



Marines Out...There Will Be a Conference

CCHQ was advised by the Deputy Director of Information at HQMC July 3 that the Public Affairs Leadership Conference for 2012 in San Diego has been cancelled. We have also been advised by the Director of Public Affairs, Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC) that their anticipated participation with the PA Leadership Conference has also been cancelled.

We had been more or less expecting this. As most know, the government has mandated massive military budget cuts. More recently, a Department of Defense directive stated that any conference exceeding \$100,000 in military travel and per diem would be disallowed. Certainly, the GSA scandal from Las Vegas did not help the situation.

In his message to field PA units Lt. Col. Chris Hughes, Deputy Director, said "After submitting all the documentation for the required waiver, the feedback we received indicated that approval to host the conference was not expected."

Despite this, President Don O'Neal said "the show will go on and we will put on a program that will still "knock your socks off!"



San Diego Landmark— The legacy of Bob Hope is commemorated by a major sculptural artwork titled "A National Salute to Bob Hope and the Military," located in Mole Park with commanding views of San Diego Bay.

Some changes have been made in the schedule. Instead of the conference beginning on Tuesday morning, the schedule shifts to a Wednesday start with panels and meetings extending into Thursday.

The Welcome Reception will have a luau theme and will be held on Wednesday evening at 6:30. On Thursday the annual Awards Banquet goes as scheduled with a pre-reception at 6 p.m. We have been advised that Brig. Gen. Paul M. Kennedy, Director of Information, will be our guest of honor if at all possible.

On Friday morning, immediately following an early breakfast, attendees will be transported to the Recruit Depot to be guests at a recruit graduation. The official part of the conference will end at Friday noon.

On Saturday morning at 9 a.m. there will be an induction ceremony at LaJolla's Mount Soledad Memorial Park honoring former first Executive Director and past President **Bob Morrisey**. We are hoping that some attendees will stay over to attend the ceremony.

Because of the situation, the Crowne Plaza Hotel has reduced the

(Continued on page 6)

Transition



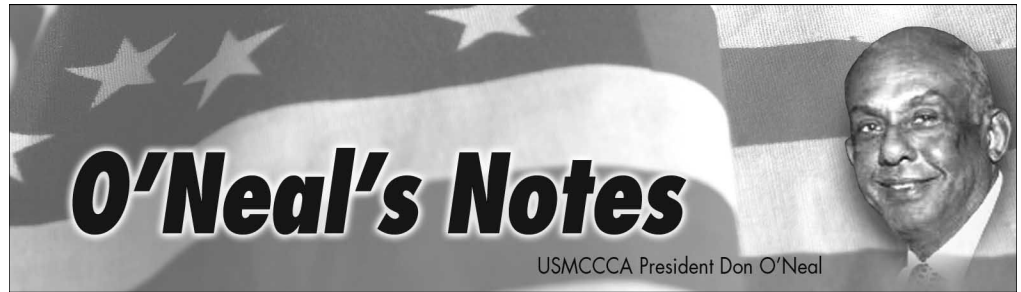
Vlado “Mert” Mrdutt

Vlado “Mert” Mrdutt passed away June 6th in San Jose, Calif. Mert was an old China Marine and later an excellent motion picture cameraman who served in that capacity in many places where Marines serve. Mert was 85 years old and is survived by his wife Lisa, also of San Jose and a bunch of kids and grandkids.

Horst Faas

Although not a member, Horst Faas was known to many CCs As chief of photo operations for the Associated Press in Saigon for a decade beginning in 1962. He didn’t just cover the fighting — he also recruited and trained new talent from among foreign and Vietnamese freelancers.

Faas, a Pulitzer Prize-winning combat photographer who carved out new standards for covering war with a camera and became one of the world’s best-known photojournalists in nearly half a century with the AP, died recently in Munich, his family said. He was 79.



USMCCCA President Don O'Neal

This my second attempt at writing this column. The first was a “welcome” piece for all of the active duty Marines that we expected to see in San Diego.

As you can see from the front page news, we have suffered a severe setback. Both Jack and I are convinced this is a knee-jerk reaction originally stemming from the GSA scandal in Las Vegas.

Of course, we have known for some time that budget cuts were coming and I guess neither of us were terribly surprised.

What it does mean, however, is quite possibly an entirely new way of structuring our conferences. This will be a very hot topic of discussion when we get to San Diego and, while on that subject, let me say that I hope you will plan on making the conference.

We are planning on a number of interesting activities and we will need your support.

As most of you know, this is my final conference as president of our association. For nearly 45 years I have been honored to be called a CC. My two terms as association president and two others as foundation

president have been the high marks of a near life-long love affair with the Combat Correspondents Association. **I’ve watched it grow and sometimes stumble through hard times.** Yet I have always been confident that this group would live up to its full potential and I am happy to say that I think we’ve arrived. That doesn’t mean there’s not still much to be done but I am confident that, no matter the obstacles, we will adapt and overcome and I plan on being an integral part of that future, providing any support I can.

