



Electronic Chapter Newsletter Update

May 2017 Issue www.1stmardivassocdesertcities.net

MISSION UPDATES & RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Celebrating A Decade of Delivering the Holidays to Our Marines



L to R: Vince Mast, *Chapter President*, Matt Zack, *Jensen's CEO*, Todd Hodges and Ricardo Parra

Jensen's Markets top managers recently received Certificates of Appreciation and a standing ovation from veterans of the 1st Marine Division Association, Desert Cities Mitchell Paige Medal of Honor Chapter for their enthusiastic support of the Chapter's fund raising efforts during 2016 and previous ten years' holiday Christmas holiday seasons.



Mr. Matt Zack, CEO of Jensen's Markets, Ricardo Parra, Palm Desert store manager and Todd Hodges, Palm Springs store manager were feted at the Chapter's monthly luncheon meeting held at the Classic Club in Palm Desert.

For the past ten years Jensen's markets put out the welcome mat for our Chapter to set up solicitation stations in front of the Palm Desert and Palm Springs stores to collect donations from its customers that were used to provide holiday turkey dinners and gift cards to families of deployed Marines.

On average, **each year since 2006** our Chapter was able to deliver the equivalent of of **1200** fully prepared holiday dinners, with all the trimmings, to 7th Regiment Marines families thanks to the support of Jensen's management and Jensen's customers.

Mr. Zack said working with Marine veterans on the Christmas dinner program has been a wonderful and rewarding experience. In fact, Mr Zack's enthusiasm for the program manifests itself in the fact that for 10 years of the program's existence he has driven the Jensen's delivery truck each year, loaded with the holiday dinners, to the Marine Base at 29 Palms to personally participate in their delivery to the Marine families.

TAPS



LESTER CARLYLE, LONG TIME MEMBER OF OUR CHAPTER PASSED AWAY ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 17, 2017.

LES WAS ONE OF OUR WORLD WAR II VETERANS WHO FOUGHT IN SOME OF THE TOUGHEST BATTLES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

SERVICES FOR LES WILL BE HELD AT THE RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY, STAGE 1, ON MAY 12 AT 1400 HOURS.

Following the service the Carlyle family will hold a reception at the VFW Hllal, 22616 Alessandro Blvd, just a few blocks from the cemetery.



WELCOME ABOARD NEW RECRUITS

Board of Directors

- President**
Vince Mast
- Vice President**
George Stettler
- Secretary**
Quint Villanueva
- Treasurer**



Welcome Aboard to three new Chapter members.

Kian Adyani, retired Marine Gunnery Sergeant, resident of Indio recruited by Villanueva

Dick Partee
Sergeant At Arms
James Olson

Directors
Michael Holguin
Robert Shepard
Harry Covert

Past Presidents

Bill Ping, 1998- 2002 RIP
Joseph A. Daily, 2002-2006
James Sullivan, 2006-09 RIP
Quint Villanueva, 2009-2012
Richard Partee, 2012- 2014
George Stettler, 2014- 2016



**Marines
Helping
Marines**

This should apply to our membership. We should help our fellow members who have medical issues and need help with transportation to our monthly luncheons.

So, if you should need transportation to meetings or events, let us know. **Call (760) 901-5494** and leave a message



We are always looking for
NEW RECRUITS

DD-214's ONLINE

John Hardell, resident of Indio, retired Marine , Served with the Marine Air Wings | Recruited by Mast

Dino Ruffuni, resident of Palm Desert, Monterrey Country Club | Recruited by Partee and Mooring.

May Luncheon | May 18- RSVP



Lunch will be held at the Classic Club in Palm Desert 11:30am to 1pm

Make your reservations now by email to olsoncj5@aol.com or phone to 760-901-5494

Viet Nam Tour | February 2018

Message recently received from Dave Franklin, Charter Member of the Desert Cities Mitchell Paige MOH Chapter and long time Legal Office for the 1st Marine Division Association.

A couple of year ago Dave traded his Palm Desert ranch in for a tiki hut on a beach in Hawaii.

Dave is also a Viet Nam war vet and passed the following word on to our Chapter.



"I encourage everyone to check out the trip for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle for Hue City & the Siege at Khe Sanh for the February trip via

VietnamBattlefieldTours.com

on GOOGLE for February 2018. It will be a super trip and I will have more to say about it when I get back from the April Venture "In Country" working our way North from Chu Lai & Operation Starlight in 1965, to the DMZ and otherwise. Aloha."

2017 1st Marine Division Reunion, Norfolk Virginia | July 31-Aug 6

2017 1st Marine Division Reunion will be held in Norfolk Virginia, July 31 to August 6.

The reunion will be held at **Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel** Telephone (757) 627 4200..

It's official; DD-214s are NOW Online. Please pass on to other vets. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>
or try
<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

Your DD 214 is vitally important in obtaining assistance from the Veterans' Administration and other government agencies having to do with veterans' and veterans' survivors benefits.

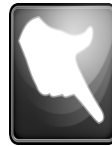
Room rate \$119 + tax.

Make reservations directly with the hotel to receive the 1st MarDiv group rate. **MARRIOTT WEBSITE HERE**

The 1st MarDiv reunions are great events and provide a chance to reconnect with shipmates of yesteryear.



Price List for Chapter Shirts et al



**LOOK
HERE**

To avoid mistakes, errors and goof ups, all orders must be in writing...orders by email will be accepted....include your size when ordering.email to Qlv@aol.com

Covers, red with chapter logo \$15

Jacket, red, wind breaker type with logo \$30

Jacket, red fleece lined type with logo \$35

Shirt, red or blue, with Chapter logo \$30

SPECIAL INFORMATION - Correspondence from Col. Michael Walker, USMC (ret)



UNDERSTANDING KIM JONG-UN

By Colonel Michael Walker, USMC retired

I. North Korea's Kim Jong-un Is Not "Crazy!"

The word "crazy" is counterproductive. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea or North Korea (NK) operates under a communist system and its leadership is dynastic.

