

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

246th

1775-2021



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION





6 November 2021

It is my distinct honor on behalf of the Central-Pennsylvania Marine Associates (CPAMA) to welcome you to our United States Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

We celebrate this day, that on 10 November 1775, the Continental Marines were established. Not only celebratory, but reflective is how we spend this day. We reflect on the dedicated service to our country and to the Corps. We honor every fallen Marine that sacrificed and gave all

A few years ago, a few Marine Corps veterans in this local Central Pennsylvania area assembled together to celebrate the Marine Corps' Birthday. From that small beginning came this annual CPAMA Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

Last year we would had spend time at a ball to celebrate the illustrious history and traditions of our Corps, however, as you know, these are not normal times. These are in fact extraordinary times. Last year found us separated from our family, relegated from our normal activities and some times isolated from the world. Nevertheless, we celebrated from our offices, our homes, in small gatherings around the world, and, of course on Zoom meetings! And that is because United States Marines are bigger than us individually. Collectively we honor every battle that has been fought on behalf of this great nation.

This year's ball marks 246 years of Dedicated and Distinguished Service to Our Nation!

The CPAMA is proud to co-host this birthday celebration with the Warriors of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. Whether a Marine, a Veteran from another branch of the Armed Forces, or simply an American Patriot who love our Marine Corps, thank you for your support; but most of all, thank you for what you have done for our Great Nation. Keep The Spirit!

Additionally, let us all look forward to being together next year on 5 November 2022 at the Penn Harris Hotel to resume celebration in person.

Once a Marine, Always a Marine!
Happy Birthday and "Semper Fi"

L. E. Braxton

Larry E. Braxton
USMC/MSgt/Retired
President





UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

ECHO COMPANY

2D BATTALION, 25TH MARINES, 4TH MARINE DIVISION
2991 NORTH 2D STREET, HARRISBURG,
PENNSYLVANIA 17110-1298

6 Nov 21

Dear guests,

Thank you for joining us at our celebration of the 246th birthday for our United States Marine Corps! We are honored to have you here and humbled at all the support you have provided both in support of this event and in the past. The last 18 months have been challenging for us all, and we dearly missed celebrating our 245th birthday together last year. However, this year we are back and ready to celebrate the legacy of those generations of Marines before us the only way we know how: dressed to the nines, ready to swap tales from foreign lands across the globe.

I hope that you all enjoy yourselves, but I ask one thing. Take a moment and think of those who cannot be here today. Marines like SSgt Chris Slutman and SSgt Ben Hines from Echo Company. The service members killed recently in Kabul, or the four wounded Marines still at Walter Reed, celebrating the first in a series of very different Marine Corps birthdays. It is the legacy of these Marines that sustains us and inspires us to live up to their standards.

Semper Fidelis,
H. C. HARRISON
CAPTAIN / USMC

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

COCKTAIL HOUR

CEREMONY

HONOR GUARD AND PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

ECHO COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 25TH REGIMENT,
4TH MARINE DIVISION

NATIONAL ANTHEM

SOLOIST, MATTHEW A. ROBINSON, BARITONE

MARINE CORPS PRAYER

PASTOR DEREK THRUSH

WELCOME

RECOGNITION OF "GOLD STAR" FAMILY

CORPORAL JONATHAN D. FAIRCLOTH

POW/MIA READING

MESSAGE FROM THE 13TH COMMANDANT,

GENERAL JOHN A. LEJEUNE

CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY

SERVICE ANTHEMS

RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS

"GOD BLESS THE USA"

VIDEO RENDITION

DINNER

**PRESENTATION - THE STAFF SERGEANT
CHRISTOPHER SLUTMAN & BENJAMIN HINES AWARD**

**MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF
THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

GENERAL DAVID H. BERGER

SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS
SERGEANT MAJOR TROY E. BLACK

GUEST OF HONOR INTRODUCTION

SERGEANT MAJOR JOSEPH STAUDT - USMC (RETIRED)

GUEST OF HONOR REMARKS

MAJOR GENERAL PAUL W. BRIER, USMC (RETIRED)

