



August

2010

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Issue 8

BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

We Served, We Endured, We Perservered

*We don't gossip, we don't pass on Bum Scoop,
We sometime Bulls- -t,
We Tell Sea Stories
But, you always get
"The Word"!
"That's what we Do!"*

Purpose:

This Newsletter provides information about Black Marines, to Black Marines as Black Marines see it.

Topics are:

- ***"Muster"*** To give account for all persons on the Mailing List!
 - *Illness, Deaths, etc.*
 - ***"Events"***, Provide notice of scheduled events relative to Marines!
 - *Reunions, Meetings, Conventions, etc.*
 - ***"Notes from the members"***
 - ***"Mailing List Additions"*** To list new Marines added to the Mailing List or other changes affecting the lists.
 - ***"Sea Stories and down right Marine Lies"***
No jokes, because we just don't know any! (Smile)
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Muster: All present and counted for, Sir/ Mam!



Sick Bay

1. Captain, Acie Bone is currently home recuperating from his battle with heart disease. Acie’s recovery is progressing well and he is gaining strength. If you like you may call Bertha and check on Acie’s progress at 714-545-7200.
2. MGYSGT. Ed Carter is at home recovering from his battle with heart disease. If you would like to speak with him he can be reached at 949-586-1259. Ed expressed his appreciation for the calls and prayers.

News From The Membership and Other Sources:

Another Milestone was achieved August 26, 2010

August 26, 2010 6:06 PM
HOPE HODGE

Sixty-eight years after the first African-Americans came to Jacksonville to receive Marine

training, they returned to town with a hero’s welcome.

Thursday marked the anniversary of the day in 1942 when black Marines began to train at Montford Point aboard what is now Camp Johnson, in



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response to a desegregation order from President Franklin Roosevelt.

The base was 350 miles from Parris Island, where their white counterparts trained, and the Marines themselves were confined to the enlisted ranks and often had to endure racial bias and train harder to prove themselves.



Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James T. Conway holds a press briefing at the Pentagon, Aug. 24, 2010. (DoD photo by R. D. Ward)

Senate named Aug. 26 "Montford Point Marines Day"

Updated: Thursday, 26 Aug 2010, 8:55 AM EDT
Published : Thursday, 26 Aug 2010, 8:54 AM EDT

"It was rather grim in those days," Theodore Britton Jr., who began training there in 1944, said. "The folks were determined that we should be the best, so they made us work harder than anyone else."

Britton, 84, who left the Corps a sergeant and would later serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Barbados and Grenada, said that the service has changed dramatically since he served.

"It's an entirely different Marine Corps, but it's a wonderful one," he said. "I have never lost my feeling for the Marines."

Britton was one of 20 original Montford Point Marines who joined the commandant and sergeant major of the Marine Corps and members of the Montford Point Marine Association in marking the historic anniversary.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Averhart, president of the Montford Point Marine Association, called the men "trailblazers who dared to want to be a Marine" and lauded their persistence in adversity.

"They are true pioneers, for they have paved the way and walked these hallowed grounds at Montford Point Camp, and persevered through a time of racial divide in a society that didn't want them," he said. "They had to fight for the right to fight."

Sgt. Maj. Carlton Kent, the 16th sergeant major of the Marine Corps and the third African-American SgtMaj of the Marine Corps, said that while some small vestiges of racial prejudice may remain in the ranks today, the country has made great strides in the last decades.

"We have a great commandant, and his message to all the leadership is that the Marine Corps looks like America, that's the makeup of all races," Kent said. "We have a great Marine Corps, and I would fight with any one of these Marines. I know that they have my back, regardless of race."



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Gen. James Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, said the old Montford Point training grounds took their place Thursday among other icons of Corps history: the black sands of Iwo Jima, the stone bulldog fountain at Belleau Wood, the triangular patch of grass where Tun Tavern stood.

“For the last 60 years, these old training ground at Montford Point, Carolina, have reminded us of the courage, determination, and perseverance of the young men who once stood in formation here,” he said. “Today we honor them and commemorate this acreage so future generations will know the story of what happened here.”

