



Scuttlebutt

APR - JUN 2010

A Squid newsletter for Doc's of all Services!

Happy 4th of July

From the Staff of Corpsman.com

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Rant from Da-Chief

by HMC Darrell Crone

Happy 4th of July!

I hope you're all enjoying this fine summer with your family and friends. The weather up here in the Great Lakes region has been outstanding after a long, winter.

Unfortunately I have not been able to get into the swing of things due to a back injury I sustained during the winter. It has gotten to the point to where I had to visit the ER two nights back and got 4 injections, everything from Steroids, Synthetic Morphine, and last but not least the big "V", Valium.

Later today I have a visit with the big MRI machine to see what the hell is going on.

I hope you all take the time when doing those pesky working parties etc to use your legs for lifting etc.

I know the mission comes first and we are always trying to get the mission done in a efficient way and fast, but I promise you what you don't feel today may come back to haunt you later. You don't want what I have right now..

Have a happy and safe 4th of July and please remember don't drink and drive call someone if you have had a few to many, even if your underage, it's better to suffer some consequences which are minor to getting a DUI on your record and you forced out of the Military.

Also last but not least I know more then a few of you are "Pyro's" and are just awaiting the 4th to blow something off. Fireworks and ETOH don't mix either. Make sure you have a bucket of water near buy if needed and don't' let the little ones get near you when your trying to blow your own hand off.

Stay Safe!
Happy Summer
Da-Chief
Corpsman.com

A Plea from Da-Chief

by HMC Darrell Crone

We are putting out a plea for donations to help support our site. I know you have seen some of my emails as such but we really need some support from you the users.

We cut off our Yahoo Ads (They went out of business), and while I could put up some other ads, they are chincy and you never know what your going to get. (I don't want porn ads on our site do you?)

I am also still looking for help for columns. Do you want to write a weekly column? If so please email me @ admin1@corpsman.com. I will be in contact with you ASAP.

Are you an aspiring cartoonist that is always doodling something funny? Lets give you a area on this site to publish your works.

Do you want to review movies? Books? Be a sports section writer, then email me so we can get you in the loop.

With my back injury it is essential that we get some help here on the site and have someone other then just me, Dee, and Tony posting.

Hope to hear from you soon

Da-Chief

P.s Please remember to hit the



On our site, to help support us!

Corpsman receives dog to help with PTSD, TBI

By LCpl Victor Barrera, USMC

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Camp Lejeune's Naval Hospital was bustling with activity as a sailor walked throughout the hospital with his service dog, Sally, April 7.

Throughout the hospital heads peeked both around doors and corners to catch a glimpse of the yellow Labrador retriever.

Along with seeing the dog, a few people stopped to talk to the proud owner of Sally, Petty Officer 2nd Class Buf Kloppenborg, a Navy corpsman.



Through the Paws4Pets organization Kloppenborg has spent several months with Sally getting to know her and building bonds. The last step in the process of bonding was having Kloppenborg hold on to the leash for a set amount of hours in a process called umbilical training.

Within the organization dogs can be trained to meet an active duty or retired service member's needs, said Terry Henry, executive director for Paws4Vets. Dogs can be trained to meet physical, psychological, emotional and neurological needs.

The training builds a greater bond, helps Sally focus on Kloppenborg and above all provides Kloppenborg with a sense of comfort and security.

"That dog is like a ray of sunshine when it

walks down the hallways," said Allison Kaminsky, director of the mental evaluations team with Paws4Vets.

Kaminsky was not the only person in the vicinity who noticed the change that came around people once they saw the golden dog walking around, Lt. Cmdr. Rebecca Webster, department head for mental health with the Naval Hospital and Kloppenborg's doctor.

"It has a way of making people smile and brings out the best in them" added Webster.

Sally has this effect on everyone she meets, most of all, her owner.



Kloppenberg was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and dissociative amnesia, which has made him forget the last 14 years of his life.

After four combat deployments, Kloppenberg, woke up in the back of his Jeep not knowing where he was heading to, where he lived or even who his own wife and four children were.

A few months later, Kloppenberg's problems worsened. He became increasingly fearful of being touched to the point that he would shy away from patients and anyone else who came near him. After work he would stay home until the middle of the night and then leave the house briefly to grab some microwavable food at a gas station nearby.

"Now with Sally I can look forward to going grocery shopping and eating real food," said Kloppenberg.

Sally was a dog given to Kloppenberg by the Paws4Vets organization. The organization uses inmates to train dogs. Each dog fulfilling a specific role.

Sally falls in the psychological service dog category. For Kloppenberg she provides him comfort and works like a security blanket for him.

Sally has been given more than two years of training she has been taught to focus on Kloppenberg and provide him with a cocoon as soon as someone comes close to him, she will gently nudge him, said Henry. If someone is behind him and tries to touch him she will immediately bark.

"I have my own little side project going on as well," said Kloppenberg with a smile. "I taught her how to put away her own toys."

This plays a big role in helping Kloppenberg when he is out and about. He does not like public places and has a startle reflex that is associated with his PTSD.

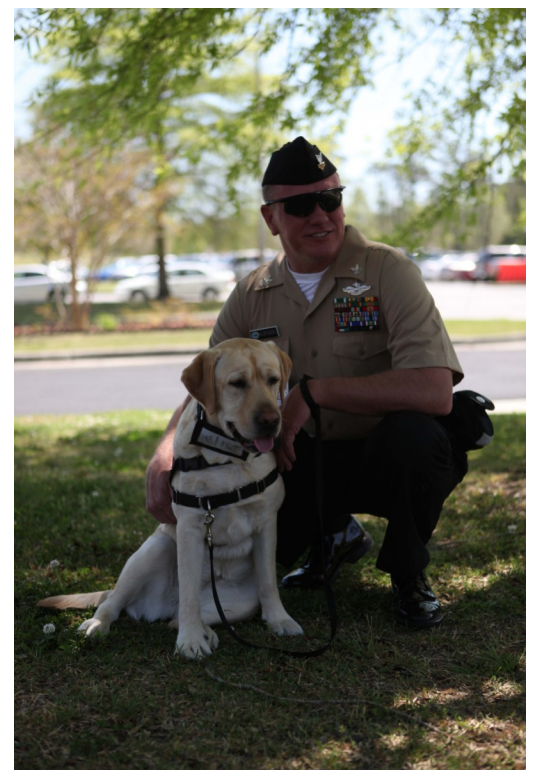
"He is much more outgoing and less vigilant," said Webster, who has been Kloppenberg's doctor for more than a year. "I haven't seen him smile this much and he's much more hopeful about the future."

Progress has increased so much that Kloppenberg is willing to let Sally help others who face psychological problems aboard Camp Lejeune. Although he will not be attending to the physically ill it will get him back to taking care of people, which is what he has always wanted to do.

