



Members Are Flocking To New Orleans

We're not sure if it's the location or a sign that the economy is picking up BUT early registration is showing that more members than ever will be on hand for the New Orleans conference.

Where we had 35 "old timers" at Reno, we are (as of July 16) showing 41 registered with quite a few others we know will be in attendance.

To this end, we are planning another "Old Timer" get together on Wednesday evening, September 14 at a restaurant to be determined. Those who attended the Reno Conference will remember the great time we had at the Japanese restaurant that Don Coleman set up. This is not included in the registration fee.

Here's the drill for the week. The conference will kick-off at 0800 sharp Tuesday morning when **Col. Bryan Salas**, current Director of Information, is expected to hand-off the title to newly-promoted **Brig. Gen. Paul Kennedy**. Col. Salas will be retiring shortly after the conference ends.

As old hands know, we meet concurrently with Public Affairs and Combat Camera Marines at our conferences. There will be two concurrent sessions Tuesday through Thursday afternoon.

The senior leadership—officers and staff ncos — will focus on education and professional development, much like civilian conferences hosted by the

PRSA.

Concurrently, the junior Marines attending will receive professional military training in their various specialties. If their format follows that of previous years, there will be team projects assigned which will enhance their professionalism.

On Tuesday evening the Welcome Reception will begin at 1830. The menu is designed so that attendees should not have to go elsewhere for dinner.

Also following tradition, Heineken products will be available at no cost to attendees.

On Thursday evening at 1830 the pre-Merit Awards Banquet reception will take place. At 1930 attendees will be seated and the evening's festivities will be opened by our own Pat Coulter as master

of ceremonies.

If you have not attended a previous Merit Awards Banquet you are in for a treat. **As emcee Coulter has said many times before, "this is our Oscar night where we give Merit Award winner their 15 minutes of fame."**

On Friday morning the Business Breakfast will start at 0800 with a guest speaker to be announced. Immediately following the breakfast the 2011 Annual Business Meeting will be held.

The meeting will be concluded at approximately 11 a.m. so that attendees may check out of the hotel.

Late Breaking...

Charles "Chip" Jones, author of "War Shots" - the story of Norm Hatch and Combat Photographers—has been selected as winner of the 2011 Brig. Gen. Robert L. Denig Sr., Memorial Distinguished Performance Award. See the story on P-6.

Conference Reminders Registration Ends August 31

Airline

Continental Airlines is offering discount fares.

If you call 800.468.7022 use the code ZJZH 957920.

Get an additional discount by booking your own flight on www.continental.com. Insert the code above into the Code Box

Airport Shuttle

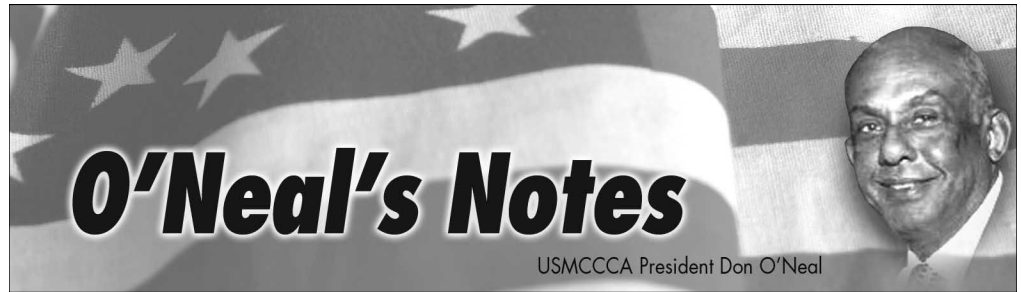
Get \$3 off the regular rate when booking roundtrip on the Airport Shuttle. You pay only \$35

Parking

If there is a question in your mind about flying or driving, remember that parking at the hotel is extremely expensive per night.

Auction Items

As always we are looking for items to use in our auctions and for door prizes. Contact CCHQ if you have some.



Fellow CCs:

When I took office as your president last September, in Reno, I did so with humility, pride and hope.

I was honored that so many of you were willing to entrust the leadership of this venerable association to my care. I was proud that our association was on firm footing, both financially and in spirit. I was hopeful that we could continue to grow and prosper.

