

The "Ooo Rah"



Newsletter of the Central Florida Chapter 1st Marine Division Association

Volume 21 Issue 2 March-April 2024

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http://www.cfc1stmardiv.com/

Next Meeting:

Saturday, April 6 10:30 a.m.

Fiddlers' Green Irish Pub 544 West Fairbanks Ave. Winter Park, FL 32789

Ph.407.645.2050



President's ramblings

Greetings Marines and Friends,

Please excuse me a moment while I go wipe the yellow pollen off my car! Now that I've done that, let's get on with the "President's Ramblings".

First, those of you who ordered the new chapter shirt may pick it up at the April meeting... See Greg Melnick. Those who paid to have them mailed, should receive them soon in the mail, but if you'd like to pick it up at the meeting, we can have it there... let me know, so I won't take it to the post office.

Most of you received an email with the obituary for Mitzi Danowitz who passed away on March 9. Many of you will remember Mitzi as the wife of Colonel Ed Danowitz (Deceased in 2012) who was a leader in the chapter and former national president of the 3rd Marine Division Assoc. Mitzi was always by his side and attended many of our Valentine "Sweetheart Dinners." She always enjoyed getting the "Ooo Rah" and would often call me to comment on something she saw in the newsletter. Rest in peace, Mitzi... a gracious and beautiful lady.

We are looking forward to welcoming MajGen. James Hartsell back to our chapter to provide the program for our April meeting. MajGen Hartsell's illustrious USMC career is outlined below. You should make sure to come on April 6 to hear his presentation.

Susan Finnigan and I just returned from the 1st Marine Division Association's Spring Director's meeting in San Antonio, TX. At the meeting, we met with Orlando Garcia of the San Antonio Chapter. He presented the association's officers with a packet of information regarding the upcoming annual reunion of the association which will take place at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk. This is shaping up to be one of the best reunions ever. See page 3 for more details on the San Antonio reunion.

As we approach Memorial Day, I urge you to look for a Memorial Day service convenient to you and take the family for one of these patriotic and moving ceremonies. There are too many to name here... look them up as the day approaches. Semper Fidelis, Mike

MajGen James "Hammer " Hartsell to Provide Program for April Meeting

NEW SHIRTS ARE IN... WILL BE HANDED OUT AT APRIL MEETING

Retired Marine Corps Major General James S. "Hammer" Hartsell has served as Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs since May 4, 2021. General Hartsell served in the United States Marine Corps with honor for 37 years of active and reserve duty, beginning as an enlisted Marine in 1981 and completing a distinguished and highly decorated military career as a Ma-

pleting a distinguished and highly decorated military career as a Major General. As a Lieutenant Colonel commanding the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion in 2001-2003, he was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 1 and awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. In 2004, he was mobilized again and deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 as 1st Marine Division Senior Liaison to the Marine Expeditionary Force and awarded the Bronze Star and Combat Action Ribbon. (Continued on page 3)

A U.S. Marine Corps Monument in Central Florida

By

Mike Galyean

In January of 2011 the "Ooo Rah" newsletter ran an article about the proposal to construct a monument to the United States Marine Corps at the newly created Orlando Veterans Park. The park is located on just over 4 acres of land on the north shore of Lake Baldwin at the border of the cities of Orlando and Winter Park, near the entrance to the Lake Baldwin VA

Clinic. Even though the address is on Lake Baldwin Lane, it is accessed

from a parking lot on Raymond Street which runs east from Lakemont Ave. in Winter Park. The park was created in honor of our military veterans and their contribution to the citizens of the United States. Large live-oak trees, with draping Spanish Moss, shade much of the park and the small gazebo overlooks pretty lake views. The Lake Baldwin Park trail connects the park to Orlando's Blue Jacket Park, Lake Baldwin Harbor Parks and Winter Park's Dog Park. Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation maintains a perpetual lease on the park property.

From the parking lot on Raymond Street (across from the Lake Baldwin VA Clinic) you may take a short walk down the sidewalk that runs south from the parking lot. Turn right at the intersecting walkway and the monument will be on your right.

