

Semper Fi

"THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

<http://www.mcltraecoheedet115.org/>

October 2012 Edition



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SSgt Walter F. "Trae" Cohee III

Detachment # 115

Salisbury, MD

Original Charter Date May 10, 1970

DETACHMENT OFFICERS

2012 - 2013

Commandant: Bill Marsich

Senior Vice Commandant: Temporarily Vacant

Judge Advocate: Ed Hearthway

Paymaster: Andy Bouma

Sgt-At-Arms: Walt Cohee

Junior Vice Commandant: Ed Elder

Junior Past Commandant: Andy Bouma

Adjutant: Richard Hyson

Chaplain: Jim Siegel

Web Sergeant: Don Elseroad

MEETING TIME & PLACE

Meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of each month. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on November 14th, 2012 at 1900 (7:00 P.M.) at the American Legion Post 64, 1109 American Legion Road, Salisbury, MD 21801. Please make every effort to attend.

Important Upcoming Dates & Events



2012 Presidential Election

Election Date: November 6, 2012

10 November 2012: Marine Corps Birthday Ball to be held at the American Legion Post #64 in the Lower Hall at 6 PM. Full course dinner/dance, semi-formal dress. Reservations: RSVP by check for \$25.00 per person before November 10. Checks are to be made payable to “MCL Detachment #115” and sent to Commandant W. Marsich, 603 Twin Tree Rd., Salisbury, MD 21801-6721. Birthday Ball tickets will also be available at the door at \$30.00 each. Donations of Marine memorabilia for auction are also requested.

12 January 2013: The Department of Maryland Winter Staff Meeting will be hosted by the Patuxent River Detachment 1305 at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. All MCL members are encouraged to attend.

Marine Military Expo West – 13-14 February 2013 – Camp Pendleton, CA

For complete info go here: <http://www.marinemilitaryexpos.com/modern-day-marine.shtml>

Marine Military Expo South – 11-12 April 2013 – Camp Lejeune, NC

For complete info go here: <http://www.marinemilitaryexpos.com/modern-day-marine.shtml>

April 30 to May 2, 2013: Department of Maryland Convention to be held in Ocean City, Maryland. Complete information will be made available at a later date.

"Sick or in Distress"

MCL Members Bob HORTIE, Jimmy Lee HOWARD, Ralph SMITH and Jeanie COHEE wife of member Walt COHEE are having or have recently had various health problems. Please keep these folks and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

"Membership Happenings"

(Please advise the Editor of any errors or omissions)

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|--|---|
| <p><u>NOVEMBER “HAPPY BIRTHDAYS”</u> 3rd Bob MILLER 7th Alanel CAPEN 10th USMC 237TH 10th Tom PRICE 11th Warner SUMPTER 30th JoAnne MIFFLETON</p> | <p><u>NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES</u> 8th JoAnne & Tom MIFFLETON (4 yrs) 21st Joan & John ROBINSON (14 yrs)</p> |
| <p><u>NOVEMBER MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u> Jimmie Lee HOWARD (42 yrs) Paul WARD (23 yrs) Jim SIEGEL ((14 yrs) Ralph CAPEN (7 yrs) Louis SLOWIK (Unk)</p> | <p><u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN</u> <u>NOVEMBER</u> Ralph CAPEN Louis SLOWIK</p> |
| <p><u>WELCOME ABOARD</u> None reported to your editor</p> | <p><u>MEMBERSHIP'S RENEWED</u> None reported to your editor</p> |

DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE

Please send your \$22.00 checks made payable to “MCL Det 115” to our paymaster. Also note we have a new paymaster....

Andy Bouma, Paymaster
 32175 Bonhill Dr
 Salisbury, MD 21804-1464

Initial dues for a new member are \$27.00 for the first year, thereafter yearly renewal dues are \$22.00.