REMARKS

DAVID C. BRADY, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT COMMANDANT

SPONSOR RECOGNITION

DANCE

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

DAVID M. GRINBERG (SSGT-USMC VETERAN)
CENTRAL-PA MARINE ASSOCIATES

ADJUTANT

STAFF SERGEANT JAMES MARTINEZ

HONOR GUARD

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STAFF SERGEANT JUSTIN SMITH
SERGEANT ARMANI WILSONCOAXUM
SERGEANT ANTHONY ACEVEDO
CORPORAL TYLER BREAN
CORPORAL ALEXANDER HARTMAN
LANCE CORPORAL PAUL MINNICKS
LANCE CORPORAL AUSTIN POLLOCK

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CORPORAL MACARI LEWIS
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ANDREW KEAGY
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ANTHONY MANIS

CAKE CUTTING DETAIL

LANCE CORPORAL JACOB COPPOLA
LANCE CORPORAL NICHOLAS TRETTER
LANCE CORPORAL JOSHUA SMITH
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSHUA MAY

GUARD/DETAIL - ALTERNATES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MAXIMILIAN ACKER
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GAETANO CALAFATI III

246TH USMC BIRTHDAY CHALLENGE COIN



CHALLENGE COINS HAVE A LONG HISTORY WITHIN THE MILITARIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND, INDEED, AROUND THE WORLD. STARTING OUT AS A FORM OF IDENTIFICATION, THERE IS A TALE OF A DOWNED WORLD WAR I AMERICAN PILOT MAKING HIS WAY BACK TO FRIENDLY LINES AND SHOWING HIS CHALLENGE COIN AS HIS ONLY FORM OF IDENTIFICATION TO THE FRENCH SOLDIERS. THE FRENCH RECOGNIZED THE UNIT CREST AND RATHER THAN EXECUTING THE WOULD-BE PRISONER, GAVE HIM A BOTTLE OF WINE AND ESCORTED HIM BACK TO AMERICAN POSITIONS. TODAY, CHALLENGE COINS HAVE BEEN WIDELY ADOPTED NOT ONLY THROUGHOUT THE MILITARY, BUT OFTEN BY FIRST RESPONDERS SUCH AS POLICE AND FIRE UNITS. THOSE IN POSSESSION OF A CHALLENGE COIN ARE SUPPOSED TO CARRY ONE ON THEM AT ALL TIMES. IF SOMEONE SHOWS THEIR COIN IN CHALLENGE TO ANOTHER, AND THE OTHER PERSON CANNOT PRODUCE THEIR COIN, THEY OWE THE CHALLENGER A DRINK. IF THEY DO HAVE THEIR COIN, THE CHALLENGER MUST BUY.

COINS HAVE ALSO EVOLVED TO SERVE PURPOSES OF UNIT SPIRIT AND MORALE, AND AS AN ON-THE-SPOT AWARD OR RECOGNITION. WE ARE PLEASED THIS YEAR TO BE RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF OUR SPONSORS THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF CHALLENGE COINS COMMEMORATING THE 246TH USMC BIRTHDAY.



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CORPORAL JONATHAN DEAN FAIRCLOTH



CORPORAL JONATHAN DEAN FAIRCLOTH WAS BORN IN YORK PENNSYLVANIA ON MAY 7TH 1988. THE SECOND CHILD OF DEAN AND BEVERLY FAIRCLOTH. JONATHAN LOVED PLAYING WITH HEAVY TONKA TRUCKS AND LOVED TO CLIMB UP ON HIGH STRUCTURES AND TREES. ALWAYS LOOKING FOR EXCITEMENT AND ADVENTURE. HE AND HIS BROTHER JAMES WERE BEST BUDDIES. JONATHAN GRADUATED FROM MECHANICSBURG HIGH SCHOOL IN 2006. HE JOINED THE MARINE CORPS IN 2006 AND WAS DEPLOYED TO IRAQ IN 2008 AND AFGHANISTAN IN 2010.

JONATHAN SERVED AS AN AERIAL OBSERVER MARINE HEAVY HELICOPTER SQUADRON 363 MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 24, 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING FROM APRIL 2007 TO MARCH 2011. DURING HIS TOUR, JONATHAN ACHIEVED OVER 4,000 FLIGHT HOURS WHILE SERVING AS A CH53D AERIAL OBSERVER. JONATHAN SUCCESSFULLY FLEW 408 HOURS OF WHICH 284 WERE IN SUPPORT OF COMBAT OPERATIONS. HE PERSONALLY TRAINED OVER SIX COLLATERAL DUTY INSPECTORS AND 10 PLAIN CAPTAINS.

FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE, CORPORAL FAIRCLOTH WAS AWARDED FOUR AIR MEDALS, TWO NAVY-MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS, THE IRAQ CAMPAIGN MEDAL, THE AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE MEDAL AND THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL.

JONATHAN BROUGHT JOY AND LAUGHTER TO HIS PEERS. ALL WHO KNEW HIM ENJOYED HIS LIGHT HEARTED ATTITUDE AND ENCOURAGEMENT HE GAVE TO OTHERS DURING THEIR LONG DEPLOYMENTS. HE WOULD BRING LAUGHTER TO THEM AND WAS ALWAYS FOR THE UNDERDOG, JON HAD A BIG HEART OF COMPASSION FOR OTHERS.

JONATHAN'S PLAN WAS TO COME HOME AND ATTEND COLLEGE AT PENN STATE FOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING. HE HAD ALSO THOUGHT ABOUT ATTENDING EMBRY RIDDLE.

JONATHAN'S HELICOPTER CAME DOWN ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 29 2011, DURING TRAINING MANEUVERS IN KANEOHE BAY HAWAII. HE HAD JUST SPOKEN TO HIS PARENTS AND WAS ENCOURAGED OF HIS SOON RETURN HOME. HE WAS TO COME HOME IN JULY 2011. HE SAID HE MISSED THE FALL LEAVES OF PENNSYLVANIA AND IT WAS TIME TO COME HOME. HAWAII HAD BEEN HIS HOME FOR 5 YEARS AND HE LOVED ALL THE ADVENTURES HAWAII HAD TO OFFER. JONATHAN LEFT BEHIND A WIFE, ALICIA, WHO STILL LIVES ON THE ISLAND OF OAHU.



The Army Song

VERSE:

MARCH ALONG, SING OUR SONG, WITH
THE ARMY OF THE FREE.
COUNT THE BRAVE, COUNT THE TRUE,
WHO HAVE FOUGHT TO VICTORY.
WE'RE THE ARMY AND PROUD OF OUR
NAME!
WE'RE THE ARMY AND PROUDLY
PROCLAIM

CHORUS:

FIRST TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT,
AND TO BUILD THE NATION'S MIGHT,
AND THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG.
PROUD OF ALL WE HAVE DONE,
FIGHTING TILL THE BATTLE'S WON,
AND THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG.

REFRAIN:

THEN IT'S HI! HI! HEY!
THE ARMY'S ON ITS WAY.
COUNT OFF THE CADENCE LOUD AND
STRONG;
FOR WHERE'ER WE GO,
YOU WILL ALWAYS KNOW
THAT THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG.



Marine Corps Hymn

FROM THE HALLS OF MONTEZUMA
TO THE SHORES OF TRIPOLI
WE FIGHT OUR COUNTRY'S BATTLES
IN THE AIR, ON LAND, AND SEA.
FIRST TO FIGHT FOR RIGHT AND
FREEDOM
AND TO KEEP OUR HONOR CLEAN; WE
ARE PROUD TO CLAIM THE TITLE
OF UNITED STATES MARINES.

OUR FLAG'S UNFURLED TO EVERY
BREEZE
FROM DAWN TO SETTING SUN; WE
HAVE FOUGHT IN EVERY CLIME AND
PLACE
WHERE WE COULD TAKE A GUN.
IN THE SNOW OF FAR-OFF NORTHERN
LANDS
AND IN SUNNY TROPIC SCENES; YOU
WILL FIND US ALWAYS ON THE JOB--
THE UNITED STATES MARINES

HERE'S HEALTH TO YOU AND TO OUR
CORPS
WHICH WE ARE PROUD TO SERVE; IN
MANY A STRIFE WE'VE FOUGHT FOR
LIFE
AND NEVER LOST OUR NERVE.
IF THE ARMY AND THE NAVY
EVER LOOK ON HEAVEN'S SCENES,
THEY WILL FIND THE STREETS ARE
GUARDED
BY UNITED STATES MARINES.



