**What is it?** The MCEA is a HQMC sanctioned, tax-exempt, nonprofit organization (IRS 501 (c) (19)), incorporated in NC, in 1991.

**MCEA Purpose/Bylaw highlights:**
- Promote Marine Corps engineering in combat engineer, engineer equipment, utilities, landing support (shore party), bulk fuel, topographic and construction engineering, drafting, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)
- Renew and perpetuate fellowship of retired, former and current US Marines who served with Marine Corps Engineer units and sister service members who served in support of Marine-Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Units
- Preserve the memory of those who served
- Promote an accurate historical record of the contributions of Marine Corps engineers
- Foster solidarity of Marine Corps engineers
- Keep members current with the Marine Corps engineer community
- Annually recognize superior achievement of active duty and reserve establishment Marine Corps EOD and engineer individuals & organizations, as well as Naval Construction Force Units

**MCEA Eligibility.** All former and current Armed Forces personnel who served with Marine Corps Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Units or in support of Marine Corps Engineer Units or US Marine Corps Base and Station billets.

**Membership Benefits:**
- Very affordable dues for yearly, multi-year & lifetime membership! 100% of dues and all contributions are tax deductible.
- Contributions to MCEA, Unit brick program and school sponsorship qualify for the Fellows Program.
- Access to members’ roster and capability to locate and reconnect with Marines and Sailors from former units
- Annual reunion with opportunity to interact with veterans as well as active/reserve duty personnel, corporate members and “Best of the Best” award recipients and their families
- Subscription to MCEA newsletter
- Notification of employment opportunities especially in the DOD and civilian engineering community
- Capability to interact daily with other members via website and email and receive updates from MCEA
- Unlimited access to website and special “members only” section
- Access to history, lineage and other information about USMC engineer units
- Availability of unique MCEA Ship’s Store items; - Discounts on Military Historical Tours, Inc

**MCEA Engineer Monument.** Dedicated 14 May, 2014, as an enduring tribute to all Marine Corps Engineers, past, present and future in the Semper Fidelis Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Personalized and unit bricks available for purchase to be located adjacent to our Engineer Monument.

**Sponsorship of engineer related formal school courses.** Opportunity to sponsor any of the 1000 graduates in the 20 annual courses.

**Bottom Line:** MCEA provides a unique opportunity to connect or reconnect and maintain communication with Marine Corps engineers, the Marine Corps family, recognize outstanding performance of individual Marines and engineer and Seabee organizations and to leave a memorable legacy for our Marine Corps engineer brotherhood.

**Reunions/Awards Banquets:** Camp Lejeune, NC ’92, ’93,’99, ’07, ‘15; Camp Pendleton, CA ’94; ’08, ’14; Gatlinburg, TN ’95; Wilmington, NC ’96; Denver, CO ’97; Savannah, GA ’98; Quantico, VA ’00, 10; Branson, MO ’02, ‘12; Harrisburg, PA ’03; Portland, OR ’04; Myrtle Beach, SC ’05; Boston, MA ‘06; Las Vegas, NV ’09; San Diego, CA ’11,’18. Orlando, FL ‘13; Pala, CA ‘14, ’16; Fredericksburg, VA ’17; San Antonio, TX ’19

**MCEA, 6998 Highway 64E, Wartrace, TN 37183-3057 Phone: 931-307-9094**

**GET ALL THE DETAILS AT:** [WWW.MARCORENGASN.ORG](http://WWW.MARCORENGASN.ORG)

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*Engineers Up!* is the annual newsletter of the Marine Corps Engineer Association (MCEA) published to provide members news and information about the activities of their association. Only a limited number of copies are printed to minimize costs; however, *Engineers Up!* is available to the general public on the MCEA website, www.marcorengasn.org. MCEA is a non-federal entity; therefore, according to regulation, neither the DoD or the U.S. Marine Corps, nor any of its components, endorse the MCEA or MCEA product, service or event.
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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

On Target and Continuing to Advance

I’m going to divert from the basic “Year in Review” format in this message to focus on what I see as the major challenges ahead for MCEA. But to do that in perspective, I need to present a thumb-nail history from where we have come:

1. MCEA was incorporated in 1991 in North Carolina and was “sanctioned” by HQMC. At the time, “sanctioned” meant that we were authorized to use the title “Marine Corps” and the eagle, globe and anchor as part of our insignia. That term has different meaning today and we may need to find a new word for our status.

2. The Annual Awards were initiated in 1995 which we have supported with both dollars and time for some 25 years. Management of the selections shifted more heavily to HQMC (Code LPE) a few years ago but we remain the primary agency for all the other aspects.

3. In 2011, we initiated the 1stLt Harry Martin Award at Expeditionary Warfare School to recognize the top engineer graduate. In 2019, that award (and course sponsorship recognition for the other engineer graduates) was perpetually endowed in memory of Col James Aichele thanks to a very generous donation by the Aichele family. There is much more information on Col Aichele elsewhere in this newsletter.

4. Our Course Sponsorship program, established in 2014, supports with both dollars and time complimentary 3-year memberships for all graduates of engineer schools above basic enlisted qualification level. While there are some “bumps in the road” from increasing security and privacy concerns, we remain committed to this initiative.

5. In 2012 we initiated a project for an Engineer Monument in the Memorial Garden at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. We raised the funds and installed a fabulous monument in 2014 and continue to invest dollars and time in the brick surround.

6. In 2015 when 2d Combat Engineer Battalion expressed a desire to revive the Sapper Squad Competition, MCEA agreed to support that endeavor with awards for the winning squad and unit. The first competition was held in 2016 and we remain committed to support the annual competition.

7. We have worked diligently to get Marine Corps engineers (and in a broader sense, combat engineering) integrated into the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) “umbrella.” That includes awarding SAME Awards at our Awards Banquet since 2016 and getting formal criteria for those awards approved by HQMC for the 2020 cycle.

8. We supported with both dollars and time the multi-year effort to restore the historic TD-18 bulldozer at Marine Corps Engineer Schools at Camp Lejeune and to provide appropriate recognition to all the personnel involved. The project was completed in 2017.

9. Over numerous years our historians have devoted hundreds of hours to compiling and clarifying Marine Corps engineer history in conjunction with Historical Division, HQMC and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.

OK, you say, but what are the challenges ahead? One thing stands out above all the rest and that is the need for on-going “refreshment” of leadership. I have said all of this before at one time or another to various audiences, but the time has come to repeat it to all our “plank-holders.”
The reality of volunteer leadership has two foundations: first, that it requires a fairly large number of people, most of whom are doing tasks with minimal time demands; and second, that a few positions require a small number of people who can devote major time to MCEA. MCEA was founded by Vietnam era vets and almost 30 years later is still heavily reliant on folks of that era for much of the time-commitment spectrum, totally so for the heavy time commitment end.

We understand that active duty members have little time to share since it ends up detracting from time with family. The same often holds true with members involved in a second career after EAS or retirement. But I ask each of you if you could not spare the time to be an Associate Director for a small number (as few as 10 or 15 – you tell us what you feel comfortable taking on) of members. Your “job” is to make contact by phone or email 2-3 times per year to ensure that we have current address, phone, and email information. Assuming a 5-minute call, 3 times a year, that’s somewhere between 15 and 20 minutes per month – hardly a major time commitment. If you would be willing to try this out, contact our 2nd VP, Joe DeHart.

Later on, while still in that second career (or third or fourth) there comes a time when some demands slack off, even if not the job. The kids are mostly grown and some or all are out of the house (and the ones that remain are usually out the door and doing their own thing) and you may feel that you could take on a bit more – say something in the hour or so a week or perhaps a bit more. We have a variety of tasks that you could help us accomplish and they are sufficiently different that you can dictate the kind of time commitment. It can be a fairly even couple of hours a month or a more intense commitment one or two times per year. If you find it in your heart to take on something like this, connect with me and we can discuss what is a “best fit” to your time and talents.

The most critical need is for folks who are close to retiring and are willing to make a major commitment to MCEA. Now I don’t mean a “full-time” unpaid job. All of us in these positions still take vacations, go on cruises, visit grandkids, and just generally “have a life” beyond MCEA. But we are not getting any younger! I would like to find someone willing to learn the Treasurer’s position (I have been doing it for 11 years now – and while my religious beliefs lead me to expect “eternal life” I seriously doubt it will come with internet access to Quick Books and email!) Several other key officers are similarly looking for some relief. So, I challenge all of you in your sixties to take a look at MCEA leadership as something worthy of your time. I don’t really expect too many volunteers to come knocking, so I will be personally contacting individuals that fit the basic criteria and extending a personal invitation to join the team.

OK, enough for today’s sermon. I want to highlight a major event of this past year. The widow and son of Col James Aichele, USMC(Ret) have graciously endowed our sponsorship of the 1stLt Martin Award at EWS for the top engineer graduate. Col Aichele’s career is highlighted elsewhere in this Newsletter and is interesting reading. I commend it to you, heartily. To pique your interest, Col Aichele is the only individual ever designated “Chief of Engineers, USMC” (even if just as an honorary title).

God Bless and Semper Fi. Engineers UP!

George
Dear Readers, Fellow Marine Corps Engineers & MCEA Supporters,

This year marks the beginning of our Association’s 30th year of promoting and perpetuating what Marine Corps engineers have done, are doing and will be doing in the future. As George Carlson, our President, stated on the preceding pages, MCEA has accomplished many things that we can and should be proud of. One of the areas the Executive Committee has focused on is updating, correcting and simplifying files, addresses and records. In conjunction with the Associate Directors, a concerted effort has been made to insure the roster of deceased members is up to date and correct. You will notice the In Memoriam section is a little longer than usual. That is due to two reasons: one, we are an aging association; and, two, we have added members who passed away several years ago, but whose deaths were not properly reported. Hopefully, we have corrected those errors. I have tried to include a picture or two of each Marine listed and a brief summary of their service. I was greatly assisted in this effort by Pam Jeans who has worked tirelessly to make sure everyone is listed in Together We Served, the largest U.S. military veteran website. Every year I am humbled as I edit the obituaries-- what brave, selfless, community-oriented heroes belong to MCEA!

Although there is no separate History Supplement this year, there are two historical sections. The first is Chief of Engineers – US Marine Corps and the second is Operation SHUFLY written by our Assistant Historian, Phil Martin. I commend both of these to you. I know they will make you recall many things from the past or give you better insight into what Marines were doing last century. In researching his article, Phil poured over hundreds of now declassified messages as well as other Marine Corps Historical Division materials. As a reminder, the previous history supplements from 2013 through 2018 are available on the MCEA website. They are truly an invaluable resource, and I encourage you to read them if you haven’t already done so.

Naturally, a newsletter takes the concerted effort of many individuals. George Carlson and Ken Frantz have provided tremendous support, insight and information, and the Executive Committee members have also provided their input. I would like to specifically mention that we are all indebted to Ms. Debbie Hellman for providing the outstanding photographic coverage of the Awards Banquet and Reunion. Her pictures truly captured the magic of the moment. Unfortunately only some of them could be included; however, all of the pictures can be viewed on the MCEA website (www.marcorengasn.org). Incidentally, she and her husband, Colonel Bo Hellman USMC (Ret.), were key figures in the Camp Pendleton Historical Society commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Battle of Iwo Jima. A magazine was published along with digital versions of HQMC’s U.S. Marine Corps – Iwo Jima Operation- Feb-Mar 1945. View online versions of the publications at: https://issuu.com/camppendletonhistoricalsociety.

As we go to press, the impact of the Corona Virus is still unknown; regardless, I am hoping to be able to see you at our next Reunion.

