

CROSSROADS of the Corps

The Magazine of the Marines' Memorial Association, San Francisco | SPRING 2017



honor & remembrance

with Gold Star Families \ page 10

THE MARINES' MEMORIAL CLUB

A Living Memorial



GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY. DYNAMIC PROGRAMS. HISTORIC MISSION.

THE MARINES'
MEMORIAL
ASSOCIATION,
A NON-PROFIT
VETERANS
ORGANIZATION,
EXISTS TO HONOR
THE LEGACY OF
MILITARY SERVICE
THROUGH A LIVING
MEMORIAL AND
PROGRAMS THAT
COMMEMORATE,
EDUCATE AND
SERVE VETERANS
OF ALL ERAS.

The Marines' Memorial Club in San Francisco has, for seventy years, stood in honor of the memory of the men and women who served in defense of our nation. The Club, just one block off Union Square at 609 Sutter Street, is in the heart of downtown San Francisco. This handsome California Spanish Revival building, which enjoys San Francisco's protected landmark status, provides a sanctuary for those who wish to take a pause and to honor the valor of Veterans who gave their lives while in the service of their country. Our Living Memorial is designed to preserve memories and share the stories of American military history.

The founders of the Club recognized three components to a living memorial: historical, emotional, and business. There was also an awareness that these three functions of the Club might overlap and complement each other. The vision of the original founders devised the framework for the Club to sustain itself in perpetuity.

The Club's original charter specified, as a tribute to Marine Corps heroes, the establishment and maintenance of a museum. Over time, the atmosphere and ambiance of the entire building has fulfilled this historical function. [...turn to inside back cover](#)



CROSSROADS of the Corps

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Cover photo: Michael Mustacchi

MARINES' MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION \ A NON-PROFIT VETERANS ORGANIZATION
 609 Sutter St. · San Francisco, CA 94102 · tel (415) 673-6672 · fax (415) 441-3649
 email member@MarineClub.com · website <https://MarineClub.org>
 Room Reservations: 1-800-5-MARINE reservations@MarineClub.com

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FOLLOW THE
 MARINES' MEMORIAL
 ASSOCIATION ON



We held our 12th annual Gold Star Parents of California event this past February. These events continue to be the most important we hold each year, as they capture the essence of our mission to honor the legacy of military service better than anything else we do. As we reported in the last edition of *Crossroads*, an episode of the CBS 60 Minutes show was aired twice last year featuring Gold Star Parents at Marines' Memorial. We have helped the Gold Star families with the grieving process in a safe and secure environment and we have connected them to new friends and networks of support.

These Gold Star families don't want America to forget their loss. We are honored to help keep their memories alive. One in nine of those serving on Active Duty in the US Military are from California. It is a fact that one in nine Americans lost in Iraq and Afghanistan since the wars started were Californians. When they were killed, it hit the parents very hard.

The first night of our event consists of a reception and buffet dinner. The second day begins with a deeply moving memorial service that includes commemorative music, reading of the names of the fallen and a candle lit in honor of each individual serviceman or woman. Breakout sessions and activities ensue. We even have a breakout group for siblings of those lost, because siblings have a unique relationship, different from the parents'. We follow with a big banquet where we feature a guest speaker, and then bring in the 1st Marine Division Party Band to jazz up the evening. This year, our speaker was Lieutenant General Lewis A. Craparotta, the Commander



of I Marine Expeditionary Force. He ensured that our Gold Star Parents felt a groundswell of appreciation and support when they finished the evening.

To you, our Members who make donations to help us pay the expense of hosting over 100 Gold Star families at the Marines' Memorial Club for two-plus days, we thank you profusely. We also offer special thanks to the Land of the Free Foundation, founded by three of our Benefactor Members, who hold an annual fundraiser to support this particular event. We couldn't do it without that support.

In addition, we continue to hold our commemorative programs here at the Club. In March, we commemorated the 72nd anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima. In April, we held the 6th annual Salute to Iraq and Afghanistan War Veterans with our keynote speaker, Sergeant Major Brad Kasal, the Sergeant Major for I Marine Expeditionary Unit. The SgtMaj was awarded the Navy Cross for heroism in saving the lives of fellow Marines despite being shot seven times and taking 43 shrapnel wounds.

We're holding our Salute to Vietnam Veterans this May, featuring a preview of THE VIETNAM WAR, a documentary film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, followed by a discussion with filmmaker Lynn Novick and veteran war correspondent Joe Galloway,

who served as an advisor to the project and is featured in the documentary. Vietnam Veteran Phil Gioia, who also appears in the film, will moderate the conversation. A grand reception will follow in the Commandants Room.

THE VIETNAM WAR is a ten-part, 18-hour documentary film series that will air on PBS in September 2017. In this immersive 360-degree narrative, Burns and Novick tell the epic story of the Vietnam War as it has never before been told on film. Six years in the making, the series brings the war viscerally to life.

Our purpose is to thank the Veterans for their service with appropriate programs that recognize their sacrifices and give them an opportunity to rekindle old friendships.

Commemoration events and serving our military are only part of what we do. We continue to send care packages to the men and women in our Armed Forces deployed in remote regions overseas. We provide very reasonable hotel room rates to our Currently Serving members so that they and their families can visit San Francisco. As we experience our 71st year of the Club, we take fierce pride in our success in San Francisco. The "Living Memorial" in the heart of this great city remains an iconic landmark. Our Tribute Wall welcomes thousands of visitors each year and civilians come to honor and pay respect.

I thank all of you Members for your continued support.

Sincerely, and Semper Fidelis,

J. Michael Myatt
Major General USMC (Ret.)
President and Chief Executive Officer

Caring for Gold Star Parents

Dear General Michael Myatt and all those Honorably Concerned,

Thank you all so much for the wonderful remembrance and opportunity to honor our children's ultimate sacrifice. It is also the families' sacrifice to have to go on without them, and we are so grateful for your empathy. It was so very touching to witness and share all of their faces and personal stories, and history with the Tribute Tables. The Hotel is beautiful and sacred to all of us.

Today is Erik's birthday and he would have been 43. Along with all his fallen brothers and sisters, we will always wonder what they might have become. It is comforting to see their names and ranks on the Tribute Wall. They would appreciate that remembrance with their peers.

With deepest gratitude,

Yours truly,

Dolores Kesterson

*Mother of CWO1 Erik C. Kesterson,
Black Hawk Pilot, KIA 15 November
2003, Mosul, Iraq*

Hello,

I just attended my first Gold Star Memorial Reception and Dinner at your hotel. I was so impressed with your hotel and service to us. The rooms were great, the food delicious and the service was above and beyond helpful. What an important role you play in honoring all our military men, women and their families. May God bless each one of you for your allowing our awesome Blue Star Moms to have this wonderful tribute held at your hotel. We are all grateful and humbled.

God bless,

Lorna Jones

Mom to Air Force SSgt Chad M. Jones



Dear Marines' Memorial,

I am am a Gold Star father who has attended six Gold Star events. From the time we see Troy [at the bell desk] until the time we leave, we are treated with outstanding respect by the entire staff. Both my wife and I are so appreciative.

With a hearty Thank You,
*Manuel M Martinez (CSM USA Ret.)
Father of SGT Michael J Martinez
USA, KIA 28 June 2007, Bagdad, Iraq*

Dear Marines' Memorial,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for honoring our fallen heroes at the Marines' Memorial Club. This event means so much to me. I look forward to seeing Gold Star Parents that I only see once a year. Although we shed tears together, we also share love and laughter.

Many blessings to you all!
*Beverly Balsley-Proud
Mom of SP Michael Balsley, KIA 25
January 2007*

2016 Giving Tree Keeps Giving

Dear Ms. Karwan
[Membership Supervisor],

I just opened the package that contained the Christmas 2016 ornament with my husband's name on it. It was quite a moment! He passed away February 28, 2015. He was a naval aviator. When he retired in 1971, he began classes at Hasting College of Law at age 56. Hugh passed the bar, became

an attorney in Patent Law and specialized in Intellectual Property Law. He became a partner in his law firm and all our family was so proud of him! He was greatly loved as a husband, father and grandfather. However, the purpose of this note is to thank you for sending me the "Giving Tree" ornament. Someone, or perhaps a committee, certainly took extra time and patience to package it so carefully. What a task that must have been! I just want to thank you and mention that it was a very kind of everyone who diligently wrapped, folded and taped the ornaments. The "Giving Tree Project" is sure to have increasing participation. Congratulations on your success in 2016 and many, many thanks.

Sincerely,

Mary Finley (Mrs. Hugh Finley)

Everyone is Welcome

Dear Marines' Memorial Club,
My dad and I just vacationed in San Francisco. A gentleman that we shared an Uber with told us the Marines' Memorial Club was just down from our hotel and told us how much it supports our military. Though neither of us have military experience, we always support our military men and women. My passion and career goal is military counseling. As we sat and had drinks, we listened to stories and watched men and their wives bond like nothing I have ever witnessed. It made my passion for being in this environment, helping in any way that I can, even stronger. We were welcomed and felt honored to be there.

