



# **"Fox Tracks"** **Fox2/5 Association** **Vietnam Era Veterans** **Newsletter** **November 2012**



## **From the President: J.D. Moore**

I would first like to thank Tom for his eight years of service as an officer in our association. For those who did not make the Nashville reunion I would like to introduce you to our three new officers. Forrest Towe was elected as our new 2nd Vice President. Paul Trenn accepted the position as our new Editor of the best newsletter around and Ian Bailey agreed to take on the position as the Webmaster. I would again like to thank each of them for stepping up to this challenge and Ken Kreader for all the years as news editor and helping Paul transition into the office. With all this "new blood" I am confident our association is headed in the right direction.

Charlie I would like to give my condolences to you and your family. Irish was such a wonderful person and will surely be missed. I am so happy she made the reunion.

Gettysburg, Pa. was chosen as the site for the fall 2014 reunion. Ken Kreader will head up the team planning the Fox 2/5 assault on Gettysburg. I have looked on some web sites and it looks like a great place for our reunion.

1stSgt Alvisco's tour as Fox 8 has come to an end. Fox company's new 1stSgt is 1sSgt Boden. 1stSgt Alvisco wanted again to thank everyone for their support and to especially thank the members that went and visited with LCpl Thein in Maryland after his MEDEVAC. Thein told him it was such a great morale booster. LCpl Thein is now a father and being treated at Balboa hospital in San Diego, Ca. As most know Fox has safely returned to CO-NUS.

It was discussed and passed at the business meeting that after unsuccessful attempts to have new era Fox brothers join our association we will revert back to its original membership. Anyone is welcome to attend Fox 2/5 Vietnam Association events, but only Vietnam era Fox vet-

erans will have voting rights in our association.

Our next newsletter will be after the holidays. Hope everyone has a great Birthday, Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Year.

Semper Fi, J.D.



### ***We've added two new members.***

Referred from Manny Lopes  
 Manuel Lugo  
 7232 W Sells Dr. Phoenix, AZ 88033  
 602-413-5357  
 Email lugom17@yahoo.com

Kerry "Cliff" Emerson  
 1220 E. Cassandra  
 Corning, CA 96021  
 emersonberlin@yahoo.com

Served with Fox from April '68-June '69 with 60 mortars.

If you know Manuel or Cliff I'm sure they would like to hear from old buddies.

## **Inside this issue:**

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"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. Marines don't have that problem."

***President Ronald Reagan-1985***

"The deadliest weapon in the world is a Marine and his rifle."

***General John "Blackjack" Pershing, U.S. Army***



**From Bobby Smith; 1st V.P.**

I would like to thank each and every one that made the reunion and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I. It was great seeing everyone and hope you start making plans for Gettysburg, PA in two years. We also had some first timers and hope to see them in two years as well.

We had some changes in the staff at this reunion. I would like to say that Tom did an outstanding job as the past president and as he passed the torch to JD and there is no doubt that JD will not miss a beat. Also congratulations to Forrest Towe being elected to 2nd Vice and Paul Trenn accepting the position as the Fox Newsletter Editor.

I will be going to Branson Nov 10-16 for Veterans week. This is the week to go because all the vets are given free tickets to the shows and free meals at all the major restaurants. We don't go to receive the freebees. It is the Christmas shows and meeting with veterans from other services.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and start saving those aluminum cans for Gettysburg.

Semper Fi, Bobby



**From Forrest Towe; 2nd V.P.**

I would like to thank everyone for their confidence in me and electing me as your 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. The reunion was very good. I would like to thank 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon for their hospitality in letting 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon tag along. I am looking forward to the next reunion in Gettysburg.

Now on to some business. I am passing on some information for the Vietnam group now that we are all at the age to draw Social Security. Here is news that Social Security does not tell you. Veterans with active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001 qualify for up to an extra \$1,200.00. This is something that you have to ask for when you sign up for Social Security. You will need to take your DD-214 with you and ask for it. Please see the attached sheet on pg. 8 from the DAV. I hope to see everyone in Gettysburg.