As I step down as your president, I can say that I have never been prouder of the men and women who make up our membership. You prove every day why the Combat Correspondents Association will have a bright future and continue to enhance the image of our Corps. May God bless and enrich the lives of each of you and may God bless the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association.

Semper Fi, Don O’Neal, President

Tom Kerr “Retiring”

USMCCCA Treasurer Tom Kerr has announced his intention to retire from the job as of this coming December 31 following eight years of outstanding voluntary service to the Association

In order to provide continuity, we are asking that anyone interested in assuming this volunteer position please contact Jack Paxton, Executive Director, at either 352 748-4698 or email him at usmccca@cfl.rr.com.

Interested parties should have some book-keeping or accounting background.

Ads, Merit Sponsorships Needed

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 have added several new Merit Awards this year. The price is the same: \$200. Contact CCHQ.

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

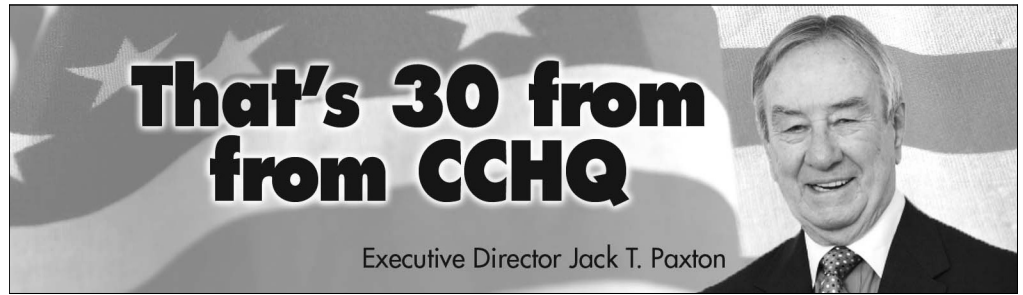
Platinum

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
Vicki Turney



Executive Director Jack T. Paxton

We had hoped to talk about future conferences in this issue but, the news from DivPA about cancelling their portion of the San Diego Conference certainly destroyed that idea.

We were one day away from signing a contract with a hotel in Las Vegas for the 2013 confab two months ago when HQMC felt going to that city was unwise in light of the GSA scandal.

That was followed by a mandate from the Department of Defense that conferences involving active duty or government employees exceeding \$100,000 would not be approved. At that point we knew the handwriting was on the wall.

The “firecracker” handed to us the afternoon of July 3 by DivPA said that the PA Leadership Conference had to be cancelled. This was followed by a telephone call with the Recruiting Command that they were pulling out as well.

Don O’Neal and I had discussed this possibility at length and had decided if it happened we would do the best we could in trying to honor our contract with the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

At this writing we have put together a conference

that may well become a prototype of the future. We are working “our bolt” with commands to try and get them to send their Merit Award winners, at least. Complete details as we complete them will be carried on our website www.usmcca.org.

The future? Having seen troop draw-downs beginning in the aftermath of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, I have to believe this will resolve itself. I simply refuse to believe that the strong ties we have had with the active duty establishment for the past 64 years are over. Stay tuned.

To say that our Denig Memorial campaign was a success would be the understatement of the year!

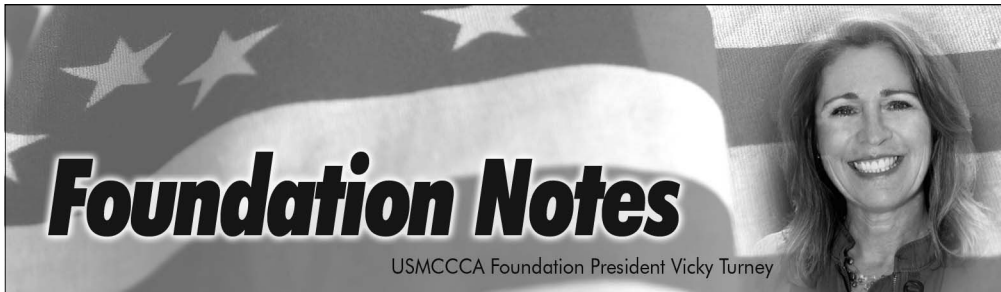
A lot of us crossed our fingers following the Business Meeting last year when it was decided we would pursue this - the first such recognition of our two occupational fields at the Museum.

While it was a slow starter, we finished strong last week. At this writing we have sold 71 of 78 bricks that will surround this edifice. We are within about \$500 from having the memorial totally paid for.

A fantastic effort by a lot of great members and friends!



