

**This Hotline is modified and does not contain the membership list.**

# *The* **HOTLINE**

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### About The Cover

November 10, 2006

Dedication Day for the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

The Marine Band plays as Marines and their guests await the arrival of the Commander in Chief who will formally dedicate the new museum. Over 12 thousand gathered for the opening ceremonies at the site near Quantico, VA. The museum is open every day of the year except Christmas from 0900 to 1700.

## MATCA BIRTHDAYS

### February

02 Terry Terrel  
03 Robert Gerber  
07 Patty Cullison  
08 Linda Hanebutt  
14 John Gibbs  
19 Annie Carman  
20 Jack Mefford  
21 Marie Knight  
23 Charles Polk  
26 Pat Wyatt

### March

02 Wendy Terrell  
02 Doris Coxe  
05 Jo Ann Behan  
07 Roger McIntosh  
08 G.S. Pahl  
10 Rose Applebury  
12 Lance Oliver  
12 Beth Marie Dodge  
13 Sue Lague  
13 Pat Bader  
13 H. "Toney" Couteau, Jr.  
19 Ron Dodge  
20 Ann Marie Lewis  
21 Bill Runyan  
28 Jim Price

## Publisher's Statement

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All forms may be photocopied

Dear People,

Happy Holidays, and love to all.

Brief message, late with cards etc. Got an excuse, have been moving out of my mobile home trying to get my butt into a pickup camper. Don't know how any one man could collect so much stuff over the past twenty years. Anyway, this old boy going to retire from the State on Jan. 1st. Time to go see all the things I might have missed in my life and get back to my dear love of backpacking. May they find me under a tree, with a full pack and a big smile on my face.

Love you tax payers, I are now a triple dipper...

THE BAD NEWS... I am going to visit some of y'all I ain't seen for years. Stand By,I is coming. Plans are loose right now, last day here is the 31st. Will be on the road to my son's in California the 1st, back here late in the month and off to Norfolk with gear for my son's there. Back here in mid February and load the camper. Will probably hang around Florida till spring, then off for a couple months in New England. Lots of folks to visit there (BR yo is in trouble).

Anyway, no real address but keeping PO Box 1063 Lake Wales, FL 33859. My mobile phone (if I are in range) be 863 202 0598.

Old standby - I be (gunnynewc@att.net)

Love y'all, wish me well.

Chet Newcomb

# COMM CENTER

## **Marine to Receive Medal of Honor**

American Forces Press Service By Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn  
November 11, 2006

QUANTICO, Va. - A Marine corporal who died shielding men in his care from a bursting grenade will receive America's highest military decoration, President Bush said Friday.

Actions by Cpl. Jason L. Dunham, who would have turned 25 today, merit the Medal of Honor, Bush said at the National Museum of the Marine Corps dedication ceremony, which coincided with the 231st Marine Corps anniversary.

On April 14, 2004, in Iraq near the Syrian border, the corporal used his helmet and his body to smother an exploding Mills bomb let loose by a raging insurgent whom Dunham and two other Marines had tried to subdue.

The explosion dazed and wounded Lance Cpl. William Hampton and Pfc. Kelly Miller. The insurgent stood up after the blast and was immediately killed by Marine small-arms fire.

Dunham lay face down with a shard the size of a dress-shirt button lodged in his head. The hard, molded mesh that was his Kevlar helmet was now scattered yards around into clods and shredded fabric. Dunham never regained consciousness and died eight days later at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., with his mother and father at his bedside.

Dunham's commanding officers from 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, investigated his actions and nominated him for the Medal of Honor. After two years and seven months making its way to the White House, the nomination now has the necessary approval from the president. Next, the president will present the medal and citation to the corporal's parents, Dan and Debra Dunham, who drove to Quantico from their home in Scio, N.Y. Dunham is buried in Scio.

"Corporal Dunham's mom and dad are with us today on what would have been this brave young man's 25th birthday," Bush said. "We remember that the Marine who so freely gave his life was your beloved son. We ask a loving God to comfort you for a loss that can never be replaced. And on this special birthday, in the company of his fellow Marines, I'm proud to announce that our nation will recognize Corporal Jason Dunham's action with America's highest decoration for valor, the Medal of Honor.

"As long as we have Marines like Corporal Dunham," the president continued. "America will never fear for her liberty. And as long as we have this fine museum, America will never forget their sacrifice."

Before Dunham, the last Marine actions to earn the medal happened May 8, 1970, in Vietnam, according to Marine Corps History Division records. A Medal of Honor citation details Lance Cpl. Miguel Keith's machine-gun charge that inspired a platoon facing nearly overwhelming odds: Wounded, Keith ran into "fire-swept terrain." Wounded again by a grenade, he still attacked, taking out enemies in the forward rush. Keith fought until mortally wounded; his platoon came out on top despite being heavily outnumbered.