Forrest Towe

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Fox 2/5 Association

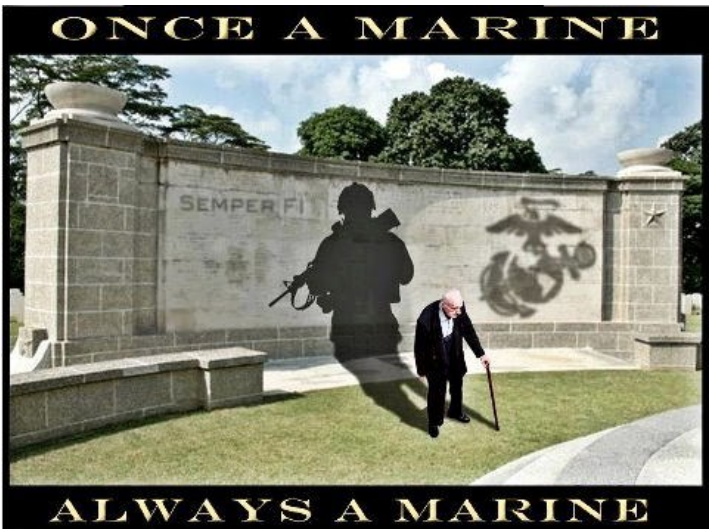
"I was a PFC in the Marine Corps, so when I started playing officers (in the movies) I had a good opinion as to how they should be portrayed-from the bias of an enlisted man's viewpoint." Actor Lee Marvin

"A battalion commander didn't need a staff, he got out in front of his battalion and he led it" Chesty Puller

*"I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death."--Thomas Paine*

**Corporal Grunt Says,**

*Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all a good night !*



*"A wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government."*

--Thomas Jefferson

**"Together then, Together Again"**

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*From the Editor,*

*To the Fox Family:*

*Ken Kreader has been our faithful, hard working editor for many years. He has decided to "retire" from those duties.*

*My name is Paul Trenn and I will be the new newsletter editor. With Ken's help the transition should go smoothly.*

*I was with Fox from September '68 to October '69 with 1st platoon.*

*The reunion in Nashville was great, thanks to a lot of hard work on the part of the people who organized the whole affair. No small task. Thank you Sam and Donna Henderson, Tom Martin, J.D. Moore, Bobby Smith, etc. The list is much longer. Thank you all.*

*I've been to many of our reunions and enjoyed every one. Nashville was the best yet for me personally. I was able to connect with an old friend, a corpsman I hadn't seen since Vietnam and a half dozen other guys that I spent a good portion of my tour with. Good times!*



*If you have anything you'd like to add to the newsletter don't hesitate to send it to me. I'll do my best to include it. All the contact info is in the upper right box on this page.*

*I hope to continue the fine work by Ken Kreader. He deserves a resounding Marine "OOH-RAH"!*

*Look forward to seeing you in Gettysburg in 2014.*

*Merry Christmas to all.*

*Semper Fi, Paul Trenn*

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**In Memoriam**

It is with great sorrow we announce the recent passing of Irish Schlader. Irish and Charlie were regulars at the reunions. It was nice that she could attend the reunion in Nashville. She always had a warm smile and something nice or pleasant or funny to add to the conversation. We'll miss her.

Please keep Charlie and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

*"The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave."*

*--Patrick Henry, 1775*

*"We are all born ignorant but one must work hard to remain stupid."*

*--Benjamin Franklin*







## Graham Memorial Project Honors Medal of Honor recipient at FSU

*Ceremony dedicates library deck, begins Vietnam project*

**For the Cumberland Times-News**

- One of the two Vietnam-era CH-46 helicopters from Marine Helicopter Squadron One fly over the ceremony, featuring a color guard from Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 172 and Col. on Forrester, president-elect



FROSTBURG — In 1967, U.S. Marine Corps Capt. James A. Graham, a member of the Frostburg State Teachers College class of 1963, gave his life in Vietnam following a series of heroic actions that were later found worthy of recognition with the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor.

On Saturday, Frostburg State University launched the Graham Memorial Project, a living memorial to the fallen hero.

The project began with the dedication of the deck of the Lewis J. Ort Library in Capt. Graham's honor and the unveiling of a plaque there, but it will continue with the interdisciplinary educational project, "Memorializing Vietnam."

The educational project will be a semester-long advanced colloquium that will examine the historical, political, social and economic aspects of the Vietnam War.

Following that study, FSU students will work in teams to conceptualize the design of a memorial on FSU's campus honoring Graham, while taking into account all they have learned about the conflict in Vietnam and its impact on the nation and world.

On Saturday, following the singing of the "Star-Spangled Banner" by members of FSU's music fraternity, two Vietnam-era CH-46 helicopters from Marine Helicopter Squadron One flew over the campus in a tribute to Graham.