During the month of June I had occasion to actually get out and talk with members, new and old, while visiting chapters in Florida and San Francisco. I also had the rare opportunity to talk with the active duty Marines in Southern California who are breathing new life into our once dynamic San Diego Chapter. I came away literally "blown away."

The Rosenthal Chapter in the City by the Bay is thriving. President Dale Cook with the help of **Norb Malecki** (my old journalism instructor) and their team turned out 25 members and supporters for the meeting I attended. Among those present were five Iwo Vets. They are already making plans for a bus trip to the San Diego conference next year. These tribal elders are truly inspirational. →

In Southern California, **SSgt. Luis Agostini** is leading the charge to re-establish the San Diego Chapter. With help from **SSgts. Tiffany Carter and Jennifer Brofer**, that chapter is again up and running. If you live in the San Diego County region it would be well worth your time to give this new chapter a closer look.

What can I say about the **Florida Chapter**...never enough. These guys and gals

are literally firing for effect. In June the Chapter held its seventh annual fund raising golf tournament. **This year, they took in \$10,000!! The lion's share of that will go to our support of the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund.** Our scholarship fund will also get a boost so that we can continue granting assistance to our members and their dependents who want to pursue higher education.

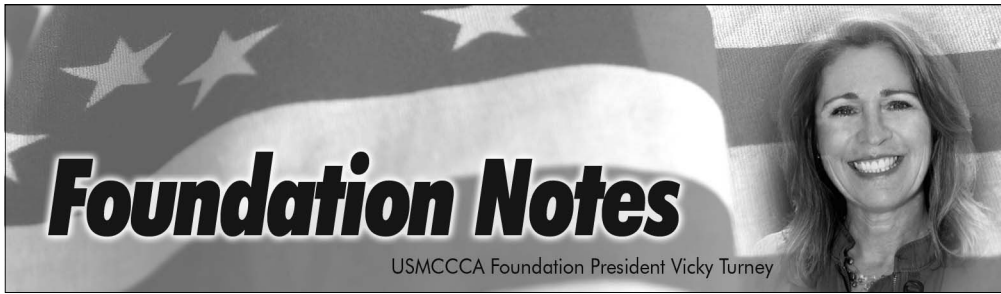
So as we get ready for our conference in New Orleans, I am happy to say that while I am not ready to declare victory in the membership battle, I am more hopeful than ever. Since the first of the year we've gained more than forty new members.

What still gives me pause is that when dis-

(Continued on page 6)



National President Don O'Neal (2nd l) made an official visit to the Joe Rosenthal Chapter meeting in June. From left are **Norb Malecki, O'Neal, Yvette O'Neal, and Chapter President Dale Cook.**



USMCCCA Foundation President Vicky Turney

This is the last newsletter before the annual conference and a few thank you's are definitely in order.

For you Dedicated Members and those who contribute to the Booster Club – if it wasn't for you and your gracious donations many efforts of the Foundation would not have been possible. If you watched our website www.usmccca.org you saw that we were able to make a contribution to help families at Camp Lejeune who lost their homes and furnishings when a tornado swept through Tarawa Terrace.

To our Merit Award Sponsors – a special shout out to you members who annually sponsor Merit Awards. Your contributions enable us to give a cash award to first place winners, as well as a handsome plaque and a year's complimentary membership in the Association. These young Marines do appreciate it.

If you are an advertiser in our annual Conference Journal please know that your support also helps keep our Association afloat.

I join Don O'Neal in his praise to Red Carpenter and his Florida Chapter for their great work each year in putting on the Foundation Golf Tournament. This is what a "few good men" (and women) can do if they are motivated enough. I would encourage each chapter to tear a page from this "book" and start looking at projects which can help support the organization.

Finally, a heap of thanks to **Sally Pritchett, Walt Ford and Fred "Flash" Lash** for sitting down and making our scholarship program work. I know that **Ryan, Zach and Sarah** (shown below) definitely appreciate your efforts.



2011 Scholarship Winners—The USMCCCA Foundation proudly announced in late June three winners of 2011 scholarships. Grants of \$2,000 each were awarded to **Ryan Eskalis** (l) son of CC Member Maj. Al Eskalis; **Cpl. Zachary Nola**, © who is leaving the Corps to pursue a master's degree; and **Sarah Pacheco**, daughter of Life Member Manny Pacheco. The Scholarship Committee is headed by **Sally Pritchett** with members **Walt Ford** and **Fred Lash** assisting.