The last Marine to receive the Medal of Honor was Maj. Gen. James L. Day, who distinguished himself as a corporal in the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. On Jan. 20, 1998, more than half a century later, President Bill Clinton presented the medal to Day. He passed away that year.

Dunham's Medal of Honor will be the second awarded for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On April 4, 2003, Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith posthumously earned the medal for organizing a defense that held off a company-sized attack on more than 100 vulnerable coalition soldiers. In the defense, Smith manned a .50-caliber machine gun in an exposed position until he was mortally wounded.



## MATCA Reunions....New and Old News

### For the Doubletree Suites in Phoenix:

There is an 800 number: 1-800-800-3098 and ask for the MATCA Reunion Rate.

ALL rooms are two room suites and include a full breakfast buffet.

These rates will be good for the Sunday before, (the 23rd), thru the 30th of Sept. 2007.

IF you want the Arizona phone number, it is: (602) 225-0500

### Pre-Reunion 2007

In keeping with the almost yearly "Pre-Reunion" gatherings...we will be setting up a Bucca de Beppo dinner for any of the Pre-Reunion guests who wish to be included. If you remember Anaheim, Ca and Ft Lauderdale Reunions, Bucca's was a great hit for all that attended.

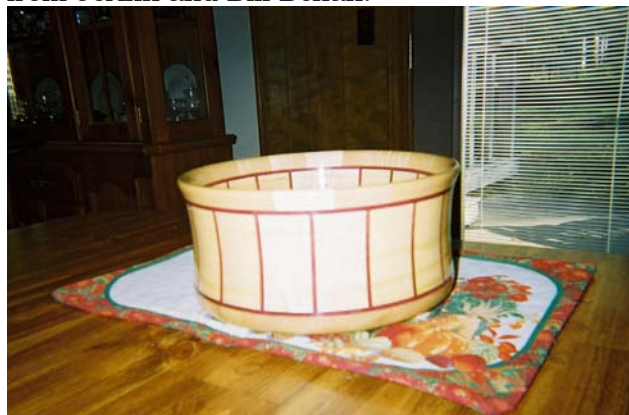
BE FORE-WARNED... The Bucca de Beppo dinner is ONE BILL that is divided by the number of people who attend...(the tip is normally in this bill, and we have always added a little more, for the Staff has ALWAYS been outstanding)... This means that if you don't drink, or you eat very little...the bill is still split amongst those who attend. Everyone pays an equal amount!...and the split cost is PER PERSON.. I do believe that Ft Lauderdale cost was \$28 per person... There were 34 in attendance, the bill was approx \$884, and we each added another \$2 per person for an extra tip to the staff, which was a total of \$952 to Bucca's for dinner/drinks/dessert/tips.

If one does not like that arrangement, or doesn't feel that it is "fair" because you don't drink or eat a lot...I would suggest that you not attend this party.

For others who will be arriving early and do want to join the fun at Bucca De Beppo's, Tuesday evening, September 25, 2007, please notify me (Skip Redpath), so that I can arrange reservations for us. I will need to know by Sept 11th. Thanks.

### Raffle Winners - 2006 Reunion

Sylvia Marshall won Skip's certificate. She also won a Tee Shirt from John Gibbs and a golf rack from JoAnn and Bill Behan.



Bonnie Showalter won the quilt made by Dana Crocker.



Some other winners were:

The Bulldog print by Bette Morehead won by Marcella Fodor, Lance Oliver, Skip Redpath, Jim Newton, John Rush. There were 13 winners.

Marine Corps Lamp donated by Ed Wargin was won by Charlie Yetter. Charlie also won a sandstone sculpture donated by the Melissa and Steve Hulland and a Marine cap donated by Bob Young and bud vases from Roger McIntosh.

Marcella Fodor also won a Crystal Pitcher and glasses from Swede Roberts and a Marine Corps Watch from John Gibbs and a Marine cap from Bob Young.

Jan Gale won a Marine Corps Clock from Frank and Marcella Fodor and a Pappy Young painting from Mickey Urlie.

Kathy Dargan won the MATCA Teddy Bear made by Mickey Urlie.

John Rush also won an original Eagle Painting by Marion Stepp.

Davy Crocker won a framed MATCA logo from Joann and Bill Behan.

Lance Oliver won a Marine Cap from Bob Young.

Jim Dargan won a Marine Corps pillow from Carole McIntosh. He also won a magazine rack from Bill and Joann Behan.