Happy Reading,
Joel Cooley, MCEA Newsletter Coordinator
MCEA OFFICIALS & KEY SUPPORTERS

Executive Committee

President: LtCol George Carlson, USMC (Ret)
Vice President: LtCol Tony Raniszewski, USMC (Ret)
2nd Vice President: MSgt Joe DeHart, USMC (Ret)
Treasurer: LtCol George Carlson, USMC (Ret)
Chaplain: Col Tom Dalzell, USMC (Ret)
Historian: Col Robin Gentry, USMC (Ret) (Temp Lv of Absence)
Secretary: MGySgt Ed Montanez, USMC (Ret)
Corporate Membership: LtCol Bill Ford, USMC (Ret)
Publicity/Newsletter: Col Joel Cooley, USMC (Ret)
Permanent Associate Director (Founder): Col Jim Marapoti, USMC, (Ret)
Permanent Associate Director: MSgt Phil Martin, USMC (Ret)
Permanent Associate Director: Maj Charlie Dismore, USMC (Ret)
Permanent Associate Director: Col Ken Frantz, USMC (Ret)
Permanent Associate Director: Col Paul Pankey, USMC (Ret)
Member At Large: Col Bo Hellman, USMC (Ret)
Member At Large: MGySgt Wayne Bennett USMC (Ret)
Member At Large: Col Mike McCarthy USMCR
Member At Large: Mike Zacchea, Vet
Member At Large: Justin Watkins, Vet
Member At Large: Col Chris Scannell, USMC (Ret)

Support Staff

Webmaster: Geoff Nicely, USMC Vet
ObituarySearch/Together We Served (TWS) & Profile of Fallen Engineers: Pam Jeans
Bookkeeper: Wendi Watts

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

The Associate Directors (ADs) of the MCEA are the main means for keeping contact with the membership. We have 21 ADs covering the country. Each AD is a direct link to each MCEA member in their assigned area of a state or region. The AD insures that the contact information of each member is current, transmits information to the members, and monitors those who are ill or in distress. The ADs offer condolence calls to family members when needed and let them know that the Association is there for any of their needs. These Marines give up their time to be the spokesmen for the MCEA for their members and should be recognized for their hard work. The Association is very grateful for their commitment to their Marines. As our membership grows, we are in need of additional ADs to assist in this vital work. Those that would like to step up, please contact Joe DeHart, Dmsgt123@gmail.com
JOE DeHART, AD Director (2nd Vice President, AD to Warrior Angels, AD for Virginia Region). Lives in Galax, VA, retired MSgt, married to Betty Jo.

GEORGE W. BARRIS, AD For North East Region. Lives in East Bridgewater, MA, Marine Vet.

WAYNE BENNETT, AD NC, Tenn. Region, Lives in Lynchburg, VA., retired MGySgt, Married to Kim.

JOHN CHAMPEAU (SOAPY), AD VA Region, lives in Virgina Beach, VA, retired LtCol.

ROGER COHOE, AD MI, MN, OH regions, lives in Lewiston, MI, Marine Vet.

JOSEPH COOMBS, AD NC region, lives in West Jefferson, NC, Marine Vet.

GLEN DAEHNKE, AD NJ region, lives in Westhamton, NJ, retired Maj.
HELMUTS FEIFS, AD for North Carolina Region. Lives in Durham, NC, former Capt.

BILL FORD, AD for Oregon - Washington region, lives in Corvallis, OR, retired LtCol.


RONALD E. FULLER, AD For California. Lives in Chula Vista, CA, retired MGySgt.

TONY HILLARD, AD for Georgia Region. Lives in Tucker, GA., retired LtCol, married to Peggy.
PAM JEANS, AD for TogetherWeServed (TWS), lives in El Centro, CA, Warrior Angel. She has devoted her time to developing profiles of Marine engineers for the TWS web site. If you have not done so, contact Pam at jeans@netptc.net, to add your profile.

DEDE JECEVICUS, Associate Director for Warrior Angels, Lives in Kenosha, WI

PETER T. LEONARD, AD for Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virginia. Lives in Marshfield, MA, retired MGySgt.

DAVE LITTELL, AD CA region, lives in Oxnard, CA, retired LtCol.

LOU NAPPI, AD for Virginia Region. Lives in Haymarket, VA, retired LtCol.

LARRY VARLEY, AD for Texas Region. Lives in Sheridan, TX, Marine Vet, married to Darnell.

JAMES W. WHEYLAND, AD for Nevada, Utah, Arizona and Missouri. Lives in Del Mar, CA, Marine Vet.


These Marines give up their time to continue serving. If they contact you by phone, email, or letter, please respond in some way to let them know you are in good health and your contact information is correct.
Below are our members who have died. May they join their fellow Marines and Sailors in God's Love and Peace.
IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING OUR RECENTLY DEPARTED ENGINEER BROTHERS

Listed after each name is their Together We Served (TWS) file number, where applicable. For further information about the individual and their service record, organizations and units, photos and personal history, log on to https://marines.togetherweserved.com/. You must be a TWS member to log on; however, all MCEA members are encouraged to join TWS and record their military service. It is a meaningful way to document history from a personal viewpoint and it is a wonderful legacy to leave for your family.

*BROWN, WILLIAM E. MSGT (RET) TWS 484266


Learning his father's trade, Bill became a carpenter. War was declared and at age 21 in June 1942, he enlisted in the Marines and trained at Paris Island, S.C. After utilizing his carpentry skills, the Marines assigned Bill to a dive bomber squadron in Camp Kearney, Calif. In December 1942, the Marines sent him with an international crew to Efate Island in the Solomon Islands. He worked at Guadalcanal’s Henderson Field on the flight line, where he learned to start up, taxi, and take care of a plane. As aircraft gunners were wounded, men from the flight line replaced them. On one nightly raid, a direct hit from the Japanese destroyed Bill’s plane.

In 1944, Bill returned to the U.S. and trained as an aircraft mechanic on F4U’s. At Long Beach Naval Base, he served as one of the Sergeants of the Guard for the security and shore patrols. When discharged in 1945, he returned to carpentry work in Baltimore for three months, then re-enlisted in 1946. He served at Camp Lejeune, NC in 1949, with the Reserves Training Battalion. When the Korean War began in 1950, his duties changed to processing: ensuring men got physicals, clothing issue and shots. Next, he joined the newly formed 8th Engineer Battalion and received training at the Construction Foreman School at Fort Belvoir, VA. He reported to Quantico in 1954 as NCOIC for maintenance of the Guadalcanal Area’s 3 camps. In January 1956, the USMC promoted Bill, age 34, to Master Sergeant, and sent him to Camp Lejeune where he was a Platoon Sergeant. The following year, the battalion helped rebuild Camp Vieques in Puerto Rico, which was destroyed by a storm. After completing Recruiters School at Paris Island, he was assigned to Baltimore. In 1963, he worked in Okinawa as Section 3 Chief then Platoon Leader in the Engineer Battalion. Bill returned to recruiting duty and retired in 1966.

After he retired, Bill and his family owned and managed Park ‘N Tell restaurant in Dumfries, Va., and enjoyed horses, sailing, crabbing and fishing. He then returned to carpentry work into his late 80s. On April 20, 1991, in Arlington County, Va., he married his beloved Saadia Ghazzali, formerly of Morocco. The couple enjoyed entertaining family and friends, fishing from their pontoon boat, picnics, and taking cruises in the Caribbean. Bill was a member of the American Legion, Moose, Marine Corps Association and a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.
Anthony A. DeGennaro, Captain, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), 89, passed away on Friday, August 2, 2019. Born on June 17, 1930 in Schenectady, NY, he was the son of the late Arthur and Dora DeGennaro, immigrants from Torre Truglia, Italy.

Mr. DeGennaro's younger life of work was in the construction trade as a carpenter. Later in life, he was a professional soldier, serving proudly in the U.S. Army and Marine Corps; raising to the rank of Captain of Marines, with tours in South East Asia and combat in Vietnam. Anthony received the Bronze Star Medal with Combat “V” for gallantry and other honorary medals; serving with the Combat Engineers during his Marine Corps service. He retired in 1975.

Anthony graduated from Washington Irving Junior High School and Mont Pleasant High School. He later received college degrees in The Humanities and Liberal Arts. Anthony had a passion for gardening which led him to his longtime companion and love, Virginia Ciancio. Anthony also helped to establish the Italian American Heritage Museum, located on Central Avenue in Albany, NY. Anthony spent countless hours building and adding onto the museum - whatever it took to get it up and running.

Anthony is survived by his children, Peter DeGennaro of Barefoot Bay, FL, Paul (Ann) DeGennaro of Ocean View, NJ., Mary Hazzard (Charles) Phelps of Jacksonville, NC, Marta DeGennaro of Sebastian, FL and his step daughter, Linda (Bobby) Cisowski of West Homosassa, FL. He has several grandchildren and great grandchildren who he loved with all his heart. Anthony was a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association. A funeral service with military honors was held on August 10, 2019.

Charles Edwin “Eddie” Burge, 76, died on November 10, 2019 at his home in Houston, Texas. Eddie was born in Houston on November 29, 1942 to William Farley Burge and Sarah Demia Cook Burge. He graduated from Bellaire High School before attending Texas A&M University, where he was a Ross Volunteer. After graduating from A&M, Eddie was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, ultimately attaining the rank of Captain. He fought in some of the fiercest battles of the Vietnam War, including Con Thien, and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat “V” and two Purple Hearts, among other citations. He never forgot the men who served with him.

After an honorable discharge, Eddie attended the University of Houston Law Center. He practiced law for three years with the Foster, Lewis firm in San Antonio before moving back to Houston to work for Ayrshire Corporation, the real estate development company founded by his father. Eddie was president of Ayrshire Corporation until 1992, when he founded his own company, Eland Development. Over the course of his career, Eddie and his associates developed a number of landmark commercial and residential properties in Houston, Dallas, New Orleans, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and New York City.

Eddie married his high school sweetheart, Linda Sullivan, in 1964, and they had three sons. Eddie was a devoted and faithful husband, and in later years enjoyed annual anniversary trips with Linda to the Penobscot River in Maine. He was a patriot who believed in service and honoring those who served our country and would have been glad to have passed from this world on the 244th birthday of the U.S. Marines. Eddie was a Life member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Eddie is survived by his wife Linda Sullivan Burge, sons Charles E. Burge Jr. and wife Stacie of Simpsonville, KY, Farley S. Burge and wife Dawn of Houston, Mathew S. Burge of Houston; granddaughters Noelle Burge and Caroline Burge, of Houston; and brother Billy Burge, of Houston. He is preceded in death by his sister Sara Ann Burge Good.
Milton D. Drummond Jr., Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), 88, of Henrico, VA., passed away on December 25, 2019. Left to cherish his memory are Patsy L. Drummond, his wife of 66 years; children, David M. Drummond and Kathryn Drummond Carson; grandchildren, Ryan Williams, Gregory Carson, Nicholas Carson, Jeremy Carson and Margaret Carson; one great-grandchild; and one brother. Milton served 25 years in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1949 to 1975, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel after serving in both the Korean and Vietnam conflicts and having been awarded two Bronze Star Medals, one with Combat “V.” Milton was a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association. Interment was on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at the Quantico National Cemetery, Triangle, VA.

Frederick W. Filkins, First Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), 89, passed away on November 29, 2019. Born in Illinois on July 19, 1928 he served from 1945 until 1969, primarily with the 1st Engineer Battalion and the 3rd Pioneer Battalion. He served in China (1948-1949), Korea (1952-1953) and Vietnam (1965-1966). He was a Distinguished Pistol Expert having won the Smith and Wesson Trophy Match at the National Mid-Winter Center Fire Championship in the March 1957 National Matches. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Marine Corps League and a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association. He resided in Prescott, AZ prior to his death.

A man is moral, and ethical only when all of like is sacred to him, that of plants and animals as well as that of his fellow man. This is the absolute principle of the moral and ethical.

-Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)
Patrick D. Finton, Captain, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), 83, passed away on May 29, 2019. Born June 1, 1935 in Syracuse, he led a colorful career as a Marine enlisted man. After serving a short stint with the Indiana National Guard, he began his Marine enlistment in recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, and infantry training at Camp Pendleton, California. From there, he was assigned to Camp Fuji, Japan, for OJT with Company “A” 3rd Engineer Battalion. This was to the first of four tours in Japan.

One of his most memorable tours was a two-month assignment at Tampico, Mexico in 1955. He was there to build water supply points, during disaster relief operations. During his third tour in Japan, he met Chieko Sakae, and they were married at the American Consulate in Yokohama during January of 1958. The turning point in his career was during his assignment to the Republic of Vietnam. The then Staff Sergeant Finton was attached as an engineer to Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, where he showed exemplary knowledge and valor, especially noteworthy during Operations Starlight, Piranha, Triple Play, and Blue Marlin. During one operation, he was wounded, but refused to be evacuated. He continued to supervise the demolition of a large network of Viet Cong tunnels and bunkers. It was this, and many other actions which led to his receiving the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal with Combat “V” and an even higher honor in August of 1967, to receive a battlefield commission. He was promoted from Gunnery Sergeant to Second Lieutenant.