Among those in attendance were Graham's widow, Janice Clark, Frostburg class of 1964; and their two children, retired USMC Col. John Graham, class of 1985; and retired USAF Col. Jennifer Graham, as well as Col. Robert Golden III, Marine Corps Recruiting Command chief of staff, representing the Marine Commandant.

An honor guard from the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 172 presented colors. The event closed with the singing of "God Bless America" and the Marines in attendance singing the "U.S. Marine Corps Hymn."

A number of James Graham's Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity brothers were there, as were several Marines who had served with him in Vietnam.

John Graham said the number of people present who had known his father for just a few years, yet "he left indelible images on people that he did not know very long, and here you are 45 years later."

"Frostburg was extremely important to Dad," John Graham said.

It was where he met his wife, where he found his Sigma Tau Gamma brothers, and where he found his faith.

"This is where it all changed for Dad here. ... That's why it's so fitting that Frostburg is the place to tell Dad's story," John Graham said.

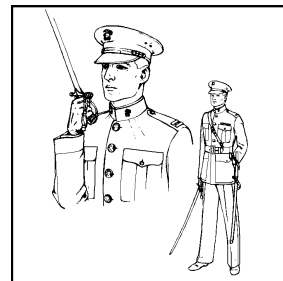
Retired USAF Col. Donald White, who chairs the project's steering committee, said the group is determined to follow the wishes of Graham family that this project be about establishing a living memorial "that will instill traditions within the student population: life-long learning, personal core values of community selflessness, integrity, excellence, service before self and an understanding that humility is an important personal trait."

James Graham was honored for his heroism when, in June 1967 against heavy odds, he led a unit of Marines in attacking two machine-gun nests in the Quang Tri Province. With the group under heavy fire, Graham ordered his men to retreat, remaining behind with a wounded soldier unable to be moved.

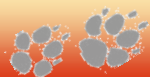
"The one thing that you could count on with Jim Graham was that you could count on Jim Graham," his son said.

Read more about Graham's story here: <http://tinyurl.com/Graham-Memorial-Project>.

The memorial is a project of the FSU Alumni Association. The FSU Foundation also has two scholarship funds honoring Graham. For more information on supporting the Graham Memorial Project Fund or the scholarship funds, contact the FSU Office of University Advancement at 301-687-4161.



**Article contributed by Dave DeGroat**



## It's never too early to start planning for the Gettysburg reunion - 2014 !

### Another Note From The Editor:

Ken Kreader was helping this "newbie" newsletter editor the other day and the conversation turned to the fact that the company from where he retired was doing away with retiree health benefits.

I asked if he was enrolled in VA healthcare. He wasn't.

**We are all eligible for VA healthcare !** Anyone who set foot in Vietnam is eligible. There are varying degrees of co-pay but the bottom line is that **any** help with medical coverage is a whole lot better than nothing, or expensive, limited coverage.

Having trouble hearing ? Non-stop ringing in the ears ? Wake up a lot at night ? I could go on. There's likely a connection with these kinds of symptoms and many more and your service in Vietnam. My point here is to get what you earned !

I got enrolled with VA healthcare a couple years ago after about five years of prodding from another Fox 2/5 friend by the name of Tommy Byrd. I can't say enough good things about the medical care I've received and the friendly, respectful treatment I've gotten from everyone at the VA since day one. This is of course my personal experience.

Get what you deserve, guys. You've earned it.

Contact a veteran's service officer if you're having any kind of problems, whether it be financial, physical or mental. It doesn't matter if it's the DAV, VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, or whomever it may be. They can steer you in the right direction and they are looking out for your welfare. It will take some time and effort on your part but chances are it will lead to something positive. It has for me. We've all earned it.....and then some.

I've asked my newsletter mentor to edit my columns. He had what I thought was a great idea for this one. There is potential for this to be a recurring theme in the newsletter, with member input on their experiences with the VA. The thinking here is that we could help each other navigate the VA system for the benefit of all our members. I'd love to have your input. It's your newsletter.

Together then.....together again !

### "In Memoriam"

Byron "Buddy" Canada

11/15/2012

My best friend since we were in the same squad 43 years ago died this morning. We visited each other often over those years. He was the best man in my wedding. He took over our squad when I got short and not long after was seriously wounded.

We all have a friend who survived Vietnam but who's name should be on the Wall. Buddy is another. I'll miss you my friend.

