



Westward Ho...San Diego September 10-14

As the man once said, “now is the time to”... start thinking of this year’s conference at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel September 10-14**. So, if you’re thinking of it, think Hawaiian. The old Hanalei Hotel is now the completely rejuvenated Crowne Plaza but it still retains its Hawaiian origins.

Think of the Welcome Reception on Tuesday evening with a Hawaiian Luau – minus poi and minus the buried/cooked pig. Think instead of a great menu and Hawaiian shirts for gents and sarongs or muumuus for the ladies (if they dare!). You’ll love the menu. Think free Heineken product. Think of a huge hospitality room somewhat like we had at the Hampton venue.

The program throughout the week belongs to the professionals with an occasional touch by us old timers. As most know from the past five conferences DivPA offers the professional touch in training that even DINFOS can’t touch. They are bringing in **J. Walter Thompson, HP**, and many others that can give your young and old Marines the professional touch. There will be a Life After The Corps segment and, hopefully, a Marines and the Media panel featuring the professionals in our fields who will “tell it like it is” when dealing with the Corps. Also this year, we hoping to get **USAA’s** expert in financial advice to come back and give us the latest on investments and protecting our assets as we move throughout our Marine careers.

On Thursday evening we will salute our active duty Marines who garnered honors in the Merit Awards program as well as those who have excelled in Marketing and Public Affairs activities while on recruiting duty and winners of the **MCA**

Leatherneck Magazine awards.

We will wind up our annual activities with our Annual Business Meeting and election of new officers on Friday morning, then adjourn until September of 2013 when we re-convene at a place to be determined.



We realize the \$131 nightly rate is a bit higher than in previous years but, we are getting plenty for our money, i.e., free parking, free morning coffee, etc. Also, the registration fee is \$96 and that is a bit under more recent conferences. You will be getting your money’s worth.

The conference fee is based on what the hotel charges the Association for the various conference rooms used by the group

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Denig Memorial: Buy Bricks

If you have been following our Denig Memorial progress on the website www.usmccca.org you will see that, while we are very close to closure, we need brick sales.

The memorial site can hold 76 engraved bricks, at press time we were just a few shy of the 50 we guaranteed the Museum we would purchase at a special negotiated price. As we want to dedicate this tribute to our founder and all CCs in November, we are asking for your help.

Most who have bought bricks at \$300 are dedicating them to loved ones, mentors, friends served with and themselves.

Please remember: The Denig Memorial is the only one of its kind at the Museum that recognizes our occupational fields. We need your support!

Transition



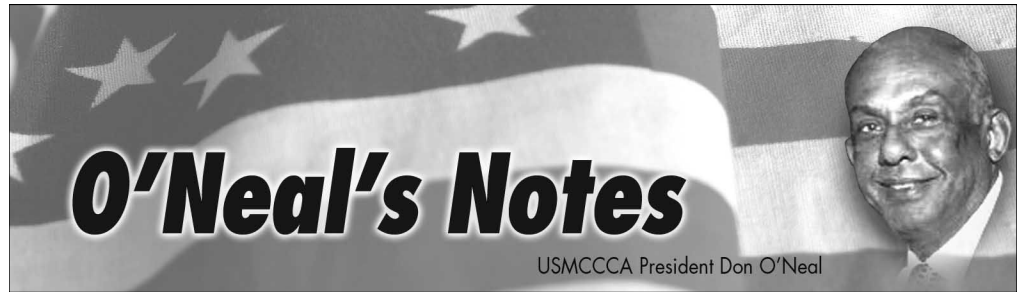
Jeffrey Ault

Life member and businessman Jeffrey Ault passed

away March 30 at his home in Lafitte, LA. He was 65. He served in Vietnam as a combat correspondent with the 1st Marine Division and was involved in numerous major operations, including the liberation of Hue City during the 1968 Tet Offensive. His military awards include the Purple Heart and the Navy Commendation Medal with "V". He was discharged with the rank of sergeant.