He completed his 26 year career at Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station in Hawaii in December of 1978. From there, he began his 19 year career with the Maricopa Highway Department, retiring as the Chief Engineering Inspector in May 1998. While in Arizona, he continued his passion for the outdoors and higher education, completing two associate degrees from Glendale Community College in 1984 and 1986, and later a Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Arizona University in May 1999. He was an amazing and loving Husband, Father, Grandfather, and friend to all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Chieko Finton, son Stephan Finton, and daughter Kimberly Clark, as well as four grandchildren (Joseph Seto, Guyson Seto, Ryan Finton, and Hannah Finton), and five great-grandchildren (Aria Seto, Celeste Seto, Max Seto, Mila Seto, and Miles Seto). Services were held at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona on June 3, 2019. He was a Life member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association.

Harold Lloyd Groves, Gunnery Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), 86, died Monday, June 17, 2019 at his daughter’s home in Gallatin. Born October 9, 1932 in Robertson County, TN, Harold was the son of the late Levi Bethel Groves and Gracie Bell (Hester) Groves. He was also preceded in death by his first wife, Margie (Nunley) Groves; a son, Donald; his second wife, Mary (Bryant) Groves; and a brother, Charles R. Groves. Harold was a retired Marine, having served 20 years in the USMC and retiring at the rank of Gunny Sergeant. He served in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars and was a Purple Heart recipient. After retiring from the Marine Corps, Harold worked for the US Postal Service. He had also worked as a crossing guard for Hendersonville High School. Harold had a deep sense of patriotism and respected any uniform, whether military or public service. His family thought of him as loving, courageous, strong and honorable. He was also a fan of NASCAR and the Atlanta Braves baseball franchise. He is survived by his children, David D. Groves, Deborah D. Whitson, and Donna D. (Mike) Shepherd; 6 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; as well as extended family members and friends. A celebration of life service was held on June 19, 2019 followed by burial with military honors at the Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery in Pegram. He was a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association.
Richard Theodore (Ted) Hawley, 83, died on May 22, 2019 at the family farm north of Vail, Iowa. Born on November 28, 1935 in Denison, Iowa to Robert Theodore and Alice (Brockelsby) Hawley, he was the youngest of four siblings. Ted attended country school in Milford Township for one year and then Vail public schools, graduating in May of 1954. In high school, he was a standout in sports, playing basketball, track and softball. In 1956, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was stationed at Camp Pendleton and served with the 1st Engineer Battalion and the 1st Pioneer Battalion. He attained the rank of corporal. On August 21, 1956, he married Jeanne Aylward at the Vail Presbyterian Church. After the wedding, they returned to California until he was discharged in March of 1958. While in California, their daughter Kimberly Joy was born. They returned to the family farm north of Vail and farmed with his brother Bob until 1958 when he bought his own farm where he farmed for the next 60 years. He raised row crops, cattle, hogs and chickens. He retired from active farming in 1998, leasing his land but remaining on the farm, always checking to see the leasers were “treating the land right.” He supported the community by volunteering for numerous committees and events, serving on the Community School board for six years. He was on the original board of the Crawford County Cattlemen’s Association, a member of the Vail United Presbyterian Church his entire life and served as an elder. He was a 50 year member of the Masonic Lodge and a Past Master of Diamond Lodge 422 in Vail and a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association.

Ted is survived by his wife of 63 years Jeanne; his five children: Larry (Barb) Horky of Sioux City; Kim (Randy) Muhlbauer of Vail; Tom (Tami) of Mount Ayr; Russell (Lori) of Vail; Theodore (Joni) of Missouri Valley; his sister Gladys (Dean) Morford of Rio Verde, Arizona; brother-in-law Gordon Hinz of Iowa City; sister-in-law Norma Hawley of Denison; sister- and brother-in-law Joyce and Kenny Kock of Vail; brother- and sister-in-law Paul and Mary Aylward of Huron, SD; 15 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Bob, sister Marie Hinz and grandson Eric Horky.

Thomas Joseph Kanaley, 87, passed away on May 15, 2019 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Born on July 4, 1931 he served in the Marine Corps from 1951 to 1959 as a combat engineer attaining the rank of Corporal. Thomas was a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association.

History comes and history goes, but principles endure, and ensure future generations will defend liberty not as a gift from government but as a blessing from our Creator.”

-President Ronald Reagan (1911-2004)
Thomas “Eddie” Edward Lail, 70, of Morganton, North Carolina passed away on September 6, 2018 at his residence, following a period of declining health. Eddie was born on July 22, 1948 in Burke County to the late Thurman Edward Lail and Irene Queen Lail. Following his graduation from high school, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served from 1967-69 as a combat engineer and was awarded the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Purple Heart. Following his time in the service, Eddie came home to run his own lawn care and detail businesses. He was also a 15 year cancer survivor. Eddie was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and friend, and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Gary Keith Lail and one sister, Erna “Sis” Owens. Survivors include his beloved wife, Angela Causby Lail, two daughters, Michele Ervin and husband Jeff, and Joy Clark; granddaughter, Haley and fiancé Matt, grandsons, Tyler (Heather), Micah, Maleke and Mason and great-grandsons, Landon, Greyson and Liam. Also surviving are two brother-in-laws, Richard and wife Julie, Allen and wife Martha, three sister-in-laws, Krista, Elaine, Hilda and husband Pete, numerous nieces and nephews, and his extended family, Dale and Rachel Cozort and Emily Cranford. A memorial service was held on September 10, 2018 at the Burkemont Baptist Church.

Edward, N. Lawless, Master Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), 78, formerly of Tuckerton, New Jersey died September 3, 2016 at Patriots Colony, Williamsburg, VA. His wife, Margaret, daughter Maureen, parents George and Margaret Lawless, as well as siblings, Rev George P. Lawless (OSA), Sister George Margaret Lawless (SSJ), John, and Bernard preceded him in death. Edward was born in Philadelphia in 1938 and graduated from Northeast Catholic High School in Philadelphia and from East Carolina University. During his military career from 1956 to 1976 he was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Service Medal. Survivors include: 4 daughters, Kelly Burkhard and husband Joel; Denise Lawless; Rosemary Paul and husband Robert and Colleen Lawless. Grandchildren, Brendan and Hannah Burkhard; Erin, Kayla and Caroline Paul. Siblings, Margaret McNally, Denise Quigg and Joseph Lawless. Funeral service was held on September 9, 2016 at St. Thersea’s Catholic Church, Little Egg Harbor, NJ. Interment with military honors was at Arlington National Cemetery. He was a member of American Legion Post 493, Little Egg Harbor, NJ and a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association. Edward proudly served his country as a three-time Vietnam Veteran, where for some, experiences forge friendships, but for a Marine, combat forges a brotherhood.
Dr. Edward Prior Leahy, 90, of Issaquah, WA, passed away peacefully at the Evergreen Hospice Center on April 9, 2013. Born on April 1, 1923 to Edward Charles Prior Leahy and Aurelia Margaret (Scherz) Leahy in New York City, Ed grew up in the Port Washington, NY community. He was a good student and enjoyed sports and reading.

Following the bombing at Pearl Harbor, Ed left his studies at the University of Virginia to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. As part of the 20th Marines, 4th Marine Division during World War II, Ed took part in some of the fiercest combat of the war. Successfully making landings at Saipan, Tinian, Roi Namur, and Iwo Jima, he proudly served his country and was honorably discharged.

Following the war, Ed returned to his studies at the University of Virginia, earning a degree in Civil Engineering. Returning to New York, he worked for a brief time in the city and then accepted a commission in the U.S. Navy as an officer in the Civil Engineer Corps. Following his service, Ed continued his education, earning an MBA at Columbia University in 1958.

Upon completing his graduate studies, Ed set off to learn more about the world over the horizon. He worked and lived throughout the Americas, Europe and North Africa. Some of these experiences included working as a deck hand on a Danish freighter, building airports in Morocco and acting in the movie Moby Dick with Gregory Peck, and directed by John Huston. Whether he was spending time with Hollywood stars, lying on the beach in Majorca, or penniless in Paris, Ed boldly experienced life in a courageous way.

Approaching middle age, Ed decided that teaching was his professional calling in this life. He earned his Doctorate in Geography from the University of Florida and in 1969 accepted a position at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. That same year, Ed married Palmyra Monteiro of Belo Horizonte, Brazil. They welcomed two children in 1971 and 1973, made a good life in the community and attended St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. Ed and Pia divorced in the mid-1990s, with Pia remaining in Greenville.

Ed moved to Issaquah, WA and married Connie Dow. In retirement, the couple found great happiness and enjoyed camping, hiking, the Pacific Northwest Ballet and continued world travels.

Ed is the author or co-author of numerous academic articles and books, including Venezuela, Search for a Middle Ground, 1969; and Earth and Man, 1981. In addition, his autobiography, In the Islands, On the Road to Adventure details his service during the War and his life of exploration.

Ed is survived by his wife, Connie Leahy, of Issaquah; his ex-wife, Pia Leahy of Greenville, NC; daughter, Christy Leahy Becker (Brian) of Greenville, NC; son, Thomas E. Leahy (Patti) of Ashton, MD; and four grandchildren, William and Carina Becker and Jude and Sonia Lucia Leahy. Ed was predeceased by his parents and sister, Edith Lischer. Ed was a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association.

A man’s country is not a certain area of land, of mountains, rivers, and woods, but it is a principle and patriotism is loyalty to that principle
- George William Curtis
John Michael Murphy, 89, passed away peacefully at his residence at Mansfield Place, Essex Jct., VT, on February 23, 2019. He was born in Malden on December 6, 1929 the son of the late William Augustus and Mary Pauline (Coffee) Murphy. John was proud to have served our country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. John was a Professor of Economics at North Shore Community College, active in the Army Reserve, volunteered for the Town of Newbury Personnel Board and was Moderator for the Byfield Water District. He was a resident of Byfield for 50 years where his children grew up. John enjoyed reading the daily newspaper and keeping up with current events, visiting bookstores and most of all spending time with his family. He also enjoyed traveling with his companion Roberta Flood, a fellow fun-loving classmate from Malden High School.

John is survived by his two daughters, Monica Murphy John and husband Alex of Underhill Center, Janet Murphy Madsen and husband, Eric of Juneau, Alaska; four grandchildren, Crystal Ketah and husband, Jeff of Juneau, Alaska, Autumn Hadley of Anchorage, Alaska, Liam John of West Bolton, Vermont and Ethan John of Bozeman, Montana; two great-grandchildren Dexter and Selena Ketah both of Juneau, Alaska; and many nieces and nephews on the East Coast. John was a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association. A private graveside service was held in May in the family lot in St. Thomas Cemetery, Underhill, VT where full military honors were accorded this Korean War Veteran.

John D. Myers, 84, passed away on June 25, 2015 at his home in Columbus, Ohio. Born on April 9, 1931 he is preceded in death by his wife Betty Ann (Wright) in 2014 and son David. John is survived by daughter Melinda, son-in-law Peter Joseph, granddaughter Nevada, great-grandchildren Maya and Sammy. He is also survived by siblings Ann Dierk, Robert, Lawrence (Bud), Leonard (Butch) and Tom as well as many sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. His brothers Charles (Pete), Richard, Don, Paul, and George preceded him in death. John had a kind and generous spirit and friendly smile for all he met. He was a combat engineer in the 1st Engineer Battalion and a Korean War veteran. After being discharged he joined Battelle, a nationally known global research and development organization committed to science and technology for the greater good. He retired after 39 ½ years as a technician. He was a member of AMVETS Post #89 and American Legion Post #82 and a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association. A funeral service was held on July 2nd at Schoedinger North Chapel, Columbus, OH and burial was at Union Cemetery.