I lost a brother today.

Semper Fi, Paul Trenn

### Chesty Puller

During a battle an ROK (Republic of Korea) commander, whose unit was fighting with the Marines, called legendary Marine (then Colonel) Chesty Puller to report a major Chinese attack in his sector.



"How many Chinese are attacking you?" asked Puller.

"Many, many Chinese!" replied the excited Korean officer.

Puller asked for another count and got the same answer: "Many, many Chinese!"

"##&\*!#%!" swore Puller, "Put my Marine liaison officer on the radio."

In a minute, an American voice came over the air: "Yes, sir?"

"Lieutenant," growled Chesty, "exactly how many Chinese you got up there?"

"Colonel, we got a whole s\*\*tload of Chinese up here!"

"Thank God!" exclaimed Puller, "At least there's someone up there who knows how to count!"



## Marine Humor

The Pope died and went to heaven, and was stopped at gate by a sleepy watchman, "Yeah, what do you want?"

The Pope thought, "Great! I did thirty years of God's work, only to get stopped by this guy." Then he said, "Look, I am the Pope. I have done many years of good work."

The watchman said, "We ain't got no orders for you. Go get some rest and we'll see you in the morning." He then gave the Pope directions to an old WW II open bay barracks. The Pope went in to find all the lower bunks taken and the only lockers left have no doors, so he threw his gear under his rack and went to sleep.

The next morning the Pope was awakened by loud music and cheering. He ran to the window and saw a long black limo with a Marine Gunny in the back seat smoking a huge cigar, hanging on to a mug of Jack & Coke, and with two beautiful blond angels hanging on to him.

The Pope was angry and went to the night watchman. He said, "I'm the Pope ! I did thirty years of God's work at the Vatican, only to see some Marine Gunny—who probably did everything imaginable that a Marine might do—get treated like royalty!"

The watchman said, "There's a good reason for that. We get a Pope every twenty to thirty years. This is our first Marine Gunny **ever!**"

A newly married Marine was informed by headquarters that he was going to be stationed a long way from home on a remote island in the Pacific for a year.

"My love," he wrote, "we are going to be apart for a very long time. Already I'm starting to miss you, and there's really not much to do here in the evenings. Besides that, we're constantly surrounded by beautiful young native girls. Do you think if I had a hobby of some kind I would not be tempted?"

So his wife sent him back a harmonica saying, "Why don't you learn to play this?"

Eventually his tour of duty came to an end, and the Marine rushed back to his wife. "Darling, I can't wait to get you into bed so we can make passionate love!"

She kissed him and said, "First let's see you play that harmonica..."

## PX :

The patch has been updated. The '2nd' has been corrected and the 'cigarette' was added back. The new patches are available now.

### Hats

(red or black w/patch) \$15

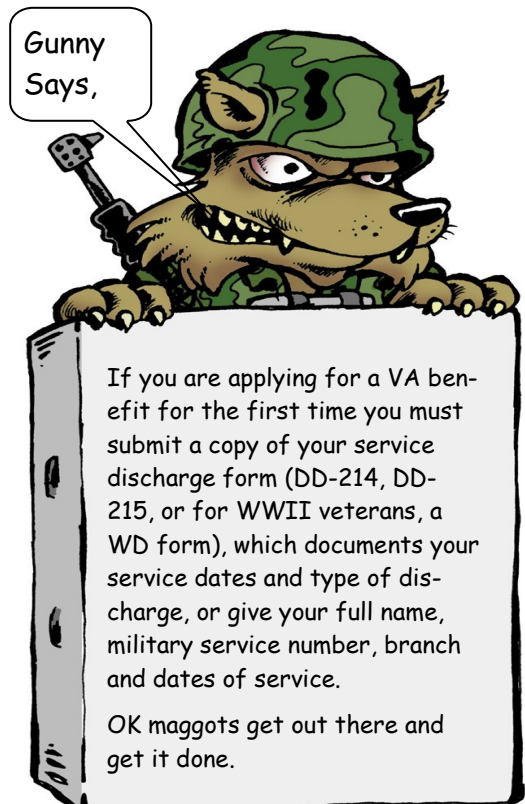
Patches 4" \$5

Patches 12" \$25

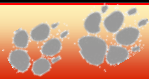
All prices include shipping.



There is the right way, the wrong way, and the Marine Corps way.