Crystal Lynn, via Facebook

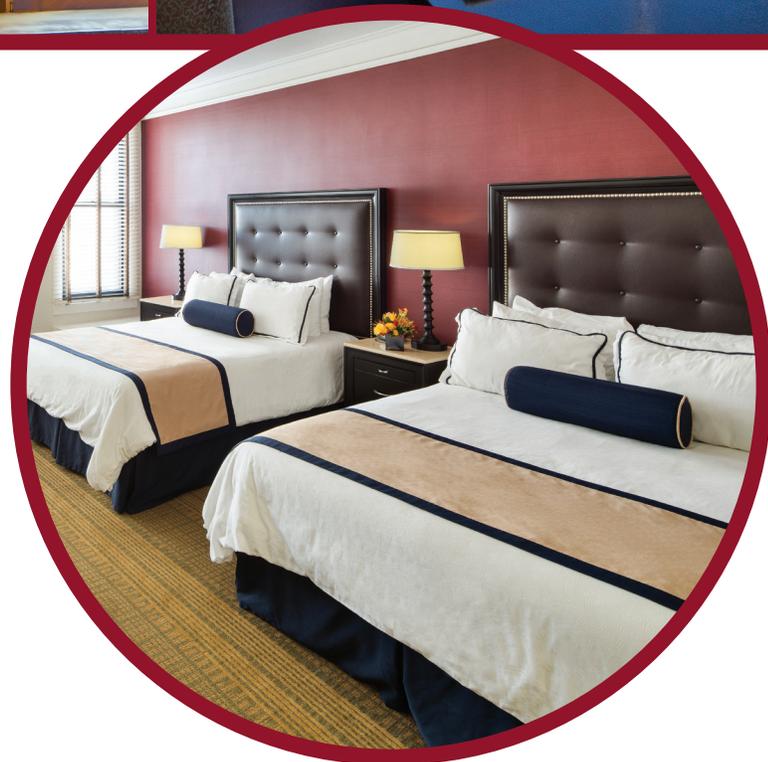


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Nights
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Nights
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5
Nights
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*For Members only and subject to availability. Upgrades when available: Deluxe/Corner \$20 add'l per night; Suite \$100 add'l per night. Up to five rooms may be booked at this rate for each membership; all rooms must be registered and paid for by the Member. All prices subject to prevailing hotel occupancy tax. Package must be purchased 7 days in advance and paid at time of reservation. Refund available with 7 days notice. Not applicable to groups. May not be combined with other Hotel or Club offers. All packages subject to availability. Restrictions may apply.

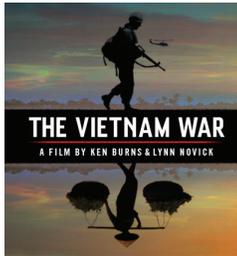


YOUR CLUB CALENDAR \ UPCOMING EVENTS + REUNIONS

HOTEL.MARINECLUB.ORG/ABOUT/CALENDAR

12 May 2017 · 6:00 pm

SALUTE TO VIETNAM WAR VETERANS



With Joe Galloway and THE VIETNAM WAR filmmaker Lynn Novick (sneak peek of the film to be aired on PBS in September - preview at PBS.org/vietnamwar), plus a grand reception.

24 May 2017 · 6:00 pm

THE FALKLANDS WAR, 35 YEARS ON

The Falklands War from 2 April to 14 June 1982 was the largest air/sea battle since World War II. Join us as retired British Army Brigadier Roderick Macdonald, who helped plan the land campaign on HMS Fearless and commanded a squadron in the primary British assault force, gives a personal overview of the campaign.

27 May 2017 · 10:00 am

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE AND LUNCHEON

Join us in honoring the more than one million Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom.

10 August 2017 · 6 pm

GUADALCANAL COMMEMORATION

Please join us for our 74th anniversary salute to Veterans of the Battle for Guadalcanal.

22 - 26 May 2017

HELICOPTER SQUADRON 265 REUNION

20 - 23 June 2017

USS BATAAN REUNION

17-19 November 2017

STANFORD NROTC REUNION

COMING SOON TO **MARINES' MEMORIAL THEATRE** \ MARINESMEMORIALTHEATRE.COM

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20 May 2017

STEPHEN LYNCH "A musician trapped in the body of a comedian" with loyal fans around the world. apeconcerts.com



10 June 2017

SUMMER OF LOVE SF '67 Walk in the footsteps of the Beats, the bohemians and the hippies. humanitieswest.net



2-3 June 2017

KISMET IN CONCERT "Stranger in Paradise" and more with a 23-piece onstage orchestra. 42ndstreetmoon.org



11 June 2017

50 YEARS LATER Celebrating the Heroes in a historic reunion with the '67 Israeli paratroopers. fidf.org/sanfrancisco



4 June 2017

TANGO DEL CIELO (TANGO FROM HEAVEN) A unique theatrical music and dance program. cityboxoffice.com



16 June 2017

RYAN CAYABYAB AND THE RYAN CAYABYAB SINGERS Philippine Independence Day Gala. eventbrite.com

“It is the capacity to develop and improve their skills that distinguishes leaders from followers.”

» Warren G. Bennis

Membership in the Marines’ Memorial Association

We are planning to release new membership tiers this summer with new benefits and new ways to connect and engage with your Club. We have planned for Focus Groups to review some of our ideas. All of our Members must have served honorably in the US military. This is quite a significant entry requirement to be a member of our Veterans organization. We also provide membership to the Currently Serving. Their sacrifices are many, and we strive to reward them with the privilege of membership in our Association.

“Leadership consists of nothing but taking responsibility for everything that goes wrong and giving your subordinates credit for everything that goes well.” » Dwight D. Eisenhower

Our “Living Memorial”

When General Vandegrift directed the creation of the Marines’ Memorial Club in 1946, he envisioned a “living memorial” where Veterans would gather to honor the legacy of military service...a place where Veterans would talk about their experiences in war... where families could come to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice on our battlefields. We believe we have created exactly what the Commandant envisioned.



“Effective leadership is not about making speeches or being liked; leadership is defined by results, not attributes.” » Peter F. Drucker

Our 60 Minutes Segment

If you want to watch the 60 Minutes segment of our Gold Star Parents events, you can view it at cbsnews.com/videos/gold-star-parents. If you are interested in our events but are unable to attend, you can watch video recordings of the events on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/MarinesMemorialClub/videos. If you have difficulties finding a particular video, email us at Member@MarineClub.com.

“Price is what you pay. Value is what you get.” » Warren Buffett

Have You Changed Your Email Address?

Please make sure we have your correct email address! We want you to be able to receive our monthly newsletter. You can email Member@MarineClub.com to give us the right information. Better yet, though, would be for you to go to the Member Login page of our website at mmanetcom.MarineClub.com and register with your email address.

“I have tried to maintain civil relationships with everyone I meet – and, even if I violently disagree with them, try to be respectful.” » Robert M. Gates

You’ll Enjoy Breakfast at the Marines’ Memorial Club

If you are a member of the Marines’ Memorial Club, your breakfast when you stay at the Club is complimentary. This is of tremendous value because it includes everyone staying with you. It’s a full American breakfast and you can order an omelet or eggs cooked to order. Join us for breakfast; you’ll be impressed.

“There is nothing quite so useless as doing with great efficiency something that should not be done at all.”

» Peter F. Drucker

Marines’ Memorial Museum

Actually, the entire Marines’ Memorial Club is part of our museum. We are proud of our displays in the lobby, the Flying Leatherneck Lounge on the 2nd floor, the Commandants Corridor on the 3rd floor, our Hall of Honor on the 4th floor, the Tribute Memorial Wall on 10M and the library and displays on the 11th floor. We now are starting a World War I commemoration on the 6th floor to recognize the significance of that war and its consequences.

“One person with courage is a majority.” » Thomas Jefferson

Care Packages

We still have Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen in harm’s way throughout the Globe. We need to continue to support them in every way possible to make sure they know we care. Thus, we will continue to send care packages to them, but not just any care package. We contact the headquarters for units deployed, get points of

contact overseas, and strive to send our troops what they most urgently need. We'll continue to ask for your donations to help us. Every single dollar donated goes directly to the tailor made care packages. There are no overhead fees!

"The great illusion of leadership is to think that man can be led out of the desert by someone who has never been there." » Henri J.M. Nouwen

The Marines' Memorial Foundation

We have changed the designation of our Marines' Memorial Theatre to be a part of the Marines' Memorial Foundation. If you are looking for a nonprofit 501(c)(3) to make a gift, you should consider the Marines' Memorial Theatre. Donate online at www.marinesmemorialtheatre.com. Your tax-deductible donation will help us develop the Theatre into a prime sought-after venue for the performing arts in San Francisco, as well as a premier location for our educational programs like the George P. Shultz Lecture Series. We have big plans for the Theatre, and can use your help! To make a general donation to the Marines' Memorial Foundation, go to MarineClub.org.

"When eagles are silent, parrots begin to chatter." » Winston S. Churchill

Tell Veterans about the Marines' Memorial Club

We don't have a big advertising budget like most clubs. Our focus is on our programs and supporting our Currently Serving members of the Armed Forces, Veterans of all eras and their families. Therefore, we depend on the kind of advertising that money can't buy...word of mouth. Simply stated, we need Veterans spreading the word to other Veterans about the benefits of membership in the Marines' Memorial Association. Bring your friends and family in. Consider the Club as a holiday destination. What better place to hold a unit reunion? In our Member Get a Member Program, you can earn free night stays at your Club with each person who joins. Point them to our website at hotel.MarineClub.org. (Be sure and tell them to list you as a reference when they join).

"Law is order, and good law is good order." » Aristotle

Marines' Memorial Wellness Membership

We have a solid relationship with Active Sports, the firm that operates

our health club in the Marines' Memorial Club. The result is that, because you are a Marines' Memorial member, you can join Active Sports for \$50 per month and have access to a network of Active Sports facilities throughout the Bay Area.