Also donated but winners unknown are: Several Bulldog prints from Bette Morehead, History of WWII from Steve and Mellissa Hulland, a Marine Bulldog from Roger McIntosh, Silver Serving Platter from Charlie and Del Yetter, 2 sandstone sculptures from Melissa and Steve Hulland, a Marine pillow from Carole McIntosh, framed MATCA logos from Joann and Bill Behan, a Tee shirt from John Gibbs, life guard coasters from Terry Bobell, framed stamps from John Trospen and Barbara Mino, a marble commemorative plaque from Herm Moyers and 2 bracelets from Bonnie Showalter. Del and Lena Harman donated an unidentified gift.

This was in our local paper. Bill is an Iwo Jima vet.

#### The Bugler

Bugler, please don't sound the charge  
Our ranks are getting thin  
Our arms are oh, so weary  
And our eyes are getting dim.  
There was a time  
So long ago  
We answered every call,  
Through shot and shell  
Through fire and hell  
We watched our comrades fall  
Now I've got one more call to answer  
So one favor, I ask perhaps,  
As they lower this old Marine to rest  
Will you honor me with Taps?

Bill Robinson  
Sgt USMC 1943-1946

*Ed. Note: I know Christmas is long gone, but consider this a report of the success of our annual "gifts to the combat troops". MSgt. Brooks Bergeron, AKA Top-BAJ, has spearheaded this effort the past three years in outstanding fashion.*

#### **TO ALL of MATCA,**

My thanks to the dedicated group of Marines that are MATCA. What this group is about defines the true meaning of "Brotherhood of Marines". I am nothing more than the "working party" in this (Christmas Gift) effort. It is ALL of our MATCA Marines that keep this endeavor going.

In case you do not know how our MATCA Christmas drive started, I'll share it with you now:

Was Da' Night Before Another Day in the Combat Zone

[This is no s\_\_\_, I was really there! (wait, this is the start of a SEA-STORY, let me try again).

Was the weeks before Christmas, and where was Top-BAJ?

He was down in Mazar-e-Sharif freezing off his ... uh butt.

While land minds were bursting all about his head,

He knew the mail clerk NCO back at K2, his MATCA mail would dread.

Boxes upon boxes they would have to stack,  
While thinking, "When in the hell is Top coming back"!

After I returned, the Mail NCO did vent,  
"Glad you're alive Top, now get these boxes into your tent"!

So many boxes from MATCA I received in '03,  
Way too much love for little ol' me.

My heart grew 3 times bigger by that very noon,  
(I stole that last line from some cartoon.)

So I put the goodies in piles but needed labor,  
I used 2nd LT's as sweat shop labor.

On Christmas day of the year 03'

Every Marine got a present via the ones ya'll sent me.

Through the years 04', 05, and 06',

Your support for our Marines have been sent

Merry Christmas MATCA, and please remember each and every one of you makes a BIG difference in the lives of our Active Duty Marines.

*Editor's note: Bill Behan wrote this as an e-mail to the on line group. Some lively discussions take place, and at times they get off the track of why we built the group in the first place. His words are so good though, that I'm passing his message along for everyone to read.*

12/26/06

Yesterday Christians all over this earth celebrated the birth of their savior. Jews recently celebrated Hanukkah. Muslims celebrate their faith everyday buy turning towards Mecca and praying to their God. But many MATCA members using this venue continue to vent their opinions about what is right and what is wrong with today's politician's, why management is always wrong and unions are always right or the opposite view.

We have lost our way. It is time to reflect and take up arms and do something to fix what is wrong. Mayor Guliano fixed New York when he took over as Mayor. He told the police you can't control a population by concentrating on the biggies, murder, rape, and robbery when the problem is not just a few. The problem was that no one had respect for the law. Whether it was jaywalking, spitting on the street, or just a lack of basic civility to our fellow man.

Start with the first snowflake, use a child's hands and build the small snowball, then reach down and help them roll it into a bigger ball, then ask your neighbors to help start rolling the bigger ball down the street and down the hill. It will become so big that nothing will stand in its way.

That first snowflake is the memory and legacy of Pappy Young, Jim Sumner, Boyd Murdock, and all those gentle and kind leaders that have gone before us. Lead by example. Take some of the excess energy that many of us use to spout who is right and who is wrong and turn it into positive forces to make 2007 a better year for you, your families, your grandchildren and their grandchildren. Find a focus to make things better for you and for those around you. Be that first snowflake and attach yourself to another. Grow yourself into an unstoppable force for which this country was originally founded for. Follow Pappy's lead and see what is beautiful in this world. Be a Jim Sumner and help those around you. Lead with the passion of a Boyd Murdock. Live by the golden rule every minute of your life, sure it will be hard at first, but everything good in this world always starts with a first step.

In the words of our Corps; **Semper Fidelis!** Always be faithful in deed and thought towards what our country stands for; **Freedom and the Pursuit of Happiness** for each and every one of us. Be the Marine you once were and the Marine you will be till the day we join our brothers in heaven.