In January of 2011, the Central Florida Marine Corps Foundation (CFMCF) was facilitating the creation and dedication of the only Marine memorial in the City of Orlando. The CFMCF worked with Marine veteran organizations in the Central Florida area to design, fund, construct, and install the Marine monument at the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park. Members of the Central Florida Chapter of the 1st

Marine Division Association were an integral part of the leadership and fund-raising effort toward the goal of constructing this monument. The monument was constructed to honor Marines of the past, present, and future. It was intended to be a place of reflection for Marines, family members, friends, and colleagues, and where the public can become more aware of Marine Corps history.

The monument is 5-sided green obelisk approximately 8½ feet tall with a base 4 feet in diameter. One



Members of the Central Florida Chapter, 1st Marine Division Association at the dedication ceremony on July 11, 2011, L to R: Col. Bill Tate, Art Dreves, Mike Galyean, Russ Kauffman, Greg Melnick, Elmer Hawkins, Rick Kennedy, Charlie Ross, not pictured John Adamson and Col. Harry Clarke.

side contains a plaque and the four other sides are dedicated to the major conflicts involving the Marine Corps during the 18th, 19th, 20th and the 21st centuries with the names and dates of the principal conflicts. It was constructed of green granite with a brass Marine Corps emblem (Eagle, Globe, and Anchor) atop the monument. The plaque contains the famous quote by President Ronald Reagan from Sept 23, 1983, "Some people work an entire lifetime and wonder if they ever made a difference to the world. But the Marines don't have that problem." The monument is hollow, to allow for a "time capsule" whose contents were accepted by donation. Contents include rocks and/or soil from "hallowed ground" (e.g., sands of Iwo Jima, red clay from Khe Sanh).

At the time the initial article was printed in the "Ooo rah," a little over half of the needed \$19,000 had been raised. Our Central Florida Chapter donated \$500, and 13 of the 24 individual donors at that time were 1st Marine Division Association members. However, there was more to be done and the Foundation successfully went forward with plans to raise the rest of the money.

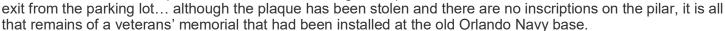
(Continued from page 2... Marine Monument)



In record time the funds were raised and the dedication of the United States Marine Corps Monument took place on July 11, 2011. July 11 was the date of the "re-birth" of the Marine Corps after the Revolutionary War. A large number of Central Florida 1st Marine Division Association members were present and some took part in the dedication ceremonies.

If you have never visited the monument, you are encouraged to take a few minutes and take a look, perhaps before or after your next visit to the VA Clinic. Other monuments that can be found at the Orlando Veterans Memorial Park are: Daughters of the American Revolution, the very impressive Vietnamese-American Memorial, the Fleet Reserve Association.

the Italian-American War Veterans of the United States, Central Florida Veterans Park Foundation, Colonial Dames, the Purple Heart Association, as well as the United States Marine Corps monument. An interesting white pilar stands at the





(Continued from page 1—MajGen Hartsell)

As a Colonel he was mobilized and deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) as Senior Liaison to NATO Regional Command – South and was awarded the Legion of Merit and Combat Action Ribbon. General Hartsell served as Commanding General of the 4th Marine Division comprised of 18,000 Sailors and Marines in 37 states and during his command deployed units and teams to five Continents in support of the Global War on Terror. He then served as U.S. Pacific Command Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, as J5 Strategy & Policy Director, and as Chief of Staff of the 360,000 participant United States Pacific Command and was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal. A very accomplished Marksman throughout his entire career, he was the first Marine Distinguished Shooter to achieve General Officer rank in over 60 years.

As Director of the Department of Defense Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, General Hartsell worked under authority and direction of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and personally engaged senior level U.S. and Foreign Military and Civilian government delegations in Washington, D.C. and abroad in the Indo-Pacific Theater.

Many of our chapter members will remember MajGen Hartsell from our "SOS Breakfast" in 2020 and also as a special guest at Elmer Hawkins' 100th birthday celebration.

Welcome Back General Hartsell!

1st Marine Division Regimental History

Division regiments were in existence as early as March 8, 1911, when the 1st Marine Regiment was formed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Marines saw action in Haiti in 1915, the Dominican Republic in 1916, and throughout the Caribbean during World War I.