Association '11

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Treasurer: Tom Kerr

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Jerry Gutierrez 2012

Brenda Varnadore 2012

Frank Lee 2009

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HQMC Liaison: Brenda Varnadore

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Executive Director

Jack Paxton

Foundation '11

Officers

President: Victoria Turney

VP: Ronna Weyland

Secretary: Sally Pritchett

Treasurer: John Dodd

Directors

Red Carpenter

Walt Ford

Agostino VonHassel

Keith Oliver (ex officio)

All present Directors of the Association Board.

Executive Director

Jack Paxton

Booster Club Platinum

Gold

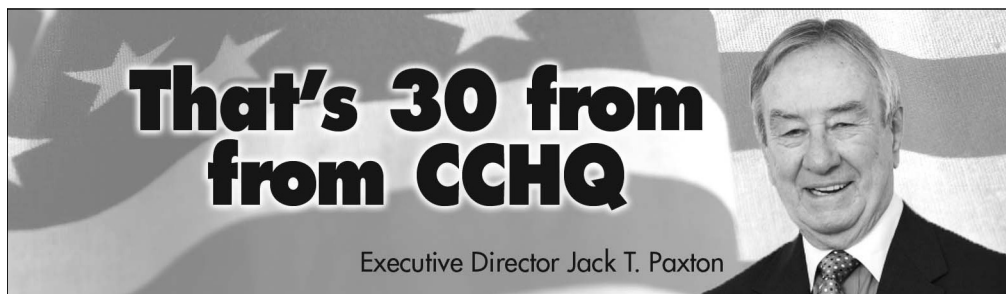
**Florida Chapter
Sally Pritchett
Gene Smith**

Silver

**Ralph Austin
Anonymous (2)
Dale Baird
Dave Biesel
George Chrisman
John Dodd
Gen. Alfred M. Gray
John (Gy) Harmon
Bill Hauptfleisch
Tom Kerr
Bob McEwen
Don O'Neal
Keith Oliver
Jack Paxton
Vicki Turney**

Bronze

**Bob Caulkins
Bob Crum
John Fales (aka Sgt.
Shaft)
Norm Hatch
Don Parzanese
Fred Peck
Chris Whiting**



The response to the **Dedicated Members** campaign has been spectacular. At this writing we are in receipt of slightly more than **\$4,000**. All names to date are on the website www.usmccca.org and will be carried in the annual Conference Journal to be published prior to the conference. Due to space restrictions on the website we are not able to show the individual dedications that have been made but they will appear in the Journal.

On Page 3 you will see photos of the three scholarship winners that **Sally Pritchett** and her committee selected. A bit of irony: In this column in the last newsletter I was bemoaning the fact that we couldn't seem to give the scholarships away. Immediately on publication we received the three applications that ultimately won scholarships. Then, two weeks past deadline, we received three more applications which we could not consider. **If you are just now reading about our scholarship program, make a note that next year's program begins with our membership year—October 1 — with a deadline for all applications of May 15.**

National President Don O'Neal asks a good question in his P-2 column when discussing membership with non-members. It seems to always come down to: "What's in it for me?" I don't know that he or I have the answer to why someone should join because times have changed since he and I became members. He makes some good points and I know he would welcome some thoughts that might enable us to give a better purpose to the Association.

We were tremendously pleased at the effort CC member **SSgt. Luis Agostino** made in trying to rejuvenate the San

Diego Chapter. In the past month or so he and other active duty Marines have jointed, elected officers and are on their way. If you are or were a member of the Chapter at any time we encourage you to **c o n t a c t L u i s a t luis.agostino@usmc.mil**. Luis and others in the chapter are former Merit Award winners and are now showing that they can give something back.

In talking to **Chip Jones**, our Denig winner this year, we couldn't help feeling like a dinosaur. His late father was commanding officer of the Recruit Training Command at Parris Island when we edited the BOOT in the late 1950s. Chip was six at the time. His cousin is former CMC, and National Security Advisor, **Gen. James L. Jones Jr.** Chip is making plans to join us in New Orleans in September.

This may be the final newsletter before the retirement of **Col. Bryan Salas**, current Director of Information. He will be replaced by **Brig. Gen. (s) Paul Kennedy**. To Bryan: God speed, good fortune and don't forget us.

