Our 75th Anniversary Conference

If you were expecting anything else on the front page of our first newsletter of the year, think again. This is it, this is our big one!

We are now labeling this the Annual Training Conference and Symposium because that is what it is shaping up to be. It will be held August 21-26 at the Hospitality House Hotel and Conference Center in Fredericksburg, VA.

Why Fredericksburg? Why not? We’ll be just 25 minutes or so south of Quantico and the National Museum of the Marine Corps—a place many of you have not been to and want to see. In fact, we are building a trip to the Museum into the second day of our festivities. The Museum has undergone another refurbishing this past winter with the addition of a new aircraft from World War II and a helicopter tableau from the Vietnam era.

Our schedule of this writing is as follows:

- Monday evening: Welcome Reception
- Tuesday: Bus trip National Museum, Quantico
- Wednesday: Board mtgs. PMEs active duty (TBA)
- Thursday: HQMC Brief & PMEs (TBA)
- Thursday: DPA/VIEC Banquet beginning 6 p.m.

Room rates are some of the lowest in recent years at $84 for two people. Additional persons in the room at $10. As an added bonus, each person in the room will receive a chit for a complimentary full breakfast each day.

The conference fee for members is $90 per person which includes all three meal events: Welcome Reception, Awards Banquet, and Sayonara Breakfast. The registration fee for non-members wishing to attend is $100. If you are a member and can only come to the banquet, the fee is $50. Non-members wishing to attend the banquet only: $60. Note: If you join USMCCCA before the conference you will definitely save money on the registration fee.

There will be a bus trip to the National Museum of the Marine Corps on Tuesday, August 23. The fee per person for this bus trip is $15. In order to adequately plan this trip, CCHQ MUST have bus reservations made by NLT July 15. The bus will seat 57 persons. Reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis. Your hotel reservations can be made by visiting our website: www.usmccca.org.

All reservations at the hotel must be in by August 1 to assure a room. If you wish to call the hotel for your reservation the number is 540-786-8321. Our group code is USMCCCA.

Make your conference registration on our website www.usmccca.org by credit card. All registrations must be made by August 10. You may register with a personal check or, if you do not use a computer, by contacting CCHQ direct.

Conference: Oral Histories Set

Each of us has participated in history and each of us has a story that needs to be recorded so those that follow us can benefit from our experiences. To this end the Marine Corps History Division will be on hand at the Fredericksburg conference to record as many oral histories as is possible.

Fred Allison of that Division is planning on being available on Wednesday and Thursday. Each interview will generally run one hour. Think about it...plan on doing one.
Greetings fellow CCs,

As I drove home today I noticed a landscaping crew putting some finishing touches on the new entrance to our National Museum here at Quantico. It was just another reminder of the excitement and preparations building to our 75th anniversary event.

For those of you following the progress things are shaping up quite well. As you may know the National Museum of the Marine Corps has been closed since January for some major renovations, and extension and another entrance from the highway to facilitate the movement of traffic in and out as the number of visitors continue to climb. When you all get here in August there is no doubt that you will be pleasantly impressed by the new digs!

Progress is moving as follows. On Tuesday the 22nd we will spend the entire day at Quantico doing a bus tour, having lunch and possibly a sneak peek at some of the newest equipment the Corps is procuring for our Marines --- some of which your president has the responsibility for bragging about! The day will wrap up with a much anticipated trip to the museum.

And since I know many of you have complained in the past about not having enough time to enjoy the local flavor, or perhaps you’d like to return to the museum to spend the whole day, we are leaving Wednesday open for you to treat yourself to a bit of touring. As I mentioned Fredericksburg offers quite a bit to enjoy, from history to antiques, to shopping and dining, there will be plenty to do and most of it will be a short walk or ride from where we are staying. If you want to spend a little time planning your trip you may want to go to the following web site and get a few ideas http://www.visitfred.com/things-to-do, it is filled with some great information.

But enough about having fun we are also here to do some work and honor some very well deserving young Marines, and that is what our Thursday will be devoted to. We are working on putting together a few panels to include a life after the Corps for those active duty Marines looking to move on. Additionally we are expecting a brief from our new director of public affairs and his staff on the changes made and pending for all CCs. We have also received confirmation that the Quantico band will support our banquet. And just a friendly reminder that in honor of our 75th year we will dress to impress --- so get those tuxes and or dark suits to the tailors, if they need a little adjustment.