Lenver E. Norris, Technical Sergeant, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), 88, passed away on January 7, 2019. Lenver was born on February 9, 1930 to Seymour and Sarah Norris in Livingston, IL. He was the youngest of eight children. Joining the Marine Corps in 1950 he served with the 1st Engineer Battalion as a combat engineer in Korea. He completed his enlistment in 1953 as a Sergeant with Maintenance Battalion, Marine Corps Base Quantico. Subsequently, he joined the Air Force and later retired as a Technical Sergeant. He was living in Southbend, Washington when he died. Lenver was a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association.
Kenneth M. Poteat, Master Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), 82, of Bakersville, North Carolina passed away on June 10, 2018. He was born August 3, 1935 in Mitchell County, NC to the late Edgar and Hessie (Willis) Poteat. He served in the Marine Corps from 1954 to 1975 and was awarded the Purple Heart. After leaving the Marines he was employed by the U.S. Forest Service on The Blue Ridge Parkway. He was a member of the Bakersville Baptist Church and the Mount Mitchell Marine Detachment #1266, the Mitchell County VFW and a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association.

Survivors include: his wife Betty Ann Poteat; a daughter Debra Poteat Webb (John), of Bakersville, NC; two sons, Keith M. Poteat, of Marion, NC, and Kenneth S. Poteat (Elizabeth), of Marion, NC; eight grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren. He was preceded in death in addition to his parents by: three sisters; Mary Stanley, Christine Rodriguez, and Frances Jones, and two brothers; Charles and Eddie Poteat.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 13, 2018 in the Bakersville Baptist Church with Jim Sutton officiating. Interment followed at Bakersville Memorial Cemetery with full military honors being conducted by Sgt. EL Randolph Chapter 57 DAV and the Mount Mitchell Marine Detachment #1266 serving as pallbearers.

Frank John Rozich, 97, died at his home in Brookdale Meridian, Englewood, Colorado on March 18, 2019 surrounded by family. His wife of 65 years, Jean, predeceased him on December 19, 2015. Frank was born on September 21, 1921 in Kansas City, KS to Anton and Helen Rozich. After graduating from junior college, he joined the Marine Corps in 1942 and fought in World War II. He served with the 2nd Engineer Battalion and was discharged in 1946 as a Corporal. After his return from active duty, Frank got a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Kansas. He moved to Denver, where he got a job as District Engineer with the Colorado Department of Health in 1949. In 1950, he married Jean Schooler, and later they moved to California where Frank earned an MA in Sanitary Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. Upon returning to his job in Denver, he worked his way up to Director of the Water Quality Control Division. After retiring in 1986, he spent many years working for H & R Block and the U.S. Census. He was also a volunteer tax preparer for the elderly through AARP.

Frank was a member of the Water Pollution Control Federation and served as president of the following organizations: Professional Engineers of Colorado, Colorado Engineering Council, Sabin Chapter, and the Colorado Chapter of the 2nd Marine Division Association. He also served for 10 years on an advisory committee to the Denver School Board. He was a member of the St. Louis Parish in Englewood. He is survived by his daughters Carol Weber (Craig) of Hopewell Junction NY and Diane Thomas (Michael) of Englewood CO; grandchildren Megan Brody (Joshua), Austin Weber (Wende), Andrew Thomas, and David Thomas; and great grandson Bryce Weber. A Memorial Service was held on May 5, 2019. Frank was a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association.
Eugene Timothy Shawaryn Sr., 96, better known as “Tim” of Stuart, Florida, formerly of Cherry Hill, NJ died on June 1, 2018. Born on March 3, 1922 in Barto, PA, Tim was the son of Joseph Shawaryn and Tekla Chaban. His sisters, Irene and Catherine, and brother Henry are all deceased. He was the husband of Barbara H. Shawaryn (Rauh), with whom he shared 58 years of marriage. Tim was previously married to Catherine McBride. He is survived by sons, Eugene, Charles, Thomas, Michael, and daughter Julia, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Tim lived and grew up on Leithgow and Franklin streets of Philadelphia. He was a decorated Marine Corps World War II survivor, a twice-awarded Purple Heart recipient, who stormed the beaches of Saipan, Tarawa, and Tinian in the South Pacific. He participated in the assault of Mount Tapotchau in Saipan in June 1944. He was a combat engineer in the 1st Battalion, 18th Marines (Engineer). He also participated in the occupation of Japan and was a China Marine part of the reconstruction efforts in 1946. Tim was an active member of the Second Marine Division Association, the Purple Heart Association, Sixth Marine Division Association, China Marine Association, the Marine Corps League Association, a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association and a past grand marshal for the Memorial Day Ceremony in Stuart, FL. Tim graduated from Rutgers University Extension Division, Camden, NJ after his military service, and was employed by RCA and attained the position of manager, Drafting and Design of Missile and Radar Systems in Van Nuys, Calif., as well as Camden and Moorestown, NJ. After electing an early retirement from RCA, Tim worked as a consultant for Voest-Alpine International Corporation and R F Products, Inc. Tim and his wife, Barbara, lived in Cherry Hill, NJ. Tim loved boating, and fishing, and golfing. A joint interment was conducted for Barbara H. Shawaryn and Eugene T. Shawaryn at the gravesite at Palm Beach Memorial Park in Lantana, FL.

Harry Raymond Shortt, Major, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), 91, passed away on Monday, July 1, 2019. He was born February 9, 1928 in Wilmington, Delaware. He joined the Marine Corps in 1945 and worked his way through the ranks from Private in the 1st Marine Division to Staff Sergeant at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. His service included tours with 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Pioneer Battalion and Marine Aircraft Group 13. He retired in 1966. Harry was a life member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association. Inurnment took place at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.

Antonio Baptista Silva, Major, United States Marine Corps (Ret.), 76, finally succumbed to his battle against Lewy Body dementia on Memorial Day, May 29, 2017 in Escondido, California. He was born in Portugal on June 11, 1940 and left his native country at the age of 13 coming to the United States not speaking a word of English and made his way up the ranks of the Marine Corps from Private to Major. After boot camp in 1961 he was assigned to the 8th Engineer Battalion. He also served in the 1st and 7th Engineer Battalions as well as several maintenance organizations as an engineer equipment officer. He devoted 28 ½ years of his life to serving the country he loved during which he completed three tours in Vietnam, cleared mine fields, worked on nuclear weapons, ran an equipment maintenance platoon and even served as a military police officer (MP). He retired in 1990. He was a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association. He was a wonderful father who taught his children, to be honest, have a strong work ethic, and to never give up. He had a tremendous love for animals of all kinds and passed this on to his children. He deeply loved his family and did everything he could to protect them and provide for them. He is buried in Miramar National Cemetery, San Diego, CA.
*STONE, RUSSELL M. VET  TWS 484339*

Russell Melvern Stone, 91, of Thompson, Ohio, passed away on July 13, 2019. He was born April 5, 1928, in Thompson, OH, the son of Ralph and Helen (Ritola) Stone. He married Edna “Nan” Williams on April 15, 1950 in Thompson. Russell started driving a truck for R. W. Sidley Inc. when he was 16 years old. He served in the military for four years as a Marine, and was called back for the Korean Conflict to serve another year. He was a true veteran and he loved the Corps. When he returned home, Russell went back to work for Sidley and drove about three million miles over the course of his 44-year-long career. Russell also supported the kids of his community. He was a baseball coach, a school board member and the head of Boosters. He was a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association. In his spare time, he enjoyed an afternoon spent fishing. He is survived by his sons, Rusty (Vicki) Stone, Gary Stone, Jeffery Stone; daughter, Kimberly Majka; grandchildren, Matt Fike, Kyle Stone, Brielle White, John Majka and Kaylee Majka; great-grandchildren, Jackson and Elliot White; sister, Louise (William) Weddington; sisters-in-law, Dee Stone, Linda Burke-Williams; and many loving nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by wife, Edna “Nan”; his parents; and brother, Gerald Stone. Funeral service was held on July 18 at the Behm Family Funeral Home, Madison, OH.

*TOTH, FRANCIS A. MAJ (RET)  TWS 494315*

Francis Anthony Toth, Major, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), 90, of Jacksonville, North Carolina died January 28, 2020 at Woodbury Wellness Center in Hampstead. He is preceded in death by his wife, Frances Bland Toth, and son, Francis Anthony Toth, Jr. Born December 31, 1929 in Girard, Ohio, the son of Elizabeth and William Toth, “Frank” grew up in the Youngstown area. The third of seven children, he spent the summer months working in his grandparent’s garden in Sharon, Ohio, where he learned the art of self-reliance, growing vegetables and fruits to help sustain a large family. Born during the Great Depression followed by the events of World War II, Frank foresaw the necessity of a good education. While in high school, he participated in baseball, football and the junior/senior play. In June of 1948, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Frank was a veteran of the Korean War and served three tours in Vietnam earning a Navy Commendation Medal for his work with the Riverine Forces and a second Navy Commendation for his work at III MAF. He worked his way up through the ranks from Private to Warrant Officer and Commissioned Officer. He served in several topographic billets during his career. Frank retired from the Marine Corps in 1979. After a 30-year military career, he earned his BS in Education from The University of North Carolina, Wilmington and his MS in Education from East Carolina University, teaching middle school math and science for the next 10 years. Frank was a Life member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association.

He is survived by daughters, Deborah Daughtry (Mandy), Patricia Gross (Scotty), Julie Tracy (Lawrence), Stephanie Peedin (Van); 10 grandsons; Jeff Daughtry (Gina), Jason Daughtry (Tracy), Todd Daughtry, Bryan Daughtry, Bobby Snow, Dustin Ray (Amanda), Ryan Peedin (Amanda), Reagan Peedin, Brandon Tracy, and Alex Tracy; and many great grandchildren. A private graveside service was held.
Calvin Coolidge Tuck, First Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), 95, of Susan Moore, Alabama passed away on November 29, 2018 at his home. Calvin was born in Oneonta, Alabama on November 16, 1923. He was of the Primitive Baptist faith; retired in 1966 from the Marine Corps as a First Sergeant. He served with the 1st Engineer Battalion during the Korean War and later with the 3rd and 8th Engineer Battalions. He was a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association and a member of the Clarence Masonic Lodge. He is preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Pearl Tuck; son Mark Tuck; brother, Ed Tuck; sister in law, Pearl Tuck. He leaves to cherish his memory by his wife of 60 years, Bernice Tuck; son, Jim (Connie) Tuck; grandchildren, John (Laura) Tuck, Joseph Tuck, Macullough Tuck, Austin Tuck and Dillon Nelson; brothers, Wayne Tuck, Marvin (Vera) Tuck and Harlon (Christine) Tuck; sisters, Betty Lou Hardrigee and Dulcie Patterson; a host of nieces and nephews. Funeral services were conducted on December 2, 2018 at the Valley Chapel Funeral Home with burial following in the Mt. Moriah Cemetery at Fridays Crossing, AL.

Alfred S. Wieczorek, 89, of Cheektowaga, New York died on July 24, 2019. He was born on February 18, 1930 and was the beloved husband of the late Genevieve J. (Igla) Wieczorek; dear father of Donna (Eugene) Przespo, Darlene Zawadzki, Ann Marie Hoster, Alfred Peter (Velda) Wieczorek, Kathleen (John) Colleran, Michael Edward (Ellen Reich) Wieczorek, the late Patricia (late Michael) Marak, and the late Joseph Peter Wieczorek; also survived by several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Alfred was predeceased by two brothers and one sister. Alfred was a Korean War Veteran, serving in the Marine Corps from 1948 to 1952. He was a combat engineer with the 1st, 2nd and 8th Engineer Battalions and was discharged as a Staff Sergeant. He was also a U.S. Air Force Veteran, and a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association, a member of the Private Leonard Post VFW 6251 and the Marine Corps League Post 239, of West Seneca.

Hard work spotlights the character of people; some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses and some don’t turn up at all.