Along with wanting to go back to helping people Kloppenberg has a positive outlook in life and is ready to start getting back into society with the help of his trusty companion Sally.

"I can now look forward to going out to a restaurant and having a real meal," said Kloppenberg. "Freedom, that's what I feel when I'm with Sally."

For more information visit the Paws4Vets Web site at www.paws4vets.com.



“Bens Band of Brothers”

June 12th, 2010 The Livingston County Michigan Veteran Affairs office held a Memorial for fallen hero, FMF Corpsman HM3 Benjamin “Doc Stiggy” Castiglione. His name was added to their monument wall. This article is not about Ben, or Stiggy’s Dogs, but about the all the heroes, and the 7 FMF Corpsman who drove up to Michigan from Camp Lejeune North Carolina to show their respect, and spend time with the family.

Our family was honored and touched when we received a call from HM1 Thomas Peterson, saying that he and 6 other Corpsman would like to drive to Michigan to attend the memorial for their fallen brother. The phone call began a flutter of activity for us. Through my organization, Stiggy’s Dogs, I have made a valuable contact and friend named John King, who is a morning DJ for a local radio station, WHMI 93.5,. John got the word out to Ben’s hometown of Howell Michigan. The Baymont Inn donated 5 hotel rooms for the 7 men to stay (for free) and the radio show conducted an exclusive interview. All the Corpsmen showed up at the station together, and spoke frankly and honestly about Ben, the war in Afghanistan, Iraq and life as a Corpsman. John called them the Band of Brothers and spoke with them for nearly 15 minutes. A replay of the interview is here: [Jun 11, 2010 Ben Castiglione's "Band of Brothers"](#)

They are now and forever will be a “Band of Brothers”. The bond that they have built from, the tragedy they shared, ties them all together for the rest of their lives. Those men share a bond that we will never understand.

I would like to introduce them to you:



From left to right: Jason Deguzman, Jim McRedmond, Beau Park, Mike Camacho, Jeff Mancino, Chris Brewer, and Thomas Peterson.

HM1 Thomas Peterson: Tommy was severely injured in the same IED attack as Ben and spent several weeks recovering at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Lauren Peterson (Tommy’s Wife) spent countless hours at his bedside while caring for their newborn daughter Jordyn Elizabeth who now gets to grow up with her father by her side. The Peterson family credit Ben for saving all of the men who were injured on 3 September 2009 through the countless extra hours and effort that Ben dedicated to training his Marines in Combat Lifesaving techniques. Tommy is truly a father figure for the other Corpsman and the respect they show him is earned and well deserved.

HM3 Jeffrey Mancino. Jeff spoke at Ben’s Memorial at Camp Lejeune, in March. Jeff’s love and respect for Ben is visible. Jeff

Mancino was the Corpsman that replaced Ben. This is not a position you would ever want, but much harder when the Corpsman you replace was your Best Friend. Jeff and Ben went through Field Medical School together. Both were deployed to Iraq, but in different units. Mancino shared a story of Ben and his Sharpies. He remember how Ben made them label everything in their Medical bag with a Sharpie marker. “In case something happens to us, our Marines will know what everything is!” (That is the kind of Corpsman Ben was.)

HM3 Michael Camacho. “Ben lived and breathed being a Corpsman”. Michael and Ben shared the same love and respect for what they did. “Ben was the most motivated person I ever met.” was a comment he made on the morning show. Mike was Ben’s roommate when he arrived at LAR and they deployed to Iraq together. Michael told a great story of how Ben was getting a lot of care packages from his family, and would give Micheal his leftovers (mostly books) However Ben wrote to his Grandma and Grandpa Petre to send some Skittles (Michael's favorite). When the package came, Michael was out on patrol, when he got back Ben said “Hey man, I ate your Skittles!”

HM3 Beau Park : Beau and Ben met in Field Med School. He remembers studying with Ben. Saying they would stay up till 1-2 in the morning, out side on the picnic table studying together. It was important to both of them that they knew everything. The respect they shared was mutual. Beau Park and Ben were serving in Afghanistan together.

HM3 James McRedmond : “You heard Ben before you saw him.” says James McRedmond. Ben and James shared a great sense of humor. There were numerous practical jokes they played together (most I can not share here). Ben had that great mix of humor and dedication that James will take with him forever.

HM3 Christopher Brewer: Met Ben at NTC (preparing for deployment to Afghanistan) where they were both responsible for training junior Corpsman. Ben took the time to pull all the junior Corpsman aside and taught both Chris Brewer and his junior Corpsman things they would never have learned. According to Chris, “Ben had a passion for educating people, he would sacrifice his time and schedule to teach us things we would have never known.”

Jason DeGuzman (Former HM2 FMF Corpsman and 2 time Bronze Star Recipient)

[Highly decorated corpsman continues service](#)

Jason Deguzman is a former FMF Corpsman that Ben served with in Iraq and he made the trip from California to attend the memorial for Ben. Deguzman and Ben were close friends, in Iraq and stayed in touch after. Jason remembers when they were both stationed in Iraq at the same FOB station. Ben would spend his down time reading this big Medical book (bought by his mom before Ben deployed) making sure they knew everything they could learn ‘just in case’. Ben’s mother, Carrie Castiglione, dedicated that same book and it is now located at the 2nd LAR BAS.



These 7 men spent three days with both sides of Ben’s families. They drove to Great Lakes National Cemetery to see Ben’s head-stone. They sat quiet, for a long time, reflecting. We took them up north, to the families lake house, were Ben’s ashes are spread. They stayed all day and night, water skiing, tubing, drinking...(you really want to hear those stories, but I am sworn to secrecy) :)

It has been said that there is a special bond and respect that is built between Corpsman and their Marines. I have witnessed this myself with everyone I have met from 2nd LAR. To all these men I want to thank you for sharing your lives and families with ours. For sharing stories, laughing, crying and healing together.

I would like to give a special thank you to all of the Corpsman out there (blue and green). Thank you to all branches of Military, who have and are serving. The 4th of July is about remembering our nation's history and that history was built on the backs of the men and women of our military. Thank you all.

Written by: Jennifer Petre, Director of Stiggy's Dogs: A non profit organization dedicated to the emotional health of our returning Vets and their families through the companionship of Emotional Therapy Dogs.



The guys posing for a quick "Knifehand" pic. Any FMF Corpsman has seen the Knifehand, and it was Ben's favorite way to illustrate a point!





The Corpsmen of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines stationed on Marine Corps Base Hawaii have been performing exceptionally well as they approach their second month of deployment within the Helmand province of Afghanistan. As members of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); they work, eat and sleep alongside our Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) counterparts. As the Marines and other members of ISAF focus on establishing defensive blocking positions to deny enemy forces freedom of movement in the area, the Corpsmen find themselves caring for local national citizens. The compassion and professionalism observed as they treat the sick and injured is indescribable. A select few have already been put to the test as Fleet Marine Force Corpsman, providing care under fire for wounded

Marines, ANA, ANP and Taliban fighters.