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." » Confucius

About the Marines' Memorial Association

Honoring the legacy of Military Service! That's what we are about at the Marines' Memorial Association. That is why we exist! When asked about our mission, we respond with three action verbs: commemorate, educate, and serve. We commemorate the services and sacrifices of our Military Veterans. We educate the public about those sacrifices; and, we provide services to the Veterans of all eras and their families.

"Leadership is communicating others' worth and potential so clearly that they are inspired to see it in themselves." » Stephen R. Covey



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TWELFTH ANNUAL GOLD STAR PARENTS EVENT

“We live in
memory
and by
memory,
and our...life
is at bottom
simply the
effort of our
memory to
persist, to
transform
itself
into hope,
the effort of
our past
to transform
itself into
our future.”

» MIGUEL DE UNAMUNO

honor & remembrance

In February, the Marines’ Memorial Association, living up to its name, hosted Gold Star families who came together for the twelfth time to honor and remember their beloved lost. The Blue Star Moms (East Bay Chapter 101) once again coordinated a flurry of activity. These dedicated women welcomed us, fed us an assorted variety of “snacks,” cried with us, and remembered with us those who never leave our thoughts.

The persistence of memory resonated for many of the 100 or so families being represented. But for 14 families attending for the first time, the presentation of the Gold Star Banner at Friday’s memorial service marked both a moment of pride and a stark reminder of the cost of freedom. One family’s loss reached back as far as 11 September 2001, with the attack on the Pentagon. For the first time, too, names were included of those children who died, not on the battlefield, but after returning home. Accidents and suicides are new harsh realities for us all, but we choose instead to remember these our young soldiers, sailors, and Marines for what they accomplished in their all too brief lives; to wit, their courage living up to the high standards, responsibilities, and toughness required of military service. At the memorial service, the name of each beloved was read, and as the family stood to be recognized, the assembled group replied: “A grateful nation acknowledges your sacrifice and prays for your peace.” A candle was lit as each name was read.

On Friday afternoon, a number of break-out sessions convened to allow families to share about their beloved lost, to reflect about the meaning of loss, to commiserate with those for

whom language is lost, to realize that, indeed, loss is not singular to them, and simply to come to the understanding that the memory of their beloved is not just a memory, not just a name, but a genuine person who lived a life of commitment and sacrifice.

The Friday night banquet featured two separate presentations that underscored the meaning of honor and remembrance. At last year’s event, soils from Iraq and Afghanistan were placed in the new San Francisco War Memorial monument at the San Francisco Civic Center. One of the photographs taken at that event appeared on the cover of the Spring 2016 Crossroads, showing Mrs. Obdula Moncada with a bowed head tenderly touching the memorial box. Her young granddaughter, Alana Aguilar, appears with her in the photograph. As we saw Mrs. Moncada receive a framed picture of that cover (*below*), we remember that little Alana’s own parents have been on multiple extended deployments. Finally, on behalf of their son, 1st Lieutenant Jared Landaker, USMC, Joseph and



by Mary and Bill Shea, Gold Star Parents to CPL Tim Shea US Army KIA in Iraq, 25 August 2005

Laura Landaker were presented with an honorary certificate of completion for Jared for the Marine Corps' Weapons and Tactics Instruction Course — as Major Scott A Huesing, USMC (Ret), said, "[A] pretty big deal for pilots!" Certification was a goal of Jared's that was frustrated only by his loss.

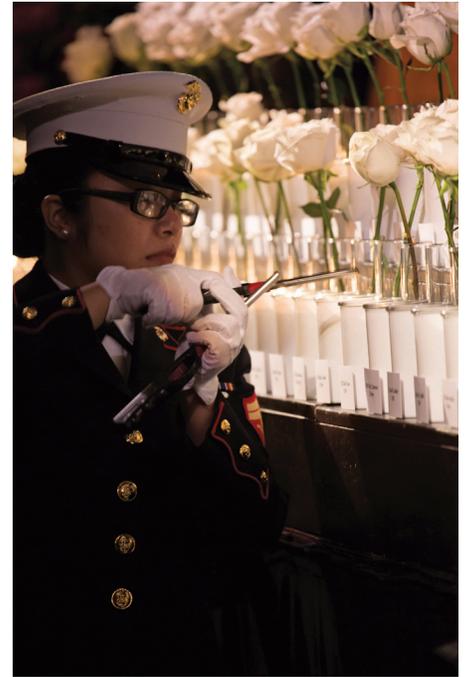
The keynote speaker at this year's banquet was Lieutenant General L. A. Craparotta, USMC, who paid tribute in a moving and impressive manner to both the military personnel who have given their lives and the families who sacrificed time and energy and love in support of their sons and daughters and husbands and siblings. He spoke of the responsibility of the Marine Corps, and indeed all of us, to live up to the standards and expectations of those we have lost. "Your loved ones wouldn't have wanted it any other way," he assured us. He reminded us of those core Marine values, honor and courage and commitment, which are embodied in the Marine motto, "Semper Fidelis."

We also remember fondly that several past keynote speakers for our Honor and Remembrance events continue to serve with distinction in

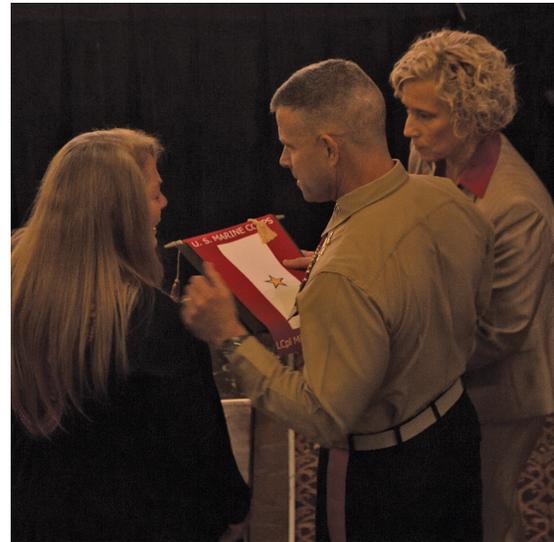
significant government positions — namely, James Mattis, now Secretary of Defense; fellow Gold Star dad John Kelly, Homeland Security; and H. R. McMaster, as National Security Advisor. Above all, we remember these men as kind and generous of their time with us, but we suspect the missing link to it all was our own J. Michael Myatt, Major General, USMC (Ret.). We hear tell that two of the three at one time actually served under Gen Myatt!

Finally, Gen Myatt and the MMA have always looked kindly on the annual Gold Star event, but Gen Myatt makes sure that honor and remembrance also includes celebration. Consequently, the Marines First Division Party Band from Camp Pendleton ushered in an exhilarating blend of jazz, swing, and Dixieland that had all, even LtGen Craparotta, snaking a conga line around the ballroom. With a flourish, all service songs were played, and our time together recalled Shakespeare's sweet sorrow of parting until next year.

Once again, we take away the blessings bestowed on us with a gratitude that knows no limits.



Photos: Michael Mustacchi



FILLED WITH *Gold*

by Chuck Palmer, Father of USMC Cpl Charles O Palmer II
KIA 5 May 2007, Al Anbar Province, Iraq

*O*n 23 and 24 February 2017, My wife Teri and I were given the honor — no, the privilege — to walk amongst rooms filled with Gold. We attended the 12th Anniversary of the Gold Star Parents Event at the Marines' Memorial Club. Here we displayed our most precious sons and daughters lost to war(s). Nearly 100 very brave men and women lit up the room with their Gold Stars that represented the lives of these children...brothers...parents. Their lives are the shining hope of our freedoms and sacrificial giving.

Wars to protect America's freedoms with their ultimate sacrifice. Wars to help other nations win their freedoms and hold on to them. But isn't that the call they answered? Isn't that why they spent every ounce of courage, even to the death? I know that was what my son did.

This is the message my son, USMC Cpl Charles O Palmer II, conveyed to us as the reason he returned to full service as a Marine in November 2005. (He remained in the Marine Reserve Unit). He was 34 years old. I remember when he phoned to tell us. We heard that he felt called to serve and protect. As our conversation went on, I knew that he had thought it through and had made up his mind. That's our son.

Our son was 36 years old, with 12 years of service, when he was killed in Iraq on 5 May 2007. A couple of things that we learned: Charles was respected by his crew; they called him "old man"; he wasn't real crazy about the mission as he had just returned from one, but his Master Sergeant requested him. Charles would obey his orders regardless of where they took him.

While speaking to the other parents, the story was the same, details different; in the end, they could not be stopped. In a world where honor and sacrifice seems to be lost, we know it is not. One only had to look at the Gold in the Remembrance Rooms.

We felt the pride that each parent carried upon their chest embodied in a Gold Star pin. We saw rooms of Gold with displays of pictures from the war zones, medals that were earned, examples of childhood and how our children grew to be the Heroes they are. They didn't ask for such display, but it is necessary to keep them alive; for families to say they lived and meant something to others in their lives; to Never Be Forgotten for their bravery and sacrifice; and to remind others that freedoms are not free.