The Navy Song

STAND NAVY OUT TO SEA, FIGHT OUR
BATTLE CRY!
WE'LL NEVER CHANGE OUR COURSE SO
VICIOUS FOES STEER SHY-Y-Y-Y!
ROLL OUT THE TNT, ANCHORS AWEIGH!
SAIL ON TO VICTORY, AND SINK THEIR
BONES TO DAVY JONES, HOORAY!

ANCHORS AWEIGH, MY BOYS, ANCHORS
AWEIGH!
FAREWELL TO FOREIGN SHORES, WE
SAIL AT BREAK OF DAY-AY-AY-AY;
THROUGH OUR LAST NIGHT ASHORE,
DRINK TO THE FOAM,
UNTIL WE MEET ONCE MORE, HERE'S
WISHING YOU A HAPPY VOYAGE HOME!

BLUE OF THE MIGHTY DEEP, GOLD OF
GOD'S GREAT SUN;
LET THESE OUR COLORS BE, TILL ALL
OF TIME BE DONE-N-N-NE;
ON SEVEN SEAS WE LEARN, NAVY'S
STERN CALL:
FAITH, COURAGE, SERVICE TRUE, WITH
HONOR OVER, HONOR OVER ALL.



The Air Force Song

(VERSE I)

OFF WE GO INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER,
CLIMBING HIGH INTO THE SUN;
HERE THEY COME ZOOMING TO MEET OUR THUNDER,
AT 'EM NOW, GIVE 'EM THE GUN!
DOWN WE DIVE, SPOUTING OUR FLAME FROM UNDER,
OFF WITH ONE HELLUVA ROAR!
WE LIVE IN FAME OR GO DOWN IN FLAME. HEY!
NOTHING'LL STOP THE U.S. AIR FORCE!

(VERSE II)

BRILLIANT MINDS FASHIONED A CRATE OF THUNDER,
SENT IT HIGH INTO THE BLUE;
VALIANT HANDS BLASTED THE WORLD ASUNDER;
HOW THEY LIVED GOD ONLY KNEW!
BOUNDLESS SOULS DREAMING OF SKIES TO CONQUER
GAVE US WINGS, EVER TO SOAR!
WITH SCOUTS BEFORE AND BOMBERS GALORE. HEY!
NOTHING'LL STOP THE U.S. AIR FORCE!

(VERSE III)

HERE'S A TOAST TO THE HOST
OF THOSE WHO LOVE THE VASTNESS OF THE SKY,
TO A FRIEND WE SEND A MESSAGE OF THE BRAVE WHO
SERVE ON HIGH.
WE DRINK TO THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR ALL OF OLD
THEN DOWN WE ROAR TO SCORE THE RAINBOW'S POT OF
GOLD.
A TOAST TO THE HOST OF THOSE WE BOAST, THE U.S.
AIR FORCE!

(VERSE IV)

OFF WE GO INTO THE WILD SKY YONDER,
KEEP THE WINGS LEVEL AND TRUE;
IF YOU'D LIVE TO BE A GREY-HAIRED WONDER
KEEP THE NOSE OUT OF THE BLUE!
FLY TO FIGHT, GUARDING THE NATION'S BORDER,
WE'LL BE THERE, FOLLOWED BY MORE!
IN ECHELON WE CARRY ON.
OH, NOTHING'LL STOP THE U.S. AIR FORCE!



The Coast Guard Song

FROM AZTEC SHORE TO ARCTIC ZONE, TO
EUROPE AND FAR EAST.
THE FLAG IS CARRIED BY OUR SHIPS IN TIMES OF
WAR AND PEACE;
AND NEVER HAVE WE STRUCK IT YET IN SPITE OF
FOE-MEN'S MIGHT,
WHO CHEERED OUR CREWS AND CHEERED AGAIN
FOR SHOWING HOW TO FIGHT.

CHORUS:
SO HERE'S THE COAST GUARD MARCHING SONG,
WE SING ON LAND OR SEA.
THROUGH SURF AND STORM AND HOWLING
GALE, HIGH SHALL OUR PURPOSE BE.
"SEMPER PARATUS" IS OUR GUIDE, OUR FAME,
OUR GLORY TOO,
TO FIGHT TO SAVE OR FIGHT AND DIE! AYE!
COAST GUARD WE ARE FOR YOU!