Again it promises to be a great event so I look forward to seeing you ALL there.

It would not be appropriate for me to sign off without paying a special tribute to a great friend and Marine who gave so much to our organization. As Don O’Neal struggled with his many medical challenges he also persevered to ensure that both the Foundation and the Association where in good health. He worked tirelessly to make sure we were on a good path to sustain our organization and preserve our heritage for those that will follow us. I spoke to Don the day before he passed and let him know how much he meant to all of us and that we were praying for him. He thanked me and told me that he was tired and was comfortable knowing that he fought the good fight. He fought not only a good fight but a great fight, and his efforts will carry us for a long time. We extend our deepest sympathy to Yvette and the entire O’Neal family. Rest in peace my friend.

Semper Fi,
Manny

Dues Reminder

CCHQ has had a good response for member dues this year but we sill have quite a few who need to “re-up.”

Remember, the dues year is October 1 through September 30. Dues are $25 for sergeants and below and $35 for staff ncos and above.

Go on line to www.usmccca.org and get current with us. We need you!
Three Who Made a Difference

Ed. Note: We thank Foundation President Bill Hauptfleisch for agreeing to give up his column space so we could offer a well-deserved salute to three CC’ers who recently passed onto Heaven’s scenes. These Marines made a significant contribution to this organization and, in our opinion, should be recognized. JTP)

Bob Springer

He became our second executive director on Bob Morrisey’s retirement.

Often kidded about his short stature Bob even admitted one time that he had been turned down for a commission due to his height. What he lacked in stature, he more than made up in making sure this Association functioned as our By Laws dictated.

Born in Chattanooga, TN in 1931, he enlisted in 1948 and served in Korea in 1951–52. He transferred into the information field in 1958 serving on various newspaper staffs until being assigned as an instructor at DINFOS, Ft. Benjamin Harrison in 1966. He reported to Vietnam as NCOiC of the AFN station on Monkey Mountain in 1968, returning to El Toro where he retired in 1969.

Bob was very active in the USMCCCA, serving as national president from 1971-72. He was the Association’s first recipient of the Donald L. Dickson Memorial Award in 1975.

Mike Pitts

As friends said in a tribute to him in the 2015 Journal, Mike loved the CCs and everyone in it. He gave generously to us with his time, talent and himself. A three-term President, he was also active with the Jim Lucas Chapter in Washington and helped co-found the now defunct Donald Dickson Chapter at Quantico. He also co-authored the Paid Life Membership and Absentee Ballot initiatives.

He earned the Donald L. Dickson Memorial Award in 1999.

Mike was known for his warm heart and quick smile and fantastic sense of humor. His antics and the fun he had at past conferences are fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Don O’Neal

Don’s passing in early March was not totally unexpected given his health in recent years yet it was a blow to the organization.

Don, like Mike, literally lived and breathed USMCCCA. A past president of both the Association and Foundation he still volunteered to come out of “retirement” when the Foundation Treasurer’s position came open several years ago.

Don was an innovator who recognized that the job had outgrown volunteer status and, two years ago, suggested the hiring of a bookkeeper.

He, like presidents before him, was vitally concerned that this organization remain THE professional organization for Marine Corps Combat Correspondents and Combat Camera Marines.

To the three: Semper Fidelis Marines, you are missed.
2016 Dedicated Member Drive Starts

The 2016 Dedicated Member campaign kicked off April 1.

As Foundation President Bill Hauptfleisch said, “this year, more than ever, we need your help. Our scholarship funds really need replenishing if we are to continue to provide two $3,000 grants annually.”

The appealing feature of the DM campaign is that members may designate their funds in several different ways. Many contribute in honor or in memory of a fallen comrade; others to friends still with us. This year a special request is being made to build up the scholarship fund.

Contributions can be made in several ways: 1) go to www.usmccca.org and, on the left side of the opening page, click the button for Dedicated Members and use your credit card. You DO NOT need a PayPal account. 2) Make your gift by personal check to USMCCCA Foundation and use the return remittance envelope that came in the mailing.

As Bill said in his letter, we also are encouraging members to make pledges. “By making a pledge and paying it through installments from your bank, the financial impact of one large gift is much less. One member has already taken advantage of this method to support not only the DM campaign, but his sponsorship of a DPA award and an annual ad in our Journal.”

Bill also added: “Regardless of how you make it, your gift is very much appreciated.”