A SPECIAL NOTE OF Appreciation

to the following for making
this year's event possible

Land of the Free Foundation
(Ed Roski, Kent Valley & John Semcken)
Blue Star Moms, East Bay Chapter #101
Callippe Preserve Golf Course
Mr. Steven Jensen
Col Frank C. Koranda, USAF (Ret.)
Mr. William A. Brennan
Gretchen, John & John Z Clatworthy
Housing Corps, Inc.
Morton Kirsch
Mrs. Michelle A. Miller
Nob Hill Republican Women's Club
Mrs. Donice B. Pancost
Raiders Foundation
Col H. Gary Roser, USMC (Ret.)
Sentinels of Freedom
Scholarship Foundation
South Bay Blue Star Moms - CA4
Ms. Tracy Thompson
Travis Credit Union
CDR Randy & Linda Wight

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MARINE CORPS COORDINATING COUNCIL · 2017
MARINE DAY LUNCHEON



On 12 January 2017, the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Northern California hosted its annual Marine Day Luncheon in the Marines' Memorial Club's Commandants Room. The 23rd Marine Regiment in San Bruno, CA provided the Color Guard.

Colonel Allan Cruz, USMC (Ret.) from the Marine Corps Coordinating Council presented the Marine of the

Year Award to James Brown (pictured above left). Mr. Brown, an Operation Desert Storm Veteran and MMA Benefactor Member, enlisted in the Marine Corps in March 1983 and served until 1991. He is well known for helping local military units and Veterans. He works on the Advisory Council for the Director of the Palo Alto VA, where he helps lead the annual Marine Corps Muster involving about 1,500 Marines, assisting them with healthcare, as well as finding

educational and employment opportunities. Mr. Brown's dedication to raising awareness of Veterans' and service members' needs keeps him active in several programs around the Bay Area.

Guest of Honor Brigadier General Paul K. Lebidine, USMC, Commanding General, 4th Marine Division, gave the afternoon's keynote address. BrigGen Lebidine is the former Commanding Officer, 3d Civil Affairs Group, and deployed as the Regional Command (Southwest) RC(SW) C-9 (Stability Operations) during the I MEF (FWO) deployment to Afghanistan from March 2010 to March 2011. He is also the former Commanding General, Force Headquarters Group, Marine Forces Reserve and former Deputy Commanding General, I MEF(MOB).

As always, Marine Day provided a satisfying and inspiring afternoon out with fellow Marines.



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< *Veterans of the Battle for Iwo Jima, seated l-r: Mark Clement, Roy Earle, Edgar Fulwider; standing, l-r: Ed Cavallini, Augustine Flores, Wayne Dawson, Dale Cook, Al Gentile*

∨ *Col Tom Prentice, CO of 23rd Marines, left, and Iwo Jima Veteran Roy Earle*

COMMEMORATION » Battle for Iwo Jima

On 7 March 2017, a crowd gathered in the Marines' Memorial Club to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima. Iwo Jima survivors, their families and other Veterans joined together for an evening event to hear our Guest of Honor, Colonel Tom Prentice, the Commanding Officer of the 23rd Marines, speak.

He started the program with a video from the Commandant, General Neller, thanking the Iwo Jima Veterans for setting the example that all Marines since then have tried to emulate. The statistics of the Iwo Jima Battle that started on 19 February 1945 demonstrate the ferocity of the fighting. In 36 days of fighting, there were 25,851 US casualties. One in three Americans were killed or wounded. The Japanese suffered almost 22,000 killed and 1,100 captured.

Colonel Prentice gave a fascinating presentation on the battle. The 23rd Marine Regiment fought on Iwo Jima as part of the 4th Marine Division. He had photos to support his presenta-

tion and used some very interesting analogies of Iwo Jima, its size, the Japanese defenses with the depth and extensive network of their tunnels. He described the difficulties for the Marines in moving on the black sand and the savagery of the Japanese fires with mortars and machine guns the Marines encountered after they landed.

He asked an Iwo Jima Veteran, Mr. Roy Earle, to speak on his role as a Marine when he landed with the 3rd Bn, 23rd Marines in the fourth wave on Iwo Jima on 19 February 1945. Colonel Prentice also recognized and paid

tribute to the Navy Corpsmen for their courage in providing medical support to the wounded Marines. He recognized the granddaughter of a Navy Nurse who had landed on Iwo Jima on 6 March 1945, provided advanced trauma care to the Marines, and assisted in the evacuation of more than 3,000 Marines. He paid tribute as well to Lieutenant General Larry Snowden who passed away on 18 February 2017, having served a distinguished career after commanding Company F, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines on Iwo Jima. It was a moving event.



Photos: Michael Mustacchi

COMMEMORATING The 100th Anniversary of the United States' Entry into the First World War

In each state of the Nation on 6 April 2017, ceremonies were held to commemorate the centennial of the United States' entry into World War I. This event was sponsored by the World War One Centennial Commission, the California World War One Centennial Task Force and the Marines' Memorial Association. Two ceremonies were held in California: one in Los Angeles and one in San Francisco at the Marines' Memorial Club.

The evening included a narration and readings from contemporary speeches, editorials and letters illustrating the mood of the country before Woodrow Wilson asked the Congress to declare war on the Central Powers on 6 April 1917.

World War I was the defining moment of the twentieth century. Looking at the last century, one is struck by the linkage to all the major crises since then, including World War II. It still influences us to the present day with the current situation facing us in the Middle East.

The First World War directly affected California and the Bay Area. Many of our young men perished in that conflict and there are numerous memorials all over the Bay Area dedicated to their sacrifice. The San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, including the War Memorial Opera House and Veterans Building, the Palace of the Legion of Honor, the many statues and memorials in Golden Gate Park and the many soldiers of that war buried in the Presidio military cemetery, are lasting testimonials.

Why did our Nation wait so long to declare war? What was the mood of the Nation at the time? These questions and their answers were addressed, because, as we progress through this century, we have to acknowledge the connections of the past as they influence the present.

We look forward to further studies over the next 18 months as we commemorate Americans who fought in the Great War.

Turn to page 24 for more on WWI.



Photos: Gene Troy



MEET THE STAFF

ANNE WALKER, IT MANAGER

As the Marines' Memorial Club's Information Technology (IT) Manager, Anne Walker attends to the technology needs of each department and every staff member. This includes general management of the Club's computer networks, solving computer hardware and software problems, detecting and eliminating viruses, upgrading systems, and keeping the Club's servers up to date. Annie is also called down from her aerie above the Sales office on occasion to help a Member or guest who has trouble connecting to the Club's WiFi network. Sometimes, she works with an outside IT consultant to help with server maintenance and special projects.

Annie's enthusiasm for this work is truly genuine and ever growing. "It's never boring, that's for sure!" she declares. Her first major project after taking on the position in July of 2012 was to install new computers throughout the Club. That was followed by an overhaul of multiple servers, which enable staff members to access the programs and information they use every day. She facilitated the expansion of the security camera system, too, going from 16 to 64 cameras around the Club. The Leatherneck Restaurant and hotel each have their own systems for point of sale and

reservations management, and Annie helps to keep them up to speed with industry standards and trends.

Recently, Annie took over updating content on the Club website. "With the new website, we have more access to update everything so that visitors can always find the latest information," she says. Also, with a major bandwidth upgrade last September, Members are enjoying faster Internet speeds when they use our WiFi network while visiting the Club. Looking ahead, computers Club-wide will be upgraded again, and Anne will be working to integrate all departmental systems, with the ultimate goal of making our whole operation even more efficient.

All of this keeps our IT queen bee very busy, as well as always learning. "When [Human Resources Director] Bethany Meyer asked me who I knew who could do this job," she recalls, Annie raised her own hand. She was offered the necessary training and hit the ground running. Because technology evolves so quickly and there are so many moving parts to each system, there is always something new to learn. In fact, she is studying all the time, pursuing new certifications. "I've barely scratched the surface, and this keeps me going. It's so exciting when I'm able to solve a problem I haven't seen before," she says. Sometimes, though, an issue defies resolution and keeps Annie at her desk through the night, calling in every available resource so the next business day can begin with all systems go.

Though Annie's tenure as IT Manager is going on five years, this August marks her 22nd anniversary as a Club employee. She started out working in reservations, and briefly as

a hostess in the restaurant. About five years later, Anne moved over to the sales department, where she rose to the position of sales account manager.

That the Marines' Memorial promotes from within is one of the things Annie appreciates most about working here. "They truly support education for staff," she says. "They're not afraid that 'overtraining' will lead a staff member to leave. There's definitely room to grow, and anyone who feels they need additional training in their area will get it." When this happens, she adds, the staff member benefits, the Club benefits and, therefore, so do the Members.

In her time here, Anne has seen MMC managers and staff come together, donate and show up when there's a need — whether responding to a national, international or natural disaster, or when an illness or death hits a member of the MMC family, as it did when her father became ill and passed away in 2014. She points out proudly that this is the environment that Members walk into when they come and stay.

The family atmosphere of the Marines' Memorial Club is right in the heart of Anne's comfort zone. She comes from a "huge" family, where a typical gathering brings at least 65 family members together, including cousins (and their families) from her mother's 11 siblings. "Family has your back," she says, adding that "you never run out of people to go to." She and husband Ty have two boys of their own, 10-year-old Aaron and 6-year-old Eli. Are they impressed by their mom's tech savvy? Nope. To them, the coolest thing about Mom is when she takes them to watch the hang gliders at Fort Funston or to the Apple Store and Toys R Us. "The coolest thing about Mom's work," says Anne, "is the breakfast buffet."

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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Please email corrections to member@MarineClub.com.