The knowledge base of experience shared amongst the 64 Hospital Corpsman that makeup the Battalion Aid Station is well diversified, from HMC(FMF/SCW/SW) Tyrek Alanos a former Dental Technician to our most junior Sailor HN Christopher Mesnard, currently serving with 3rd Platoon, Kilo Company. We're a close-knit group with a common goal of success through excellence. Our men continue to hone in on their combat medical skills, Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist (EFMFWS) personal qualification standards, and Marine infantry fundamentals that will keep them alive. During the month of June, we frocked ten Sailors selected for advancement, qualified one Sailor EFMFWS, took a moment to celebrate our Hospital Corps 112th Birthday and mourned the loss of HN William Ortega from a neighboring battalion. This week, although away from our families and friends, we'll have the privilege to celebrate and reflect our Nation's Independence Day while deployed and defending her freedom.

As the Sailors of "America's Battalion" adjust to a vigorous daily operations schedule that limit their communication to relatives and friends, Mrs. Rachel Mayberry, spouse of HM1 Daniel Mayberry, HMC Alanos and myself created and manage an online forum to keep families updated on their deployed Sailor. It's an unofficial page on Facebook; "3/3 Battalion Aid Station" has proven to be a success in the short period since its launch. Utilizing this conduit of communication has connected unit Navy leadership with family. We answer questions of concern or comment on messages of support. The unit cohesion is strong and getting stronger as friendships amongst families are formed. The multitude of interaction and media shared with the family provides a resource to stay connected. I am humbled at our Sailors dedication and resilience to fulfill any task and accomplish any mission. I know the true foundation for all of us starts with our family and friends back home.

Semper Fortis,
HMC(FMF/SW)Chris Arredondo Jr
3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines
Regimental Combat Team-7
Patrol Base Jaker, Afghanistan
Christopher.Arredondo@afg.usmc.mil

I have developed a more solid understanding of what freedoms we have from my time in the Navy, I was in P.I. where marshal law was in effect for over a decade so the tyrant Marcos could keep control. In Singapore, people get flogged in the streets for crimes. Even most of our poor people have a standard of living much above most 3rd world countries. My time as a corpsman allowed me to serve my country in a peaceful capacity. It was a great honor to me the day I took the corpsman's oath. When I hear someone complain about our government I think of how foolish they are not really appreciating what we have achieved in America. Our way of life is maintained by all the people that choose to serve in the military, and I am proud to be among them. I am most thankful for the few citizens that had the vision and passion to stand up and fight In the revolution and form a new nation. God bless them and all who read this post

Rev. Deacon Lewis Carroll OSH

Years and years of a Marine Corps doting via my father (Vietnam Veteran), stories from the USN seaside via my grandfather (World War II Veteran), and watching my husband successfully go through Army Special Forces Medic training has made me a very proud and enthusiastic American. Add the "how dare that happen" type events the news would announce, and my patriotism grew. Regardless of the reasons, it all comes down to doing it for my country, to especially include those who have served in the past. For as long as I can remember there has been a place in my heart for our military. To this day it takes all the strength within me not to tear up for every time I see an old veteran proudly sporting their former units' patches on their clothing. That said, I am not without courage and I'd bet the house my classmates would back me on this. With not so much as a blink of thought, I would chance my life for my brethren. It is my hope to save and take care of as many as possible.

In the words of John Fogerty, "Put me in coach, I'm ready to play."

From "Momma" Amy Ury



Naval Hospital Corps School
Class 10-105
18 June 2010

Hello, I am a Navy Mom whose son just graduated from FMTB Camp Pendleton, last Friday, and is now stationed with the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton. I wrote this about 4 or 5 years ago, but it still describes what the 4th of July means to me.

In April 1975, I lived on Clark Air Force Base, at Angeles City, Philippines. I was 19 years old. One night I received a call from the Catholic Chaplain asking that I come to the church. When I arrived there were at least 30 or 40 other people gathered in the chapel. We were told that in 20 minutes a plane from Vietnam was going to land at Clark. It's purpose was to airlift babies and children out of Vietnam. It was necessary to establish a temporary housing facility for these children on their way to the United States. Volunteers were needed to take care of these children during their stay at Clark.

We boarded buses which drove us out on the tarmac of the airfield. A large C5 was sitting on the tarmac with it's doors open. We filed off the bus and climbed up the stairs to the plane. I can't even describe the emotions going through me as I stepped into the plane, and saw what seemed like hundreds (though I know it was less) of children sitting on the floor of the plane. No seats, or anything else that I can remember just children. As we filed through the plane, we were each handed two children, and we disembarked to get back on the buses. We rode back to the base gymnasium where it had been converted. Through out the gym there were mattresses laid out, and we each were assigned a mattress. As I walked to the area assigned to me, a young airmen with two infants in his arm came up to me. He was obviously at a loss with what to do with an infant. I had two toddlers. Without even exchanging words we switched children. We stayed with the children, bathing them, washing them with Quell shampoo to de-lice them, feeding them, playing with them and sleeping with them. I don't remember, but I think we worked in 12 to 14 hour shifts. I remember going home a couple of times during the next week, to take a shower (in Quell so that I wouldn't get lice myself) and then going back to start over again.

One of the last groups of children I took care of were actually I think from Cambodia. This last group were obviously children who had been abandoned.

From their clothing and attitudes it seemed obvious to me that they had been living on the streets alone. With the older children we would take them in buses to the mess hall to feed them. We would file in with our charges and sit at the tables, and other volunteers would bring trays of food to the tables. This last group I had literally pounced on the food, eating as fast as they could, stuffing the food into every pocket, in their shirts and pants, and then when they couldn't eat anymore, stuffing their little cheeks to hold for later. I remember trying to put the food back on the trays, telling them over and over that there would be more. It was obvious from the looks on their faces, and the food in their clothes and cheeks that in their lives, this had not been the case. It was months, maybe even years before I could sleep without that image in my mind.

I have lived in several interesting places in my life, and the one thing I have learned is that freedom is not a worldwide notion. Too many of us take our freedom for granted. In my mind, unlike what the constitution says freedom is not a "right", it is a privilege. It is something we must earn.

We earn it every day with the lives of our soldiers who are out fighting for this privilege. You may not agree with what ever political action is going on in the world, but we still must thank every soldier who has ever gone to fight for this country and our privileges. Every soldier from those who fought in the War of Independence, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I and II, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Gulf War and now the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Those who go out and are stationed at every base throughout the world, and every embassy throughout the world. As I celebrate the 4th of July, I will be thanking all of them for giving us and maintaining our freedom.