Armond Noble

Associate life member Armond M. Noble, 77, Sacramento, CA, publisher, died of cancer Feb 1 2012, at Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento. Fascinated with radio at an early age, he obtained an Amateur Radio license and was active with that service throughout his life. After serving in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, he began a career in radio and TV journalism. Concerned that an accurate story of our involvement in Viet Nam was not being portrayed, he worked in Viet Nam in 1966-67 as a freelance journalist.



Fellow CCs: It seems hardly possible that our New Orleans conference is fading in the rear view mirror as time ticks off toward this year's gathering in San Diego.

Last year was great but we can't rest on our laurels, The task of putting on this year's gathering is well underway. We've selected the Mission Valley Crowne Plaza as our HQ and the hotel's staff has been exceedingly accommodating. With the Merit Awards judging complete, the chore ahead is to develop a program that has something for everyone and I promise we'll deliver.

What we really need now is for our members to begin making plans to attend. I realize that some of you are concerned that the rate \$131 per night is a bit above what we've be hit with in years past. I can only tell you that the hospitality business has seen a significant up tick in the past few

years and the days of bargain basement prices in a comfortable venue are a thing of the past. With everything else going up, that's no surprise. The good news is that we are keeping the registration fee within our comfort zone. We are also negotiating some non-conference events that promise to be a blast.

A September vacation in San Diego is hard to beat.

As some of you are aware, the budget challenges facing our Corps are significant but our DivPA partners have given us the green light for San Diego and we are moving out. A

new SecNav Instruction addresses conferences like ours so I am encouraged that we have been given approval for 2012.

Our conferences are different things to different folks but the one constant is that they give us a chance to meet as Marines. These annual events are for many the only opportunity they have to meet and spend time with others who have played a key role in shaping who we have become. Elsewhere in this edition, there is a picture of a young Marine Staff Sergeant, yours truly, with some of the men I went to war with... men I will always remember and who forever will be my friends. There is no stronger bond and this year, as every year, some of us will meet in San Diego and toast those with whom we served and we'll remember those who are no longer with us.

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We Get Too Soon Old...Thanks to Crane Davis we get a look at how young some of us were at one time in our lives. This photo was taken in the summer of 1969: 1stMarDiv Informational Services Office, Da Nang, Vietnam: (L-R) Cpl. Tom Kidman, Sgt. Gary Clark, Sgt. Dave Allen, LCpl. Jim Ensor, SSgt. Don O'Neal (now retired MGySgt. and USMCCCA President), Pfc. Fred Dubray, Cpl. Gene Smith (now Tour Director, PGA Champions Tour and Florida Chapter Member) and Cpl. Bob Rea.

Note: Each year the Booster Club begins anew immediately following the annual conference. Contributions can be made on our website or direct to CCHQ.

Booster Club

2012

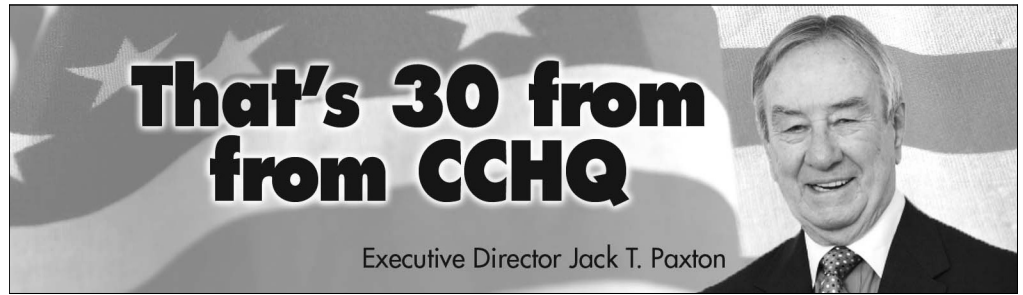
Platinum

Gold

Florida Chapter
Sally Pritchett
Gene Smith

Silver

Mike Arnold
Ralph Austin
Dale Baird
George Chrisman
John Dodd
Norm Hatch
Bob Johnson
Tom Kerr
Bob McEwen
Don O'Neal
Jack Paxton
Fred Tucker
Frank Wiley



Executive Director Jack T. Paxton

Apologies to **Capt. Clark Carpenter**, DINFOS, for calling him Scott in our first quarter issue. Ironically, during our visit to DINFOS in February we ran into him in the hall and also called him Scott. We know better. Sorry Clark...senior moment!