## Marines Of Note

Editor's Note: This will be a recurring column about Marines who have excelled not only in the Corps but in politics/business/industry/NASA. With the recent passing of John Glenn, he is a good choice for the first article. Excerpted from "The Marines Have Landed" by MSgt Andy Bufalo USMC (Ret).

### John Glenn 1921-2012

John Glenn, Jr. is a retired U.S. Marine Corps fighter pilot, a former astronaut and U.S Senator and the first American to orbit earth. He joined NASA's Mercury program and orbited earth in "Friendship 7" in 1962. After retiring from NASA he entered politics as a Democrat and represented Ohio in the U.S. Senate from 1974-1999. In 1998 he became the oldest person to fly in space and the only one to fly in both the Mercury and Shuttle programs.

Born in Cambridge, Ohio, he enlisted as a U.S. Navy aviation cadet. He married his childhood sweetheart in 1943 and made his first solo flight in a military aircraft.

He flew 59 combat missions in the South Pacific in WW II in an F4U Corsair. He flew 63 combat missions in an F9F Panther during the Korean War, gaining the dubious nickname, "Magnet Ass" from his apparent ability to attract enemy flak—twice he returned to base with over 250 flak holes in his aircraft. He later flew a second Korean combat tour with an inter-service exchange program with the U.S. Air Force and logged 27 missions in the

faster F-86 Sabre, and shot down three Mig-15's near the Yalu River in the final days before the cease fire.

On July 16, 1957 Glenn completed the first supersonic transcontinental flight in a Vought F8U-1 from NAS Los Alamitos, California to Floyd Bennett Field in New York in 3 hours, 23 minutes. As he passed over his hometown a child reportedly ran to the Glenn house shouting, "Johnny dropped a bomb!, Johnny dropped a bomb!" as the sonic boom shook the town. Six weeks after the assassination of President John Kennedy Glenn resigned from NASA to run for office in his home state of Ohio, and in 1965 retired from the Marine Corps as a Colonel. Three decades later, after serving 24 years in the Senate, Glenn lifted off for a second space flight in October 1998 aboard Discovery to study the effects of space flight on the elderly. He became the oldest person ever to go into space. It is interesting to note that prior to Glenn the record had been held by 62 year old Marine Story Musgrave, and before him the oldest man in space had been 59 year old Vance Brand, also a Marine.

In 1976 he was a candidate for the Democratic Vice Presidential nomination. Glenn also mounted a bid for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1984, coming in a strong second to Walter Mondale. The movie "The Right Stuff" was released at this time with Glenn being portrayed by actor Ed Harris.

He was inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 1990.

## **Fox 2/5 Reunion 2014: Gettysburg, Pa**

The selection of Gettysburg for a reunion site is great for a number of reasons. Aside from the historical and military significance of the Gettysburg area it is within short driving distance to Washington D.C (85mi), Baltimore (60mi), Philadelphia (140mi) and NYC (209). Although it may seem as if it is out in the boondocks it actually is well situated and can be a hub for short drives to places like Hershey Park, Pennsylvania Dutch area and so on.

While Gettysburg itself is not a large city it offers many motels and hotels to pick from for our site. One site has been recommended as it solicits military groups and we will pursue this one and others in the coming months. After the first of the year I am going to send a letter out to the likely candidates and see what the interest and response is.

When the weather improves we will make a trip to the area with our camper (there is a local KOA for campers) and stay for a few days to tour the area and meet with the various hotel conference managers. By the next newsletter we should have more detail about the area and up close and personal feel for the area. There will be an update with publication of each newsletter.

Insofar as turnout potential this is a Fox 2/5 Assoc. veteran rich area. There are over two hundred vets within a 500 mile radius. We have thirty in Pennsylvania and another 31 next door in Ohio alone.

Not forgotten are the generous offers of local assistance from Dennis Cadigan, Chuck Conley and Ed Martin. Thanks one and all. We will contact you as we gain traction and momentum the early part of 2013.

I must say that while I am pecking at the keyboard here it will be Judie who will be at the helm when the actual planning and negotiations with the facility get under way. She has experience from one of her jobs when we lived in New Jersey.

It may seem that the reunion is a long way off but there is much to do and prepare for during the ensuing months.