VERSE 2
"SURVEYOR" AND "NARCISSUS," THE "EAGLE" AND
"DISPATCH,"
THE "HUDSON" AND THE "TAMPA," THESE NAMES
ARE HARD TO MATCH;
FROM BARROW'S SHORES TO PARAGUAY, GREAT
LAKES OR OCEAN'S WAVE,
THE COAST GUARD FIGHTS THROUGH STORMS
AND WINDS, TO PUNISH OR TO SAVE.

VERSE 3
AYE! WE'VE BEEN "ALWAYS READY"; TO DO, TO
FIGHT, OR DIE!
WRITE GLORY TO THE SHIELD WE WEAR IN
LETTERS TO THE SKY.
TO SINK THE FOE OR SAVE THE MAIMED; OUR
MISSION AND OUR PRIDE.
WE'LL CARRY ON 'TIL KINGDOM COME, IDEALS
FOR WHICH WE'VE DIED.



Space Force Anthem

TO THE MOON, TO MARS,
INTO SPACE, FAR BEYOND,
THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY LIES IN THE
STARS.
WE MARCH ONWARDS!

DEEP INTO THE DARKEST NIGHT,
WE SHALL BEAR A TORCH OF LIGHT,
WE DEFY THE ABYSS WITH ALL OF OUR
MIGHT.
WE FIGHT! WE ARE!
THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE!

WE FLY UPWARDS, BLAST THROUGH THE
VOID,
AND WE RISE INTO SPACE, FIGHTING FOR
FREEDOM.
ALL OF MANKIND LOOKS TO OUR PEOPLE
TO SAFEGUARD THE PEACE IN THE SEARCH
FOR SALVATION.

WE SWEAR TO BE DEFENDERS OF EARTH.
WE ARE THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE.
WE MARCH ONWARDS!

THE FUTURE OF OUR GREAT NATION LIES IN
OUR DETERMINATION
TO TRIUMPH WITH GLORY INTO THE STARS.
WE MARCH ONWARDS!

NOT A FOE NOR ANY TERROR, NOT AN ALIEN
INVADER,
SHALL HINDER OUR DESTINY TO GO FORTH.
WE FIGHT! WE ARE!
THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE!



GUEST OF HONOR

MAJOR GENERAL PAUL W. BRIER, USMC (RETIRED)



MAJOR GENERAL BRIER WAS COMMISSIONED THROUGH THE NAVAL ROTC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AT THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE INTO THE U.S. MARINE CORPS IN 1981. DURING HIS SUBSEQUENT 36 YEARS AS A MARINE OFFICER, HE SERVED ACROSS AFRICA, EUROPE, ASIA, AND NORTH AMERICA AND IN THE PERSIA GULF, IRAQ, AND AFGHANISTAN WARS. HE RETIRED FROM ACTIVE DUTY ON 30 DECEMBER 2016.

AS A GENERAL OFFICER, HE COMMANDED THE 4TH MARINE DIVISION, U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES EUROPE, AND U.S. MARINE FORCES AFRICA. HIS HEADQUARTERS ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDED VICE COMMANDER OF U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES COMMAND IN NORFOLK AND ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMANDANT FOR PLANS, POLICIES AND OPERATIONS, HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS, AT THE PENTAGON. HIS JOINT AND COALITION GENERAL OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDED AT-SEA EMBARKED ON THE USS MOUNT WHITNEY AS THE DEPUTY JOINT FORCE MARITIME COMPONENT COMMANDER FOR U.S. JOINT TASK FORCE ODYSSEY DAWN (LIBYA 2011) AND IN AFGHANISTAN AS NATO RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION'S DEPUTY COMMANDER FOR CIVIL OUTREACH (2016) AND DIRECTOR OF ADVICE AND ASSIST DIRECTORATE (2015-2016).

AS A COLONEL, HE COMMANDED THE 6TH CIVIL AFFAIRS GROUP IN AL-ANBAR PROVINCE, IRAQ (2005-2006) AND THE U.S. MARINE FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND'S COORDINATION ELEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN (2008). HE SERVED IN CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA, AS CHIEF OF STAFF, 2ND MARINE DIVISION (2007-2008); IN THE PACIFIC AS U.S. MARINE CORPS LIAISON TO THE TERRITORY OF GUAM (2008-2009); AND AT THE PENTAGON AS MARINE CORPS SERVICE PLANNER, JOINT STAFF BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS U.S. MARINE CORPS (2003-2004).