Paulette Dal Porto

THE 4th of July!!!! - Forwarded From Ernie

The following has circulated before on the 4th of July. I wish there were references with it. I have heard that some of these are a bit exaggerated but sources claiming exaggeration also failed to give any references. Anyway, one thing that I have read in history books is that the founding fathers' act of declaring independence was indeed a hangable offense under British law.

It is interesting that only two generations later, in the 1820s, Jefferson and Adams lamented that the people seemed to take their lives of freedom for granted and seemed no longer to have an appreciation for what they had risked to create America.

John

This 4th of July may we honor the memory of those who made the sacrifice so we could be free today!

Have a great 4th of July!

And now some history.

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence ?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists.

Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Remember: freedom is never free!

I hope you will show your support by sending this to as many people as you can, please. It's time we get the word out that patriotism is NOT a sin, and the Fourth of July has more to it than beer, picnics, and baseball games.

Navy Hospital Corps Celebrates 112th Birthday in Afghanistan

Story by Lance Cpl. Megan Sindelar

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – More than 100 personnel from Camps Leatherneck and Bastion celebrated the Navy Hospital Corps' 112th birthday, June 19 at a dining facility located on Camp Leatherneck.

The ceremony brought together Navy, Army and British medical personnel as well as Marines to celebrate the birth of a corps which has been historically cited for their service and gallantry in risking their own lives to save that of a fallen comrade without hesitation in conflicts and wars.

The guest speaker of the ceremony, Sgt. Maj. Micheal P. Barrett, the Regional Command Southwest sergeant major, spoke about individual corpsmen he's witnessed in action and praised them for their heroic acts under the toughest conditions.

"When you call 'corpsman up,' they come running," said Barrett. "I've witnessed our docs, nurses and corpsmen in action, like HM3 McKenzie. I watched him run into the middle of the street during a vicious firefight with no regard for his own safety, because he simply heard the words 'corpsman up.' Wounded in the process he successfully retrieved his 'brother,' and saved him from certain death."

The individual Marine knows that "doc" can be counted on to respond no matter how dangerous the situation. From learning every weapons system in a battalion, running sick call, treating wounded and ill Afghan civilians, police and soldiers, corpsmen have earned high praise and respect.

Seaman Anderson Hernandez, a corpsman with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, and other corpsmen found themselves in harm's way to accomplish their mission of treating the Marines. The corpsmen, at times, even treat the enemy for battle wounds.



Master Chief Fausto Polanco, command master chief, Regional Command Southwest, recites the Navy Corpsman's Oath, during the 112th Hospital Corps birthday celebration at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, June 19.

"HN Hernandez is as close to a Marine as you can get," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Wright, platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon, Kilo Company, 3/6. "On numerous occasions he has run under machine-gun fire to aid Marines and our Afghan allies. He is a vital part of the platoon and the Marines respect him. We wouldn't want to go anywhere without corpsmen. It is their guidance and their hand that actually keeps us alive when bad things do happen."

The Navy corpsman's rating has 22 Medal of Honor recipients, 174 Navy Crosses, 31 Distinguished Cross Awards, 964 Silver Stars, 1, 582 Bronze Stars and 20 ships that have been named after hospital corpsmen.

"The Hospital Corps is the most decorated branch in the United States Navy," said Barrett. "They have an unbreakable bond between our two services."

Brigadier George Norton, deputy commander, Regional Command Southwest, opened the ceremony with words of gratitude for those who are simply known as "Doc."

"I'm hugely aware of the remarkable achievements of you as a corps, of the incredible bravery shown day after day by those we are honoring today," said Norton. "As somebody who has come from the outside as your guest in many respects for the next twelve months I just want to express my enormous admiration for what you have achieved."



The joint colorguard presents the colors during the National Anthem during the 112th Hospital Corps birthday celebration, June 19. Camp Leatherneck Marines, sailors and seabees along with Camp Bastion British medical personnel came together as one corps to honor all medics past and present.

Adopt-A-Doc

14 May 2010

Dear DeeDee,

Remember that you gave me the address to send food, etc. to the troops in February....Well, I just wanted to let you know that I received a thank-you note, certificate and USA Flag from: Commanding Officer, Camp Pendleton, CA 92055 in today's mail...it was so special to me to receive the flag...I have two other flags at my house, One for my Father (WWII, Navy) and One for my brother (Vietnam, Air Force), so, the third one is going to have a special place to rest also....I am donating it to the Pre-school that helped make letters and drew the pictures (some of which I have included in this email so you could see them along with a pix of my grandson, Zach)...the principal is so excited to get the Flag...The teacher emailed me this: "We are starting a wall of fame at our school with photo's, memorabilia, etc. of famous people who have visited our school. Would there be any way we could get a picture of the troops? We would love to put them along with the flag on our wall of fame for the school and community to honor, after all they are the most famous people in our country!"

I didn't know if you have any Promo pictures of troops that I could print out and give to them with the flag, if not, I will write to the Commander and see if he would have any pictures.

Oh and the thank-you note said, "Thank you so much for your tremendous support! Please accept this flag as a token of our most sincere gratitude! Semper Fidelis, Mike Grice, Lt. Col USMC"

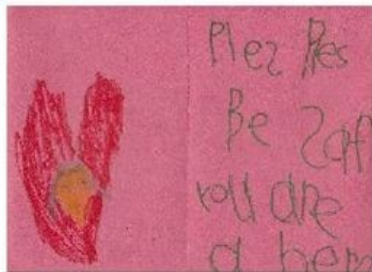
I wanted to thank-you again for letting me have the address to send the items to our troops. We ended up having lots of little drawings and I put them into separate envelopes so that the commander could pass each one out to an individual soldier and they could have mail that gave them something to smile about a little. We are located in a little Indiana town and we obviously don't get much excitement here, but, this has turned out to be quite an adventure, especially for my 5 year old grandson, Zach....he will be the one to take the flag in to his class on Monday...he is so excited!

