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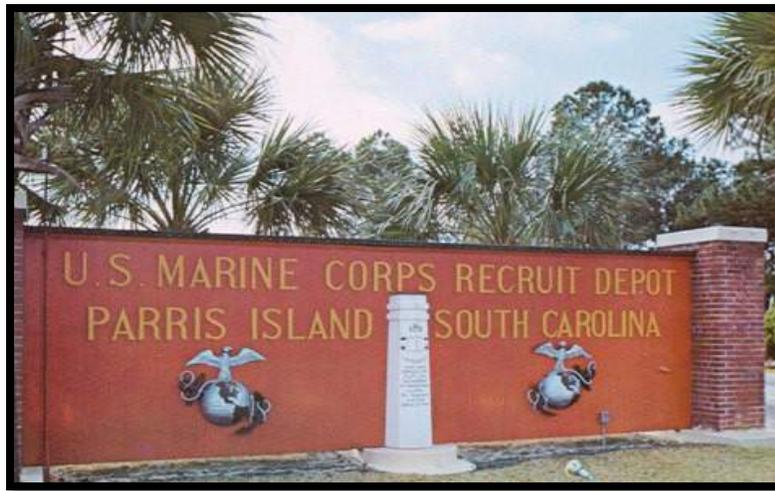
Volume 22 Issue 2

Published Quarterly by the Marine Corps Mustang Association, Inc.

Summer 2022

A RETURN TO PARRIS ISLAND

By Colonel Will Brown, USMCR (Ret)



June 6, 2017, I decided to return to commemorate the 50th anniversary of my graduation and what would have been the 75th anniversary of my father's graduation.



I drove up to the gate in my new Camaro looking like a single Lance Corporal. When I graduated from OCS, a lot of the new Second Lieutenants bought Corvettes. I got married and bought a used Chevy Biscayne. I should have gone with a Corvette.

I presented my DOD ID card to the sentry and told him I was a Retired Marine and had started right here. He took a look at my Colonel's rank and his eyes got big. He welcomed me and gave what might be the last salute of my life. I wanted to tell him I had once been a gate sentry at Camp Geiger at Camp Lejeune waiting to see if I

had been selected for OCS, but just returned the salute with a wave.

I remembered the odd system of overhead steam piping, but they had added something.

My first stop was my old unit, which had also been my father's. The 1st Battalion had the nickname "Blood Alley" because it was supposed to be the toughest. I lived in the same WWII two story wooden barracks that my father did. The 3rd Battalion lived in new air conditioned barracks and was derisively nicknamed "Disney Land". The old wooden buildings are long gone except for memories.



Continued on Page 4

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ON THIS DAY...

April 10, 1959— LtCol John H. Glenn, Jr. was named one of the seven original Project Mercury astronauts selected for space training. Three years later, on February 20, 1962, Col Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth.

April 15, 1962—Marine Corps operational involvement in the Vietnam War began on Palm Sunday when HMM-362 with its Sikorsky UH-34s arrived at Soc Trang in the Delta south of Saigon. The task unit was called "Shufly" and its first operational employment involved lifting Vietnamese troops into battle.

May 2, 1946— Marines from Treasure Island Marine Barracks, under the command of Warrant Officer Charles L. Buckner, aided in suppressing the 3-day prison riot at Alcatraz Penitentiary in San Francisco Bay. WO Buckner, a veteran of the Bougainville and Guam campaigns, ably led his force of Marines without suffering a single casualty.

May 22, 1912— 1stLt Alfred A. Cunningham, the first Marine officer to be assigned to "duty in connection with aviation" by MajGen Commandant William P. Biddle, reported for aviation training at the Naval Aviation Camp at Annapolis, Maryland, and Marine aviation had its official beginning.

June 8, 1995— A Marine tactical recovery team from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit stationed on board the USS Kearsarge rescued a downed U.S. pilot, Capt Scott O'Grady, USAF, from Bosnian-Serb territory in Bosnia.

June 26, 1918—BGen James G. Harbord, Commanding General of the 4th Marine Brigade, notified American Expeditionary Force Headquarters that Belleau Wood was "now U.S. Marine Corps entirely." After 20 days of combat, and at a cost of over 4,000 casualties, the 4th Brigade of Marines had proven its fighting heart. The grateful Commander of the French Sixth Army would soon decree that in all official correspondence, Belleau Wood would henceforth bear the name, "Bois de la Brigade de Marine."