For the first time in our history (we believe) we have an Association Director stationed in a war zone. **MSGt. Brenda Varnadore** is public affairs chief of I MEF (Fwd). Speaking of PA Chiefs, **MGySgt. Phil Mehringer**, II MEF, who was replaced by Varnadore in Afghanistan, is now back at Camp Lejeune as PA Chief of II MEF. In a lengthy recent telephone call Phil told us of his deployment and his current plans, which could include retirement. He is now in his 28th year. Phil also told us that his boss, CC **LtCol. Ricoh Player** will soon be on his way to the National War College. We predict great things for this fine officer.

In case you've forgotten what our **Denig Memorial** looks like, here it is in an artist's conceptual form. The black granite memorial stands five feet on a foot high base. As you can see, the front will show the fa-

mous photo of our founder taken at his desk in early 1942 shortly after he approved the plan to recruit civilian newsmen as war correspondents in the Pacific.

The Memorial will be located adjacent to Puller Point just below the main entrance to the Semper Fidelis Chapel. There currently is no other memorial at the National Museum honoring those of us who have told the Marine Corps story in words, photos, broadcasts and art form since 1942. **We are very close to having the memorial paid but still need your help for the bricks surrounding the Memorial.**

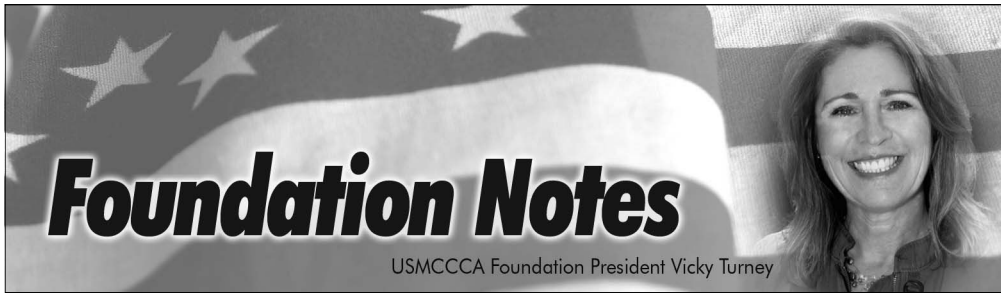
This is your chance to memorialize yourself, a loved one, or someone you served with. Each brick contains three lines of engraving with 20 characters per line. Cost: \$300. We need to hear from you.

The **Marine Corps Heritage Foundation** recently honored former Denig winner

Chip Jones with the **Col. Joseph Alexander Award for Best Biography of 2011** for "War Shots," the portrayal of **Norm Hatch** and combat photographers in World War II. Chip was the 2011 Denig winner.



The Brig. Gen. Robert L. Denig Sr. Memorial—This is a reminder of what our magnificent tribute to all who have told the Marine Corps story will look like at dedication ceremonies at the National Museum of the Marine Corps this November. 76 engraved bricks will surround the Memorial. We hope you will have one in honor of yourself, a loved one, or a shipmate you served with. Sign up on line or call CCHQ at 352.749.4698



Dear Fellow CCs:

As our USMC CCA year gears up for the annual conference, your Foundation has taken on some new challenges while continuing to reach out to our members who continue to display their generosity in sharing of time, talent and treasure.

As all of you know, the Foundation is the fund-raising arm for the Association, and your continuing support is deeply appreciated, for it keeps the Association going. As Henry Ford once said, "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."

As you know, the Foundation took on the challenge of providing a one-time only opportunity to purchase a commemorative brick to be part of the BGen. Denig Memorial at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Separate from the bricks sold as part of the overall Museum effort, these special stones are for all Combat Corre-

San Diego Conference

(Continued from page 1)

throughout the week. This includes all labor costs for setting up and tearing down each day, and any other associated fees.

Room reservations can be made at www.usmccca.org or calling the number shown on P-8 of this issue. We encourage you to make your hotel reservation as soon as possible.