Sincerely,
Cathy Rinehart



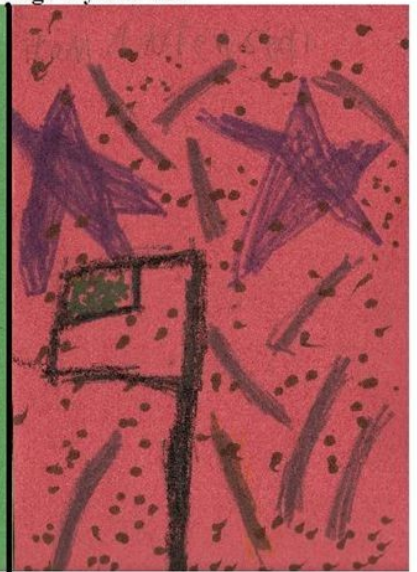
Zach





Dear Army,
Please Please
Be Safe....
You are a Hero...
Love,
Mallory
6 year old
Kindergarten
Student
Indiana

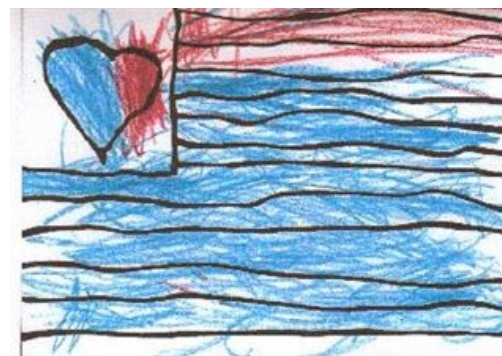
From: Syllas Indiana Kindergarten Student From: Andrew
Both boys age 6 years old



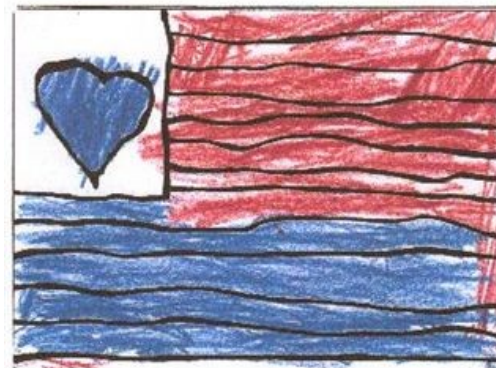
Some of the notes/cards
sent to Lt Col. Grice and
his unit while deployed.



From: Crystal 6 years old Kindergarten Student in Indiana



Shannon
Age 3
Indiana
Pre-school



Seth
Age 3
Indiana
Pre-school

20 May 2010

Hi DeeDee!

You may recall that you provided me with information about sending care packages to 1st Anglico (see our correspondence below). I went ahead, gathered items on the Wish List and more and sent everything off to this company.

Last week I came home to find the most wonderful and amazing package was waiting for me on my doorstep!! In the box was an American flag, a certificate and a handwritten note from LtCol Grice - see the attached. I am so honored and touched LtCol Grice's gracious gesture.

I'm enlisting other corpsman moms to send packages; two have already accepted. However, I just called the duty officer at the number on 1st Anglico's website, and learned that they are due to return in about three weeks, so not enough time to send packages to them.



Marcy,

Thank you so much
for your tremendous
support!

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS
FLAG AS A TOKEN of our
most sincere appreciation!

Samuel Fidelis,
Mike Grice
LtCol USMC

Do you have a similar contact for a company or corpsmen in need of care packages? Please let me know, and thanks for your help!

Marcy
(Marcy Scott, Navy corpsman mom,
Scottsdale AZ)



ADOPT-A-DOC



WANTED: DEPLOYED DOCS FROM ALL BRANCHES

If you or someone you know is deployed, or leaving on deployment and would be interested in receiving care packages from home. Please contact DeeDee - deedee@corpsman.com - be sure to include your name, rank, mailing address, and approx return date.

Be sure to ask around your unit, there may be someone who is getting no support from home, we want their name too. Everyone should be getting support while on deployment.

WANTED: PEOPLE TO ADOPT DEPLOYED DOCS

Want to show support to one of our deployed Docs? Email DeeDee - deedee@corpsman.com and let her know. She will get you a name and address to start sending care packages.

Second MAG-40 Corpsman Named MEB-A Sailor of the Quarter

Story by Lance Cpl. Samuel Nasso

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Helmand province, Afghanistan — Petty Officer 3rd Class Jacob Hightower, a casualty evacuation corpsman with Marine Aircraft Group 40, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, received the MEB-Afghanistan Sailor of the Quarter award for fourth quarter of 2009, on Dec. 26, 2009.

"Hightower is a very dedicated sailor that consistently performs at a level above his peer group," said Chief Petty Officer Edwin Brannan, a leading chief petty officer for the MAG-40 CASEVAC team.

The award officially recognizes the most deserving sailors of each quarter and consists of three rank-based boards. The boards are the Senior Sailor of the Quarter for petty officers first class, the Junior Sailor of the Quarter for petty officers second and third classes and Blue Jacket of the Quarter for seamen and below.

Each element of MEB-Afghanistan holds an internal set of boards and then submits the top candidate of each board to MEB-Afghanistan. The candidates are then evaluated based on ten categories: professional performance, leadership, military achievements, awards, educational endeavors, community involvement, the physical readiness test, deployments, enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare specialist and comments from each candidate's leading chief petty officer.

Hightower, a Chuluota, Fla., native, was one of more than 350 petty officers within MEB-Afghanistan who were eligible to compete for the Junior Sailor of the Quarter board. Hightower not only excelled beyond his peers, but showed how quickly he could take on the role of a corpsman operating with an aviation element, having come from a ground combat element.

"I have been there for the medical support on different large inserts and missions, flown a few routine medical evacuations and have helped the CH-53E squadrons with a lot of general-support missions," said Hightower, who came to MAG-40 from 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

After attaining more than 100 flight hours, earning the combat aircrew designation with three gold stars, and one strike flight air medal, Hightower volunteered himself for additional duties.

He volunteered for and was selected to be a combat replacement hospital corpsman, allowing him to return to his roots and assist Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 7, MEB-Afghanistan.

During this time, Hightower provided medical support and guidance to the platoon he was assigned, conducted 37 combat operations, treated nine non-battle injuries, assisted in the recovery of 23 vehicles and was instrumental in completing the annual influenza immunizations for 2nd LAR, said Brannan.

"He has stood out throughout our deployment as a subject matter expert in tactical medicine and his experience with ground forces has been invaluable to our success," said Brannan.

Hightower also took initiative and organized the means to send packages to Marines operating at the various forward operating bases within the MEB-Afghanistan area of operations.

"We set up [assault support requests] to send packages to the Marines at smaller FOBs that only get mail occasionally and need the simple amenities," said Hightower. "I know how it feels to be isolated with 12 other guys and it's always a good day when packages come from home to remind you that there are people thinking about you."

His compassion for Marines at forward operating bases mirrored his leadership qualities when dealing with junior sailors.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Jacob Hightower, a casualty evacuation corpsman for Marine Aircraft Group 40, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, presents his certificate, Feb. 2, for earning the MEB-Afghanistan Sailor of the Quarter award for the last quarter of the year, 2009. More than 350 candidates were eligible for the award, but it was Hightower who earned the achievement through hard work, leadership and initiative.

"Hightower ensures that his junior troops are taken care of before himself," said Petty Officer 1st Class Traci Inniss, a leading petty officer for CASEVAC. "No matter what is going on, he is always there to help or take charge of the task at hand."

"I believe leadership is something that is inside of everyone," Hightower said. "Some people are natural leaders and some have to find it inside of them. I think you have to take the time to understand your juniors and peers to be able to lead them successfully."

This award was the second out of the three boards in which MAG-40 CASEVAC corpsmen received the award. Inniss received the honors the first time MEB-Afghanistan conducted the board.

