



Marine Corps League

Scuttlebutt

Marine Corps Museum Dedication

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Special Edition

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Marine Corps National Museum Dedicated At Quantico, Virginia



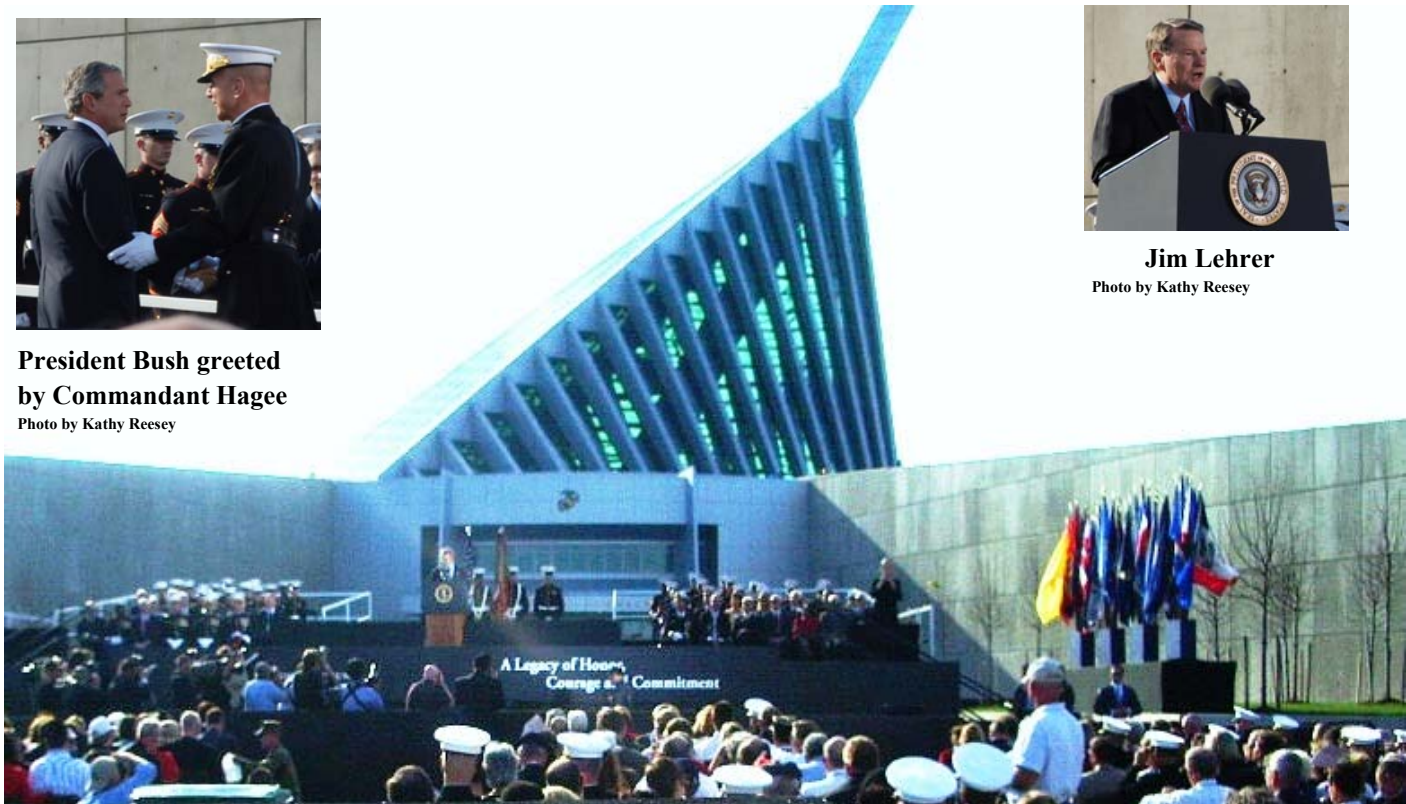
President Bush greeted by Commandant Hagee

Photo by Kathy Reeseey



Jim Lehrer

Photo by Kathy Reeseey



Marine Jim Lehrer, host of Public Television's News Hour, relates his experiences as a basic school candidate at Quantico 51 years ago as he serves a master-of-ceremonies at the dedication of the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, Virginia, on the U.S. Marine Corps 231st anniversary on Friday November 10. An estimated 15,000 persons attended.

By Frank G. Real, Jr, Editor

It was a bright sunny fall afternoon in Northern Virginia, as President George W. Bush joined in dedicating the National Museum of the Marine Corps to past, present and future U.S. Marines.

An estimated 15,000 active Ma-

rines, retired Marines, Marines veterans, want-a-be Marines and friends of Marines attended an impressive, sometimes solemn ceremony.

"We are Marines," Jim Lehrer, host of Public Television's News Hour and master-of-ceremonies declared.