The 5th Marine Regiment was established on July 13, 1914, in Veracruz, Mexico. In 1925, they served in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and participated in 15 major engagements during World War I. These include Belleau Wood, Chateau -Thierry and St. Mihiel. On August 14, 1917,

7th Marine Regiment was activated in Philadelphia. It spent the duration of World War I in Cuba and was disbanded after the war. It was reactivated in 1941.

11th Marines was formed in January 1918 in Quantico, Va., as a light artillery regiment. The Regiment went to France as an infantry unit, providing a machine gun company and a guard company. Decommissioned and reactivated twice between world wars, the Regiment again served as infantry in Nicaragua. Re-formed in 1940 as a full-fledged artillery unit, 11th Marines joined 1st Marine Division.







CFMCF annual Marine **Corps Birthday Ball**

The Central Florida Marine Corps Foundation is thrilled to announce that tickets for the upcoming 249th Marine Corps Ball are now available for purchase! This is an event that promises to be both memorable and meaningful, celebrating the rich traditions and camaraderie that define our Marine Corps family. It is important to know that the location of the Ball is moving from the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort to the DoubleTree by Hilton. Tickets may be purchased through the CFMCF website.

Event Details:

- Date: Nov 2, 2024 - Time: 1800-2200 - Venue: NEW LOCA-

TION!!! DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Orlando at SeaWorld 10100 International Dr, Orlando, FL 32821

- Dress Code: Dress Blues or Black Tie

Ticket Information:

Tickets can be purchased through our dedicated online platform: https://

> Capt. Art Littlefield . 1932 – 2024



Art was one of the Korean War heroes we honored at the 2023 "SOS Birthday Breakfast." He was a Drill Instructor at Parris Island and, in fact, was

an instructor at the School for Drill Instructor's as a Gunnery Sergeant in 1966 when he was called into the general's office. The general gave him Second Lieutenant's bars and then his orders to Vietnam. While in Vietnam, he served as a Forward Observer and Infantry Platoon Commander. He retired from the Marine Corps as a Captain. His personal awards include Purple Heart, Bronze Star. Presidential Unit Citations. Korean Service Medal multiple stars, Vietnam Service Medal with multiple stars.

Mark Your Calendars



Saturday, April 6... Regular Chap. Mtg., Fiddlers Green Irish Pub.

Saturday, May 4 -Chap. Exec Comm.

Meeting—TBD

Monday, May 27—Memorial Day. Find a ceremony to attend.

August 19—25—Annual Reunion. San Antonio.

The Larry E. Smedley **Detachment of the Marine** Corps League—

Monthly Meeting, 2nd Tues, -7pm – 8pm American Legion Post 243 491 W. Broadway St. Oviedo 32799 Info: mclcfl@gmail.com

Or call Michael Segura (407)415-1504

"Heart of Florida" Women Marines Assoc. Chapter

Meets Second Saturday -10am. Rio Pinar Golf and Country Club, 8600 El Prado Ave, Orlando, FL 32825. Contact: Susan Finnigan Susan@lynnamorris.com

Central Florida Marine Corps Foundation:

CFMCF1775@gmail.com

Don't believe everything you read on the internet just because there's a picture with a quote next to it.



1ST MARINE DIVISION **ASSOCIATION**

~IMPORTANT~

Central Florida Chapter members (whether membership is regular or associate) need to be members of the 1st Marine Division Association...contact the FMDA office or visit the website for membership information.

NEW Association website give it a look!

www.1stmarinedivisionassociation.org

Address and contact information

1st Marine Division Association P.O. Box 9000, Box #902 Oceanside, CA 92051

Call Us: 1 (760) 763 3268 Open from Monday to Friday 08.00 AM - 16.00 PM PDT

Association President:

William Godfrey Email wsgsr9454@aol.com

Staff

Dennis J. Coady dennis.oldbreed@fmda.us

June Cormier June.OldBreed@FMDA.us



2024-2025 Central Florida Chapter officers being sworn in at the February meeting by Greg Melnick. Pictured from L to R: Sgt-at-Arms-Ron DeVasto, Chaplain– Terry Strassburg, Secretary-Susan Finnigan, Vice President-Barron Mills, President-Mike Galyean, not pictured Treasurer-Carlos Cuervas Congratulations Marines... The chapter is in good hands.

"Remember the Alamo!