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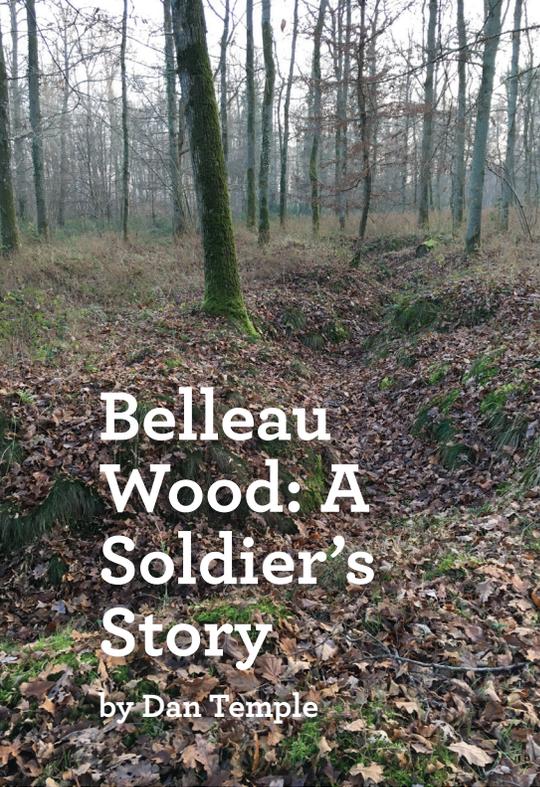
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Belleau Wood: A Soldier's Story

by Dan Temple

Growing up, I heard my father speak of his grandmother's younger brother, who was killed by German machine gun fire while fighting in Belleau Wood during World War I. Other than this, and his 48-star funeral flag, which I still have, little was known about him. Searches for his name, Charles Ernest Montagne, drew a blank for years and his story in World War I was unknown to my family.

My father, who was the family historian and patriarch, passed away last year and with him, much of our spoken family history was lost. While going through his personal papers and memorabilia this past October, I came across Private Charles Ernest Montagne's death certificate, which held some clues to his story. His name was misspelled, as was often the case in the early 1900s. He was, in fact, killed in Bois de Belleau on 21 June 1918, while serving with Co E 7 Inf (Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, US Army). This find came just as I was planning a business trip to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium, only a two-hour drive from Belleau Wood.

With less than six weeks to prepare, I began the search for his story.

Journey to Belleau Wood

Second Battalion, 7th Infantry set sail from Hoboken, NJ on 6 April 1918 aboard the "America," along with 1st Battalion, 7th Infantry. Coincidentally, Hoboken was Private Montagne's hometown. The "America" joined up mid-ocean with "Agamemnon," carrying 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry. The two ships made an uneventful nine-day trans-Atlantic voyage before they sighted shore at Brittany, France. The "America" docked at Brest, France and 2/7 spent the night aboard ship. Led by LTC Nowlen, the battalion disembarked on 16 April and two days later boarded trains for a three-day journey in notorious French box cars (designed for 40 men or eight horses) to Bricon station in the Châteauvillain region of northeast France. In true military style, they offloaded at midnight and marched 8km to their bivouac site at Saint Martin Sur La Renne, where they remained for the next six weeks, training in trench warfare with the French Army.

At the end of May, the men of the 7th Infantry began receiving word of the massive German surprise attack on 27 May 1918, that smashed through the eight Allied divisions on line from Reims to Soissons, allowing the Germans to advance to within 56km of Paris. Within days, the Regiment boarded trains for Artonges, but due to railroad

congestion it had to detrain early, in Esternay, and march the final 25km to Artonges. On 2 June, 2/7 was mapped 14km north in the town of Maclaunay. On the night of 7 June, while the 4th Marine Brigade was battling in Belleau Wood, 2/7 had moved another 28km north to Reuilly-Sauvigny, 12km east of Château-Thierry. They relieved a French unit and sustained fairly heavy shelling from German 77mm guns. Seventh Infantry suffered 2 KIA and 14 WIA — their first combat casualties. They remained there for four uneventful days protecting the south side of the Marne River from the advancing Germans.

On 11 June, all three battalions of the 7th Infantry trucked west to establish a secondary defensive position along the Marne River at Saacy-sur-Marne, 20km south of Belleau Wood, where 2/7 focused on the two bridges at Nanteuil-sur-Marne. While in the safety of this defensive position, they no doubt received news that the 4th Marine Brigade had suffered a mustard gas artillery barrage in the middle of the night of 13 June, some 6,000-7,000 rounds total. By the following morning, over a thousand men were evacuated, hundreds of whom would succumb. By 15 June, 4th

Marine Brigade had suffered 50% casualties and, though they received fresh replacements from the States, the Brigade was in dire need of rest. The decision was made to bring the 7th Infantry forward to temporarily relieve 4th Brigade until their return on 21-23 June.

For Private Montagne and the men of 2/7,



PVT. CHARLES E. MONTAGNE
NEWARK K.A.



this would be their first glimpse of the death and destruction of the Great War. In the darkness of 16 June, their battalion relieved 1st Battalion, 6th Marines who, three days prior, wore gas masks for six hours under an artillery barrage of mustard gas that resulted in 185 casualties. Second Battalion, 6th Marines on their left flank was devastated with 378 casualties, a 10% mortality rate for the battalion. Second Battalion's position was in the middle of Belleau Wood facing the German position 1km away.

At daybreak, and for the days to come, they wired in their position, buried the dead, and collected abandoned German and American equipment. The relief in place of 4th Brigade was complete by the night of 17 June.

The next few days were quiet for 2/7 but 1/7, on its left flank, had minor engagements and were preparing to push north to drive the Germans out of Belleau Wood. On the morning of 20 June, four platoons from 1/7 attacked north but were beaten back. With less than 48 hours before the 7th Infantry's scheduled relief in place from the returning 4th Brigade, BG Harbord US Army, the Commanding General of 4th Marine Brigade, told the 1/7 Battalion Commander, LTC Adams, to give it one more go and "if he succeeded, credit for clearing the Bois de Belleau would be freely given to him." LTC Adams

requested extensive artillery preparation fire, which BG Harbord granted. At 0200 on 21 June, two French artillery regiments laid a preparation fire until the assault began at 0315. The barrage was described as light and ineffective by all three battalion commanders in the 7th Infantry and was immediately met by a German counter barrage that dispersed the companies. The first report received by the 4th Brigade Headquarters came at 0700 from LTC Adams, which stated that "everything is not going well." By 1125, the attack had failed and 1/7 suffered 170 casualties. Although 2/7 was not engaged, their trench lines were just south of the attacking 1/7 and laid in the direct gunfire line of the German barrage; meaning that some artillery shells meant for 1/7 overshot their position and landed on 2/7. The Operations Report for 2/7 reported 6 KIA from shellfire, the only casualties that 2/7 would receive while in Belleau Wood. Private Montagne, whose death certificate lists his death as 21 June, was one of them.

For my trip to Belleau Wood, I was fortunate to find a knowledgeable guide who could take me to the trench lines of Echo Company 2/7. Gilles Lagin, who on 25 May 2008, was awarded the title Honorary Marine by General Conway, was the second non-US citizen to be awarded this title. Gilles grew up in nearby Lucy le Borage and played as a child in Bois de Belleau. His knowledge of the battle is unmatched by any American and his private museum is even more impressive. I was awestruck by his amazing collection. During my private half-day tour of Belleau Wood, Gilles drove me to the key battle sites and gave detailed explanations of the actions that took place. The highlight was walking the trench lines of Echo Company, which are barely knee-deep after 100 years of abandonment. On this cold and foggy December afternoon, I sat alone in the trench line in complete silence except for the distant, eerie barking of hunting dogs.

I was humbled by the thought of the many Marines and soldiers who fought and died near where I now sat. Towering trees stood nearby, with boulders strewn about, all with visible shrapnel scars, survivors and witnesses of the carnage of 100 years ago. Private Montagne, his fellow soldiers and the Marines stared at these same trees and rocks; some no doubt sought refuge near them from the relentless bullets and artillery rounds. As with many battlefields, it is peaceful now, leaving little evidence of the incredible violence that took place. There is a large, flat rock on the far left flank of the trench line. As the most significant terrain feature, it probably marked the edge of Echo Company's battle position. Perhaps it was here or somewhere nearby where Private Montagne died. If he did not die instantly from the artillery fire, then I choose to believe that he died surrounded by his friends in Echo Company.

Return Home

As the fog thickened and darkness set in, Gilles and I walked out of Belleau Wood and heard taps echoing through the woods from the nearby Aisne-Marne American Cemetery where 2,289 Americans lie buried, including Soldiers from 7th Infantry who died on the same day as Private Montagne. His remains, like 70% of the Americans killed in World War I, were repatriated to the United States. On 10 July 1921, on the docks of Hoboken, NJ, General Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Force, spoke of their sacrifice as the caskets of 7,264 Americans lay before him. Private Montagne's journey had ended where it started.

MMA Member Dan Temple is a retired Marine who served from 1991 to 2015 and currently works at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA.



MEET THE AUTHOR

»Richard Haass A World in Disarray: American Foreign Policy and the Crisis of the Old Order

Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations, visited the Marines' Memorial on the evening of 30 January for a program co-sponsored with the World Affairs Council. In a conversation with Hoover Institution Research Fellow Kori Schake, Mr. Haass addressed the most pressing global challenges today.