While a select list of guests joined

President Bush, Commandant Michael W. Hagee, Lieutenant General Ron Christmas, USMC (ret), and retired Senator John Glenn (colonel USMC ret), on the dais, the real story was about the thousands of Marine veterans in the audience from different eras and the thousands of others unable to attend.

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Marines Honor The Past But Look To The Future

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They came from California, Oregon, Mass., NY, and from just about every clime and place, Marines, wives and mothers of Marines, sons and daughters of Marines and members of Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

Retired Astronaut, Senator and USMC Colonel John Glenn, Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient H.C. Barnum and Charles Colson of Watergate fame were just a few recognizable among the throng of dignitaries and war heroes attending the event.



Harrier Jump Jet On Display

This Special Issue of Scuttlebutt features just a fraction of what the U.S. Marine Corps Museum has on display. Special thanks to those who contributed photos for this edition including Kathy Reese, Combat photographer, USMC. Also Marine Andy Genninger, Chula Vista, Cal., Det. 1207 and Chuck Real of Det. 609, Omaha, Neb. Cpl. Dunham sketch photo by SSgt. Scott Dunn.



First National MCL Ball

National Marine Corps League Commandant John V. Ryan and wife, Joyce, of Hingham, Mass. celebrate the Marine Corps 231st Anniversary during festivities at the MCL's first annual ball at the Marriott Hotel in Fairview Park, Va.



Medal of Honor Recipient

"As long as we have Marines like Cpl. Dunham. America will never fear for her liberty." President George W. Bush

First Iraq War Marine Awarded Medal of Honor

A Marine Corporal from Scio, New York, has been awarded the Medal of Honor for giving his life while shielding his men from a bursting grenade on April 14, 2004 in Iraq near the Syrian border.

President Bush announced the nation's highest award during the dedication of the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico, Va., on Nov. 10, the 231st Marine Birthday and Jason L. Dunham's 25th Birth-

Day. His parents were in the audience. "The public now knows what Jason did," said Deb Dunham, his mom.



Tradition Continued

Detachment 141 celebrated the Corps 231st anniversary at the November meeting. Above, Judge Advocate Tom Pirnie, left, presents Commandant Fran Curnow with first piece. Below, Retired Gunny Bill Sequin, 83, oldest Marine in attendance, and Mike Burke, 23, youngest, share a piece of birthday cake.

Calendar of Events

- December 7: Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony 10 am at Wojkiewicz Park, Westfield. All veterans welcome.
- December 11: Regular Meeting 1900 hours
- December 10: Children's Christmas Party 1 pm at Detachment Headquarters. Christmas Raffle .

Det. Meets Second Monday of Each Month at 1900

Gen. James T. Conway Takes Helm As Marine Corps Commandant



General James T. Conway

MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON --With the passing of the Marine Corps Battle Colors aboard Marine Barracks Washington Nov. 13, Gen. James T. Conway became the 34th

Lehrer. . .

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faithful"; and that the Marines hymn is so much more than just a song.

My Marine experience helped shape who I am now personally and professionally, and I am grateful for that on almost a daily basis. And I often find myself wishing everyone had a similar opportunity, to learn about shared dependence, loyalty, responsibility to and for others, about mutual respect and honor and about the power of appealing to the best that in us as human beings, not the worst.

As a journalist, there has been one overriding effect of my Marine experience: While debates over sending Americans into harms way are always issues of foreign policy, geopolitics and sometimes even politics politics, for me they are always about young lance corporals, second lieutenants and other very real people with names,

Commandant of the Marine Corps. After serving four years as commandant, Gen. Michael W. Hagee relinquished his command and left Conway with a few words.

"Throughout all postings and assignments I have had, the one thing I am most proud of is since 1968 I have been called a Marine," said Hagee, a Brooklyn, New York native. "Jim, Annette, we wish you the best. It's going to go by in a heartbeat."

During the passage of command ceremony, Conway, who was commissioned in 1970 as an infantry officer, touched on the large shoes left to fill now that his predecessor has retired.

"One of the toughest jobs as commandant has to be when you're presenting

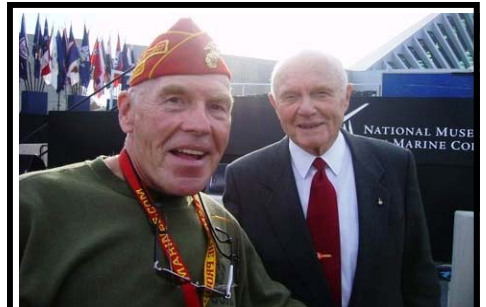
ranks, serial numbers, faces, families and futures that may never be.

When Marines stand for, or sing the Marines' hymn, as we will at the conclusion of this ceremony, it's never for ourselves personally. It's for the Marines who went before us, and after us, first and foremost for those who gave their lives, their health, their everything at places such as Tripoli, Belleau Wood, Haiti, Wake Island, Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, Khe Sahn, Beruit, and Baghdad, Fallujah and Ramadi.