Annual Reunion—San Antonio, Texas
August 19—August 25
Holiday Inn Riverwalk
217 N. St Mary's Street

1-888-465-4329

When calling to make your reservation use Code "FMD" to get the group rate.

Reunion co-chair Orlando Garza shared details of the reunion plans with the association officers at our Spring meeting. Here are some of the things we will have to look forward to for the week.

Tuesday 8/20— golf tournament open to Assoc. members

Wednesday 8/21—Registration (Everyday)

Thursday 8/22—A highlight of the reunion will be a trip on Thursday to the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, TX.

Friday 8/23—Memorial Service to be held at Veterans Plaza in the morning, Mariachi Band



Saturday 8/24— General Membership meeting, Ladies Luncheon and banquet.

There will be plenty of time for attendees to schedule activities of their own. Some suggestions are the Briscoe Museum of Western Art,(10 minute walk from hotel), Of course ,The Alamo is a must see for anyone who has not been there...a boat tour on the river is a must, Mission tours, Minor League Baseball, and city bus tours are some other choices, Of course, just strolling along the Riverwalk will keep you entertained for hours. Dining choices along the Riverwalk are endless.



A drink "tumbler" has been made available for our chapter members and will be for sale at the upcoming meeting. The cost will be \$20 and includes a second top fitted for use with a straw, along with 2 straws.



for a recognition ceremony to thank and honor all United States Armed Forces Vietnam Era Vetrans and their families with active-duty service between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, regardless of location.















Medical Center. RSVP for this event is

required. Please scan the QR code below!



Letter to the Editor:

I would like to thank you for allowing us to speak about our program, It was an honor to be able to let the Young Marine present it. Here are the links either to donate towards the Program and support our unit or by writing to our Congress.

https://youngmarines.org/public/page/ GetInvolved

Click on Get Involved and under Legislative Affairs you can read more about it.

If any of your members like to donate to the unit itself: Leadership School, Encampment, Supplies, Field trips. they are more than welcome to.

https://www.paypal.com/donate/? hosted button id=C7BQQL7P9S4HS

SgtMaj. John Gionet

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ponceinletprinting@gmail.com

Central Florida Chapter.

Thank you, Rick Dreves! http://www.cfc1stmardiv.com/

Visit the "In Their Own Words" page for anecdotal articles by members.



The Central Florida Chapter

wishes to recognize and honor its members now serving in the Corps Eternal



Plt.Sgt. Joe Adamik (2014) Capt. John Adamson 2015 Sgt. Ray Bauer (2015) Cpl. Chester Bened (2012) Joyce Bowden, assoc. (2017) Sgt. Tim Broughton (2013 Sgt. Glenn Brown (2011) Col. Harry Clarke (2013) Amy Clarke, assoc. (2017) Col. Richard A Connell (2022) Pfc. John Cromwell (2010) M.Sgt. Louis Curtis Wade Curtis (2011) Col. Ed Danowitz (2012) 1stSgt. Richard DeVasto (2019) Sgt. Arthur Dreves (2019) Plt. Sgt Robert Fincher (2014) Olga Fincher, assoc. (2022)

Capt. David Fowkes (2021) Capt. William Harwood (2010) Lt.Col. Dick Holt (2008) Carolyn Immerman, assoc. (2017) Sgt. Wade Jones (2012) Sgt. Joe Karlberg (2019) 1stSgt. Russell Kauffman (2023) Cpl. John "Rick" Kennedy (2012) Cpl. Louis Lang (2010) Sgt. Maj. Les LeBlanc (2005) Capt. Art Littlefield (2024) C.W. "Bill" Marks (2014) M.Sgt. Malcolm MacLean (2007) GySgt. Rudy Miller (2008) Capt. Ray Nielsen (2008) Sgt. Donald Neiss (2009) Col. Patrick Otoole (2018)

Pfc. Athanasse "Al" Parsons (2013) Capt. Jack Paxton (2018) **MSgt Edward Payton (2015)** Sgt. Victor Petris (2015) 1Lt. Steve Reich (2021) GySgt. Charles Ross (2013) 1Lt. George Schultz (2008) Cpl Don Schyberg (2017) **Col. Bill Tate (2019)** Pfc. "Wild Bill" Taylor (2010) Col. John Terry (2018) LtCol. John Tomlinson (2014) M.Sgt. Dale Wasson (2009) Cpl. James Weinberg (2022) Sgt. Carl Wenhold (2017) LtCol. Erich H. Wieler (2022) Col. Paul Wilson (2019)

Semper Fi, Ladies and Gentlemen.