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 November 17 at 10 a.m. 78 engraved bricks will surround the Memorial. At press time there were seven bricks available for sale. If you are interested go to www.usmcca.org and purchase one.



USMCCCA Foundation President Vicky Turney

In this final newsletter before the San Diego conference and the announcements of scholarship and merit award recipients, I want to extend my sincere thanks for the support and dedication fellow CCs have provided our Foundation. Foundation funds continue to grow during a time when many are struggling financially.

The adage that “Marines take care of their own” is never more true than when it comes to our Foundation. The financial commitment from CCs has assured the continued support for Association programs, awards and scholarships.

Whether it was in the form of being a Dedicated Member, a Booster, sponsoring a merit award, purchasing a Journal ad or a combination of opportunities to give, CCs



San Diego Landmark— Unconditional Surrender, a 25-foot, 6,000 pound statue commemorating a famous World War II photo was unveiled Feb. 10 at Mole Park in San Diego.

have continually stepped forward to ensure Association programs are carried out successfully. The bottom line is that this effort to sustain our organization is a reflection of the dedication of those who have served. The Foundation has taken great strides to be financially solid while supporting Association programs.

Kudos to the Florida Chapter for another successful fundraising golf tournament in June. The Foundation’s (Florida Chapter) golf tournament raised \$7,000 to continue support for the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund and the Foundation’s scholarships. Chapter members, spouses and friends continually work hard to make that tournament a success. Great job to Tournament Chair James “Red” Carpenter and his team.

We are not in San Diego yet but there is still time to make plans to join us. We’d love to see you there!

BoD Slate Approved

Nominations for three new directors and a slate of Association officers have been accepted by the Board of Directors. They will be voted in during the election of officers during the annual Business Meeting in San Diego.

The officer slate is as follows:

President: Bill Hauptfleisch, currently a board member.

Vice President: Incumbent, Kate Stark.

Secretary: Chris Whiting (who else?)

Treasurer: Vacant. Kerr retiring.

Sergio Jiminez, Manny Pacheco, and incumbent **Jerry Gutierrez** have been nominated for the three board slots.

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

Chaplain: Mawk Arnold

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: Carol Rees

Directors

Red Carpenter

Walt Ford

Agostino VonHassel

Keith Oliver (ex officio)

**All present Directors of the
Association Board.**

Executive Director
Jack Paxton

Red Canup's Daughter Wins 2012 "Denig"

In our long and storied history, our premier award has never been bestowed on the son or daughter of a combat correspondent. This changes in 2012 as Dr. Linda Canup Keaton-Lima, daughter of the late, long-time CC Claude "Red" Canup, and author of **"War Is Not Just For Heroes"** is

awarded the 2012 Denig award.



Dr. Linda Canup Keaton-Lima

Her book, a collection of 398 "dispatches" and personal letters sent by her dad from the Pacific represents nearly 12 years of tenacity, stubbornness and perseverance. Marine historians are now calling this one of the most complete accounting of Marine aviation in World War II.

Given that "Red" had pack-rat tendencies and saved a copy of everything he wrote, it is doubt-

ful these "flimsies" would have seen the light of day except for Linda's stubbornness. "In 2000 I began bugging my brother Buzz in Texas, to send Dad's works to some Marine connection. He finally sent them to me in 2009 after they were nearly destroyed by a water leak."

After sorting through them, Linda contacted her Dad's old friend, CC Past President Keith Oliver for advice: "Could they be published?" More importantly, "would anyone read them?" Keith assured her they would be read and suggested she contact the Naval Institute, publisher of the Proceedings.

Keep in mind Linda did not just hand the box over to the Institute. First they had to be sorted for historical relevance, many had to be edited. Linda soon found herself awash in the military jargon of World War II and contacted CCHQ for historical support. Then the Institute dropped the effort and Linda again found herself editor-without-publisher.

Not willing to abandon the project, she then contacted the University of South Carolina Press in Columbia, SC, not far from her home in Tega Cay. For the next two years it was

a back-and-forth between editorial board challenges and Linda's perseverance. Both Keith and Executive Director were in on it from beginning to successful end late last year when USC finally agreed to publication.

On the book's dust cover, **Dr. Charles Neimeyer**, Director and Chief, USMC History Division says "the Marine Corps historical program owes a debt of gratitude to Linda Keaton-Lima for bringing to light an invaluable treasure trove of wartime material and commentary..."

Jim Lehrer, retired executive editor and anchor at PBS and himself recipient of a past Denig Award, said "Red Canup was the real deal - a real Marine, a real reporter. That combination made him the premier chronicler of the real world of World War II combat for the Marine aviators who went into the skies over the Pacific. His daughter has collected and curated Red's individual Marine stories to tell the bigger story of what it was like for those brave men who attacked, defended, and died. This is a terrific book."