FROM: THE PRESIDENT



Major Joe Featherston, USMC (Ret)

Greetings Fellow Mustangs,

This communication to you is being drafted in mid-May to meet administrative times in assembling the Mustang. Considering everything that is currently going on around us it is really challenging to communicate necessary information in a reasonably normal, acceptable, and understandable manner. Having said that, I love challenges.

To begin, as you receive this the association is literally in the final days leading up to our annual muster reunion in beautiful downtown Washington DC. It is of paramount importance that we all fully realize the immediate logistical requirements of attending the reunion for all of us but more importantly, what non-attendance really means to association survival. If only about .03% of our membership attends and participates in the General Member business meeting those 15 or so attendees are your only realistic voice in furthering the goals of our association. It also obviously indicates a general apathy and lack of interest which is not a healthy reaction for your officers and Board

Members as they attempt to discharge their responsibilities. We all need to remain motivated if you really want the Mustang Association to survive. Many of our companion organizations have already ceased operation and I would regret going down that path.

The operating lifeblood of our association's ability to survive, simply put, is financial stability. Our operating funds come from member's dues. Without new members on a continuing basis, we will run out of funds and cease the ability to remain in operation. **We are most receptive to those individuals that have offered to donate or designate the MCMA in their estate planning for a donation or grant. If you might think that valuable and within your abilities, please reach out to us.**

As I write this, there are NO members who have volunteered for consideration as a board member nor the office of President. You may recall that I end my term in this office at the reunion in August. You DO NOT have to ascend through the board or officer's positions to be considered for this assignment. If you are a relatively new member with vision, energy, ideas, and the willingness to serve the association, this would be a splendid time to raise your hand.

As I come to the end of my tour, I would like to express my deep appreciation for all of the support provided by my fellow officers and the Board of Directors over many years of guiding the Mustang Association. I simply could not have done any of this without you. I am humbled and grateful. Thank you.

Despite many obstacles, I would be pleased to see you in Washington in early August. Please reach out to the Business Manager for help if needed. My very best wishes to the membership for a most positive pathway ahead.

Semper Fidelis,

Joe Featherston



I parked on the empty street next to the parade deck (the Grinder), opened my car windows and let the sights, smells and sounds of Parris Island flow over me once again. The air was still full of the smell of the sea and the marshes. A platoon drilling answered with deafening responses to their DI's instructions. A platoon seated in the bleachers (a rare treat) near The Monument did the same.

I drove to the other side of the Grinder and looked at this Monument that I had passed by so many times. Little did I know I would have a close relationship with the Big Monument in DC. There are similar scaled down ones at Quantico and Hawaii. The original cast is in Harlingen, TX.



My final stop was the Rifle Range. There was a large sign saying No Visitors Allowed, but I ignored it. I had shot there.

The platoon marching to the line was silent. Since it was a Tuesday, they were heading to their second day of firing on the big range in the distance. Their regular Drill Instructors would leave them pretty much alone during the day during their two weeks of marksmanship

training. They would have in their place Primary Marksmanship Instructors (PMIs). They wore the same DI hats, but were all national class shooters and instructors reputed to be the best in the world.

There was one PMI for each 3 shooters who would coach them through qualification day on Friday. Those in the above picture who had shot well the first day would feel confident. Those who hadn't would be nervous. I was in the latter group. I had shot 22's as a kid, but wasn't a natural with the big M-14 like a lot of the country boys were.



I was fine shooting prone from 500 yards (a helluva long ways away) and sitting at 200, but was having trouble shooting off hand at 200 and kneeling at 300. My scores were not enough to qualify. My PMI said I was jerking the trigger and told me to hold out my trigger finger. He put it between two metal magazine charger guides that he had wired together like a vise. He squeezed hard until it drew blood. He asked, "Did that hurt?" I said, "NO SIR!"

He put a band aid on it, and I began to shoot better with a sensitized trigger finger. The faint scar is still there today. I did qualify on Friday with a comfortable cushion. I didn't like the M-14 – it was a little large for my arm structure. I did qualify at a higher level with it in Basic School. Oddly enough, I was much better with the pistol as an officer. I shot high Expert with the .45 and Beretta using a special grip an ancient Warrant Officer showed me. No, I won't show it to you.

There were a handful of recruits in my 80 man platoon who didn't qualify. Their first task was to low crawl the 500 yards of the range with their rifle screaming "I'm an UNQ, I'm an UNQ!" Brutal? Yes. No one felt sorry for them and they were shunned for the rest of our time at PI. There are no trophies for participation in war and we were all going to be in Vietnam sometime. I expect they were given stateside jobs and would have another chance in a year.