The death rate among Marines in Iraq has been more than double that of other services. That's a first-to-fight, first-wave pattern that has pretty much held since the Revolutionary War, when 49 of the very first U.S. Marines of our country died in combat. Their mission was aboard ship; there are still Marines who serve at sea. There are others who fly and maintain jets and helicopters, man the artillery, operate tanks and trucks, feed and supply the troops, compute and collate, train and inspect, march and make music, recruit, guard and escort, radio and communicate, patrol and snipe, as well as

to those hundred and thousands of Marines," said Conway, a Walnut Ridge, Ark, native. "You can't be thinking about the next event or be unprepared. You've got to be the commandant that they want and expect to see. General Hagee, you have been that man sir, so let me tell you categorically that you and Silke have represented the Corps magnificently."

Conway also spoke on the esprit de corps inherent in all service members who are answering the nation's call today. "The raw courage, the selflessness, the teamwork which is represented by this generation is absolutely unbelievable."



Worked Together

Marine Andy Genninger, commandant of Detachment 1207 MCL of Chula Vista, Calif., greets retired U.S. Sen, John Glenn, Astronaut and USMC colonel, during ceremonies at the Marine Corps Museum. Genninger briefed Glenn when he arrived at Cape Canaveral and NASA Houston during the early years of the Apollo program.

save tsunami, earthquake and other disaster victims around the world, collect toys at Christmastime for American kids in need, stage a marathon in Washington DC. for charity, or do whatever else needs to be done, particularly if the need for it to be done well and be done immediately.

We are Marines. And in the language of the rifle range, we are ready on the right, ready on the left. All ready on the firing line, whatever kind of firing is required and wherever that line may be.



Jim Lehrer

Marine and Television Journalist Jim Lehrer of PBS's News Hour helped dedicate the new museum at Quantico, Virginia, on November 10, 2006. His remarks:

" Mr. President, generals, colonels, majors, captains, lieutenants, ward officers, sergeants, corporals, privates, ladies and gentlemen.

We are the Marines. And in this museum, our story is told. It is a single, monumental story, made up 231 years of many

separate stories of heroism and courage, of dedication and sacrifice, of service to our country and to our corps, of honor and loyalty to each other in war and in peace; 231 years of professionalism and pride, of squared corners and squared-away lockers, perfect salutes and good haircuts, well-shined shoes, and eyes right, 231 years of Semper Fi's and DI's.

First time I came to Quantico was 51 years ago. I came as an officer candidate, a PLC on the train from Washington, having just traveled from Texas on the first airplane ride of my life. On the orders of a drill instructor, a DI, I fell in at attention with 40 other candidates on the platform at the train station over at Quantico and the DI told us to answer up, "Here, sir!" when our name was called. And he got to mine, and he said, "Le-here-er-er." And, like some kind of idiot, I blurted out, "It's pronounced Lehrer, sir!"

There was silence, absolute silence. And then I heard the terrifying click, click, click of leather heels on the deck of that train station platform coming in my direction. And suddenly there he was, the DI, right in front of me, his face right up in mine. And I paraphrase and cleanse it up a bit, but he said, "Candidate, if I say your name is Little Bo Peep, your name is Little Bo Peep!"

'Do you hear me?' Oh, I heard him all right. And I think it was at that very moment that I really became a United States Marine. "I 'm still one today, and I will remain one forever, as did my late father and my older and only brother.

I came from a family of Marines into the family of Marines. My father served in the 1920s under the great Smedley Butler right here at Quantico. He saw combat in Haiti and came out a corporal. My brother and I were both 1950s Cold War Marines in the Third Marine Division in the Far East.

Since our corps was founded on this day in 1775, there have been more than 4 million men and women who have worn the uniform of a United States Marine. This museum is about all of them, including us three "Le-here-er-ers," and even the Little Bo Peeps.

That's because this museum is about what it means to be a Marine, no matter the time, the length, place, rank, or nature of the service.

It's about the shared experience and the shared knowledge that comes from being a U.S. Marine, such as knowing that you are only as strong and as safe as the person on your right and on your left; that well-trained and motivated human being can accomplish almost anything; that being pushed to do your very best is a godsend; that an order is an order, a duty is a duty, that responsibility goes down the chain of command, as well as up, as do loyalty and respect; that leadership can be taught, so can bearing, discipline and honor; that "follow me"; does mean "follow me"; and that Semper Fidelis really does mean "always

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Scuttlebutt

Scuttlebutt is the official newsletter of Westfield River Valley, Detachment, Marine Corps League, and is intended only for the information of its members. Articles and photos do not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Marine Corps or the Marine Corps League. Detachment Headquarters is at 71 North Elm St., Westfield, MA 01085. 413--562-4850. Items for publication should be dropped off the headquarters or by contacting the editor. Commandant Francis Curnow, 413- 786-0855. Editor Frank G. Real, Jr. 413-348-5572

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