- Sam Ewing, a professional writer
**WILKINSON, ROY E. GYSGT (RET) TWS 50859**

Roy E. Wilkinson, Gunnery Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), 95, of East Middlebury, Vermont died on November 3, 2019. Roy was born on October 11, 1924 in Rutland Town where he grew up, the son of Benjamin H. and Ella Peters Wilkinson. In his younger years, he worked various occupations which included logging, ice delivery, a scale company and lumber mill. While working for Crystal Ice Co., he delivered ice to Kehoe’s Diner, where he met his future wife. In April of 1944, Roy joined the Marine Corps. He had broken service from November 1947 - February 1950, at which time he rejoined the USMC. He retired with 20 years of service in September of 1966. His wartime service included Iwo Jima (1945), Inchon, Seoul and Chosin Reservoir, Korea (September 1950-September 1951) and Vietnam (June 1965-February 1966). His peacetime service included many duty stations, including China and Guam. After returning from Korea, he married Elizabeth Patch Wilkinson, daughter of George Oscar Patch Jr. and Elfreda Bartholomew Patch. When he retired from the Marine Corps in 1966, Roy and Beth moved their family back to Vermont. There, Roy joined the United States Forest Service working in The Green Mountain National Forest Middlebury Ranger District for 23½ years, retiring in 1990. Faith was always a priority in his life, he was an active member of Memorial Baptist Church where he served on several boards. Roy is survived by his wife of 68 years, Beth; and two sons Alan (Deb) and Barry (Barb); and son-in-law Ron Dubuque. He was blessed by his eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Roy was predeceased by his daughter, Wendy; his father and mother; six brothers and one sister. Roy was a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association. A memorial service was held at Memorial Baptist Church on November 16, 2019 followed by private burial in Prospect Cemetery in East Middlebury, VT.

**WOLF, RICHARD L. VET TWS 490818**

Richard Lee Wolf, 89, of Ault, Colorado passed away on October 2, 2019 at the McKee Medical Center in Loveland, CO. Richard was born September 17, 1930 to Mike and Martha (Bauer) Wolf. He attended Buell Middle School and Eaton High School before enlisting in the National Guard. He went on to serve in the Marine Corps from 1951 to 1952. He completed boot camp at MCRD San Diego and Marine Corps Engineer School in 1951 and became a combat engineer. He served with Marine Aircraft Group 14 and the 1st Engineer Battalion in Korea. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1952 and returned home to raise a family and farm near Eaton and Ault. From 1973 until 2000 he owned Wolf Trucking and was a DeKalb corn seed salesman. He was a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association, a member of the Ault VFW Post 4334, a member of the First Lutheran Church, active in the Ault Business Association and a Rocky Mountain Farmers Union board member.

He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Richard is survived by his wife of 65 years, Bernice; sons, Randy (Kathy), Michael (Karen) and Jeremy; daughter, Jody (Steve) Ezinga; seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Bob Wolf; and grandson, Matt Ezinga. A Memorial Service was held and internment was at Sunset Memorial Gardens, Greeley, CO.
*YORK, CLIFFORD T. SSGT (RET) TWS 295177

Clifford Thomas York, Staff Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), 86, of East Bernard, Texas passed away on July 26, 2019. Clifford was born on August 15, 1932, in Houston, TX to Clarence William York and Frances (Tannich) York. He is survived by wife, Bertha Louella (Koym) York, four children Thomas York, Timothy York, Maryetta York Cascanette and Francetta York, along with 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father and mother and his brother Clarence William II. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1949 to 1966 as a combat engineer and engineer operations chief. He was a Korean War and Vietnam War veteran and a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association. After his military service, he received a degree in Accounting from Lamar University. He served as Deputy Superintendent of Lamar Consolidated Independent School District up until his retirement. Funeral service was held at the First United Methodist Church and burial in the East Bernard Methodist Cemetery.

*YORK, WALLACE E. CAPT (RET) TWS 489690

Wallace Edward York, Captain, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), 92, passed away peacefully on November 29, 2018 in Columbia, South Carolina. He was born December 18, 1925 in Readsboro, Vermont. Predeceased by his wife, Catherine M. Muller York and his daughter, Mary D. York, he is survived by his sons, William E. York, Lt Col USAF (Ret) (Sandra) and John S. York (Connie); grandsons, Andrew N. York (Ashley), Major, USAF, Garrett W. York (Alyssia), Kristian J. Bell (Nicole), and Bryan York; great grandchildren, Harper R. York, Kristopher J. Bell, and Nigel M. Bell; nephews, Kerry Frazier (Debbie) and Alan Frazier.

Wallace grew up in the hills of Vermont. On December 7, 1941 he and his father, Sewall A. York, went on to enlist in the military. Wallace was not accepted because he was too young at the time. He subsequently joined the Marine Corps in 1943. He excelled as a marksman and instructor. Wallace was assigned to the 6th Marine Division which formed in the Pacific and trained on Guadalcanal. He was promoted through every enlisted rank, Chief Warrant Officer, and then commissioned and retired as a Captain in 1983. He served in the infantry during WWII in the Pacific Theater, Okinawa, Guadalcanal and China. He then served in Korea and Vietnam as an engineer. Wallace was a Life Member of the Marine Corps Engineer Association. Funeral service was held on December 7, 2018 with burial in Greenlawn Memorial Park, Columbia, SC.

**WARRIOR ANGELS**

The Warrior Angel program is for a deceased member’s family to continue to be involved in the MCEA. The program is a way to stay in touch with friends whom they have acquired over the years through the MCEA. It also brings together those that have suffered a loss and are going through their new life journey while still keeping the memory of their Marine Engineer alive and in the hearts of the MCEA. To date there are 26 Warrior Angels. Anyone wanting information on the program please contact Joe DeHart at Dmsgt123@gmail.com. Project for this year is to make a quilt, with each patch representing a lost Marine Engineer.
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS – U.S. MARINE CORPS

Part of the Marine Corps Engineer Association’s stated mission to “preserve the memory of those who served” and to “promote an accurate historical record of the contributions of Marine Corps engineers.” In this issue we are proud to feature Colonel James R. Aichele U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.). Many aging Marine Corps engineers know who Colonel Aichele was. Many, in fact, knew him personally or served with him, and many younger Marine Corps engineers have heard of him. He certainly was “a legend in his own time” and has earned a prominent place in Marine Corps engineer lore. Below is an article that chronicles his career.

A LEGEND RETIRES…

Thirty-nine years in the United States Marine Corps. As a private he held a surveying stake on land that would become Camp Pendleton. As a colonel he is the only Marine ever to be designated the “Chief Engineer of the Marine Corps.”

The years in between would include machine gun battles in the World War II island hopping campaigns from Guadalcanal to Okinawa, delivering babies in combat, wounds in America’s three major wars (WWII, Korea & Viet Nam), and high-level negotiations with the Japanese government that would provide the Marine Corps with the largest military foothold in the Far East.

Few Marines could boast of such a career. Colonel James R. Aichele, assistant chief of staff, Facilities, Camp Pendleton, CA, who will retire tomorrow after 39 years of service, lived such a career and more.

No longer is the colonel the rawboned machine gunner who stormed enemy beaches from Guadalcanal to Okinawa. His frame is heavier now and his hair a bit thinner, but he awaits his last day in the Corps as he has all others — as a challenge. “It’s like reporting to a new duty station,” he said.

The colonel sometimes reminisces about days past. ‘One visit with him quickly proves his salty tales are anything but rambling sea stories.

Among his many nicknames, the colonel earned the title “male midwife” for his service in delivering five Japanese babies during the battle for Okinawa.

Many years later, Aichele was reunited with four of the mothers and the children he had delivered.

Another of the colonel’s stories concerns a schoolgirl’s lost picture diary he found on Okinawa. Aichele carried the album for two decades, hoping he might one day return it to Toshiko Shimabukuro, a name he found in the diary. The opportunity never came during the battle. He was wounded and evacuated back to the States soon after finding the album.

Finally, during November 1965, 20 years later, Aichele found the girl’s mother. From her he learned Toshiko, who would have been 38, had been killed a short time after Aichele was wounded.

Still, Mrs. Shimabukuro said, “I don’t know how to express my thanks for your keeping the album all this time. It must have been the spirit of Toshiko watching over you so you could return.” The album also contained some of the only existing photos of Mrs. Shimabukuro’s other two children whom she also lost to the war.

The colonel is one of the few people who has been able to meet with some of the people he tried to kill during World War II on Okinawa. During one of his tours on the island after the war, the colonel met a Japanese machine gunner he thought he had killed.

“He was from the mainland and had just come back to revisit the island when I met him,” Aichele related, “He told me about a machine gun duel he had and together we went to the site. When we pointed out each other’s positions we knew we had been the two men involved. Damn, I thought I’d killed him. Turned out I had just knocked out his gun.”.
During the 11 years of duty on Okinawa, the colonel served under 46 different commanding generals including then Brigadier General Robert H. Barrow, now Commandant of the Marine Corps. During that time, Aichele became known for his remarkable understanding and ability to work with the Japanese.

Much of the present day status of military installations on Okinawa is due directly to his negotiations.

The colonel also played a major role in the construction of the super highway that connects the northern and southern parts of the island and bisects Camp Hansen.

Through Col. Aichele’s unique ability with Asian people and shrewd business sense, the Marine Corps has acquired in excess of $85 million in construction at no expense to the U.S. government.

The respect Colonel Aichele gained from the Japanese was shown in 1978 at his farewell party. Twenty-eight municipal mayors attended the affair. To that date, no such ceremony had ever been given for an American by the Okinawan government.

On June 19, the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, held a special parade here to honor Col. Aichele. Hundreds of friends and admirers filled the reviewing stands and surrounding grassy area. They had come to say goodbye to the 55 year-old legend.

A large document was presented to Col. Aichele during the parade. It was signed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, bestowing upon Col. Aichele the title of “Chief Engineer of the, Marine Corps.”

July 1, 1981 he retires, the private who helped survey Camp Pendleton, the “male midwife,” the machine gunner, the negotiator, the Marine, the legend.
To all who shall see these presents, Greeting:
   Whereas, Colonel James R. Aichele has honorably served his Corps and
Country for over thirty-nine years; and
   Whereas, Colonel Aichele has been recognized by both the Government
of the United States and the Government of Japan for Superior Achievements; and
   Whereas, Colonel Aichele has participated in numerous combat actions from
the Battles for Guadalcanal and Okinawa to Korea and Vietnam; and
   Whereas, Colonel Aichele has been the individual primarily responsible for
development of the Marine Corps Base Structure in the Western Pacific; and
   Whereas, Colonel Aichele has, more than any other Marine Officer, been
responsible for the development of the current Doctrine, Structure, and
Equipment for Marine Corps Engineers; Therefore,

I do hereby confer on Colonel James R. Aichele the honorary title

Chief of Engineers
U.S. Marine Corps

And on behalf of Marine Engineers throughout the Corps, extend my
appreciation for a Lifetime of service to the Corps, and my best wishes
for the future.

Done at Headquarters, United States Marine Corps,
Washington, D.C., This 19th day of June, in the year of our Lord
One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-One and in the Two Hundred
and Sixth Year of the Corps.

[Signature]
Robert H. Barrow
General
United States Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps
This past year, his son, MGySgt Michael Aichele USMC (Ret.), working with the colonel’s widow, June Aichele, and daughter-in-law, Nancy Aichele, generously endowed the MCEA’s First Lieutenant Harry L. Martin USMCR Memorial Award in honor of the colonel. The prestigious award is presented annually to the Engineer Honor Graduate of the Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS) at Quantico. 1stLt Martin, a Marine Corps engineer officer, was a Medal of Honor recipient who gave his life on Iwo Jima attempting to rescue several of his men who were lying wounded in positions overrun by the enemy. The EWS awardee is presented with a unique ammo box and his name is placed on a plaque that resides permanently in Geiger Hall, MCB Quantico, home of EWS.

MCEA Rep. Joel Cooley presenting the endowed permanent plaque to Col Robert Fulford, Director EWS

Captain Zack A. Pinkerton receiving the Engineer Honor Graduate Award on May 9, 2019.
OPERATION SHUFLY AND THE MARINE CORPS’ INCREASING INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM

Written by MSgt Phil Martin, USMC (Ret.), MCEA Assistant Historian

This article is an overview of the Marine Corps’ initial involvement in the conflict between North and South Vietnam. This information is but a small amount of the history and written accounts of how the Marine Corps in the early 1960s became initially involved in this conflict that ultimately lasted until 1975. The initial operation was called Operation SHUFLY.

In 1954 the Geneva Accord divided Vietnam into two separate countries—the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) in the south, and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) in the North. The United States began sending advisors to the Republic of Vietnam in 1955 to help build an Army for the Republic of Vietnam to help fight the Viet Cong insurgents from the north. The Viet Cong were led by Ho Chi Minh, who sought to unify all of Vietnam under communist control. The American newspapers buried the war in the back pages.

Due to the fear of the spread of communism worldwide, and especially in South East Asia, concerns over the domino theory and escalation crept into conversations and newscasts. President John F. Kennedy approved the sending of helicopters, bombers and U.S. Army Special Forces advisors to Vietnam and approved the use of Agent Orange and other defoliants.