Register for the conference at our website www.usmcca.org, or by contacting CCHQ at usmccca@cfl.rr.com or filling in the P-8 box. We want to see you in San Diego.

spondents, current and past, who followed in the footsteps of "Denig's Demons" in telling the Marine Corps story. We are in the final stretch of this exciting event. If you wish to join this effort, now is the time.

Consider purchasing a commemorative brick to honor someone you know or to celebrate your service. Reach out to your fellow Marines and get a PA shop brick, or contact your peers to share the cost. Check out the site at www.usmccca.org to be a part of the legacy.

We are grateful for the members who continue to support the traditional Foundation efforts by being a merit award sponsor, a booster or a dedicated member. If you are interested in supporting any of these efforts, contact our executive director – he will definitely know how you can help and put your treasure to work. These are great opportunities for us to support the organization which supports us. Your support in any of these efforts helps the Association in a multitude of ways. The Foundation's financial arm supports the Association to enable continuity of conferences and to support and recognize the outstanding work of our active duty Marines through the awards program.

With a few short months remaining before our conference, I am anxious to hear from any of you who have ideas of how we can make the Foundation more effective and responsive to the needs of the Association. You can write to me directly at vturney@comcast.net.

See You in San Diego!

Association '12 Officers

President: Don O'Neal

VP: Kate Stark

Secretary: Chris Whiting

Treasurer: Tom Kerr

Directors

Caleb Eames 2012

Jerry Gutierrez 2012

Brenda Varnadore 2012

Angie Mink 2013

Bill Hauptfleisch 2013

Ex Officio

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Historian: Fred Lash

HQMC Liaison: TBA

DINFOS Liaison: John Dodd

Executive Director
Jack Paxton

Foundation '12 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

GSA Fiasco May Force Conference Change

Most of you have read about the debacle involving the General Services Administration and caused by lavish spending at a conference held in Las Vegas a year or so ago.

What you do not know is that the scandal has caused a major headache for the USMCCCA. The Association was one day away from signing the contract for the 2013 annual conference in that city when the GSA troubles made the headlines.

Because of the sensitivity of the issue, HQMC and your leadership felt that we would not meet there in 2013 as planned.

It should be emphasized that this, in no way, diminishes the appeal of that city. Those of us involved in conference planning recognize that it is a shame that one organization has caused such serious fallout on the hotel industry in Las Vegas.

At NHT press time we are looking at various contingency plans. Obviously, this must be a joint decision involving DivPA. In New Orleans last year we had about 75 members/old timers and approximately 200 active duty Marines. We simply cannot exist without the active duty establishment.

One plan being advanced by DivPA is to stage our conference in conjunction with Marine Week, which is turning into a major “show” for the Marine Corps each year in designated cities. This year Marine Week is in Cleveland. In 2013 it will be held in Seattle in June.

As Marine Week showcases the latest advances in land, sea and air war fighting techniques this would give our old timers

attending a great “update” on their Corps. Past Marine Weeks have featured the Silent Drill Team and the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps or other Marine Corps musical units. For a more complete look at Marine Week, computer users only have to Google that subject to see what has transpired in recent cities.

Again, this is a plan being advanced by HQMC. In coming weeks we will make a determination as to its feasibility. For up-to-the-minute information, go to www.usmccca.org.

We would remind all that this organization has faced changes in the past and, as we all have learned, “adapt and overcome” are words to live by.



ComCam Promotion: Major Brian T. Thompson (r) is promoted to Lieutenant Colonel by Maj. Norman Hatch, (ret.) in front of the Tarawa exhibit at the National Museum of the Marine Corps March 1. LtCol. Thompson is the Occupational Field Sponsor for Combat Camera. (USMC photo by Kathy Reese)

‘12 Thomas Jefferson Awards

Congrats to the following 2012 Thomas Jefferson Award winners.

Series – Killing time | **Cpl. Reece Lodder**, Hawaii Public Affairs Office, MCBH Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii

Tabloid Format Newspaper – Marine Corps Recruit Depot | Public Affairs Office, San Diego

Radio News Report – Joint VBIED Training | **Cpl. Kevin Maynard**, USMC, AFN Iwakuni

Television News Report – Marine Week MAGTF Demo | **Sgt. Todd Hunter**, USMC, DMA-Marine Corps

Morrisey Soledad Ceremony

As this issue goes to press we are working with the Mt. Soledad Commission in San Diego to honor our first Executive Director and President, **Bob Morrisey**.