Members of the association also displayed plans Thursday for a monument to Montford Point Marines, to be erected aboard Camp Johnson

Sources: Associated Press, JACKSONVILLE, N.C. & DOD

Society of Military Widows (SMW) Convention

This year the SMW convention will be held in Lawton, OK, at the Best Western Convention Center (580-353-0200) 10-17 October. The hotel is \$80 per night for two people. The registration is \$125, which includes the Welcome Dinner, lunch at the Patriot Club, a tea/lunch, and the Banquet.

Extra guests for the banquet are \$38. There will be various tours offered every day and more than enough to keep you busy. NAUS Director of Chapter Management Jack Chmielewski will conduct a workshop on Friday. Checks are payable to the Society of Military Widows and should be mailed to: Gladys Thomas, 1108 NW 52nd Street Lawton, OK 78505.

Source: NAUS Weekly

Montgomery GI Bill Payment Rate Increased to \$51,300

As of October 1, 2010 your monthly GI Bill payment rate will increase 4.2% to \$1,426 making your total benefit worth over \$51,300.

A smart first step to using your benefits is to [Find Military Friendly Schools](#) that may offer credit for service in the Marines and have experience working with the GI Bill.

*Use your GI Bill now to get over \$51,300 for a degree.
[Find Military Friendly Schools Now.](#)*

Source: Military.com



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Higher TRICARE Premiums on Gates' Cost-Cut Agenda

Higher TRICARE Premiums on Gates' Cost-Cut Agenda

Defense Secretary Robert Gates has signaled that the department's fiscal 2012 budget request to be sent to Congress early next year will include recommendations to raise [TRICARE](#) premiums for some beneficiaries.

If past proposals are a reliable guide, the target of higher fees is likely to be military retirees rather than active duty families. The Bush administration had tried for three straight years to raise fees for working age retirees. Congress blocked those efforts.

Defense officials hope lawmakers, faced with mounting federal debt and tightening defense budgets, will be more receptive to the argument that TRICARE fees haven't been raised since they were set in 1995.

During a Pentagon press conference where he unveiled a host of initiatives to cut "overhead" in defense budgets, including shutting down the Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Va., Gates said proposals to control burgeoning health care costs will be unveiled in the months ahead.

The issue arose when Gates was asked by a reporter when it would be time to control rising health care costs, either through TRICARE premium increases or reducing plan coverage.

"Yesterday," Gates responded.

"Health-care reform is on my agenda," he added. It will be part of a new "track" of cost-cutting reforms identified by the Quadrennial Defense Review and endorsed by other reports for curbing defense spending.

"And so we have studies going on now...that will help shape our FY '12 budget submission. They involve logistics. They involve health care and personnel policies, more restructuring and organizational changes [and] continued acquisition reform."

Gates continued, "There are no sacred cows, and health care cannot be excepted" from cost-control plans, not to lower overall defense budgets but to free up funds for more pressing defense needs.

"Everybody knows that we're being eaten alive by health care. I believe there is a growing understanding on [Capitol] Hill about this. It cost us \$19 billion in 2000 or 2001. It'll cost us over \$50 billion in FY '11, and will cost us about \$65 billion in FY '15.

And particularly when the top line [of defense budgets] is only growing at a percent or thereabouts, it's unsustainable and therefore it has to be a part of our effort."

Dr. Jonathan Woodson, nominated to take charge of health care policy as the new assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, stayed mum on the hot-button issue of higher TRICARE fees during his Aug. 3 confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Asked by Committee Chairman Carl Levin (D-Mich.) how he would address



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rising health costs, Woodson said, "What we need to do is work with a number of constituents and try and stem rise of that cost." He referred to more cost-efficient "therapies" and addressing "waste in the way we deliver care because of the culture of medicine. And there's opportunity to decrease the variability of care that might result in cost savings."

Sen. John McCain, ranking committee Republican, said Woodson's major challenge will be getting costs under control. McCain questioned whether he can do it, given the steady rise of national health costs.

Woodson, an Army Reserve brigadier general and vascular surgeon who has deployed in most every recent conflict, is Army assistant surgeon general for force management, mobilization, readiness and reserve affairs.

In his written responses for the committee, Woodson said retirees and their families are 53 percent of all TRICARE beneficiaries and account for 57 percent of the DOD health care budget.