The need for helicopters to help move the Republic of South Vietnam Army (ARVN) and to help locate the Viet Cong infiltrators necessitated the use of Marine Corps Aviation units. The first Marine helicopter squadrons moved into a Vietnamese base called Soc Trang that had been built by occupying Japanese forces during World War II. Soc Trang airfield was located about 85 miles southeast of Saigon in Ba Xuyen Province and was located about 20 miles from the sea coast and had one of the few hard-packed runways in the area. The operation was given the code name Operation SHUFLY.

OPERATION SHUFLY

Operation SHUFLY lasted from 9 Apr 1962 through 30 November 1964. Marine Task Unit 79.3.5, code named SHUFLY, was the first Marine Task Unit to provide air support during the Vietnam War beginning in 1962. The tasking represented the first large unit commitment of a Marine unit to Vietnam during the anti-communist struggle in Southeast Asia.

The mission was to provide assault support, offensive air support and air reconnaissance, with the primary objective being troop lift and resupply to United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (USMACV) and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces engaged in combat operations. The challenges experienced while in Soc Trang established tactics and procedures still used by Marine helicopter units today.

HMM-362 (Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron) and MABS 16 (Marine Air Base Squadron 16), Sub Unit 2 were the first units to deploy in Operation SHUFLY.

Security was to be provided by an ARVN infantry battalion and two 4.2 inch mortar companies were to assume the defense of the air strip on the day the Marines began arriving. Added security was to be provided by a 60 Marine detail with a permanent Sergeant of the Guard.

The selection of using a Marine air unit was due to the fact this unit was self-sustaining and could easily be resupplied from the Navy ships and needed very little support from the Military Assistance Command Viet Nam. It was decided the Headquarters should consist of eight officers and six enlisted men. The second element of the operation was Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362 (HMM-362) with its 63 officers and 196 enlisted Marines. 50 additional maintenance personnel were to be with this unit. In addition, the Navy was to provide medical, dental and chaplain personnel to the unit.
Trang airstrip. By 12 April a field laundry and a mess hall were set up and the Marines were fed a hot meal. Radio and teletype links were made to MACV in Saigon and MAG 16 on Okinawa. It was agreed the first week in the Mekong Delta was to be a familiarization time for the Marines. The time was spent flying around the area in the Mekong Delta during which time the Marines were not fired upon. The second week was very different. The Marines assisted the ARVN troops in flying them to the area selected for engagement and the Marine helicopters were fired upon.

When requested the helicopter pilots would receive a mission and fly to the precise coordinates only to be used as target practice by the Viet Cong. The helicopters would have the holes patched and put back into service, while the Marine pilots received valuable knowledge in air operations and evasion maneuvers. The helicopters proved to be invaluable in retrieving the wounded and getting them to a hospital in a timely fashion.

MSgt. David Franklin USMC (Ret.) writes about his personal experiences and memories of Operation SHUFLY:

“SHUFLY was OPCON MAG- 16 out of Okinawa. I was with MABS -17 based in Iwakuni. We were not detached/TAD to a different unit. We were told that the operation was classified. Since it was a Wing operation, they used 1st MAW resources rather than the Engr BNs of the 3d Mar Div. Except for the LOX Unit and possibly Bulk Fuel SNCOs all of us detached to SHUFLY were Sgts & Corporals. Little did we know about the big picture and the structure of the Operation. Our boss at MABS-17, was Captain (Colonel Retired) Edward Jay Leavitt, who became my S-3 OIC at 4th Tanks and C.O. at the Judges/Lawyers Unit in San Diego in my quest and morphing into a Lawyer/Superior Court Commissioner/Judge. Perhaps the Unit Diary for MABS-17, late 1962 & early 1963 might reflect on the Operation. It was really informal in that I do not remember any paperwork [Orders] to load up gear/supplies on the transport planes behind the Mainside Mess Hall Flight Line, get on board and go.

Remember: Snuffies were never told more than what we needed to know to go & do. Just like in Vietnam with 7th Engineers later on. I only saw SNCOs like at morning muster and then we left on work assignments for the day or days all over EYE [I] Corps from Danang to the Hai Van Pass, Namo Bridge and the ESSO Plant area. One letter company was at Chu Lai & Bridge went all over as needed. OORAH!

I was with Col [then Captain] Ed Leavitt’s MABS-17, Camp Maintenance/Engineers Unit, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. NCOs from all Utilities & Engineer MOS Fields, SGTs & CPLs, flew in and out hauling gear and supplies to fix, extend and bolster the runway plus build the camp. We had Marston Matting to start with but that did not work too well because the runway was at sea level and the weather wet & muddy. We then went to a solid aluminum interlocking ribbed plate, but I do not remember what it was called. To help our NCO’s the Wing units and whoever else was there sent work party troops for a few days at a time. Since our Engineers and Utilities Marines were all school trained with time in the field it was easy to teach...
the work party troops strong backing tents, working the runway without heavy equipment (just hard labor), showers, water purification, generators, electrical wiring and watching out for V.C. Booby Traps and OLD, unmarked French Mines. The minefields’ protective barbed wire and signs were all rusted into disappearance. Besides, the French did not seem to lay mine fields with consistent patterns like we learned at Court House Bay, CLNC Engr Schools. We would later experience this with many mines around the Danang Airfield, Dog Patch Gate side and elsewhere. I vaguely recall that MABS-17 sent down to Soc Trang one LOX (liquid oxygen generating) Machine and a couple of SNCOs. I had been in the very first Marine Corps LOX Manufacturing School Class, 1958, MCAS El Toro, MABS-37, but left the field in 1960 for MACS-9, Engineers Section. I do not have much more remembrance of interest to MCEA other than the beer was cold, chow good, no liberty, a few sniper shots & probes, and we were out of there before summer 1963, in order to build up the rifle/pistol ranges on Etta Jima [Island] for the 1st MAW to hold annual quals with the M-1Rifle, M-1911 .45 Pistol & .38 Revolver for pilots. Etta Jima was accessible from Iwakuni by Mike Boat. It had a Japanese Naval Academy on the Island too. It sat across from Hiroshima and Kure Cities. Best wishes, D.M. Franklin, USMC 1958-1986.”

(Editor’s note: MSgt Franklin although assigned to MABS-17 became an operational member of MABS 16 Sub Unit 2.)

New helicopter squadrons rotated in approximately every four months until the end of 1964. MABS 16, Sub Unit 2 personnel were rotated in and out of the unit which remained at Soc Trang. Soon thereafter the United States’ involvement in Vietnam drastically increased. Each squadron was deployed on a four-month rotation with four months in Okinawa, Japan, four months aboard ship and four months in Vietnam. The following squadrons rotated into Vietnam as shown below:

- MABS-16, Sub Unit 2 9 Apr 1962 – 30 Nov 1964
- HMM-163 1 Aug 1962 – 11 Jan 1963
- HMM-261 7 Jun 1963 – 30 Sep 1963
- HMM-361 1 Oct 1963 – 31 Jan 1964
- HMM-364 1 Feb 1964 – 30 Jun 1964

As a direct result of Operation SHUFLY, the Marine Corps gained valuable experience and knowledge in the tactics of helicopter troop lifts that would prove beneficial in later combat operations involving American troops. Marine Corps engineers also gained valuable experience that would prove extremely beneficial in providing engineer support to division, wing and service support units in Vietnam in the challenging years that lay ahead.

Operation SHUFLY circa 1962 by Archives Branch, USMC History Division
FELLOWS PROGRAM

OUR BYLAWS STATE: ARTICLE XI – FELLOWS

The MCEA recognizes the importance of its members, partners and stakeholders who are a valuable and sustaining element of the Association. The MCEA is prepared to recognize these organizations and individuals by establishing a Fellows category to acknowledge their contributions in support of the Association and/or its Foundation, special fund/assistance programs. As a tax exempt, Non Profit organization under the IRS Code section 501(a), tax exempt donations to support the MCEA will be solicited from a wide range of potential donors, to include members, organizations, numerous charitable organizations, and individuals. Contributors, who make significant donations, one time or cumulatively, will be recognized by “Fellows” status and be so recognized both at the annual reunion/Awards Banquet and on the MCEA website. Fellows categories include Platinum ($5000 or more); Gold ($1000 to 4999); Silver ($500 to $999) and Bronze ($250 to $499).

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GATEWOOD, JR. WAYNE USMC (RET)
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HOARD, MIKE COL USMC (RET)
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McBRIDE, DENNY COL USMC (RET)
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MURPHY, JIM MAJOR USMC (RET)
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WOLFF, BOB DR. USA (RET)
WORKMAN, JOHN (VET)
WRIGHT, BILLY (VET)

SILVER
7TH ENGR BN ASSN
ANDERSON, MIKE COL USMC (RET)
BALDWIN, SCOTT COL USMC
BOUTRY, NORM (VET)
BOYD, MIKE COL USMC (RET)
CELLI, JOHN LTCOL(RET)
CONPILOG INTERNATIONAL
CORRIGAN, MIKE LTCOL USMC (RET)
DACEC, INCORPORATED
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EDWARDS, BOB LTCOL USMC (RET)
ELLINGTON, JAY LTCOL USMC (RET)
FERRIS, CARLTON (VET)
GOODWINE, JERRY COL USMC (RET)
HARPER, RIP COL USMC (RET)
HARRIS, FRANK COL USMC (RET)
HARRISON, JOHN MAJ USMC (RET)
HEESACKER, STEVE COL USMC (RET)
HILLIARD, TONY LTCOL USMC (RET)
HOWARD, ANDREW (VET)
HUCKABY, RICHARD BGEN USMC (RET)
INGENIEUR EXECUTIVE SEARCH CONSULTANTS
JOHN, DAVID COL (RET)
JONES, JUNIOR MGYSGT USMC (RET)
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LINDSEY, EVA
MERRILL, MIKE LTCOL USMC (RET)
MONTEDORO, JOE CAPT USMC
NEREIM, MONTY LTCOL USMC (RET)
PANTER, FRANK LTGEN USMC (RET)
RODEBAUGH, ROBERT MSGT USMC (RET)
THEENER, RON (VET)
VARLEY, LARRY (VET)
WHITE, DAN LTCOL USMC (RET)
WITTWER, CHARLES
WUERCH, GEORGE LTCOL USMC (RET)

BRONZE

A-T SOLUTIONS

BARTLETT, GEORGE BGEN USMC (RET)
BELLESHEIM, RICHARD USMC (RET)
BOTTS, LAURENCE CWO 2 USMC (RET)
BROOKS, JOE MSGT USMC (RET)
BUNTING, JERRY CAPT USMC (RET)
BURCH JOE CAPT USMC (RET)
CALLANAN, MIKE COL (RET)
CHECKERBOARD INDUSTRIES
DAEHNE, GLENN MAJ USMC (RET)
DEWEY ELECTRONICS CORPORATION
DEWITT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
DISMORE, CHARLIE MAJ USMC (RET)
EASTERDAY, STEVE COL USMC (RET)
EMERSON, JOHN SSgt USMC (RET)
FASULO, JOHN MAJ USMC (RET)
FECHTER-VEHR, MARGARET
FLETCHER, FRED CAPT USMC (RET)
FORD, BILL LTCOL USMC (RET)
GOODING, BILL COL USMC (RET)
HACKETT, BILL LTCOL USMC (RET)
HAMBY, BILL MGYSGT USMC (RET)
HANSON, JIM COL USMC (RET)
HEARNENSBERGER, BRIAN OL USMC (RET)
HELLMAN, BO COL USMC (RET)
HERZOG, JENNIFER
HICKS, JOHN MSGT USMC (RET)
HOFFMANN, RON CAPT USMC (RET)
KIRIACOPOULOS, KEN COL USMC (RET)
KOLAR, KATHERINE
KROLAK, DICK MAJ USMC (RET)
KULIK, STEVE
LINDSEY, EVA
LITTELL, DAVE LTCOL USMC
LLANTERO, FERDINAND LTCOL USMC
LUCE, JIM SGTMAJ USMC (RET)
LUTTRELL, HOWARD COL USMC (RET)
MACKENZIE, MARIAN
MAGEE, MIKE SGTMAJ USMC (RET)
MAYFIELD, ALLEN
McCArTHY, MIKE COL USMCR (RET)
McMICHAEL, RICHARD (VET)
MILLER, CALEB
MOORE, JACK LTCOL USMC (RET)
MUeller, RICHARD (VET)
NAPPI, LOU LTCOL USMC (RET)
NELSON, ELIZABETH (SPOUSE)
NORMAN, DENNIS LTCOL USMC (RET)
O’KELLEY JR, JIM COL USMC (RET)
PANKEY, PAUL COL USMC (RET)
PARTHENON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
PRICE, DON MSGT USMC (RET)
RANISZEWSKI, TONY LTCOL USMC (RET)
RANISZEWSKI, STEVEN
SCHLENK, BERNARD 1ST SSgt USMC (RET)
SEBASTIAN, DAVE MAJ USMC (RET)
SHORTER, JAMES SSgt USMC
SILER, PAT
SKIPPER, CHUCK COL USMC (RET)
SMITH, COLIN
SOUTHLAND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
STAGEDOOR LIGHTING COMPANY
SUTTON, JERRY CAPT USMC (RET)
TAYLOR SR, JOHN MAJ USMC (RET)
TIEBOUT, ROBERT LTGEN USMC (RET)
TOWNSEND, ED MAJOR USMC (RET)
VOGELSINGER, BRUCE LTCOL USMC (RET)
WATERHOUSE, MARK CAPT USMC (RET)
WILSON, NATE CW04 USMC (RET)
WING, JACK CW03 USMC (RET)
YOUNG, JOHN LTCOL USMC (RET)
Brick Program