History Project Underway

Don’t be surprised if you receive a request for information about your time in a PA or ComCam position during any of our combat eras.

To celebrate our 75th anniversary next year at the Fredericksburg Annual Training Symposium (aka conference), an historical update is being prepared that more completely identifies the conflicts we have been involved in since our inception in 1942. Hopefully, the 250-300 page book will serve as inspiration to bring our previous history: Last to Know, First to Go up to date.

The book will be published by Life Member Dave and Diane Biesel’s St. Johann Press. Initially the book will be given to all who register for the Symposium at Fredericksburg. Other copies will be available to members at cost, with all proceeds going to the CCs.

To date, we are fairly well set with World War II and Korea. We have quite a bit of info on hand for Vietnam. Needed are photos for Bierut and all subsequent operations.

If you have not yet been contacted and feel you have something to contribute, contact CCHQ at usmcca@ecl.rr.com.

The initial publication at Fredericksburg will be a “teaser.” We know there will be necessary additions and we will solicit those. The final book printing will follow, probably in mid-2017.

About Those DPA Awards

As many of you may have noticed in the past few years, the “traditional” Distinguished Performance/Merit/VIEC Awards Program run by HQMC and the USMCCCA is undergoing some name and category changes. This is to align the award categories and submission criteria to the annual Thomas Jefferson Awards program run by DINFOS.

The goal is to simplify submissions for the individual Marines and Units competing. However, it is still showing its kinks with late submission, incomplete entry packages and technical glitches. Rest assured, we are working to get these kinks out.

In the meantime, we will be honoring this year’s winners at the 2016 USMCCCA Conference and Training Symposium which will be held at the Fredericksburg, VA Hospitality House Hotel & Conference Center August 21-26.

This conference celebrates our 75th anniversary so we hope to have as many winners, past and present there.

As per usual, winners will be announced via MARADMIN by HQMC and posted on our website www.USMCCCA.org and FaceBook page.

Snuffie’s Reunion—Dale Dye’s great story on Mauk’ Arnold’s crew of Snuffies in the Journal prompted a reunion of sorts when four gathered at Steve Berntson’s in Southern California recently. From left: Berntson, who was wounded at Hue City, former Sergeants Mike Stokey and Bob “Ding” Bayer, and retired Capt. Dale Dye
Our Boards
Association
Officers
President: Manny Pacheco
VP: Kate Stark
Secretary: Chris Whiting
Treasurer: Rick Lavers

Directors
Fran Piccoli (2017)
Don Coleman (2017)
Bob Long (2016)
Bob Mergle (2016)
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Officers
President: Bill Hauptfleisch
VP: Tom Kerr
Secretary: Sally Pritchett
Treasurer: Tom Kerr

Directors
Red Carpenter
Walt Ford
Agostino von Hassel
Pat Coulter
Brian Thompson

Executive Director Jack T. Paxton serves both boards.

One of the great perks of this job is meeting young active duty chargers in both of our oc fields, then watching them advance in the Corps. Shortly after taking the reins of this association in 2005 we met a young corporal at an early conference by the name of Tuthill.

The name immediately rang a memory bell: If you were a TV fan of MASH with Hawkeye and Trapper you may remember the episode where they invented an officer to mess with CO Henry Blake’s mind and raise money for an orphanage. The fictitious officer was named Tuthill.

The longer we got to know our Brian Tuthill, the more we understood he would no doubt become a leader and hopefully remain in our 43 field. His recent promotion to gunnery sergeant bore out our early prediction. On top of this he is now going to college under the NESEP program and will graduate as a Marine second lieutenant.

If you are a FaceBook fan look for his usually humorous weekly piece from college depicting how a Marine gunny interacts with college youngsters.

And, speaking of FaceBook, proof that an old dog can learn new tricks, our illustrious webmaster/mistress Kate Stark dragged me kicking and screaming into the 21st century AND FaceBook, a place that I had been avoiding like the plague.

First, in my opinion, many use Face Book to vent or to tell all what they had for breakfast that morning. This I can do without. Second, I had been getting requests since FB started to “be someone’s friend.” Many times I had no idea who it was that wanted to be my friend and I ignored them.

Yet, at Kate’s insistence, I signed on and fast became a believer. As a test I posted a request for addresses of members who moved without telling CCHQ. Within days, most of those who had disappeared were in contact.

The second test came when we were left holding about $500 in checks for missing DPA members. I listed their names on FB and, within two days all checks were in the mail.