**DON'T DELAY...JOIN TODAY
THEN CONSIDER GOING 'LIFE'
NOW IS THE TIME TO DO IT**

Myths & Misconceptions: Vietnam War Folklore

by Michael Kelley

July 1998

It is likely the American War in Vietnam produced as many myths and misunderstandings about the reality of the experience as any other war in our history.

While that may be true, it does not alter the fact these myths and misconceptions distort the truth in ways that affect the historical record and judgments formed about that war. In some cases, the distortions are of epic proportions and serve as often to discredit the reputation of the Vietnam veteran as much as they might inflate it.

From a personal perspective forged by my own life as a combat infantryman during the Vietnam War, and as tempered by over 28 years as a Vietnam Veteran advocate, I have grown increasingly perplexed by the frequent and often unchallenged bending of fact common to Vietnam war recollections and the evolving legacy of statistical data related to Vietnam veteran post-war behavior. Truth often gets lost in the shuffle and many of us remain either too complacent or too ignorant of the facts to correct the record.

It is common practice to lay the blame at the feet of the press, and certainly the media can shoulder its fair share of blame for its frequent failure to verify what are obviously exaggerated and preposterous claims yet broadcast as fact. The press should also be called to task for an equally disturbing predisposition to seek its material from lips of the most gaudily dressed and vocally demonstrative individuals at any gathering of veterans.

That said, the media is often only the messenger.

The sad fact is that the origin of most myths about the Vietnam experience originate among Vietnam Veterans themselves. It is also often the case that Vietnam veterans sincere in their belief of the folklore often unwittingly become its most zealous advocates and, in that sense, their own worst enemies.

Although the vast majority of these veterans are honest, hard-working and productive members of society, a fair number are also charlatans of the highest caliber. It is a fact that many who served in Vietnam but never saw combat there are ashamed of that fact even though they should not be. As a result, it is not uncommon for some to pursue self-aggrandizement through frequent embellished bending of the truth.

Understanding such behavior, however, is far less important than recognizing it.

In that regard I offer this: as a general rule, it has been my observation that true combat vets rarely talk about their experiences or embellish their stories and, in most situations, the degree of veracity of the storyteller is inversely proportional to the degree of the intrepidity which the storytellers attributes to himself. Never completely trust anyone whose war stories sound incredible in any way, or who paint themselves as heroic.

It is paradoxical of the combat experience that those who taste it rarely wish the experience on anyone, while those who do not often spend their lives in envy of those who have--the late Admiral Boorda being perhaps the most visible manifestation of this phenomenon. But whatever the psychology, truth often takes a severe beating in the bargain.

There are also more than a few phony vets who never set foot in Vietnam or perhaps never even in the military, yet know enough about the subject and how to manipulate the press such that they emerge accomplished and well-published frauds. The vast potential of the internet, as well as the ever-growing body of published memoirs, now provide such a wealth of material that it is becoming increasingly difficult to separate fact from fiction. While on the one hand these resources help expose frauds, they at the same time arm good liars with facts that lend authenticity to fabrication.

It is not my intent here to disparage those not involved in actual combat. We were all part of the same team and combat by itself is no measure of the effort or sacrifice of any man or woman who served in Vietnam.

It is a fact that many infantrymen saw relatively little combat (the author among them) and it is likely some rear echelon troops saw more combat and/or endured more hardship than many of us out busting the bush (though certainly in fewer numbers). But the truth is the truth, and that is all I hope to reveal.

It is an indisputable fact that the vast majority of all actual contacts with the enemy were suffered by maneuver elements (i.e., Infantry, Armor, Artillery, Aviation support and other units involved in direct contact with those soldiers out in the jungle, carrying a rifle and looking for trouble). For the Army at any rate, it is a fact that more than 70% of all casualties were suffered by the maneuver battalions and that casualties and discomfort were much rarer among those who served in rear areas (the large, well-protected bases that littered the Vietnam landscape) than among those breaking trail in the bush.