It has now been six years since our Engineer Monument was dedicated. Included in the monument area is a series of over 600 bricks surrounding the monument itself. As part of that dedication effort MCEA started a Brick Program to honor our Marine Corps Engineers. This program was a 3 pronged effort. Individuals could purchase one of these bricks for a cost of $300 and have it engraved with their name or that of someone they wish to honor. Additionally, 124 bricks were reserved for the honoring of Marine Corps Engineer units both past and present. Individuals could sponsor one of these bricks for $300 or they could contribute any amount to this effort and MCEA would combine the donations of all members and purchase a Unit brick from our listing.

These engraved bricks affirm our Esprit de Corps with Marines, past, present and future who risk their lives to insure our freedom.

Each purchaser receives a Certificate of Registration acknowledging their contribution and confirming the engraved inscription as it will appear on the brick. Additionally, each purchaser has their name added to MCEA’s donor list located on the web page below. All bricks located in the monument area must be purchased through MCEA.

The program has progressed steadily with 247 bricks already purchased and 236 of those already installed. Our next installation date for 11 bricks is April 2020. MCEA is continuing this program with periodic purchases approximately three times per year. Our next purchase will be in August.

In addition to the above, MCEA has developed a program where several individuals could purchase a brick as a group. If you are a member of a unit or group and would like to purchase a brick to honor that unit/group with collections from members of that unit/group, MCEA can support that purchase. All the information needed is contained on our website listed below.

As part of the effort to keep our members informed, MCEA has added all the brick information to our website. For a full explanation of the program and the forms necessary to order a brick, go to the following web page:

http://marcorengasn.org/fyi/24-2/

We still have many bricks left to purchase. This could be your way to say thank you to the past and present Marines who support the Marine Corps Engineer efforts. Please consider purchasing a brick.
Fredericksburg, VA   September 17-19, 2020

Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel & Conference Center
2801 Plank Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 / Ph: 540-786-8321

Check in after 3:00 p.m. Take advantage of the hotel discount rate ($105 per night) for our association. Parking is complimentary.

• THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH
  Welcome to the Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel & Conference Center; Check-in after 3 p.m.; $105 room rates
  6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Registration/Reception with cash bar and light hors d’oeuvres; biz casual attire. Cost = $25
  Dinner and rest of the evening on your own

• FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH
  Breakfast on your own
  8:30 – 11:00 a.m. Association Business Meeting. Biz casual attire. No Charge.
  Lunch is on your own
  6:00 p.m. Registration – Cocktails available from the cash bar. Coat & tie (miniature medals optional); MCL Red Blazer; Service A uniform for active duty; informal evening attire for ladies. Cost = $75 per person ($85 per person for late registrations received after August 25, 2020)
  7:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner served, followed by Awards Program

• SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH
  Breakfast on your own
  9:30 a.m. – Trolley Tour departs hotel for Fredericksburg historic guided tour. Register early to ensure a spot on this tour! Cost = $25.
  12:00 p.m. – Bus returns to the hotel. The rest of the day and weekend are yours, thanks for spending time with us. Have a safe trip home.

The hotel will honor our discounted room rates for five days prior to September 17th and for five days after September 19th. Take advantage of these pre- and post-reunion discount rates ($105 – includes up to two full hot breakfast tickets each day) to spend time in this historic area for additional time exploring. The National Museum of the Marine Corps is just up the road and northern Virginia/D.C. offers a plethora of vacation opportunities!

Hotel check out time is 12 p.m. (noon).

Registration Form is available on-line at www.marcorengasn.org

REUNION MAY BE AFFECTED BY COVID-19
Mailing address: MCEA, 6998 Hwy 64 E, Wartrace, TN 37183-3057

Individual dues remain the same since 2006: $25 for 1 year; $60 for 3 years; and $500 for a lifetime membership. Corporate members’ dues are $400 per year; active duty/active reserve is $30 for 3 years.

Annual dues expire 31 December, but members will remain in good standing until 28 February. Email and/or phone reminders will be provided for one year.

Upon reaching the age of 80, “dues current” members will automatically change to Lifetime membership and no further dues are required.

Remember: 100% of your dues and contributions to MCEA are tax deductible.

The enclosed Members’ roster lists our deceased members, who remain on our rolls and their next of kin receive the newsletter as long as they desire, free of charge.

We are communicating weekly or more often using iContact bulk emails, as well as updating our website: www.MarCorEngAsn.org. Even if you don’t have internet access at home, you can use the library or other locations to visit our website and keep well-informed of what is going on year-round.

Many of you may not be aware of the consequences of the various choices when you opt to “manage subscriptions” at the bottom of one of our iContact bulk emails.

Our 17-19 September 2020 reunion will find us returning to the Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel & Conference Center in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Hope to see you all there!

As you can see by reading the minutes and reviewing the financial status report, we continue to maintain our assets which allow us to invest more wisely as well as spend more on other key areas. Like most everything else, our Association expenses increase every year. Our significant expenses are the printing/mailing of the newsletter, reunion expenses and awards. Since we rely totally on dues & contributions, we’re constantly restricted on what we can accomplish. If you as an individual or through your company can sponsor any of our annual awards or expense categories, please let us know.

We’ve loaded over two thousand pictures and documents to our website which includes all the material that our Association has accumulated since inception in 1991. Webmaster, Geoff Nicely, continues to work tirelessly to keep the site updated. We now have a website that is extremely versatile, interactive and can be the “go to” place for all things relating to Marine Corps Engineers! Let us know what we can do to make it even better.

**ACTIONS REQUIRED**

CHECK THE ENCLOSED MEMBERS’ ROSTER & PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PHONE # OR EMAIL ADDRESS SO WE CAN UPDATE OUR RECORDS AND KEEP YOU CONNECTED. Our newsletter is sent as Bulk Mail, so it won’t be forwarded or returned.

Enclosed is the 2020 Reunion Form for you to complete and return if you are planning on attending this years’ reunion.

If you know of someone who is interested in joining MCEA and needs more information, please let George Carlson know the contact info.

Please help us by spreading the word to your contacts who served with us as well as other associations about our upcoming reunions.
Corporate Members/Sponsors

WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS AS MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM!

Caterpillar Inc. Defense & Federal Products (Sponsor of Engineer Support Battalion Unit Award)
Wayne Gatewood
HNTB Corporation (Sponsor of MWSS Unit Award)
Marine Corps Bulk Fuel Association (Sponsor of Bulk Fuel Individual Awards)
Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) (Sponsor of Awardee Banquet Costs)
Terragroup Corporation (Sponsor of Utilities Individual Awards)
VFW Post 9010 Clemmons, NC (Sponsor of Combat Engineer Individual Awards)

Treasurer’s Report

At the risk of sounding like a “broken record” (that term alone dates me and probably has no meaning for those “under 30”), MCEA continues to have a strong financial position. Our reserve would be the envy of nearly all non-profits and for-profit entities. The Executive Committee continues monthly monitoring of our operations to ensure that we stay “on track.” We have now gone more than 11 years with no increase in dues or corporate sponsorship rates.

I have mentioned two major financial highlights in my President’s message and won’t repeat them here. But I do have to thank (again) all the volunteer time expended by the members of the Executive Committee and the Associate Directors. Without that input of “free” labor, MCEA would not be in nearly as comfortable a financial position.

Finally, our previous bookkeeper, Shawna Davenport, has had to leave us but her replacement, Wendi Watts Bookkeeping, has made the transition as seamless as humanly possible.
MARINE CORPS ENGINEER ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEETS
31 December 2018 and 31 December 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>Dec 31, '18</th>
<th>Dec 31, '19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Checking/Savings</td>
<td>137,414.70</td>
<td>146,055.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>240.00</td>
<td>100.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Other Current Assets</td>
<td>7,707.26</td>
<td>5,915.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
<td>145,361.96</td>
<td>152,071.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Fixed Assets</td>
<td>4,344.87</td>
<td>4,344.87</td>
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<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>149,706.83</td>
<td>156,416.44</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
<td>240.00</td>
<td>100.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES</td>
<td>240.00</td>
<td>100.51</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EQUITY</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>149,466.83</td>
<td>156,315.93</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

MARINE CORPS ENGINEER ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2019 TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total 41000 · GF-Direct Public Support</td>
<td>28,506.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 43000 · GF-Program Income</td>
<td>5,815.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 47000 · GF-Investments Earnings</td>
<td>1,882.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 48000 · GF-Sales Related Income</td>
<td>134.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL INCOME</td>
<td>36,339.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total 60000 · GF-General Management Expense</td>
<td>38.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 60500 · GF-Contract Services</td>
<td>1,221.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 61000 · GF-Recruiting and Goodwill</td>
<td>2,318.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 65000 · GF-Operations</td>
<td>508.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 67000 · GF-Program Expenses</td>
<td>25,403.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSE</td>
<td>29,490.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NET INCOME                  | 6,849.10          |

MEMBERSHIP STATUS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2019

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dues Current  (94% are War Veterans)</td>
<td>1,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues Delinquent</td>
<td>427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL MEMBERS</td>
<td>2,559</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Annual Business Meeting of the Marine Corps Engineer Association in conjunction with the Reunion in San Antonio, TX was called to order at 0830 by the President. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the acting Chaplain offered an Invocation and read the names of members added to the Honor Roll since the previous meeting.

Our Initial presentation was made by long-time member and friend of MCEA, Dr. Bob Wolff. Dr. Wolf is currently serving as the Executive Director of Quality of Life Plus (or QL+). QL+ matches “challengers” – Individuals with disabilities with specific needs beyond those normally addressed to allow basic Independent Living – with teams of engineering students at various universities. They focus on military and first responders who have been injured or developed age-related disabilities. The example he used was a lady who required a wheelchair, but also wanted to continue her active participation on her farm. She wanted a way to change her “farm” wheels for “house” wheels while still in her chair. He noted that this was much like a mobile person might change farm boots for house shoes or slippers to avoid tracking dirt into the house. The student team assigned the challenge came up with a lift device and quick-change hubs for the wheels so the challenger could roll onto the device, lift the chair with her in it, and make the wheel change. QL+ is specifically looking for challengers and seeks MCEA members’ help in identifying Individuals who would benefit from their program. More information is available on their website: https://qlplus.org/.

Following presentations by representatives from HQMC, Code LPE and Marine Corps Engineer Schools. They provided us with current information of interest on what’s going on both at the “Head Shed” and the “Schoolhouse.”

The formal business meeting followed.