What is the state of the world? How did it become a world of disarray? And what can we do about it? Haass' thesis is that, in the age of non-state actors re-writing traditional rules of diplomacy, the US must recognize that once-great powers are losing influence. Within these shifting tides, our relationships with other world powers are essential to forging a new world order.

Mr. Haas began by defining "World Order 1.0" as the world of sovereign nation-states. The nations agree to respect one another's borders and let what goes on inside those borders remain each nation's own business.

The basics of this model are still necessary, Mr. Haass said, but no longer sufficient in an age of untamed globalization. Pointing out that nothing stays local anymore, he illustrated how both high- and low-tech incidents can have global consequences — from computer hacking to a disease outbreak on a small poultry farm, where a virus jumps from animal to human and that human gets on a plane. Climate change, aggravated by burning coal, respects no border. North Korea's nuclear aspirations have security implications for every other country

in the world. Moreover, if state leaders don't or can't monitor and control their citizens (e.g., the 9/11 planners), attacks can be mounted across the globe. If disruptions like Saddam invading Kuwait and Russia taking Crimea become the norm, stability and peace disappear.

This is the world in disarray, and Haass says he wrote this book as "something of a warning."

If World Order 1.0, then, is obsolete, what comes next? Haass' idea of the future is "sovereignty-plus," in which sovereign states take on obligations to the citizens of other countries. In "World Order 2.0," governments commit to making sure things don't take place within their territory that will become a threat to others. He concedes that this is not going to happen quickly; it is at least the work of a generation.

Though the concept of an "international community" is often invoked, Haass argues in his book that such a thing does not currently exist. World Order 2.0 is about creating that international community, and crafting international consensus and accountability for intervention when, for example, a country's people are being harmed.

Though US prestige has suffered from recent "errors of commission and omission" abroad, Mr. Haass believes that we must lead the way to 2.0. This new paradigm is antithetical to isolationism, protectionism, and an attitude of "America first." But the alternative to a US-led world is a nobody-led world, a world of increasing disarray.

Mr. Haass called out President Trump's statement that spending in the world impoverishes the US. In fact, he said, current spending on defense, diplomacy and intelligence is roughly half (against GDP) of what we spent during Cold War. And the return on investment has been great, with stability in Europe and Asia, relative lack of nuclear proliferation, overall openness and prosperity. Foreign policy economics has no bearing on what's not working domestically. Plus, he said, "if the world goes to hell, it will find us," as nothing stays local for long.

How should we interact with Russia and China going forward? Mr. Haass advises against isolating or humiliating Putin's Russia; better to integrate them more, while using NATO to push back against aggression. China wants a stable world so they can focus on their development. Our goal should be to support them in joining the international world order and remaining integrated in the world economy. We want a stable, integrated China to help us keep North Korea at bay.

Haass called cyberspace "the new domain of international relations" and an incredibly complicated realm for policymaking. "It's the Wild West now... and it's dangerous" due to constant growth and change, massive accessibility, and the difficulty of creating international rules to govern it.

"Very little is inevitable in history," says Haass, who has worked for four US presidents. Policymakers get some things right and some things wrong, but all depends on the content of our diplomacy.



MEET THE AUTHOR

» Gen Michael Hayden Playing to the Edge: American Intelligence in the Age of Terror

On 13 March, the Marines' Memorial Club, in partnership with the World Affairs Council, welcomed General Michael Hayden, USAF (Ret.) to share his insider's perspective on America's "intelligence wars." Gen Hayden has served as director of the NSA, principal deputy director of National Intelligence, and director of the CIA. He has described his goals for writing *Playing to the Edge* as follows: *No apologies. No excuses. Just what happened.*

Gen Hayden addressed revelations of US surveillance sweeping up citizens' private communications, saying "They're not coming after you and your data." With the fundamental change in how people communicate, the only way to keep gathering the intel we need is to listen in on everything, because terrorist communications are now flowing through global networks.

On Russia's role in the 2016 presidential election: Nation-states hack and steal email all the time. But if the information is used for more than to better understand your adversary, that's different. Gen Hayden's takeaway from this election season invasion is: What more can we learn about this, to share with our European friends?

On the role of intelligence now: Intelligence exists only to make the president wiser than he would otherwise be. The goal is to balance facts with vision, the world as it is with the world as we want it to be. This is more challenging with Mr. Trump, whose approach is not to argue the facts but to attack the fact bearers.

Post 9/11, we came under tremendous pressure to know more and communicate better. "Playing to the edge" means using the whole box of tools, while staying within the law. After 9/11, the box changed. Failure (again) would not only threaten American security but also risk American values. In 2002-03, we went to the edge, and played aggressively. Lesson learned: better to go public about going to the edge when everyone's scared, and dare them to tell you not to, than to wait until you've made everyone feel safe again and have them complain about what you did.

On cybersecurity: The speed of change in global telecommunications is beyond any government's ability to keep up. With the tools we have now, we or our friends use cyberattacks to get in the way of weapons programs. But what happens to deterrence when we can get in the way

of nuclear controls? And consider that a kinetic weapon destroys itself; a cyber-weapon exists for others to learn from.

As for North Korea, Gen Hayden believes Kim is not influenceable; the influence we need is on China. North Korea is a headache for them, but not yet enough for them to act. There are no good options for us, he says, other than to enhance current policy by responding to actions with consequences; placing missile defense in the region; and possibly putting short range nukes back into South Korea.

Gen Hayden weighed in on Syria's migrant crisis, saying that it's as bad as it is now "because we sat this out." Because Syria's survival wasn't vital to us, Europe, which is vital, is now destabilized.

To hear Gen Hayden's entire presentation, go to worldaffairs.org/events/event/1692#.WQEC8P3Xq.



READ THIS!

BOOKS WE RECOMMEND

Enduring Vietnam: An American Generation and Its War by James Wright

Debriefing the President: The Interrogation of Saddam Hussein by John Nixon

Rise of the Rocket Girls: The Women Who Propelled Us, from Missiles to the Moon to Mars by Nathalia Holt

Three Days in January: Dwight Eisenhower's Final Mission by Bret Baier

The Fleet at Flood Tide: America at Total War in the Pacific, 1944-1945 by James Hornfischer

Learning From Experience by George P. Shultz

A World in Disarray: American Foreign Policy and the Crisis of the Old Order by Richard Haass



MEET THE AUTHOR

» Dr. James Wright *Enduring Vietnam: An American Generation and Its War*

The Marines' Memorial Association was proud to host a Meet the Author event featuring Dr. James Wright on 11 April. Starting his talk,

Dr. Wright explained why he wrote the book. He attributed it to the play "Hamilton," where the widow of Alexander Hamilton, Eliza, sings a song titled "Who Lives; Who Dies; and Who Tells the Story?" The song kept running through his head.

"Who lives and who dies is the fundamental question of any war. It's the fundamental purpose of war," Dr. Wright said. He commented that "boots on the ground" is a poor metaphor to use when sending our American troops into war in some distant and dangerous place. He wants us to remember that we are talking about our young who serve and we asking them to confront the question: "Who lives, who dies?" And after that, the people can ask, "Who tells the story?" because the shared narrative of battles that are fought is the framing of the story. It provides an assessment of the value of the life that is lost. It reminds of who that person was, and it marks

forever the survivors who knew them and who carry the memories of them.

So, Dr. Wright set out to "tell the story of the Vietnam War." He interviewed over 160 Veterans of the Vietnam War, most of them Baby Boomers. He labels this the "Baby Boomer War," mostly about the 1969 time frame. But he does describe the early days in 1965, when America cheered on our troops. He uses the example of Notre Dame, when the graduates had chosen General William Westmoreland as their "Patriot of the Year"; but then, in 1968, chose Senator Eugene McCarthy, an antiwar presidential candidate. The change in attitude occurred around the 1968 Tet Offensive, and by Memorial Day 1969, antiwar sentiments in the US were peaking.

Enduring Vietnam is organized into nine chapters. When asked which part was most difficult to write, Dr. Wright said it was the part about the Veterans coming home, when nobody wanted to hear their stories. It is a beautiful piece of work and hard to put down, as one turns each page.

Dr. Wright is the President Emeritus of Dartmouth College and a Professor Emeritus of History. He served as a Marine for three years before going to college at Wisconsin State University - Platteville, and continued on to earn his master's and doctoral degrees in history from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He joined the Dartmouth College History Department in 1969, and from 1998 to

2000, served as Dartmouth College's sixteenth president.

Dr. Wright has worked with veterans since 2005, when he began visiting wounded Marines and soldiers in Washington, D.C. hospitals. In over thirty visits since then, he has encouraged the injured servicemen and women to continue their education. Wright was involved in the planning for the Yellow Ribbon Program that provided for private institutions to be included in the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, and he worked with the American Council on Education (ACE) to create a new educational counseling program for wounded US veterans.

He serves on the Board of the Semper Fi Fund/America's Fund, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), the Advisory Board of the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, and the Campaign Leadership Committee for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Education Center. For his work with Veterans, Wright was featured as "Person of the Week" on ABC World News.