No apology is necessary for that reality, nor will I make excuses for the fact that much of what follows may highlight the infantryman while minimizing the suffering of rear echelon support troops. The simple truth is that as a general rule, life in the rear was very much safer and very much more comfortable than in was in the bush or out in the rice paddies. There is no question about that.

Quite frankly, politically-correct efforts to gloss over the reality of what it was like to be a soldier in Vietnam are wearing very thin indeed, and it is high-time we gave up the fiction and returned to some factual frames of reference.

Note Editor's: Over the next 13 months each edition of "The Scuttlebutt" will contain one of these 13 myths and misconceptions as written by Michael Kelley.

Vietnam War - search list

If you have not already seen this, you can view it for hours. A world of information and pictures. This is probably the best search list ever compiled about Vietnam.

<http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

RAO Bulletins

Each month your editor attempted to review all RAO Bulletins and put articles deemed important to veterans into our newsletters.

However, what may be important to me may not be important to you and I may very possibly overlook something you as a veteran might like to know about, so I am providing links below that will take you to THE current bulletins so that you might look them over. The below bulletins are dated September 15th and October 1st, 2012.

<http://sjcvets.zymichost.com/Bulletin%20120915%20PDF%20Edition.pdf>

<http://sjcvets.zymichost.com/Bulletin%20121001%20PDF%20Edition.pdf>

EVERY DAY PRAYER REQUEST

Life in Afghanistan is very difficult to bear right now. Our troops need our prayers for strength, endurance and safety. Stop for a moment each and every day and say a prayer for our troops around the world.

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen."

The Final Roll Call



The following Marines/Corpsman paid the ultimate sacrifice for God, Country and Corps since the last issue of 'The Scuttlebutt' was published.

[Dolphin, Staff Sgt. Patrick R.](#)

Moscow, PA

[Kancler, Sgt. Dennis E.](#)

Brecksville, OH

[Wrinkle, Sgt. Christopher M.](#)

Dallastown, PA

[Zanowick, Cpl. Paul W.](#)

Miamisburg, OH

[Raible, Lt. Col. Christopher K.](#)

Huntingdon, PA

[Atwell, Sgt. Bradley W.](#)

Kokomo, IN

[Steedley, Sgt. Camella M.](#)

San Diego, CA

If You Are Not Willing To Stand Behind Our Troops,
Please, Please Feel Free To Stand In Front Of Them!

On behalf of a grateful nation.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE
Support Our Troops



I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands,
One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

From your editor

If you are receiving this newsletter via "Snail Mail" and have email capability, please email me at 53usmc73@bvunet.net so that I can add you to my address book and cut down on the postage.

Any comments or suggestion on what should be in our newsletter! Articles/information you need! Let me know! The newsletter will go to press on or about the weekend following each meeting.

Don Elseroad, Editor

Quotes about Marines

Come on, you sons of bitches! Do you want to live forever?

GySgt. Daniel J. "Dan" Daly, USMC

near Lucy-`le-Bocage as he led the 5th Marines' attack into Belleau Wood, 6 June 1918

LINKS TO CHECK OUT

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4h699GimH04&feature=player_detailpage

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=ExUepS61rHI

http://www.youtube.com/v/I0fQd858Rc%26hl=en_US%26feature=player_embedded%26version=3

http://www.youtube.com/embed/TNJ9umv10EM?feature=player_detailpage

<http://www.staged.com/video?v=Sfmc>



-- Once a Marine, Always a Marine --



Ask Me What I Was

*I'll reply with what I've done,
Those things others would not do, I did;
Those rivers others would not swim, I swam;
Those hills others would not climb, I conquered;
Those bridges others would not cross, I crossed;
I have celebrated. I have mourned.
I have smiled and I have frowned.
I have seen death and felt its warm breath. I did not faze me,
For I was different. I was a warrior.
You ask me what I was? It was my destiny,
Until my last breath,
To be a United States Marine.
And my spirit shall live forever.*

Semper Fidelis

For I was, am and shall forever be a

“United States Marine”