You'll always be remembered.

MINUTES

Central Florida Chapter, 1st Marine Division Association Saturday, February 10, 2024 Fiddler's Green Irish Pub Winter Park, FL

Attendance: Mike Galyean, Terry Strassburg, Susan Finnigan, Nancy Galyean, Elmer Hawkins, Maryann Smith, Alice Weinberg, Mike Pomakis, Greg Melnick, Ron DeVasto, George Freelove, Luis Cambal, John Gionet, Robert Miller, Mark Cleaves

Call to Order, Opening comments
Business 2024 Membership repowals are due. Please pay dues by the end of the month
2024 Membership renewals are due. Please pay dues by the end of the month. Anonymous Donor has given challenge coins.
Selling for \$10. Also bringing to San Antonio for spring meeting and reunion.
New Chapter shirts Today is last day for orders. See handout. Collecting orders to submit
all together. Orders due today 2/10.
Annual Valentine "Sweetheart Dinner", Fiddlers Green, See handout. Monday night, 2/12.
2024 MC Birthday "SOS Breakfast" Will not take place.
Art Littlefield passed and was in attendance at 2023 breakfast. Mike Galyean attended memorial service.
1 st Marine Division Assoc. report
2024 Reunion set to be San Antonio, Holiday Inn Riverwalk; 18 – 25 th August, 2024 Mid-year Directors' meeting March 5 – 7; San Antonio Holiday Inn Riverwalk New FMDA website: https://lstmda.org/ Check it out. An impressive website.
Announcements
Barron Mills – Local Veterans Programs; Camaraderie Program; Veterans Beer Club, etc.
George Freelove – Veteran Association of Real Estate Professionals fundraiser for Fisher House
Veterans Beer Club – Feb 22
Women Marines Association – Reunion in Atlanta August 2024, Women Reserves 81 st Anniversary February. Next meeting April 6 th
FAVOB – Florida Association of Veteran Owned Businesses – Events on Facebook CFMCF Birthday Ball – November 2 nd at Doubletree Sea World
CFMCF Networking – Bar Louie
Next Chapter meeting – Sat. April 6.
General Hartsell – Florida Dept of VA Director
Program: A Dedicated Journey On the Appalachian Trail Mike Galyean Raffle Drawing Mike Pomakis
Winners: Susan, Hawk, Lisa
Closing Terry
Adjourn Members and guests invited to stay for lunch and beverage 12:22pm
Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Finnigan, Secretary

Central Florida Chapter 1st Marine Division Association 746 McIntyre Ave. Winter Park, FL 32789



In order to belong to the Central Florida Chapter, you must... Be a member of the 1st Marine Division Association

World War II ~ North China ~ Korea ~ Cold War ~ Vietnam ~ Gulf War ~ Iraqi Freedom ~ War on Terror

Call the 1st Marine Division Association in Oceanside, CA at (760) 763-3268 or email june.oldbreed@fmda.us for information

Central Florida Chapter Select Membership type: ____ Regular (\$20) ~ ___ Associate (\$20) ~ ___ Life (\$200) ~ Active Duty(\$10) ___ New ___ Renewal PLEASE PRINT: (Rank / Grade) (First Name) (Middle Initial) (Last Name) Number and Street or P.O. Box #) Spouses name (State) (City) I was with: (list two units, max)_____ (Company - Battalion - Regiment/Squadron - Group) WWII ___ China ___ Korea ___ Cold War ___ Vietnam ___ Gulf War ___ Iraqi Freedom ___ War on Terror ___ _____ Phone No. (___) _____ Recommended by _____ Email address: Please enclose \$20 for Regular / Associate Membership; \$200 for Life Membership; \$10 for Active Duty

Make checks payable to: Cent. Fla. Chap., 1st Mar. Div. Assoc.. ~~~ Return to Mike Galyean, 746 McIntyre Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789 You can now pay on-line by using PayPal. Go to the chapter website at http://www.cfc1stmardiv.com/