Bill Behan

.....  
**MSgt. Bergeron looking at retirement**

I am trying to put together a good intro class for the Marines that we receive from their basic electronics school. I want to incorporate the facts from Bob Marshall's history book and include our history "before and after" his book's time frame.

The reason why? Our students on both the maintenance and operator (enlisted & officer) side have no clue as to what we do, where we came from, and where we are going. I want to put something in place before I retire.

Speaking of retiring, I am looking at doing so (for sure this time) around May '07. Why did I pick May? I do not want a big ol' parade or ceremony, I want a Crawfish Boil where I do not have to do all the cooking for once. May is premiere crawfish season, so there you have it.

After 23 years of wearing this uniform, it will be time to place it aside with other past memories. When one has spent more years of his life in the Marine Corps than not, it is hard to adjust to a new type of life. I know that some of our retired Marines know this feeling, but it is new to me and brings about those feelings of closure and the end of a slice of my life that has been "all that I know" for so many years.

Yes, I will miss it. I am thankful that our MATCA Association is in place and that I am a member. That helps to relieve the "empty nest" syndrome that is normally chained to parents when their children leave home. The Marine Corps has been my home for many years, attending MATCA reunions will help that transition between an Active Duty Marine and Retired Marine.

Thank you MATCA & Joe Medico, for being there during these mind tossing times.

Semper Fi,  
"Once a Marine - Always a Marine"  
Brooks



## TAPS

### **Raymond W. Dinnan**

Raymond W. Dinnan passed away on December 5, 2006. Ray, who lived in Reno, Nevada, was a charter member of MATCA. He also was a life member. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery at a date yet to be determined. Rays' wife, Dee, will be moving to Texas.

### **Ralph R. Reichenbach**

We recently received notice from the sister of MSgt Ralph R. Reichenbach (the lead controller for a time around 1962 at the MATCU in Iwakuni, Japan, who retired about 1963, that he died in July 2006. He was one of the first members of the MATCA, and was at the first reunion in Reno and at the one in Dallas. Some of you may remember him and his New York type of speech. He has been added to our Memorial Role.

### **Stephen D. Bowers**

Funeral services for Mr. Stephen D. Bowers, 45, of Duke Street, Newnan, Georgia, who died December 4, 2006, were conducted in Pineview Memorial Gardens with Veterans Honors. Mr. Bowers was a native of North Augusta, having made Newnan his home for the past 11 years. He was a member of Cornerstone United Methodist Church, a U.S. Marine Corp Veteran and an Air Traffic Controller with the Federal Aviation Administration. Survivors include his wife, Dana Patchin Bowers; and two sons, Cody Bowers and Tyler Bowers both of Newnan.

### **Arthur F. Evans, Jr.**

Arthur F. Evans, Jr. passed away on November 30, 2006. He had been in failing health for a long period. His daughter reported the death. There is no surviving spouse. Arthur was a life member of MATCA and his daughter said he often spoke of his years as a Marine as the best years of his life.



## **My Word**

Another holiday season has come and gone, and here we are on the east coast waiting for winter to arrive. Not a lick of snow as of this writing. Looks like Colorado is hogging all the white stuff this year. I'll bet their ski slopes are at full employment, while our golf courses are having an extended fall use.

This issue is, of course, the annual membership roster. We have always been careful not to let the roster fall into the hands of those who would misuse it and we ask that you do the same. This 'information age' can have its' down sides. If you

notice an error in the roster, please let us know by e-mail or letter right away so that a correction can be published in the April issue of Hotline. The association's charter is, after all, as a fraternal military organization. We want to keep the lines of communication between members available and correct.

In April we will be printing the registration forms for the upcoming September reunion in Phoenix. Because of the popularity of the hotel in Phoenix, it is more important than ever that individual registrations with the hotel be made early. You don't have to wait for the forms to make your reservations with the hotel. Their phone numbers are in this Hotline. Go ahead and make your travel plans now and call the hotel. You can always make changes or cancellations later. This is a great hotel, in a great place, at a great price. Don't pass up a chance for being part of the fun.



# MATCA

Marine Air Traffic Control Association

Marine Air Traffic Control Association, Inc.

Membership Application / Renewal Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day, month & year of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ MOS \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Duty Stations/Dates \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$20.00 and due 1 January each year.

Dues for five years - \$85.00.....\$.....

Dues for ten years - \$150.00.....\$.....

Lifetime membership

Age 50 and under - \$300.00.....\$.....

Age 51 - 69 - \$200.00.....\$.....

Age 70-89-\$100.00.....\$.....

Age 90 and above honorary life time membership

Donation to Memorial Fund.....\$.....

Donation to General Fund.....\$.....

Total amount enclosed.....\$.....

Check one:    New Member            Renewal

**Complete this form and mail  
with your check to:**

**Secretary- Bill Behan**

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