AS A LIEUTENANT COLONEL, HE COMMANDED 3RD BATTALION, 14TH MARINES, AND, AS A CAPTAIN, A 4TH MARINE DIVISION HOWITZER BATTERY DEPLOYED AND ATTACHED TO TF PAPA BEAR, 1ST MARINE DIVISION, IN THE DEFENSE OF SAUDI ARABIA (1990-1991) AND LIBERATION OF KUWAIT (1991). OTHER ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDED: CHIEF, CIVIL AFFAIRS BRANCH, JOINT WARFIGHTING CENTER, U.S. JOINT FORCES COMMAND; CIVIL AFFAIRS TEAM COMMANDER, 4TH CIVIL AFFAIRS GROUP; OFFICER SELECTION OFFICER SEATTLE; AND GROUND COMBAT ELEMENT ASSIGNMENTS IN THE 1ST AND 4TH MARINE DIVISIONS AS ARTILLERY BATTALION EXECUTIVE AND OPERATIONS OFFICER, TANK COMPANY EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FIRE DIRECTION OFFICER, AND GUNS PLATOON COMMANDER.

HE HOLDS A BS IN CIVIL ENGINEERING FROM THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE AND A MASTER OF STRATEGIC STUDIES FROM THE U.S. ARMY WAR COLLEGE. HE IS A GRADUATE OF THE MARINE CORPS COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE, JOINT FORCES STAFF COLLEGE, AIR WAR COLLEGE, AND DEFENSE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE AT THE NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL. HIS EDUCATION ALSO INCLUDES STUDIES AT HARVARD'S KENNEDY SCHOOL AND AT THE NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY AS A CAPSTONE FELLOW. HE HAS SERVED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY'S MARINE CORPS RESERVE POLICY BOARD.

HIS AWARDS INCLUDE THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL, DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL, LEGION OF MERIT, BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH COMBAT "V" AND GOLD STAR DEVICES, MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL, AND COMBAT ACTION RIBBON.

OLDEST MARINE - CORPORAL GOERGE IVANOFF

GEORGE IVANOFF WAS BORN IN HARRISBURG PA ON FEBRUARY 24TH, 1925. HE ATTENDED HIGH SCHOOL AT HARRISBURG CATHOLIC. HE LEFT HIGH SCHOOL EARLY TO JOIN THE US MARINE CORPS IN 1943. AFTER HIS INITIAL TRAINING HE WAS DESIGNATED AN INFANTRYMAN.

HE WAS ASSIGNED TO FOX CO, 2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION AND DEPLOYED TO THE PACIFIC. HIS FIRST ACTION WAS ON THE ISLAND OF PELELIU. AFTER FIGHTING THERE FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME HIS CORPSMAN WAS WOUNDED. WHILE HE WAS CARRYING HIM OUT TO BE MEDEVACKED A MORTAR SHELL LANDED NEAR THEM AND KILLED THE CORPSMAN HE WAS CARRYING. GEORGE WAS ALSO WOUNDED AND HAD TO BE MEDEVACKED TO THE HOSPITAL SHIP THE AD ADMIRAL ALLEN.

AFTER HIS RECOVERY HE WAS SENT BACK TO JOIN HIS UNIT. HE WAS PROMOTED FROM PFC TO CORPORAL UPON HIS RETURN. HIS UNITS NEXT ASSIGNMENT WOULD BE THE ATTACK AND LANDING ON OKINAWA. HE HAD BEEN FIGHTING ON OKINAWA FOR 45 DAYS WHEN HE WAS ADVANCING TOWARD AN ENEMY POSITION, HE JUMPED IN AN ARTILLERY SHELL HOLE. WHEN HE LOOKED OUT TO TRY TO SPOT THE ENEMY HE WAS SHOT THROUGH THE FACE.