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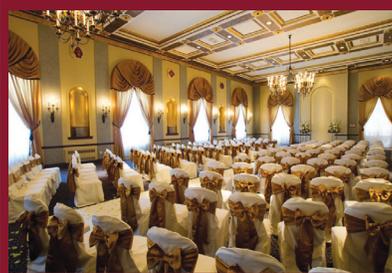


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“Every Vet I run into, I say, ‘Do you know about the Marines’ Memorial?’” Marine Veteran **JASON CHITTAVONG**

“runs into” a lot of fellow Vets as a leader of San Francisco State University’s Veterans Education Transition & Support (V.E.T.S.) student organization. Jason, who is majoring in history and political science, sees the Marines’ Memorial as an invaluable resource for student Veterans as they continue their transition back into civilian life. It can be hard for them to fit in with traditional Veterans’ organizations, he explains, but MMC is a comfortable place to find common ground and close the “generation gap” with older Veterans. It’s easy to pitch the Club to potential new members, he adds, but he also encourages current members to “reach out to the younger guys. They do want to be a part of something.” Jason is currently working to create events that will entice campus Vets into the Club to see for themselves. Jason has enjoyed his first year as a member, attending the Salute to Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans — he served a tour in Iraq in 2003 — and the annual Wedding Tasting (“great food!”). He hopes to sample some reciprocal Clubs soon, too.



TOM CROFT savors his work as a financial advisor with Edward Jones. But his life’s purpose may be summed up in two

words: doing good. The highly regarded Santa Rosa Rotarian says, “If I really believe in a project, I’m all in.” He serves on several boards and raises money for anti-drunk driving and anti-bullying programs in schools. Tom, who served a year with Marines in Vietnam as a Navy dental tech, recently went to Ecuador and Nicaragua with his daughter, an optom-

etrict, to fit people with donated glasses. “They called me doc again,” he says. “We serve about 1200 patients over four days.” In 2000, Tom helped launch what has become one of the largest Rotary/Kiwanis joint efforts in the US. Each year near Veterans Day, Santa Rosa’s Veterans Memorial Building fills with local Veterans and their admirers. There is music, lunch, and a keynote. “It is totally non-political,” Tom declares, “even this past year, right after the election.” Tom has emceed the event for 10 years, and says that watching the Vets’ faces as they stand up to roaring applause is truly a thrill. The year that General Myatt gave the keynote, Tom joined the MMA. He and Andrea, his wife of 49 years, have stayed many times at the Club, where there is a plaque for his father. “I always go see my dad’s plaque. And I read the *Crossroads* cover to cover.”



Roughly one in seven residents in rural Calaveras County, California is a Veteran. In the very small town of Valley Springs,

Retired Marine **FRANK GARZA** stands out among them. “I do as much as I can to advocate for Veterans here,” says the member of American Legion Post 102, general manager for the Jenny Lind Veterans Memorial District, and a founding member of the Valley Springs Veterans’ Group, which meets twice a month. Frank also belongs to the Marine Corps League and Marine Corps Association. A few years ago, he saw an ad for the Marines’ Memorial in Leatherneck Magazine and was encouraged to give the Club a try. “I joined in 2013, and the first time we stayed there was when we spent a week on vacation with our grandchildren,” he recalls. Aside from his Veteran-centered activities and hobbies of woodworking and working on his ’51 Ford F1, family is most important to Frank. His many stays at the Club this past year, with wife Aurora, have

been tied to a series of medical treatments at UCSF for their eldest daughter. The location was a great comfort, and “we’ve gotten to know the staff and they’ve gotten to know us,” he says gratefully. “We’re always treated like family.” For those Calaveras County Veterans who may travel to the city, Frank strongly recommends they get to know the Marines’ Memorial, experience the history here, and see that it’s “a worthwhile membership.”



“My grandfather served under General Pershing,” says **KENT EFF**. “My father served during Korea. My brother was in the

Army. Military service was understood in my family.” Kent opted to enlist as a Marine. But when the recruiter saw his aptitude scores, he encouraged Kent to take another path, ultimately leading to the Air Force Academy. One day during Fleet Week in the early 1980s, Kent accepted an invitation to go “behind enemy lines in the Marine Club” to watch the Navy-Air Force game. Decades later, attending a speaker event at the Club, he discovered membership wasn’t limited to Marines after all, and he joined. “I really understand the living memorial mission,” Kent says. He is a passionate advocate of MMA being “so much more than a granite wall with names etched on it. Who will visit the walls when the next couple of generations are gone?” During his career in corporate finance, Kent helped entrepreneurs bring their ideas to market, including some major players in the 1990s tech boom. He is still facilitating success, albeit for a different population. As a Salvation Army board member, he has worked to expand the nonprofit’s Harbor Light Center rehab facility, which receives referrals from the VA. He also actively recruits members into MMA and hosts events at the Club. “I’m all for the things I get involved in,” he says, “and I encourage others to do the same.”



MARINES' MEMORIAL RECIPROCAL CLUBS

New listings in red. Clubs with * offer overnight lodging. Visit <https://hotel.MarineClub.org/reciprocalclubs> to learn more.

UNITED STATES

ALASKA Anchorage: Petroleum Club **ARIZONA** Phoenix: University Club of Phoenix **CALIFORNIA** Bakersfield: Petroleum Club Benicia: Benicia Yacht Club Berkeley: Berkeley City Club* City of Industry: Pacific Palms Resort* Eureka: Ingomar Club Los Angeles: Los Angeles Athletic Club*; Griffin Club Marina del Rey: California Yacht Club Newport Beach: Balboa Bay Club & Resort*; Pacific Club Oxnard: Tower Club Pacific Palisades: Riviera Country Club* Pasadena: The Athenaeum*; University Club of Pasadena Sacramento: Sutter Club San Francisco: Golden Gate Yacht Club Santa Barbara: University Club of Santa Barbara; Santa Barbara Club **COLORADO** Colorado Springs: El Paso Club Denver: Denver Athletic Club; University Club **CONNECTICUT** Hartford: Hartford Club New Haven: Elm City Club*; New Haven Lawn Club*; Mory's Association New London: Thames Club **DELAWARE** Wilmington: The University and Whist Club **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** Washington, DC: Army and Navy Club*; Capitol Hill Club; Georgetown Club **FLORIDA** Jacksonville: River Club; Epping Forest Yacht Club Orlando: University Club of Orlando Sarasota: Sarasota Yacht Club Tallahassee: Governors Club Tampa: Tampa Club **GEORGIA** Atlanta: The Commerce Club; The Georgian Club; City Club of Buckhead Augusta: Pinnacle Club **HAWAII** Hilo: Hilo Yacht Club Honolulu: Pacific Club; Plaza Club **ILLINOIS** Chicago: Union League Club*; University Club*; The Standard Club*; Buckingham Athletic Club*; **The Cliff Dwellers** Rockford: University Club of Rockford Springfield: The Sangamo Club **INDIANA** Fort Wayne: Summit Club Indianapolis: Columbia Club* **IOWA** Des Moines: Embassy Club; Embassy Club – West **KANSAS** Topeka: Top of the Tower **KENTUCKY** Covington: Metropolitan Club of Kentucky **LOUISIANA** New Orleans: Plimsoll Club **MAINE** Portland: Cumberland Club **MARYLAND** Annapolis: Naval Academy Club Baltimore: The Center Club; The Engineers Club of Baltimore; Johns Hopkins Club **MASSACHUSETTS** Boston: Harvard Club of Boston*; Algonquin Club* New Bedford: Wamsutta Club Quincy: Neighborhood Club of Quincy **MICHIGAN** Detroit: Detroit Athletic Club* Grand Rapids: University Club Iron Mountain: Chippewa Club Kalamazoo: Beacon Club Saginaw: Saginaw Club **MINNESOTA** Minneapolis: Minneapolis Club* St. Paul: University Club of St. Paul **MISSOURI** Saint Louis: Missouri Athletic Club* **MONTANA** Helena: Montana Club **NEBRASKA** Lincoln: Nebraska Club **NEW HAMPSHIRE** Portsmouth: The One Hundred Club **NEW JERSEY** Florham Park: Park Avenue Club **NEW YORK** Albany: Fort Orange Club*; University Club of Albany* Binghamton: Binghamton Club Brooklyn: Montauk Club Buffalo: Saturn Club* New York City: New York Athletic Club*; Yale Club of New York City*; Princeton Club of New York*; Columbia University Club*; The Cornell Club* Staten Island: Belvedere Club Rochester: Genesee Valley Club Utica: Fort Schuyler Club **NORTH CAROLINA** Durham: University Club Charlotte: Charlotte City Club Wilmington: City Club at de Rosset* **OHIO** Cincinnati: Queen City Club* Cleveland: Union Club of Cleveland* Columbus: The Athletic Club* Toledo: The Toledo Club* **OKLAHOMA** Oklahoma City: Beacon Club Tulsa: Summit Club **OREGON** Portland: University Club **PENNSYLVANIA** Lancaster: Hamilton Club of Lancaster Philadelphia: The Union League of Philadelphia*; Racquet Club of Philadelphia* Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh Athletic Assn.*; Allegheny HYP Club Wilkes-Barre: Westmoreland Club **RHODE ISLAND** East Providence: Squantum Assn. Providence: Hope Club* **SOUTH CAROLINA** Aiken: Houndslake Country Club Anderson: Anderson Country Club Camden: Springdale Hall Club* Columbia: Palmetto Club Hilton Head Island: South Carolina Yacht Club Rock Hill: City Club of Rock Hill **TENNESSEE** Memphis: University Club; Racquet Club of Memphis **TEXAS** Austin: Austin Club Dallas: Park City Club Fort Worth: Fort Worth Club*; City Club of Fort Worth Houston: The Houston Club San Antonio: Petroleum Club **UTAH** Park City: Club Lespri* Salt Lake City: Alta Club* **VIRGINIA** Norfolk: Norfolk Yacht & Country Club* Roanoke: The Shenandoah Club **WASHINGTON** Seattle: Washington Athletic Club*; Harbor Club Spokane: Spokane Athletic Club* **WISCONSIN** Madison: Madison Club La Crosse: The La Crosse Club Milwaukee: University Club of Milwaukee*; Milwaukee Athletic Club* **WYOMING** Jackson: White Buffalo Club*