For all of the above, **Dr. Linda Canup Keaton-Lima** was enthusiastically recommended and approved for the 2012 Brig. Gen. Robert L. Denig Sr., Distinguished Memorial Performance Award.



Lance Cpl. Joshua M. Rudy, a combat videographer with Regimental Combat Team 6, stands at attention during an award ceremony on Camp Delaram II, Nimroz province, Afghanistan May 23, 2012. Rudy was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Raul Gonzalez/Released)

Florida Golf: Another Tourney Success

The weather was spectacular and the golf course was in outstanding condition on June 12 as 98 golfers kicked off the 2012 version of the **Foundation's (Florida Chapter) golf tournament** to help America's wounded Marines at the **Ridgewood Lakes Golf Club** in Davenport, FL.

Tournament Chair **James E. "Red" Carpenter** reported that this year's event raised \$7,000 for the Foundation. "While this was a bit lower than we raised last year it is still a very respectable amount of money considering the competition from tournaments in Central Florida. We also lost a major sponsor due to economic conditions."

In ceremonies preceding the morning's action, Carpenter introduced various key figures, including two golfers from the Champions Tour who lived nearby. "Andy Bean and Brad Bryant both from the Lakeland area, gave up a rare day off in



Andy Bean

order to be with us." Both golfers played in the tournament. He also introduced **Andrew Berry** who was severely wounded in Iraq and attends tournaments such as this in order to show his appreciation



Brad Bryant

to those helping America's wounded. Berry and nearly a dozen active duty Marines were guests of the Chapter for the tournament. Again this year **Heineken USA** provided various products for the consumption of the golfers. It was a very hot day so this was greatly appreciated. In addition, Heineken provided several hundred dollars of merchandise that was used in the raffle and silent auction.

Carpenter also thanked the **Marine Corps Color Guard**

from Orlando's **6th Motor Transport Battalion** who participated in the program for the eighth straight year.



Betsy Judge (l) shows great form in blasting out of a sand bunker during the Florida Tournament—check the flight of the ball! Betsy, a member of the Florida Chapter, is a former Deputy Director of Information and also served a stint as special assistant to Commandant Charles Krulak before her retirement. She is now owner of a newspaper in South Florida



Newly-promoted Brig. Gen. Paul Kennedy, Director of USMC Information (r), is congratulated by the Commandant, Gen. James Amos following ceremonies in late June. (USMC Photo by Sgt. Valerie S. VanderShons)

San Diego Conference Change

(Continued from page 1)

nightly room fee from \$131 to \$114. For those who have already reserved rooms at the \$131 rate have no fear. The hotel will adjust your rate on arrival.

It is suggested that attendees visit our website www.usmcca.or in order to follow breaking news of conference activities. As you might imagine the absence of active duty Marines has caused some major changes to be made.



LtCol. Brian Thompson (r), Director, ComCam Management, was recently promoted to his present rank by retired Maj. Norman Hatch at the National Museum of the Marine Corps

ComCam Marine Wins Top DoD Honors

Thirty-five year old **Sgt. Shawn P. Sales**, a Combat Camera Production Specialist at DINFOS, has been named the **Department of Defense 2011 Military Graphic Artist of the Year** for the second straight year. His graphite rendering of a scout sniper and his spotter was judged the best of 229 submissions by 84 artists representing all services.



Sgt. Shawn Sales

Sgt. Sales, who has spent half of his seven year career as a Combat Illustrator, is also the official military courtroom sketch artist in the court-martial and pre-trial hearings of the U.S. vs. Pfc. Bradley Manning, who allegedly leaked classified military information. This is the WikiLeaks Trial.

The highly-talented Sales is currently a Basic Multimedia Reproduction course instructor at the Defense Information School. He enlisted in 2004 and twice deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



The Versatility of Sgt. Sales

Sales doesn't limit his expertise to just serious subjects such as the charcoal impression of a Marine sniper team which won for him the 2012 Department of Defense Award (at left). In the upper drawing he shows his Norman Rockwell influence in this self-portrait.



HLM Joe Galloway ® and new bride, Dr. Grace Lim, flank former U.S. Senator Max Cleland following the marriage on May 13. Joe was decorated for his bravery at the battle of IeDrang Valley in RVN



CC Promotion: Newly-promoted Gunnery Sergeant Tiffany Carter (r) is shown with MSgt. Brenda Varnadore following Carter's promotion in Afghanistan. Maj. Gen. (s) Gregg Sturdivant, AWC, III MAW, pinned on Carters new rank assisted by MSgt. Varnadore. Carter is PA Chief of the III Wing (fwd) while MSgt. Varnadore is PA Chief of I MEF and a member of the USMCCA Board of Directors.

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2012 Annual Conference Registration

Name Badge Information

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Name: _____

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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 \$114.**

Credit Card Info—Visa, MCard Only Please Print

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Card No: _____ Exp: _____

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