Dues Now Due

The **USMCCCA dues year is October 1 through September 30** each year. You will be receiving a postcard reminder in early August **if** your dues are due. You need to either go on the website www.usmccca.org and re-up or send a check to CCHQ at 110 Fox Court, Wildwood, FL 34785.

Dues for staff ncos and above: \$35. For sergeants and below \$25. Affiliate and Associate members: \$35.

Florida Golf: 2011 Tournament Best Yet

We're often asked what it takes to make a successful USMCCCA Chapter. **Judging from the continued success of the Florida Chapter we would have to say leadership and a purpose.**

In Florida's case, **James "Red" Carpenter** provides the leadership and the Annual USMCCCA Foundation (Florida Chapter) Golf Tournament has provided the purpose that grows annually.

The 7th annual event took place on June 3 with 120 players registered—the largest field ever—and a whopping \$10,000 profit — the largest amount yet raised by the tournament for the Foundation.

Association President Don O'Neal flew in from San Antonio for the tournament. **"What is so astounding to me," he said "is how such a small group can put on a tournament that has become so successful.** Having lived in Florida for a good portion of my adult life I know there are literally hundreds of tournaments going on in Central Florida and they all struggle for players. The job that Red and his group has done each year is tremendous!"

Carpenter points out that while other matters are brought up in their quarterly chapter meetings, the golf tournament does occupy the Chapter's primary thrust. **"Fortunately, we have a few good men and women who willingly give of their time to help make this happen.**

"I have to give special recognition to Chapter member **Gene Smith** who makes our post-tournament auction the success that it is," Carpenter said. "Gene is the Assistant Tournament Director for the PGA's Champions Tour and, through his golf contacts we get thousands of dollars worth of clubs, balls and other golfing gear.

Chapter members who comprise the tournament committee include **Hank and Trudy Ehlbeck, Ann Carpenter, Jack and Pat Paxton, Gene Smith, Allen Moore, Kevin Doll, Charlie Ross and Kate Stark.**

In the center photo at right: Tournament Chair **Red Carpenter** (black shirt) welcomes players and introduces special guests **Don O'Neal**, USMCCCA National President (2d from r) and Chapter Vice President **Hank Ehlbeck** (r).

Bottom photo: (From l) **Pat Paxton, Trudy Ehlbeck, Kevin Doll and Ann Carpenter** hand out player bags to the 120 golfers who registered for the 2011 event.



March on The Colors! The Color Guard from Orlando's 4th Motor Transport Bn., has become a mainstay of the annual tournament. The crowd gave them a great ovation.



Charles "Chip" Jones 2011 Denig Winner

Charles "Chip" Jones, award-winning writer and author of various military books, including *Boys of '67: "From Vietnam to Iraq..."*, and, more recently, **War Shots**, the story of **Norm Hatch** and the U. S. Marine Corps Combat



Cameras men of World War II has been selected to receive the 2011 **Brig. Gen. Robert L. Denig Memorial Distinguished Performance Award**.

His first book: *Boys of '67...* was named the top biography of 2006

by the Military Writers Society of America. The son of a Marine general, Jones returned to his roots with the military when he began talking with his first cousin, Marine General **James L. Jones** about his career as a Vietnam-era Marine. Gen. Jones later became Commandant, then NATO Commander and, more recently as National Security Advisor.

War Shots is a recent collaboration between Jones and retired Maj. Norm Hatch, who gained fame for his cinematography on Tarawa during World War II. As Gen. Jones says in his forward to the book: "Charles Jones superb recounting of Major Hatch's career, adds significantly to the lore of the most important moments in our nation's history. *War Shots* ranks as one of the most riveting personal accounts of the horrific and heroic times of this epic war which propelled the United States into a position of international leadership responsibility which endures today."

As he did so well in **Boys of '67...** Jones accurately chronicles both the career of **Norm Hatch** as well as the growth of photography in the Marine Corps in both combat and in those days following the war when the future of the Corps was in doubt. Certainly the book will be hailed as a definitive accounting of a group of men who risked their lives to chronicle the battles of the Pacific War.