Wherever in the world you go, **YOU BELONG.**

INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRALIA Adelaide: Naval, Military, & Airforce Club of South Australia*; Public Schools Club INC.* **Brisbane:** United Services Club*; Tattersall's Club* **Melbourne:** Royal Automobile Club of Victoria* **Sydney:** Royal Automobile Club*; Commercial Travelers' Club LTD* **Tasmania:** Royal Yacht Club; Launceston Club **AUSTRIA** Reith bei Kitzbühel: Kitzbühel Country Club* **BAHRAIN** Manama: Capital Club Bahrain **BELGIUM** Brussels: International Club-Sainte-Anne **Ghent:** International Club of Flanders **CANADA** Alberta: Glencoe Club; Ranchmen's Club; Kensington Riverside Inn, Calgary* **Ontario:** Royal Canadian Military Institute*; Royal Canadian Yacht Club; Thornhill Golf & Country Club; Windsor Club; Donalda Club Don Mills; Albany Club of Toronto; The London Club; University Club of Toronto* **Halifax:** The Halifax Club **Québec:** Club Atwater* **Vancouver:** Vancouver Club*; Vancouver Lawn Tennis & Badminton Club; **Terminal City Club** **Victoria:** Union Club of British Columbia* **Winnipeg:** Manitoba Club **CHILE** Santiago: Club de la Unión **CHINA** Hong Kong: Pacific Club; United Services Recreation Club; The Foreign Correspondents' Club **Shanghai:** Shanghai Racquet Club & Apartments*; Embassy Club* **Suzhou:** Han Yuan Club* **Taipei, Taiwan:** American Club **EGYPT** Cairo: Cairo Capital Club **ENGLAND** Birmingham: Saint Paul's Club **Buckinghamshire:** Stoke Park Club* **Leeds:** Club LS1; The New Yorkshire Club **Liverpool:** Athenaeum Club **London:** Naval Club*; Naval & Military Club*; Royal Air Force Club*; St. James's Club*; Victory Services Club*; Union Jack Club*; The Sloane*; Lansdowne Club*; East India Club*; City University Club; Royal Over-Seas League* **Norwich:** Norfolk Club* **Teddington Middlesex:** Lensbury Club* **FRANCE** Paris: Cercle National Des Armées*; St. James Paris* **GERMANY** Frankfurt: Union International Club* **INDIA** Greater Noida: Stellar Gymkhana Club* **Kolkata:** Spring Club; Space Club; Circle Club **Karnataka:** Mangalore Club **New Delhi:** Delhi Gymkhana Club* **Maharashtra:** PYC Hindu Gymkhana*; Deccan Gymkhana* **Mumbai:** Bombay Presidency Radio Club Limited* **Rajasthan:** Jaisal Club* **Secunderabad:** Chiraan Fort Club* **West Bengal:** Tollygunge Club **Niligiris:** Nani's Nook* **INDONESIA** Jakarta: The American Club Jakarta **IRELAND** Dublin: St. Stephen's Green Hibernian Club* **Londonderry:** Beech Hill Country House Hotel* **ITALY** Rome: Circolo Antico Tiro a Volo **JAPAN** Tokyo: Tokyo American Club **Kobe:** Kobe Club **Yokohama:** Yokohama Country & Athletic Club **KENYA** Nairobi: Capital Club East Africa **KOREA** Seoul: Seoul Club **MEXICO** Mexico City: University Club of Mexico **NETHERLANDS** Amsterdam: De Industrieel Groot Club **NEW ZEALAND** Christchurch: Canterbury Officers' Club **Dunedin:** Otago Officers Club **Wellington:** Wellington Club* **NIGERIA** Lagos: **Capital Club Lagos*** **PHILIPPINES** Manila/Makati City: Manila Polo Club* **PORTUGAL** Porto: Oporto Cricket & Lawn Tennis Club* **SCOTLAND** Aberdeen: Royal Northern & University Club* **Edinburgh:** The Royal Scots Club*; Royal Over-Seas League* **SINGAPORE** Scotts Road: The American Club **SOUTH AFRICA** Port Elizabeth: St. Georges Club* **Johannesburg:** Rand Club*; Inanda Club* **SRI LANKA** Colombo: Colombo Swimming Club* **SPAIN** Barcelona: Circulo Ecuestre* **Bilbao:** Sociedad Bilbaina* **Madrid:** Casino de Madrid **SWEDEN** Stockholm: Militarsallskapet I Stockholm* **THAILAND** Bangkok: The Capitol Club **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** Dubai: Capital Club Dubai **ZIMBABWE** Bulawayo: Bulawayo Club*

CAROL'S CORNER

CarolTaylor@MarineClub.com · 415.830.9906



Dear Members,

There have been some changes recently with some of the Reciprocal Clubs, such as limitations on the number of visits in a calendar year, required overnight stay in order to use other facilities, etc. Please be sure to inquire ahead so that you are in compliance with any policies regarding reciprocal guest visits. Also, I am commonly asked to send Letters of Introduction six months to a year in advance. Please be sure that the letters are required in order to secure reservations ahead, as most clubs want to be certain your membership is still in good standing when you arrive. Should the club of your choice require the Letter of Introduction ahead (a few do) in order to secure your reservation, please make certain your membership is not due to expire before your date of arrival. If it is, you must renew your membership to cover the date(s) of your visit to the host club. Check who's new on our list!

Carol

In Memoriam



Lieutenant General Larry Snowden, USMC (Ret.)

14 April 1921 – 18 February 2017

General Larry Snowden came to the Marines' Memorial Club several times. The first official visit was the occasion of the 60th anniversary commemoration of the battle for Iwo Jima. He was the senior surviving Veteran of the battle and was our guest speaker for the commemoration event. (On the morning the event was scheduled, Clint Eastwood announced that he was coming, too. He was doing research for the movie "Flags of Our Fathers".) During General Snowden's speech, he told a story of an extraordinary Marine named Boots Thomas. Boots was a star athlete, scholar and leader in his high school in the early 1940s. Boots enlisted in the Marine Corps and became a hero on Iwo Jima, but was killed there. After Gen Snowden talked about Boots, he said:

"...We can measure the cost of warfare in terms of bombs, beans, bullets, ships, armor, whatever. What we CANNOT measure is the COST of lost POTENTIAL to his community, his state, his Nation, from young men...and, now, young women...due to their loss during wartime. It's the best argument I know that Nations ought to learn we've got to solve our differences in ways other than warfare and killing."

General Snowden was the company commander of Company F, 23rd Marines on Iwo Jima. When he landed there in February 1945, he had plenty of combat experience, having also fought in the battles for Roi Namur in the Marshall Islands, and the capture of Saipan and Tinian in 1944. In the battle on Iwo Jima, he was wounded and evacuated back to the ship. They dressed his wounds and he became one of only two Marines wounded who requested to return to the island. He returned to his company and resumed the fight. He commented that his company was his "family" and he had to rejoin them.

After the war, General Snowden earned a master's degree from Northwestern University and remained in the Marine Corps, serving in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, where he commanded the 7th Marines. When he retired, he was Assistant Commandant, wearing two Distinguished Service Medals, five Legion of Merit awards, including two for combat, and two Purple Hearts, and a chest full of other ribbons.

He returned to San Francisco in 2009 and 2012. In 2009, he was the keynote speaker for the official tribute to Joe Rosenthal, the photographer who took the Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima, after Joe died. In 2012, he came again to speak at our Iwo Jima commemoration. He led reunions on the island of Iwo Jima with Japanese and American survivors and their relatives for many years up until he reached the age of 93. He was quite a Marine!



A Living Memorial, continued

The Marines' Memorial Club is a twelve story building with 138 guest rooms and suites; the Leatherneck Steakhouse, the twelfth floor dining room with a vibrant view of San Francisco's bridges; a library; and a world-class health club with a lap swimming pool.

Membership in the Marines' Memorial Club is open to all Veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Effective 1 January 2005, by virtue of Veterans' contributions, the Association is able to offer free annual membership to all Currently Serving members of the US Armed Forces who come to stay at the Marines' Memorial Club to use the facility. For members and their guests who stay overnight in the Club, the room rates are the most reasonable in San Francisco.

Members may use the Club for the observance of the occasions that are significant in their own personal lives, such as reunions, weddings, and receptions. The most gratifying experience may be the spontaneous camaraderie with those who share like values and ideals.

The enduring vision of the Marines' Memorial Club continues: "A tribute to those who have gone before; and a service to those who carry on." While browsing amidst the Club's commemorative exhibits, take a few moments to listen to the voices that speak from the books, the photos, the citations, and the artwork. The Marines' Memorial Club is theirs and you are welcome in their home.

MEMBERSHIP IN
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MARINES' MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

609 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
tel (415) 673-6672
fax (415) 441-3649
MarineClub.org

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The USS SAN FRANCISCO Submarine (SSN-711) CO, CDR Jeff Juergens, and XO, LCDR Richard McCandless, stand with the ship's bell from the USS SAN FRANCISCO (CA-38)