We have our own USMCCCA page and it has become a useful tool for getting information about the Association and Foundation out to the FB “world.”

Don Gee staying busier these days, recently becoming Business Manager for the national Mustang organization. He already is exec of the Chosin Few and the 3rd Marine Division Association.

I have to laugh at some of the TV “news” features about how this person “in his 70s” or that one in her “early 80s” are so active so late in life. Red Carpenter and I, both in our mid-80s, have been playing golf together once a week for about 18 years at a course in central Florida. The club greens keeper comes by every week with a comment, usually something like: “You two old f—s ought to be in a rest home, yet you are out here at zero dark every Thursday.” We keep saying that age is relative, it’s all in your mind.

Our Florida Chapter golf planning committee received an unexpected boost with the arrival of new Life Member Shanze Lee (shown below). A CC of the early 90s era, Shanze left the Corps after eight years, finished his education, then started his own construction company in Central Florida. At our recent planning meeting he not only admitted to being an ardent golfer but said he would have two groups playing in our April 22 tournament and would also sponsor a hole sign. Elsewhere in this issue you can read more about this tournament that has generated more than $85,000 for the Foundation in the 12 years of its existence.

We keep hearing more and more comments from CCs about getting together at our Fredericksburg conference which is great! I have a hunch this might break attendance records. It also should tell you to get your hotel reservation in ASAP. Easy way is to visit our website, www.usmcca.org and make it as you make your registration. Also, we are laying on a 57 passenger bus for Tuesday’s run to the Museum so if you want a ride, you need to sign up for it.

We’ve been asked about our 2017 Conference and the best we can tell you at this point is that it will be “out West.” Don Coleman is looking at sites as we write this.
Florida’s Golf Tournament in 12th Year

The 12th annual USMCCCA Foundation (Florida Chapter) Golf Tournament will be held Friday afternoon, April 22 at the Sherman Hills Golf Club, near Brooksville, FL.

The tournament is the primary fundraiser for the USMCCCA Foundation that supports the CC’s patriotic, charitable and educational programs for both active duty Marines, retired Marines and their families. One of the primary beneficiaries of this tournament has been the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund, Oceanside, CA which, since the tournament’s inception, has received more than $85,000 from the Foundation.

The tournament is open to all golfers, male and female and features a scramble format. The entry fee is $50 and includes greens and cart fees, range balls and a meal following play. Sherman Hills is considered one of the best conditioned golf courses in Central Florida and features gently rolling hills and a fairly wide-open venue.

Tournament Chair James “Red” Carpenter has issued an invitation to all CC “friends” to come and play in the tourna-

ment. Special arrangements have been made with the nearby Quality Inn for out of town guests who would be interested in playing. If you wish to come in Thursday night the special fee is $65. The hotel telephone number is 352-796-9481. The booking code is USMCCCA Golf.

If you cannot come to Florida and play but wish to support the tournament, Carpenter said that hole sponsorships are available for $150. All contributions should be made to the USMCCA Foundation and sent to James “Red” Carpenter, 1072 Greenturf Rd., Spring Hill, FL 34608. Should you wish to support the tournament by credit card, call CCHQ at 352-748-4698.

Nominations: The deadline for nominations to Association leadership positions is May 15. We will be filling three Director positions for two year terms. Your nominations must be at CCHQ no later than 5 p.m. May 15.

Scholarships: The USMCCCA Foundation annually awards two scholarships to active duty, members, and dependents of members who served in occupational fields 43 and 46. If active duty, must agree to join the Association and continue your membership throughout the length of the scholarship period. The Gladys McPartland Scholarship is for general studies. The BrigGen. Denig Scholarship is for studies leading to a degree in communications. The deadline for applications is May 31. Go to www.usmccca.org for additional information and forms.

Brig. Gen. Robert L. Denig Memorial Award: Deadline April 30. This award is presented only annually to civilian practitioners of mass communications who, in the opinion of the Association Board of Directors has or have made significant contribution to the perpetration of the ideals, traditions, stature and achievements of the United States Marine Corps.

Donald L. Dickson Memorial Award: The Donald L. Dickson Memorial award is a highly prestigious award presented annually to a deserving recipient. Nominations are restricted to active members who, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, have contributed the most to the USMCCCA. No term or time limit is required or considered as a prerequisite. Nominees must be active, paid up members of the USMCCCA.