"To have two MEB-A Junior Sailor of the Quarter awards in three quarters, while competing against the very best sailors within the MEB-A, speaks volumes of the MAG-40 sailors' commitment to excellence," said Brannan. "The level of motivation and technical knowledge of all the MAG sailors is extraordinary."

The CASEVAC team was pieced together from corpsman from each level of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force from the ground, air and logistic combat elements. Each member of the team brought with them different medical experiences and leadership styles.

"It shows the diversity of this group," Hightower said. "We all come from different areas of the Marine Corps, but we all came here and took on this mission and did what we could to make this deployment successful."

Upon receiving the award, Hightower also received the MEB-Afghanistan commanding general's certificate of commendation, as well as a coin from the CG, the sergeant major and command master chief.

As rewarding as this honor has been, Hightower overcame several obstacles to get where he is today. The most trying obstacle he had to overcome during the deployment was the tragic loss of his good friend Cpl. Nicholas Xiarhos, an infantryman who volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, RCT-3, MEB-Afghanistan and died July 23, 2009.

"My orders were up after this deployment, but I decided to extend with 2nd Marine Division to come back and do my part to bring some of these Marines home to their families," Hightower said. "I know how it made me feel to hear the news about my friend and how his family felt. It kills me that I couldn't have been there to give him all I had."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jacob Hightower, a casualty evacuation corpsman for Marine Aircraft Group 40, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, names all of the parts of the M-4 Carbine rifle during the weapons fundamentals qualification to earn the Fleet Marine Force pin here, June 10, 2009. Hightower earned the MEB-Afghanistan Sailor of the Quarter, Dec. 26, 2009 for the last quarter of 2009.



Petty Officer Third Class Jacob Hightower, a casualty evacuation corpsman for Marine Aircraft Group 40, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, breaks down the 9 mm pistol and answers questions asked by Chief Petty Officer Kenneth McNeil, the leading petty officer for medical plans, during the weapons fundamentals portion of the practical application test here, June 10, 2009. Hightower earned the MEB-Afghanistan Sailor of the Quarter, Dec. 26, 2009 for the last quarter

Hightower has shown not only his dedication to taking care of Marines, but the level of excellence expected from the MAG-40 CASEVAC team. He is scheduled to return to 2nd Marine Division following his deployment with MAG-40 and plans to find an infantry battalion deploying back here in the fall.

EDITOR NOTE: Somehow this slipped through the cracks for 1st Quarter issue but I found it again and proudly share this with you all.

Angels and Fate

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away (from America) there was a girl.

This girl discovered, on a fateful day in September (yes, that day you are thinking of) that the world was changing, and she wanted to help. In whatever way she could.

That girl is me.

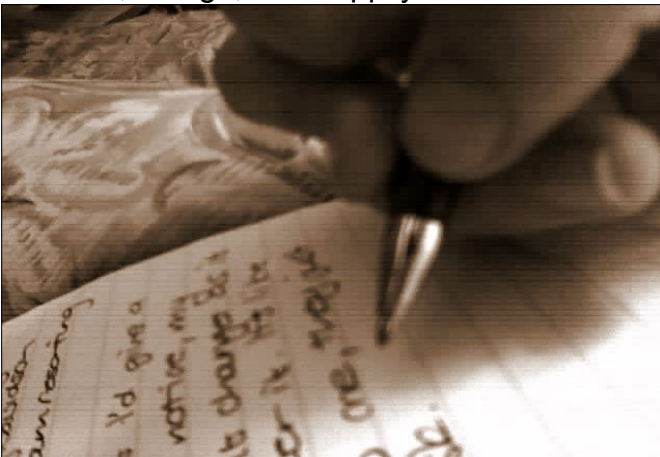
After another fateful day in September (this day only affected me, and not the world) a year later, I knew it was time.

I have always had a great respect and admiration for the military (I wanted to be a Marine when I was a little girl, or a USAF pilot – both denied to me, due to my location and circumstances) and I saw that in my own way I could now help.

I was introduced, by an online friend, to an amazing (and, at the time, still very small) organization called the Soldier's Angels Foundation.

I dived right in and adopted a Marine. I was determined to make a difference to this Marine.

However, once again due to my location and circumstances, I found the financial responsibility was becoming rather overwhelming. I tightened my belt and never let up my care and concern for my Marine, though, and happily stuck with her until she got home safely from her tour. After that, I



knew I had to find another way to help.

I joined the Letter Writing Team. I had always loved to write, and I knew that even though I was not American, my life in Africa could be of interest. So I signed up and got a new name to write to every Monday.

That's where fate stepped in.

I wrote hundreds of letters from 2003 to 2007.

That's a lot of Mondays. Never expecting a reply (All Angels are told never to expect a reply from the troops – it's just common sense, really) and always

thrilled when I would receive one occasionally, from a grateful soldier or sailor or pilot or Marine.

They all said the same thing: It was exciting to get a letter from such an exotic and wonderful place, just out of the blue like that – and to know that even people down there in Africa were supporting them.

Then in June, 2007, I wrote a letter on the 14th. Another name and another Monday.

However, this letter got to Iraq on a certain date that was pretty important to the young Army line medic who received it. His birthday. Halfway through his first tour in Iraq.

He didn't get a chance to respond, until mid November, when he was finally on his way back to Hawaii, where he was stationed. It was a bright and breezy little email, to say thanks for the support and how interesting life in South Africa sounded. Later on, he told me that the letter probably saved his life.

And that's why we do it. That's why Soldier's Angels is so important. From the quilt makers to the letter writers to the cookie bakers. It's just the thought that someone cares, that is sometimes all

I got another email from the young medic, in mid-January 2008, and we exchanged short mails about music and movies and photography (he is an avid photographer, and I was doing it to make a living, so we had quite a bit to talk about) and of course my secret little fascination with men in uniform! There were photos exchanged...



We eventually exchanged IM details and began talking on and off when he wasn't gallivanting around Hawaii with his friends. My life here in Cape Town went on, as usual, with lots of photo work and horse riding and all the other things I did for a living. I have to admit that I began to look forward to our little conversations quite a bit. I didn't really have anyone else to talk to, and he was so full of life and so interesting, that it brightened my week when I got to speak to him.

I don't know when exactly it was that he began focusing all his attention on me. Some time in February, maybe early March. But from that point on, I was hooked. He was like a drug that I couldn't get enough of. I spent every waking hour that I was not working or riding a horse, online with him. Hawaii was 12 hours behind Cape Town, which meant that his evenings were my mornings and my evenings were his mornings. It was a surreal time, but so totally enthralling, and even life changing, that I would not have given it up for anything.