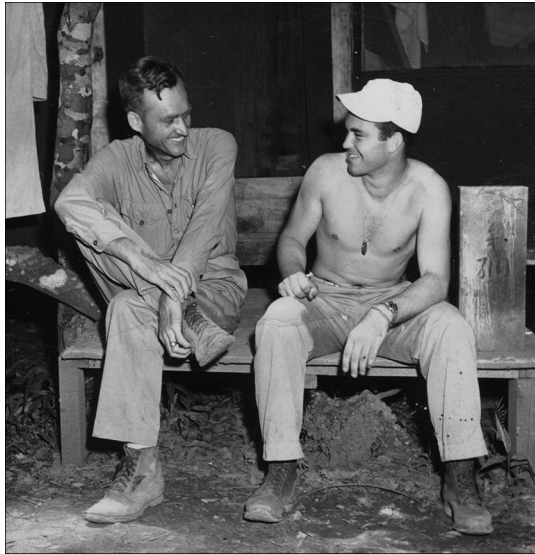
As you are aware we successfully (and quite quickly) raised the requisite funds to have Mo enshrined on Mount Soledad Veteran’s Memorial. Thanks to the efforts of **San Diego Chapter President Luis Agostini**, we are working towards an induction ceremony for **Saturday, September 15 at 9 a.m.** This will be the day following the end of our Annual Conference and we are hoping as many members as possible will adjust their travel schedules in order to attend.

For All CCs: “War Is Not Just For Heroes”

While many of us reported from various war fronts, it's doubtful that any of us were as meticulous as World War II CC **Claude “Red” Canup** was about saving copies of what he wrote.

Thanks to his “packrat” tendencies and his daughter's stubbornness in finding publishers, her new book from the University of South Carolina Press “**War Is Not Just For Heroes**” will be available in June.

The book represents a good five years of hard editing as well as the hounding of publishers by Red's daughter, **Dr. Linda Canup Keaton-Lima**.



War Stories: SSgts. “Red” Canup (l) and photographer Charlie Dade compare notes.

Her dad, a 35-year-old newsman from Anderson, SC in 1944, took advantage of the offer by our founder, Brig. Gen. Denig to come straight into the Marine Corps from the newsroom as a sergeant IF he could make it through boot camp at Parris Island.

Red did and shortly thereafter found himself on a small island called Ulithe where a Marine air group was in support of nearby Pacific fighting.

Fortunately for us, he saved copies of his “dispatches” and, from these Linda has fashioned what historians will treasure as a definitive look at Marine aerial exploits leading up to and in-

cluding the invasion of Iwo Jima.

As prolific as he was — and today's CCs could learn a lot from the way Red honed his craft — he also had a great sense of humor which shows even into the end of the war and the early occupation of Japan.

CC Past President Keith Oliver, a close personal friend of Red's provides an up close and personal look at Canup in the book's forward. A lengthy review is also carried in the June issue of **Leatherneck Magazine**.

Red, a long-time member of the Association, will be remembered for his dry wit and attendance at every conference.

His daughter, an affiliate member of the Association, has promised to come to the San Diego conference for a book signing.

Assn. President's Report

(Continued from page 2)

You all have those special people in your lives and should make every effort to meet them in San Diego for a special toast to the day when we once were young and thought to be invincible.

Semper Fi, Don

Florida Chapter Golf Invite

Red Carpenter and the Florida Chapter extend an invitation to all golfers—would be or duffers—to come play the annual Foundation (FL Chapter) Golf Tournament at the Richwood Lakes Golf Club, Davenport, FL on June 12.

Now in its eighth year, the tournament has grown thanks to the hard work of a small band of Chapter members. **Last year tournament proceeds allowed the Chapter to contribute \$10,000 to the Foundation.** Because of this the Foundation was able to continue its support of the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund and to bolster the Foundation Scholarship funds.