Membership: The membership year is October 1 to September 30. Dues are $35 for staff and above; $25 for sergeants and below.

Journal Ads: Deadline is August 1. Member quarter-page ads: $150. For complete ad rates call CCHQ at 352-748-4698.

DPA/VIEC Sponsorships: $250. Provides for $100 cash award, plaque, certificate, complimentary one-year membership. Deadline: June 1.

Florida Golf Planners—(l-r) Hank Ehlbeck, Jack Paxton, Gene Smith, Red Carpenter, Ann Carpenter, and Pat Paxton at pre-meeting golf luncheon March 26.
The Board of Trustees of Valley Forge Military Academy & College has unanimously approved the appointment of Colonel John C. Church, Jr., USMCR, as President.

Colonel Church will take office at the end of this academic year, succeeding current President Dr. Stacey R. Sauchuk. Colonel Church is a combat decorated US Marine Corps Reservist, educator, leader, mentor, role model, and author.

William R. Floyd, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Trustees, was pleased to make the announcement stating that “Colonel Church possesses a unique combination of military leadership experience and an academic background. His prior experience at Valley Forge, serving as a Professor of Leadership and later as Dean of the College, make him uniquely qualified to lead Valley Forge into the future. The entire Valley Forge community welcomes Colonel Church back and looks forward to his inspirational leadership.”

“It is a great honor and humbling privilege to be given the opportunity to lead such a storied institution as Valley Forge. I am grateful for the appointment. However, I am also thankful for the manner in which the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Immaculata community embraced our family during my tenure here. Our family will truly miss all the Mighty Macs, but Mary Kay and I are truly thrilled to return to the VF family,” said Colonel Church.

Colonel Church is an active Marine Corps Reservist, currently commanding the 3D Civil Affairs Group in Great Lakes, IL, and intends to conclude his career at the end of his command tour. As a combat engineer officer, Colonel Church commanded Company C, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion in Lynchburg, Virginia, from where he led a deployment to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. With 4th Civil Affairs Group, Colonel Church served in Kosovo, completed two tours of duty in Iraq, served in Afghanistan, and taught Civil Affairs to soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia.

Known to his many friends as “Doc,” he is a life member of the USMCCCA.

Chas Henry, shown above interviewing retired General and former Secretary of State, Colin Powell, is a news anchor and national security correspondent with Westwood One, a radio network heard on stations across the country. Chas is a long time CC and, himself a Desert Storm veteran. He recently produced a series of brief radio reports for the 25th anniversary of the Gulf War. For complete links to his anniversary newscasts, go to www.usmccca.org. Topics include: Are Gulf War Lessons Applicable Today; One Marine’s Personal Recollections, Gulf War Media Coverage, Gulf War Illness and Overview.

Neither Rain, Nor Sleet, Nor Snow—Would keep 91-year-old Marine Don Knight from raising the flag in the wake of the Blizzard of 2016. A seven foot pile of the white stuff in Kensington MD was scaled to get the banner in place. (Photo by Phyllis Knight)
2016 Conference Registration Info

Note: The conference registration desk will open Monday morning at 10 a.m. The first event will be the Welcome Reception Monday evening at 6 p.m.

On Tuesday a bus will be made available at $15 per person for a trip to the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico. This will be a day-long trip. Lunch is on your own.

On Thursday evening we will have our traditional DPA/VIEC Awards banquet beginning with a reception at 6 p.m.

On Friday morning we will have our Sayonara/Business Breakfast and conference adjournment. The three meal events are included in your registration. The bus is not.

Now Hear This

Now Hear This is the official publication of the USMCCCA and it’s Foundation.

The newsletter is published and edited by the Executive Director of the USMCCCA.

Copy may be submitted electronically to usmccca@cfl.rr.com or by mailing to 110 Fox Court, Wildwood, FL 34785.

For more topical news we invite you to visit www.usmccca.org.

Registration - $90 Per Person

Name(s):
_______________________________________
_______________________________________
Address: _____________________________ State: __________
Zip: ______________
Arrival Date: ________ Departure Date: __________
Bus Seats@ $15: ____ Amount paid: $ ______

Credit Card Information:
V/MC:  Number: ___________________________
Expiration Date: _________
3-Digit Code (Reverse) _______

Note: The easiest way to register for the conference is to go online to www.usmccca.org and fill out the information. You do not have to have a PayPal account to do this. Just enter your V/MC credit card info and you are home free.

Registration deadline: August 1.