Its leader is not crazy.

Kim Jong-un is hard to understand, nonetheless. The governments of Kim Jong-un's father (Kim Il-sung) and grandfather (Kim Jong-il) did have their own internal logic that – while illogical to us - - gave some indicators as to how decisions were made. The current iteration of Kim the demigod (Kim Jong-un) is the oddest of them all and that is what happens when a closed society treats a young immature man like an infallible super being.

How the Kim's are treated is well beyond hero worship and one Korean expert captured it best when he compared today's adulation of the "Great Leader" Kim Il-sung and his heirs to pre-War Japan's emperor worship system.

In September 2010, Kim Jong-il made his son, 25-year old Kim Jong-un, a four-star general and vice chair of the military committee (a combination of the US Defense Department and Joint Chiefs of Staff). That November, NK shelled the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong defended by the ROK Marine Corps.

The young Kim commanded the attack to establish his warlord bona fides and gain legitimacy as a "reunification" heir. He had to get some bloodletting under his belt. (*Some claim he was connected to the attack and sinking of the ROK corvette earlier in 2010 for similar reasons*).

Kim Jong-un is dangerous, self-obsessed and heartless **but he is not crazy**.



II. Roots of the Problem

In the late 1970s, NK embarked on several important programs: Developing a nuclear bomb coupled with the twin goals of reunification and Juche or internal self-strengthening. Juche, with its attendant "Ten Principles," also began the intensification of Kim worship discussed above.

Here is how we dealt with North Korea when they pursued their nuke program:

Conventional wisdom held that North Korea simply wanted security and a respectful place in the community of nations. To first placate Kim, the US withdrew all nuclear weapons from South Korea to reassure NK that we were sincere about denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula.

And NK continued to develop nuclear weapons.

Next in 1991, the UN agreed to admit NK as a full member (South Korea had been recognized by the UN since 1948).

And NK continued to develop nuclear weapons.

NK then was given significant economic aid and expanded trade within the region and the world...*and NK continued to develop nuclear weapons.*

Finally, the major powers in the region got together to pass the Agreed Framework in 1994 that GUARANTEED NK would never have nuclear weapons. In return, NK was given even more aid, a nuclear reactor and just about anything else it asked for.

NK continued to develop nuclear weapons and in 2006 conducted its first nuclear bomb test.

The bottom line is that the key to understanding North Korea is to understand the dynamic created by elevating the Kim's to godlike status through the political-military-economic concept of Juche.



CURRENT TUN TAVERN MEMBERS

DUES ARE DUE...THANKS

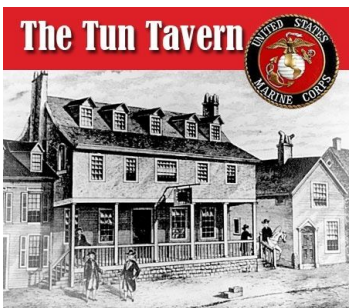
Wes Ahlgren | Mike Bales | Carl Brooks | Joe Daily | Dave Franklin | Charlie Garbarini | Frank Gillette |
Sam Huttenhower | Franz Jevenc | Jim Larsh | Howard Lehman | Vince Mast | Gene McClendon | Jack Mennis
George Moffatt | Marilyn Paige | Richard Partee | Henry Sanchez | Sandy Sandoval | Ray Schum | Bob Shepard
Buddy Sklar | George Stettler | Dale Turner | Quint Villanueva | Col Mike Walker
Michael Walker | Myrl Wallace | Linn Wiley

NEXT TUN TAVERN GROUP FOOD AND GROG MEETING

MAY 3, 1730 HOURS

VILLAGIO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, PALM DESERT

EMAIL QLV@AOL.COM TO MAKE A RESERVATION



In case you missed it...

A dirty dozen Tun Taverneers gathered at Villagio's Italian restaurant for three hours of food, grog and camaraderie on March 29.

Toasts were hoisted for the Corps, the 7th Marines, Desert Cities Mitchell Paige Medal of Honor

Chapter...and for Harry Covert's Birthday along with a chorus of Happy Birthday To You!



Harry Covert mesmerized his shipmates with an outstanding presentation about Colonel Carlson's military tour of duty with the Chinese Communist Army prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Carlson using his friendship with Jimmy Roosevelt, the President's son, engineered the embryonic political birth of Carlson's Raiders adopting Gung Ho as its battle cry, a term he learned from time spent soldiering with the Chinese. We learned that Gung Ho means working together in harmony.

Carlson's first combat experience as a leader of his Raiders was on a terribly planned, poorly equipped, almost disastrously executed combat raid on Makin Island..which, in spite of all those snafus, resulted in a victory.

Those of you Tun Tavern members and wanna be members, who did not attend missed a very interesting and enlightening presentation about Colonel Carlson and his Raiders.

Hope to see you at the next Tun Tavern meeting (MAY 3).

Quint Villaneuva will give a briefing on the 1st Marine Division strategic withdrawal from Chosin.

Semper Fidelis
Quint Villanueva



We hope you find this newsletter of benefit. We appreciate your continued membership and support of the chapter. If you are interested in contributing to this newsletter with news or stories, or if interested in helping edit and produce the newsletter please email the editor.

QUINT VILLANUEVA, EDITOR
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STAY CONNECTED 