One early morning (his evening) I was at a show, and we were talking via text messages (very very expensive, but I didn't care!) while I took photos and he packed his bags for his trip to North Carolina for training, and we said goodbye for the day and he added a cryptic little message on the end of his text. "381" it said. I texted back and asked what that meant, but he just said "you'll work it out, you're a smart cookie."

He was leaving for North Carolina the next evening (his time) and he told me later that he was hoping I wouldn't work out what the message meant until he was long gone (and out of contact for 2 weeks, minimum!) as he thought maybe it was too soon to say it.

Say what? Well, I don't think he realized just how much of a geek girl I am, because as soon as I got home, I got online and found the answer. 381. 3 words. 8 letters. 1 meaning. I love you.

I was gob smacked, to say the least. I was shocked. Amazed. But I was NOT put off at all by it, as he feared I might be. It was exactly what I was thinking, but was too scared to say. I adored him.

My whole day revolved around talking to him. Seeing him (we spent a lot of time chatting with webcam – no sound, just to see each other) made my week!

I definitely loved him. There was no mistaking the recent changes in me. Every single person I came into contact with said the same thing – I was GLOWING with happiness. I was shining brightly. I was smiling so much that my cheeks hurt and I was laughing so much my stomach hurt. I'd never felt like this in my entire life, and I knew it was all because of him.

That evening (mine) when I got online to talk to him, he was shy and totally avoided the subject.

He tried to make fun of it saying it could mean anything. I was hurt, because I thought perhaps he didn't mean it after all. We fought about it. It was horrible.

And then he left. And I was distraught. The one person in the whole world that I never ever wanted to make angry, and I had done just that. And now he was gone, for 2 weeks or more. And who knew if he would ever talk to me again! Yes, I was being such a girl.

Thankfully, he is such a sweet person, that later that evening (mine) he called me when they stopped halfway. He said he was sorry for getting mad, and I said I was sorry for being stupid. And then he said it, out loud. I love you. And I said it back. And that was that. We were in love and nothing could change that. Even all the difficulties that were to come.

It's been many moons since then and we have been through a hell of a lot. We've had some major fights – usually due to the grossly unhelpful medium that we have to communicate in that causes too much miscommunication. IM cannot convey tone, or nuance. It sucks at that.

I sold everything I owned (except my camera and my car) and took out a loan and went to visit him in Germany, in September/October 2008, when he was moved there just before his second deployment. That was the first time we'd ever met in person. In the flesh. We had a few moments of awkwardness right in the beginning, but that was due to my jet-lag, and the fact that his “boss” was the one who brought him to the airport to fetch me! We hugged a hello and then I blurted out that I really needed the loo. (I'd been flying for hours!) After that, he knew I was “me” and that I was the same as I was online. We clicked like a finished puzzle, and we had the most amazing time together, for 2 short weeks. He was on leave for the first week, but had to work the second. He spent all of his time with me. Besides the days he was working, the most time we spent apart was about 15 minutes when he went to post a parcel that was too big to fit in our little hired Smart Car, with me in it. So he RACED to the post office and RACED back, because he said he couldn't stand being away from me. Sometimes these little things are what makes and breaks us. He always says the right thing. The thing I most need to hear, at exactly the time when I need to hear it. He reads me so well. Even from far away. It's his big heart, that amazing compassion, that also makes him such a good medic. I hear nothing but good things about him from others he has worked with.



We are very far apart. Right now, he is safe in Germany. We went through a deployment together, and came out stronger on the other side.

I think the distance is the most frustrating part about our relationship. Other people get to be together, when their beloved comes home from war. But not us. We are just as far away. We rarely get to see each other in person, so we make the most of every minute. We truly take nothing for granted, because we have so little time to cling to. Even the

most simple, every day thing is held dear between us.

He surprised me, last year in June. Told me he couldn't come to South Africa for his mid-tour leave, because of security issues etc (we are, actually, on a list... sad huh?) so he was just going to go home for his leave. I was pretty depressed about it.

He planned the whole thing with one of my best friends, and a few others, and when he showed up at my door one winter evening, I nearly fell over. My world spun and then I leapt on him and clung to him like a limpet. We, once again, had an amazing time. I showed him everything I could around my beautiful city, in the 2 weeks he had, and made promises to show him everything else when he next came to visit.

It was wonderful. I still look back on that moment (and so does he!) and just feel the shock, and the love. My heart sings, sometimes.



Then we planned the Big Meeting (his family), for December 2009, January 2010. I flew up to Germany, to meet him at the airport, so we could fly together to the States. We spent a month going all over the States, and most of it in New Mexico – his home state – with his family. It was overwhelming and dramatic and intense and incredible, all rolled in to one. It also showed us that we COULD handle being with each other for long periods of time. We barely spent more than 20 minutes apart this time!

I actually get quite angry when I see couples fighting. I just want to scream at them to stop, because they don't realize how lucky they are to even be standing on the same

continent! Don't they understand what I would give to be standing face to face with my man?

But I don't say anything. I just shut my eyes for a moment and think of my man, and how lucky I am that fate stepped in and let us meet at all.

Because my world would be a very lonely place without him.



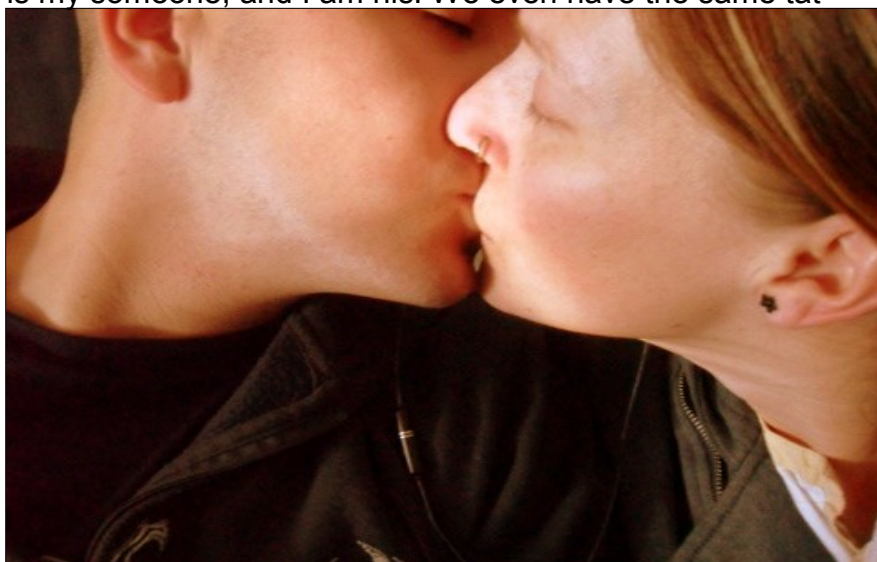
I don't know what the future holds for us, but I know that I wouldn't give up what we have, or what we have been through.

Where I am from does, unfortunately, make things very difficult, but we can get through it. We've been through so much already.