(Continued from page 2)

Discussing membership with potential new members I continue to be asked "What's in for me?" As a young Marine I felt a sense of camaraderie with those with whom I served. Each day that bond grew stronger and as time passed, the men and women I served with taught me more than I imagined possible, both about public affairs and life. I can honestly say that any success I've had in life is directly traceable back to one or more of those who touched my life along the way as a Marine combat correspondent. **So for me, the question has never been "What's in for me?" Rather I ask what and how much can I give back?** How do I help those who serve today become men and women who feel the same sense of responsibility to the peers and successors? I think those are the real questions about CC membership.

I look forward to seeing and talking with all of you who venture to the "Big Easy" this September.

Semper Fi, Don



Master Sgt. Joe Espinosa is promoted to his current rank by his mother Cordelia Espinosa and uncle Lt. Frank Espinosa Jr., USN Ret., at the Defense Information School July 1. Master Sgt. Espinosa served as the NCOIC for the Public Affairs Leadership Department at DINFOS until June when he was transferred to the Division of Public Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps. He currently serves as the Plans and Policy Chief at HQMC.

Fred Tucker: Living Life to The Extreme

Forty-six years ago we checked into the **Combat Information Bureau** at the Danang Press Center and ran into quite a few Marines we had previously served with. The late **John Funk** was one. He was the Info Chief and had relieved us in Hawaii in 1963. Then there was the late **Walt Stewart**, who we knew by reputation only. Others include the late **Jack Childs**, the late **Dick McChesney**, **Bill Hart**, the late **Dick Nicklin**, **Russ Savatt**, **Rudy Woltner** and many others too numerous to name or, whose names we have forgotten in the passage of time.

We also met a few we had not heard of. **Red Carpenter**, the late **Benny Marrufo**, and, of course, the late great **Col. Tom Fields** to name three. One of the guys we also met was a new “lipstick lieutenant” Warrant Officer **Fred Tucker**.

Now remember, this was 46 years ago. Unfortunately as you have noted, many of these guys have been inducted into Heaven’s scenes. Many others we have lost track of. We see **Russ Savatt** at our annual conferences as well as some others who occasionally show up. We’ve been playing golf with **Red Carpenter** for many years—still do every Tuesday here in Florida. Safe to say, though, many have drifted off.

The young “lipstick lieutenant” surfaced a number of years ago as Chair for our Nashville Conference. At the time **Fred Tucker**, who had retired from the Corps as a major, was wrapping up another career as head of the Tennessee Veterans Affairs Department. This, after his 30 year Marine career where he served another tour in ‘Nam as head of a DoD Motion Picture Team.

Was he finished! Photos on this page will attest to the fact that Fred will probably keep on “keeping on” forever. He is currently in Afghanistan as civilian Public Affairs Officer for the 533rd Forward Engineer Support Team in Kandahar.



Upper Photo: Tucker (l) stands with Col. Culen Robinson, CO, 533rd Engineer Detachment Support Team after celebrating Tucker’s 71st birthday on June 20.



Center photo: Tucker warns never to sit in the starboard rear seat of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter with the windows removed. He says his nose is just listing to port while he holds on to a small camera bag under his left arm.

In the photo below Tucker says it’s just another dusty day at Kandahar. Temperature: Hot!!!



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Now Hear This

Now Hear This is the official publication of the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association.

Copy deadlines are January 1, March 1, June 1 and September 1. The newsletter is published and edited by the Executive Director of the USMCCCA.

Copy may be submitted electronically to usmccca@cfl.rr.com or by mailing to 110 Fox Court, Wildwood, FL 34785.

For topical news we invite you to visit www.usmccca.org.

Conference “Early Bird” Registration

At press time CCHQ made a change in the registration fee. Rather than bump up the fee from \$100 to \$115 as previously announced, the fee will remain that through the end of the registration on Wednesday Aug. 31.

Please note: The easiest way to secure your registration is to go on-line at www.usmccca.org and make it. You do not have to be a PayPal member. Simply look on the left side of the page where it says “not a member?” then proceed with your credit card

Hotel Reservation Information

The best way to secure a hotel reservation at the Westin in New Orleans is to go to www.usmccca.org and follow the instructions. For those who do not use a computer call **1-888-627-8180** and use the Group Code UMI11A.

The room fee is \$98 plus tax per night. Please understand that we have booked a certain amount of rooms at this rate. When the agreed upon number is exceeded the rate could go up or the hotel might have to make arrangements with another hotel at a different rate.

Name Badge Information

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Name: _____

Name: _____

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