HE PASSED OUT AND WAS UNCONSCIOUS FOR AN UNKNOWN PERIOD OF TIME. WHEN HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, HE FELT A HUGE HOLE IN HIS FACE. GEORGE THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD CERTAINLY DIE SO HE ASKED THE LORD TO FORGIVE HIM OF HIS SINS. HE LAID BACK DOWN AND WENT UNCONSCIOUS AGAIN THINKING THAT HE WOULD NEVER WAKE UP AGAIN.

WHEN CORPORAL IVANOFF WOKE UP AGAIN HE COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT HE WAS STILL ALIVE. HE LOOKED AROUND AND SAW A COUPLE OF MARINES HIDING BEHIND SOME ROCKS SO WENT OVER TO THEM. THE SNIPER THAT SHOT GEORGE WAS HIDING AND STILL SHOOTING AT THEM. HE SAID TO THE OTHER MARINES GIVE ME A RIFLE AND I WILL TAKE THIS SNIPER OUT, BECAUSE I AM GOING TO DIE ANYWAY. THEY PUSHED HIM AWAY AND SAID GET OUT OF HERE.

THEN SOME MARINES AND A CORPSMAN CAME AND FOUND HIM THEY PUT HIM ON A STRETCHER AND CARRIED HIM TO THE HOSPITAL TENT. A CHAPLAIN GAVE HIM HIS LAST RIGHTS AND AGAIN CORPORAL IVANOFF THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS IT HE WOULD DIE ON THE STRETCHER. EVIDENTLY ALL THE DOCS AND NURSES THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD, SO THEY DIDN'T ATTEND TO HIM. FINALLY, A DOCTOR CAME OVER AND SAID "HEY, THIS GUY IS STILL ALIVE".

THE DOCTORS AND NURSES WERE ABLE TO STABILIZE HIM, AND HE WAS TRANSPORTED TO THE NAVAL HOSPITAL IN GUAM. AFTER BEING TREATED IN GUAM HE WAS SENT TO BALBOA NAVAL HOSPITAL IN SAN DIEGO WHERE HE UNDERWENT RECONSTRUCTION. HE SPENT 10 MONTHS THERE IN RECOVERY AND THEN WAS SENT TO NAVAL STATION GREAT LAKES WHERE HE WAS DISCHARGED IN 1946.

GEORGE RETURNED TO HARRISBURG, PA AND WENT BACK TO HARRISBURG CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND COMPLETED HIS HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE. HE STARTED WORKING FOR THE POST OFFICE IN 1949 HE WORKED THERE FOR 38 YEARS AND RETIRED FROM THE POST OFFICE IN 1987.

GEORGE WAS AWARDED TWO PURPLE HEARTS FOR HIS SERVICE. HE WAS MARRIED TO THE FORMER RHEDA BECHTEL. GEORGE IS A MEMBER OF COLONIAL COUNTRY CLUB SINCE 1949 AND IS AN AVID GOLFER. HE IS A LIFE MEMBER OF THE PATRICK W. MILANO MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENT IN NEW CUMBERLAND, PA AND IS A LIFE MEMBER OF VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 148.



YOUNGEST MARINE

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS OSCAR WESLOWSKI



PRIVATE FIRST CLASS OSCAR WESOLOWSKI WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2002. HE WAS RAISED ON KENT ISLAND IN MARYLAND AND ENLISTED INTO THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE AS A MACHINE GUNNER IN JULY OF 2020. PFC WESOLOWSKI IS CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO WEAPONS PLATOON, ECHO COMPANY, 2D BATTALION, 25TH MARINE REGIMENT.



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HAPPY 246TH BIRTHDAY
FROM MEMBERS OF CHAPTER 11,
MILITARY ORDER OF THE
PURPLE HEART



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Happy 246th Birthday USMC!



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NAMED AS AN ALL-AMERICAN VFW POST FOR 2021
NAMED AS AN ALL-PENNSYLVANIA VFW POST FOR 2020, 2021



STILL WANT TO SERVE?

STILL WANT TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF?

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COME CHECK US OUT!

WE'RE OPEN TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY 1100-2200 HOURS AND SUNDAYS FROM 1100-2000 HOURS.

FEEL FREE TO VISIT OUR FACEBOOK AT [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VFWPOST7530](https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost7530). JUST CLICK ON THE LINK, AND THEN CLICK ON THE "FACEBOOK" LISTED AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE. IT WILL TAKE YOU TO OUR POST.



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