Quite surprisingly two pictures of my time at PI have survived. The picture in "my" dress blues was actually a backless shroud that everyone wore. I was not in the platoon picture. I was in the hospital with pneumonia. It had started during a 3 day field exercise at a place called Elliot's Beach. When the platoon returned to base it got worse. Recruits were not exactly encouraged to go to sick bay, so I decided to gut it out.





FIRST RECRUIT BATTALION
SSGT. A. LEWIS

PLATOON 1010
SSGT. D.W. SHOWALTER
GRADUATED 19 - SEPT. - 1967

M.C.R.D., PARRIS ISLAND, S.C.
SSGT. B.F. PHILLIPS

After another day the cough got so bad that I decided I had to get medical attention. At evening formation in the barracks I said to the senior DI, "The Private requests permission to speak with the Drill Instructor." That was the protocol. He said, "Speak Maggot!" I then coughed blood on his spit shined shoes. That did the trick and they took me to the hospital.

I spent 3 days there and had to beg the doc to let me go. My graduation was about 10 days away and I didn't want to get recycled to another platoon. When I got back to the barracks the Senior DI welcomed me with 500 Bends and Thrusts – the standard punishment for a medium infraction

Most of the platoon would go to Vietnam and I know many never came back. May they rest in peace. Semper Fi.

Fast forward 25 years. I had an uneventful Vietnam tour and left active duty in March, 1971, I went back to finish college and grad school and joined the Reserves. I was fortunate with

billets and bosses and much to my amazement made full Colonel. My next to last (and favorite) job was the G-4 of the then reserve 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

I had the reputation of doing things with the troops that some officers avoided, like going to the Gas Chamber. One Saturday I was with the unit on the Camp Lejeune Rifle Range watching the Captains and below do their annual qualification. They had just finished at the 300 yard line and the Brigade SgtMajor asked me if I wanted to shoot a few rounds.

Shit! I hadn't fired on a range in 20 years and never with the M-16. I said sure. I assumed the sitting position and it all washed over me from the distant past. I looked skyward and thought, Chesty – I might need a hand here. I didn't. Tighten the sling, perfect sight alignment, perfect sight picture, breathe out, squeeze easy with that mutant finger.

I shot 5 Perfect Bulls. Someone behind me said "Shit, the Colonel CAN FUCKING SHOOT!" If my DIs and PMI heard that they would be smiling. I immediately retired from range shooting. Years later I ran into the retired Captain who had been the CO of H&S Co 2nd MEB. He remembered that incident. I had been afraid I was making it up.



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The Association thanks the following for their generous donations:

LtCol Joseph A. Lovullo



TETRA TECH

Tetra Tech, Inc., a major, multinational firm with 22,000 employees worldwide is seeking contract employees for short term engagements across CONUS. Assignments could run up to three weeks long. Work could include relocating a support utility van (no CDL required) cross country, then low-level technical (iPhone & android) and logistical support for teams conducting utility assessments. Contract is currently with US Navy, but other bases are likely to request these services in coming months and years. Pay is strictly hourly, to \$50/hour with time and a half for hours over 40 in a week. Compensation includes full government per diem for lodging, meals and expenses. As a Mustang myself, I know that we bring a unique combination of dirty hands experience with leadership tools, which are truly unique TO Mustangs. If you'd like to know more, please email me, Rick Stryker, (rick.stryker@tetratech.com) for more details.

Semper Fi!

Mustang Chapter News



Photo by Cindey Blaydes

Top row L to R: Mark Blaydes, Jim Geiser and George Meegan.

Bottom Row L to R: Evelyn Culver, John Culver, Jo Meegan, Theresa Rhodes and John Rhodes.

The Desert Mustangs of Arizona (Chapter 3 of the Marine Corps Mustang Association) met on Armed Forces Day, 21 May 2022, at the Scottsdale American Legion. They set some dates for future meetings and events. We are looking to conduct our Bingo activity at the Arizona Veterans Home on 9 August at 1400. We are organizing our Veterans Home BBQ for 25 October at 1100. We concluded our drive for Right Turn in Yuma, AZ. and will be distributing toiletries, under clothing, blankets and two walkers to that organization that helps homeless veterans in that region on 7 June. The Scholarship/Leadership Plaque to the Marine Corps JROTC programs was finished and already looking forward to next school year. A lot of business was accomplished, but what was the highlight of this, and every meeting, was the awesome comradery (and occasional war story) throughout the meeting.

