment and tactics. That's an overdue tribute to the men who fought the great naval campaigns in the Pacific during World War II. Of course, there will be Marines, veterans and fans who will argue that we should have covered some of the other major Pacific battles. Vets of action with the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Marine Divisions might feel slighted, but we did include some sequences with the forming of the 5th MarDiv at Pendleton and we follow Basilone with that unit onto Iwo Jima where he was killed in action. It's about all we could manage in bringing that underappreciated, misunderstood and frequently forgotten aspect of World War II to life and to the attention of worldwide audiences.

There is one serious omission for which I should apologize, especially to this audience. Despite my best efforts, I never managed to talk the writers into including a Marine Corps Combat Correspondent in the action. But we did have a couple of real ones working behind the cameras and given our history and mission, I guess that's the way it should be.