**President’s Report:** President Carlson emphasized three main points. First, that our transition from a full-time (or more than full-time) Volunteer Executive Director to an enlarged group of Volunteers has been quite successful in maintaining most all of our functions without interruption. Second, that this transition has an “overhead” cost in volunteer time to ensure proper coordination. Finally, he emphasized that our ongoing challenge is to secure additional Volunteers to replace those forced to resign due to health or other commitments. He pointed out that our leadership is composed predominantly of folks in the 65-75 year age group so replacement is a continuous process.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Since he also serves as our Treasurer, Carlson continued with the financial report. We are in a very sound financial condition, maintaining a reserve that would allow us to operate for at least three years without additional income. We ended 2018 with a net equity of just under $150,000 and a net gain of just under $5,000.

**National Marine Corps Council:** Vice President Raniszewski reported on our participation in the National Marine Corps Council. It is an organization representing “Non-Federal Entities” that are closely associated with the Marine Corps. The purpose is to allow these organizations to work together to better support the Corps and identify shared issues that affect our operations.
1stLt Harry L. Martin Award: This Award for the engineer honor graduate at the Expeditionary Warfare School has been sponsored by the MCEA for several years. During the past year, members of the family of Col James Aichele have endowed the award in perpetuity in memory of Col Aichele. President Carlson extended our very sincere appreciation for this and indicated that MGySgt Michael Aichele had planned to attend, but health concerns with his mother (the Colonel’s widow) had forced a last-minute cancellation.

Additional Reports: Member Bo Hellman provided a brief report on the 4th annual Sapper Squad Competition which MCEA sponsors. 2nd Vice President Joe DeHart reported on individual membership and Member Bill Ford reported on corporate membership and sponsorship. Vice President Raniszewski reported on the status of the “brick program” surrounding our Monument at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Member Joel Cooley reported on our annual newsletter and other publicity activities. President Carlson reported on the current issues with our Course Sponsorship program.

Election of Officers: While officer elections are normally in even-numbered years, we did have three vacancies to fill. MGySgt Ed Montanez agreed to fill the vacant position as Secretary. Col Tom Dalzell agreed to fill the remaining term as Chaplain following the resignation of Col Paul Pankey, provided that the weekly inspirational messages (the “Sunday Missives”) continue to be ghost-written by the anonymous author. That left the vacancy in the Historian billet caused by the resignation of Col Robin Gentry. MSgt Phil Martin agreed to continue to serve as Assistant Historian but hoped that we could get someone else to take on the primary position. The Secretary and Chaplain positions were approved by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned at 1130.

“The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best, knows the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.”

– “Theodore Roosevelt”
## 2019 Marine Corps Engineer Association Award Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Combat Engineer Officer</td>
<td>1st Lt. Terrence W. Caploe</td>
<td>3rd Marines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combat Engineer SNCO</td>
<td>Gygt Juan C. Estrada</td>
<td>Marine Wing Support Squadron 372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combat Engineer NCO</td>
<td>Sgt. Cole S. J. Graves</td>
<td>9th Engineer Support Battalion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combat Engineer Marine</td>
<td>Cpl. Joshua R. Pettiford</td>
<td>Marine Wing Support Squadron 372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engr Equipment Officer</td>
<td>Cwo3 A. J. Shank's</td>
<td>2nd Marines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engr Equipment SNCO</td>
<td>Gysgt Matthew J. Smith</td>
<td>2nd Combat Engineer Battalion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engr Equipment NCO</td>
<td>Cpl. Marlon S. Galindo-Ruiz</td>
<td>Marine Wing Support Squadron 271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engr Equipment Marine</td>
<td>Lcpl Robert Adek, Jr.</td>
<td>Combat Logistics Battalion 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities Officer</td>
<td>Cwo3 Stephen M. Greulich</td>
<td>Support Battalion II MEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities SNCO</td>
<td>Ssgt Jeremy A. Daniels</td>
<td>1st Maintenance Battalion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities NCO</td>
<td>Sgt. Nicole C. Ventura</td>
<td>Marine Wing Support Squadron 372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities Marine</td>
<td>Lcpl Dennis M. Brantley</td>
<td>Marine Wing Support Squadron 372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk Fuel Officer</td>
<td>Cwo2 Enrique L. Pacheco</td>
<td>Marine Wing Support Squadron 374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk Fuel SNCO</td>
<td>Ssgt Barry M. Weilacher</td>
<td>9th Engineer Support Battalion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk Fuel NCO</td>
<td>Sgt. Tyler J. Burke</td>
<td>Marine Wing Support Squadron 271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk Fuel Marine</td>
<td>Lcpl Dennis M. Brantley</td>
<td>Marine Wing Support Squadron 372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOD Officer</td>
<td>Cwo2 Kyle B. Hoy</td>
<td>9th Engineer Support Battalion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOD Technician</td>
<td>Gysgt Samuel C. Tharp</td>
<td>7th Engineer Support Battalion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combat Engineer BN</td>
<td>4th Combat Engineer Battalion</td>
<td>4th Marine Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer Spt BN</td>
<td>9th Engineer Support Battalion</td>
<td>3rd Marine Logistics Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MWSS Engineer Company</td>
<td>Engineer Company, MWSS 172</td>
<td>1st Marine Aircraft Wing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.A.M.E. Officer of the Year</td>
<td>Capt Carlos A. Perez</td>
<td>Marine Wing Support Squadron 372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.A.M.E. SNCO of the Year</td>
<td>Gysgt Theodore R. Jenkins</td>
<td>6th Engineer Support Battalion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MCEA OUTSTANDING ENGINEER AWARDS:

COMBAT ENGINEER OFFICER OF THE YEAR
1STLT CAPLOE
Award received by Joe and Chantal Caploe, the proud parents of the deployed awardee.

COMBAT ENGINEER SNCO OF THE YEAR
GYGT ESTRADA
COMBAT ENGINEER NCO OF THE YEAR
SGT GRAVES

COMBAT ENGINEER MARINE OF THE YEAR
CPL PETTIFORD
ENGINEER EQUIPMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR
CWO3 SHANKS

ENGINEER EQUIPMENT SNCO OF THE YEAR
GYGT SMITH
UTILITIES OFFICER OF THE YEAR
CWO3 GREULICH

Mr. Paul Wilcox representing HTNB, the Utilities Awards sponsor, assists.

UTILITIES SNCO OF THE YEAR
SSGT DANIELS
UTILITIES NCO OF THE YEAR
SGT VENTURA

UTILITIES MARINE OF THE YEAR
LCPL HOLT
BULK FUEL OFFICER OF THE YEAR
CWO2 PACHECO

BULK FUEL MARINE OF THE YEAR
CPL BRANTLEY
EOD OFFICER OF THE YEAR
CWO2 HOY

EOD TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR
GYSGT THARP
COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION OF THE YEAR
4TH COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION
The Commanding Officer & Sergeant Major, 4th CEB accept the award sponsored by Trudie Latka in memory of Capt. Donald W. Sumner USMC (Ret.)

ENGINEER SUPPORT BATTALION OF THE YEAR
ENGINEER COMPANY, MWSS 172
The Commanding Officer accepting the award from Dave McMiller, Vice President of HNTB Corp., award sponsor
THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS AWARDS

AWARDS were presented by its Executive Director, BG Joe Schroedel, U.S. Army (Ret.)

S.A.M.E. USMC ENGINEER OFFICER OF THE YEAR
CAPT PEREZ

S.A.M.E. USMC ENGINEER SNCO OF THE YEAR
GYSGT JENKINS
WELCOME RECEPTION

The 28th annual reunion started off with the “Welcome Reception,” a chance to greet old friends, make new friends, tell a few war stories and to catch up.
The Piper and the Color Guard opened the ceremony.

The Chaplain remembered those who have gone before us.
The Emcee welcomed everyone and a delicious dinner was enjoyed.

The President provided an update on the Association’s activities.

Awards were presented.
SCENES FROM THE SAN ANTONIO CITY TOUR

Reunion attendees had the opportunity to take a city tour which included San Antonio’s famous River Walk and the historic Alamo.

Getting on to the Bus.

Now remember, I am in charge!

So this is San Antonio, where is the River Walk?

Prepare to shove off

I think we found it!

Underway
End of the line, prepare to disembark.

Now, this imposing building to your front.....

I hope the line isn’t too long.

Remember the Alamo

Hurry up and wait

Safely back to the hotel
The 4th Annual Sapper Squad Competition was held at Camp Pendleton during June 2019. It ended with 1st CEB placing first and earning the title of Sapper Squad of the Year, followed by 2nd CEB in second place and 4th CEB in third place. Other awards included “The Staff Sergeant Borderlon Award” for the most outstanding squad leader, presented to Sgt. Kyle Hicks, the squad leader from 2nd CEB, 2nd Marine Division.

The Sapper Squad Competition utilizes realistic missions to determine the best combat engineer squad in the Marine Corps. The goal is to test the squad’s ability to conduct mobility, counter-mobility, and survivability tasks with realistic combat missions oriented on supporting a division unit. The competition is designed to challenge the squad leader and the squad’s ability to efficiently utilize their equipment and resources. The forum for the evaluation is a competition consisting of nine graded events with intermediate informal training objectives incorporated. The evaluated events are in line with squad, team, and individual training and readiness standards for engineers as well as secondary provisional infantry standards.

The inaugural competition was held in 2016 with 2d CEB hosting the units at the battalion’s new facilities at Courthouse Bay, Camp Lejeune, NC. As outlined in the Sapper Squad of the Year Guidelines, the Marine Corps Engineer Association (MCEA) responsibilities are to provide:

- the permanent “Outstanding Sapper Squad” Award for display at MCES.
- the permanent “Outstanding Sapper Squad” Unit Award provided annually to the winning parent combat engineer unit.
- Individual Awards for Winning Squad Members presented annually.
- the SSGT Borderlon Award presented annually to the Outstanding Combat Engineer Squad Leader.

MCEA also provides a three-year complimentary membership package to each member of the winning squad which is presented at the awards ceremony. The report on the 2019 Sapper Squad Competition as presented at the 2019 Annual Business Meeting follows
4th Annual Sapper Squad Competition
Camp Pendleton, Calif
3-7 June 2019

Timeline / Events

• 8 Apr: Contacted by MCEA, designated Primary POC for MCEA
• 10 Apr: Contacted by Justin Watson, re: Sapper Squad packets
• 6 May: Contacted Capt Hawley, OpsO, 1st CEB; LOI provided
• 30 May: Delivered plaques and membership packets to 1st CEB
• 2 Jun: Sapper Competition In-Brief (1st CEB)
• 3-7 Jun: Sapper Squad Competition - Camp Pendleton
  • Participants: 1st CEB, 2nd CEB, 4th CEB
• 7 Jun: Attended end of Competition, Awards Presentation
• 10 Jun: 1st CEB provided completed roster for winning squad, squad leader
• 25 Jun: Rec’d additional (4) plaques; provided roster to MCEA
• 12 Jul: Delivered add’l plaques to 1st CEB

U.S. Marine Corps photos by Cpl. Rhita Daniel
4th Annual Sapper Squad Competition Results

Total possible score was 565
- 1st CEB: 406
- 2nd CEB: 371
- 4th CEB: 249

Winning Squad - 1st Combat Engineer Bn
- Sgt Dylan Moger
- Cpl Michael Speer
- Cpl Spencer Wooters
- LCpl Austin Armstrong
- LCpl Timothy Ochoa
- LCpl Wyatt Caso
- LCpl Sean Park
- LCpl Dalton Zucha
- LCpl Zackery Dorn
- LCpl Kache Flanery
- LCpl Noah Keener
- LCpl Antonio Patricio
- PFC Jacob Babauta

Sgt Borderlon (Squad Leader) Award
- Sgt Kyle Hicks - 2nd Combat Engineer Bn

Images used in this presentation are available through the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIS)
https://www.dvidshub.net/image/5434250/sappers-leaders-competition
https://www.dvidshub.net/image/5447508/sapper-squad-competition
### SHIPS STORE ITEMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Merchandise for Sale</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCEA Logo Coin</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1½“ dia, color</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCEA Logo with Crossed Flags Lapel Pin 1.25” dia</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>color</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embroidered MCEA Logo</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloth Match 3” dia, color</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCEA Windshield Decal</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4¼” dia, color</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Money clip</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Magnet (crossed flag)</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Chain</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seabee Medallion</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stickers, EG &amp; A</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T Shirt (S, M, L, XL, 2XL)</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T Shirt (3XL)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shipping and handling charges are included in the above prices.

For further information and to submit your order, contact George Carlson at treasurer@marcorengasn.org or 931-307-9094.