The tournament will kickoff with ceremonies at 8 a.m., followed by a shotgun start. As always, lunch will be provided following the tournament. Also, thanks to long-running arrangement the Association has with Heineken various products will be complimentary to thirsty golfers.

The tournament fee is \$75 (\$65 if received prior to May 29) and includes green and cart fees, range balls and the luncheon. Contact Red Carpenter at 352.688.6720.

Out of town players are invited to stay at the Quality Inn located two miles north of the golf club at a special rate of \$44.79. For reservations call: 800.225.3351. Booking code: USMCCCA.

Dale Dye: One Very Busy “CC Retiree...”

Lifetime CC Dale Dye continues his assault on Hollywood and other creative endeavors. He's got a feature film that he wrote and will direct in pre-production with a schedule to shoot in Budapest, Hungary this summer. **He's casting now for “No Better Place to Die,” the story of the 82nd Airborne Division's brutal fight and dogged stand at La Fiere Bridge in Normandy on D-Day.**

As Dale says: “Some really big names are nibbling around the three lead roles at this point.”

Dye has also written and will produce a ten-part TV mini-series on Marines in Korea for one of the cable nets. It's much like the celebrated mini “Band of Brothers” and will follow one Marine rifle company from forming at Camp Pendleton, to the Pusan Perimeter, the Inchon landing, the Chosin Reservoir Campaign and on through the end of the war in Korea. It's tentatively titled “The Forgotten War” and will likely shoot in Korea.

Dye is also continuing his literary pursuits with his subsidiary Warriors Publishing Group. They have seven titles in distribution to date including Dale's popular books “Laos File” and “Peleliu File.” **Dale won the 2011 Gold Medal from the Military Writers Society of America for “Laos File.”** The third novel in the series titled “Chosin File” is scheduled for release in late summer. If you haven't read these popular stories, they are available through Amazon or through Warriors Publishing Group.

In between these pursuits, Dale is still spending time in front



Remember this place? Many of you put time in the Navy Annex as it was officially called. Most called it HQMC. It will be demolished in May to make room for the expansion of Arlington Cemetery. The soaring spires in the background belong to the U. S. Air Force Memorial.

of the cameras. **He's just wrapped the second season as a regular on the popular TNT sci-fi series “Falling Skies.”** The second season ended with a cliff-hanger that will hopefully bring him and the rest of the cast back for another shot at saving earth from an alien invasion. **In February, Dale was in Washington, DC to accept the American Legion's National Public Relations Award for his work in the media on behalf of veterans and active duty military people.**

(Ed. Note: We should all be this busy...)

Tracy Crow Has New Book

Tracy Crow is a member of the Florida Chapter and is an assistant professor at Eckerd College. She has a book that's been reviewed in the Tampa Bay Tribune called **“Eyes Right, Confessions From a Woman Marine”**. It's her second book published. The first book is penned under the name **Tracy Crow**.

The first book is penned under the name **Carver Greene** called **“An Unlawful Order.”**

Ads, Merit Sponsorships Available at No \$\$ Increase

Just a reminder: Our quarter page ads from members are still the same price they were five years ago: \$150. This gives you a Chuck Beveridge-generated color quarter page ad that you could not buy for three times that much in any other publication.

Also, we are striving to fill a very large void left in the ranks of our Merit Award sponsorships with the death of John Harmon. We have added several new awards this year. The price is the same: \$200.

Important Dates to Remember

Annual Conference: September 10-14 San Diego

Advertising Deadline: July 15. Members only: Quarter page color ad for \$150.

Merit Award Sponsorships: July 15.

October 1: 2013 dues are due

USMCCCA Headquarters
110 Fox Court,
Wildwood, FL 34785

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2012 Annual Conference Registration

Name Badge Information

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Registration fee: \$96 per person

**Hotel Reservation Info: Reserve on our website
www.usmcca.org or call 888.233.9527 and ask for
USMCCCA Registration Rate of \$131.**

Credit Card Info—Visa, MCard Only Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Card No: _____ Exp: _____

3-Digit Code: _____ (on reverse) Amount: \$ _____

Clip, mail to: CCHQ, 110 Fox Ct. Wildwood, FL 34785 or call
352.748.4698 or email: usmcca@cfl.rr.com.

Now Hear This

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