BALLOT FOR 2022 ELECTION CANDIDATES

DIRECTORS: PLEASE VOTE ON ALL CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR

MARK BLAYDES _____ YES ___ OR NO ___

MARK BUTKOVICH _____ YES ___ OR NO ___

SECRETARY: PLEASE VOTE ON ALL CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY

RON COOKSON _____ YES ___ OR NO ___

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE _____

(THIS BALLOT MUST BE SIGNED TO BE COUNTED)

MEMBER# _____ **DATE** _____

PLEASE GET YOUR VOTE IN BY NLT: 1 AUGUST 2022

MAIL OR EMAIL YOUR BALLOT TO THE BUSINESS MANAGER

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BUSINESSMNGR@MARINECORPSMUSTANG.ORG

(703) 349-0893

*Do you have something you would like to share with your fellow Mustangs? Send your articles/photos to **BusinessMngr@marinecorpsmustang.org**.*

2022 MUSTANG MUSTER * UPDATE*

Planning is underway for our next Mustang Muster. We will join with the 8th & I Reunion Association in Arlington, Virginia, **August 4 – 7, 2022**.

The Muster/Reunion will be in the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, 1700 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202. Reservations should be made at 1-800-228-9290 and be sure to let the reservations person know you are with the 8th & I Reunion group. Or, hold CTRL and click [here](#) to book your group rate for 8th and I Reunion Association Banquet 2022. Rooms are \$129. + tax. A banquet will be held on Saturday, August 6th. Cost is \$85 per person.

Event details are shaping up with the current activities scheduled:

Thurs, 8/4/22—TBD

Fri, 8/5/22—Friday Night Parade

Sat, 8/6/22—Quantico Museum Visit, Association Meeting, Banquet

Sun, 8/7/22—River Cruise

MUSTANG PX



Polo shirt with left side pocket —\$45

These items are available to view and purchase with your credit card on our MCMA website in the Post Exchange area. Or, you can print the form and send it with your check/money order to:

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Challenge coin with Member ID # - \$20



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Mustang Honor Roll

LtCol Kenneth U. Beasock
Gainesville, FL
5 May 2022

CWO-2 L. Randall Hack
Tomball, TX
11 April 2022

Maj Kurt E. Muller
Chapel Hill, NC
14 January 2022

LtCol Jack L. Nolan
Houston, TX
15 December 2021

LtCol Norman D. Preston
Louisville, KY
10 May 2022

Maj Robert K. Riggs
Winchester, VA
11 January 2022

Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum Relocating

I am thrilled to share with you that last month the Commanding General, Training and Education Command (TECOM), signed the MOU on behalf of the Marine Corps. The National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC), which owns the aircraft and artifact collection falls within the TECOM chain-of-command.

Our project will relocate the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum back to its original home at the former MCAS El Toro, now called *Great Park*.

The MOU now sits with the City of Irvine awaiting approval at their May 24 city council meeting. Representatives from the FLHF and FLAM have already approved and signed the MOU.

Even after the MOU is finalized, none of this will happen unless we have the necessary funds. In only nine months, we were able to meet our two-year fundraising goal of \$5 million through a combination of donations and pledges. Once the MOU is signed, we will be collecting on the pledges. Not surprisingly, given the size and complexity of the project, we have already budgeted and identified where the \$5 million will be spent. Therefore, we have targeted an additional \$3 million, and with the assistance of a fundraiser consultant, hope to raise even more. We are already in the process of planning a major fundraising campaign. When contacted, I hope all of you will be able to help make the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum a reality. I want to also remind everyone that you can visit the FLHF's website www.flyingleathernecks.org where we keep a running record of our progress.

Semper Fidelis,

Michael J. Aguilar
Brigadier General USMC Retired
Executive Director
Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation



MCMA APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NEW

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Please Circle One

USMC (Active) (Ret.); USMCR (Active) (Ret.); Marine Veteran; Other: _____

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Dates Enlisted: _____ Dates Officer _____

Date Retired/Released from Active Duty: _____

Annual Membership Dues: \$40 - 1 year (\$35 renew) / \$90 - 3 years

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PURPOSE

The principal purpose of the Marine Corps Mustang Association, Inc., is to advocate and provide career enhancing support for Officer Members who have enlisted Marine Corps experience. We are an organization made up of Mustang Officers with a broad spectrum of successful military and civilian experience. We pursue this mission through mentoring, networking and facilitating relationships that assist Mustangs in their careers and civilian transitions. We provide a venue of sharing lessons-learned in occupational fields and industry initiatives that support the mission of the United States Marine Corps.