**Semper Fi and see ya'll in Gettysburg,**

**Ken Kreader**



**As of: August 27, 2011**

**DAV Chapter Service Officer/National Service Officer Bryan Smith**

**Extra Social Security Benefit for some Vets**

Veterans with Active Duty (AD) service between January 1957 to December 31, 2001; qualify for an extra \$1,200 [maximum annual credit] if they served on AD annotated above. This special Social Security Administration (SSA/SS) program was "done away with" January 1, 2002. In other words, this will only be realized by Vietnam vets and Gulf War I vets unless the WW2/Korean War veteran made a 20+ year commitment/career in the Armed Forces.

To receive the extra SSA benefit based on your Military service you need to bring in your DD214 to the Social Security Office, and specifically ask for this program. It is not automatic. However, the extra credit is factored into the formula at the time of your SS application, but you **MUST** ask for this program to be applied to the calculation they use. Typically, or the most common scenario for SS entitlement is [regardless of early retirement at age 62 or regular "full" retirement at 65 years of age] is: the last 30 quarters are taken into consideration, they averaged = determined monthly Social Security amount received. ~ This is why it is not a good idea to have any breaks in your last earning years of employment (30 Qtr's = 7 ½ years) or to take early retirement at 62.

In other words, this is something to put in your files for when you apply for Social Security down the road...; it is NOT for retirees, BUT anyone who has served from January 1957 to December 31, 2001. This period of Military Service regarding "Special Extra Earnings for Military Service" reflects inclusive dates of AD. What this means is: from 1957 through 1967 (you need to **ask** because it is not automatic), and the second era [1968 – 2001] is automatically added to your record. After 2001, there are no special extra earning credits for military service. The January 2002 (Public Law 107-117, Defense Appropriations Act stopped the special extra earning credit) put an end to the SS benefit for veterans

The AD service from 1957 to 1977 is credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay. This veteran "must" specifically request this benefit/program. Whereas, the veteran who serviced between 1978 through 2001, automatically gets the **extra** earning credit factored into their calculated Social Security Amount. However, this special extra earning credit applies only active duty (including: active duty for training = Reservist who did their weekend drills &/or their 2 weeks of annual ACTDUTRA).

Reference to the above can be found online through their website: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm> or do a search in their search block and enter, "Special Extra Earnings for Military Service."

\*A final note concerning this benefit: anyone who entered the Military after September 7, 1980 must complete 2 years/24 months of continuous service to qualify.

**Article contributed by 2nd VP Forrest Towe.**

**From the Sgt. Grit Newsletter 11/22/2012**

Father Capodanno, MOH Recipient

Last night I was pleasantly surprised to watch a piece on TV about Father Capodanno, the Bn. Chaplain for the 3rd Bat, 5th Marines. I was unaware of a Chaplain, any Chaplain, receiving the Medal of Honor. They had many of the surviving Marines, including the Battalion Commander on the program talking about Father Capodanno. Father Capodanno had a ship named after him and it was the first ship in the United States Fleet to be Blessed by a Pope, Pope John Paul.

Father Capodanno was also Canonized and is now referred to as a "Servant of God". What an Honor we have, to have had a Chaplain to be awarded the Medal of Honor for his Battle Field Duties to His Marines. Looking him up on the web will give any Marine an idea of the Great People that have served we Marines.

GySgt. F. L. Rousseau,  
USMC Retired

Father Capodanno's official Medal of Honor citation is as follows:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Chaplain of the 3d Battalion, in connection with operations against enemy forces. In response to reports that the 2d Platoon of M Company was in danger of being overrun by a massed enemy assaulting force, Lt. Capodanno left the relative safety of the company command post and ran through an open area raked with fire, directly to the beleaguered platoon. Disregarding the intense enemy small-arms, automatic-weapons, and mortar fire, he moved about the battlefield administering last rites to the dying and giving medical aid to the wounded. When an exploding mortar round inflicted painful multiple wounds to his arms and legs, and severed a portion of his right hand, he steadfastly refused all medical aid. Instead, he directed the Corpsmen to help their wounded comrades and, with calm vigor, continued to move about the battlefield as he provided encouragement by voice and example to the valiant Marines. Upon encountering a wounded Corpsman in the direct line of fire of an enemy machine gunner positioned approximately 15 yards away, Lt. Capodanno rushed a daring attempt to aid and assist the mortally wounded Corpsman. At that instant, only inches from his goal, he was struck down by a burst of machine gun fire. By his heroic conduct on the battlefield, and his inspiring example, Lt. Capodanno upheld the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the cause of freedom.