Years ago I would have laughed if someone had said "it's true love". But now, I know there is such a thing, and we have it.

There's someone for everyone, and he is my someone, and I am his. We even have the same tattoo!

Submitted by Whiskey_Kitten



Bits & Pieces from our members

DeeDee, the following Obit appeared this morning in the Kansas City Star Newspaper and I thought your site might be interested.

He served on the LST1024 in the Pacific in World War II. I don't know if he served ashore with the Marines but it might be probable.

Alfred Weigel **June 19, 1921 -** **March 27, 2010**

Alfred Weigel, 88, of Olathe, KS, passed away March 27, 2010. Funeral Mass will be held at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 31, at Guardian Angels Catholic Church, 1310 Westport Rd. Interment in Mt. Moriah Cemetery South. Visitation will be held from 6:00-8:00 p.m., Rosary at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday at Mt. Moriah & Freeman Funeral Home, 10507 Holmes Rd. Memorial contributions may be made to American Lung Association, 2400 Troost Ave., St. 4300, Kansas City, MO 64108 and/or WWII Veterans Memorial. Mr. Weigel was born June 19, 1921 in Ellis, KS, son of John and Mary (Dreiling) Weigel. He was a WWII U.S. Navy veteran, serving aboard LST 1024 in the Pacific as **Chief Pharmacy Mate**. He was a former member of the Legion of Mary. Mr. Weigel had worked for the U.S. Postal Service, retiring as Payroll Supervisor. He was preceded in death by sons Christopher and Michael, brother Buddy Weigel and sisters Josephine Erbert and Mary Krannawitter. He is survived by his wife of 63 years Gene (Minor) Weigel of the home; children Ann Halterman and husband Mike of Kansas City, MO, Alfred Weigel II of Wappingers Falls, NY, Carole S. Lakey and husband Randy of North Kansas City, MO, John Weigel and wife Laura of Kansas City, KS and Melissa M. Tritsch and husband Steven of Lenexa, KS; sister Henrietta Herl of Tribune, KS; 14 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. (Arr.: Mt. Moriah & Freeman)
Published in Kansas City Star on March 30, 2010

Respectfully Submitted, and Semper Fidelis
MSGT Richard Deiters Jr USMC(Retired)

PhM3 George F. Lowell **January 1,1924 -** **February 21, 2007**

There are many men who were injured in WWII that returned to their loved ones who had my father to thank. He enlisted in the US Navy soon after Pearl Harbor. His first choice was to be part of the submarine fleet. However he was chosen to be part of the medical corp. After training at Portsmouth, NH he was assigned to an LST that was to take part in the invasion of Normandy, His ship made 30 trips to England with the wounded. As a side his brother Pvt Lawrence Lowell was killed

in France one month after D-Day. Then when the war effort shifted to the Pacific he again found himself on another LST. This ship set up the Naval hospital on Iwo Jima. After the war ended he returned to his home in Vermont. That is a brief story of PhM3 George F. Lowell , January 1,1924 - February 21, 2007. Interred in the Florida National Cemetery Bushnell, Florida.



Submitted by:
Lawrence
Lowell

FORT CAMPBELL, KY.

The 101st Airborne Division said in a news release that 23-year-old Pfc. Jonathan Hall died April 8 from wounds suffered a day earlier when his vehicle was hit in Paktika Province. Hall was a combat medic assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team. He joined the Army in October 2008 and arrived at Fort Campbell in August 2009.

He is survived by his mother, Robynn Harrison of Rocky Face, Ga., and father, Air Force Lt. Col. Steven Hall of Anchorage, Alaska.

To my friends and fellow Veterans,

This is a brief note to let you know that after four years I have completed my book about Navy Corpsmen helicopters, courage and sacrifice. It is called "**Luminous Base**". Many of you provided information and support for which I am deeply indebted.

I am asking that each of you take a few moments and to go to the following Amazon.com website and read the synopsis of the book itself. Once you have read it if you are interested, a copy of the book can be purchased there as well.

<http://www.amazon.com/Luminous-Base-Corpsmen-Helicopters-Sacrifice/dp/1450516777>

For those of you who purchase and read the book, please write to me and let me know what you thought about it.

I can be reached at corpsmen.book@gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks/Bruce

**GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?
ITEMS FOR SALE/BARTER?
LOOKING FOR SOMEONE/SOMETHING?
JOKES/CARTOONS/POETRY?**

Email your contributions for the next issue of Scuttlebutt to editor@corpsman.com

Lejeune sailor recognized as the Navy Environmental Health Officer of the Year

By LCpl Victor Barrera, USMC

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – A Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune naval officer received the Navy's Environmental Health Officer of the Year award, March 23, an award which is only given to one officer out of the entire Navy, every year for their outstanding work in the field of preventative medicine.

Lt. Matthew Mercer, head of preventive medicine with the Public Health Clinic, aboard Camp Lejeune, was chosen out of five other nominees. The candidates were all judged on the impact they make at their respective installations and the diversity of tasks each are responsible for.

"I'm really honored to win this award," said Mercer. "Me winning, however, is largely due to the preventive medicine technicians and civilians."

Mercer said that if it was not for the effort that his co-workers put in, he would never have gotten the award.

The preventive medicine staff's job covers many aspects, but each one has the same goal in mind; reducing the risk of diseases as well as keeping the spreading of diseases under control.

One of the staff's jobs is to conduct environmental health site assessments, which includes traveling to mess halls and determining whether they properly store food. This is done to ensure that service members are protected from diseases that can be in different types of foods. The areas that are inspected range from Camp Lejeune to Stone Bay and all the way to Marine Corps Air Station New River.

Along with that, preventive health takes care of vaccinations as well as stores vaccines for various diseases. On top of making sure his shop works like a well-oiled machine, Mercer manages the disease intervention unit.

"He's very deserving of the award," said Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn Maney, director of the Department of Public Health Services at the Public Health Clinic on base. "He's always on top of everything and if someone has any questions he knows where to find the answer."

Even though the preventive medicine staff is involved in several activities that combat diseases, they manage to stay out of the way and remain unnoticed.

When the H1N1 pandemic broke out the preventive medicine department was on hand to provide vaccinations, and prevent an outbreak which would have affected service members.

With preventive medicine, if a service member never knows what the problem was, then the preventive medicine staff did their job, said Mercer.

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**A HEARTY BZ TO ALL THOSE WHO SUBMITTED STORIES FOR
THE SCUTTLEBUTT NEWSLETTER.**

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE BECAUSE MEMBERS CARED
ENOUGH TO WRITE AND PUBLISH THEIR MATERIALS.**

**IF YOUR INTERESTED IN OUR NEXT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
PLEASE EMAIL DEEDEE @ EDITOR@CORPSMAN.COM WITH
YOUR SUBMISSION.
THANK YOU!**