20-For-60 Clarified -- Last week I erred in describing a point made by the Defense Business Board task force in arguing that military retirement costs are unsustainable. A slide used by the task force listed among "unsustainable trends" the fact that the government pays "the military and their families for 60 years to serve for only 20 years."

I had rephrased the point awkwardly, leaving the impression that the task force assumes retirees draw retired pay

for an average of 60 years. I heard from many retirees angered by that false notion.

The point Arnold Punaro, task force chairman, more tried to make with that slide is in the transcript of his presentation to the board:

"This system encourages our military to leave at 20 years, when they are most productive and experienced, and then pays them and their families, and their survivors, for another 40 years," he told the board.

Chapter 61 Concurrent Receipt -- In his defense budget request last February, President Obama called on Congress again to phase in "concurrent receipt" -- payment of some military retired pay in addition to disability compensation -- for 103,000 "Chapter 61" veterans, those of them forced by service-connected disability to retire short of 20 years.

But the administration disappointed advocates for this change, including Rep. Ike Skelton (D-Mo.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, by not identifying new money or else "offsets" from other entitlement accounts to pay for this change. The estimated cost is \$5.4 billion over the first 10 years. As a result, neither the House nor Senate version of the defense bill, at least so far, authorizes Obama's CR initiative.

House Democrats did try to slip it into the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act (HR 4213). But in final negotiations with the Senate over this bill, only an extension of federal unemployment benefits survived.



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Uncomfortably for some, the president still took credit for his unfunded effort in a speech before the Disabled American Veterans convention Aug. 2.

"We've kept our promise on concurrent receipt by proposing legislation that would allow severely disabled retirees to receive your military retired pay and your VA disability benefits. It's the right thing to do," he said to applause. Right thing to do, say vet advocates. But it hasn't yet been done.

[Let the DoD and your elected officials know how you feel about this issue](#)

*Tom Philpott / August 12, 2010
Source: Military.com*

Costco - Unbelievable

Make sure you read to the end.

Let's hear it for Costco (This is just mind-boggling)

Make sure you read all the way past the list of the drugs. The woman that signed below is a Budget Analyst out of federal Washington , DC offices. Did you ever wonder how much it costs a drug company for the active ingredient in prescription medications? Some people think it must cost a lot, since many drugs sell for more than \$2.00 per tablet. We did a search of offshore chemical synthesizers that supply the active ingredients found in drugs approved by the FDA. As we

have revealed in past issues of Life Extension a significant percentage of drugs sold in the United States contain active ingredients made in other countries. In our independent investigation of how much profit drug companies really make, we obtained the actual price of active ingredients used in some of the most popular drugs sold in America .

Celebrex:100 mg
*Consumer price (100 tablets): \$130.27
Cost of general active ingredients:
\$0.60
Percent markup: 21,712%*

Claritin:10 mg
*Consumer Price (100 tablets): \$215.17
Cost of general active ingredients:
\$0.71
Percent markup: 30,306%*

Keflex:250 mg
*Consumer Price (100 tablets): \$157.39
Cost of general active ingredients:
\$1.88
Percent markup: 8,372%*

Lipitor:20 mg
*Consumer Price (100 tablets): \$272.37
Cost of general active ingredients:
\$5.80
Percent markup: 4,696%*

Norvasc:10 mg
*Consumer price (100 tablets): \$188.29
Cost of general active ingredients:
\$0.14
Percent markup: 134,493%*



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Paxil:20 mg

Consumer price (100 tablets): \$220.27

*Cost of general active ingredients:
\$7.60*

Percent markup: 2,898%

Prevacid:30 mg

Consumer price (100 tablets): \$44.77

*Cost of general active ingredients:
\$1.01*

Percent markup: 34,136%

Prilosec: 20 mg

Consumer price (100 tablets): \$360.97

*Cost of general active ingredients
\$0.52*

Percent markup: 69,417%

Prozac:20 mg

Consumer price (100 tablets) : \$247.47

*Cost of general active ingredients:
\$0.11*

Percent markup: 224,973%

Tenormin:50 mg

Consumer price (100 tablets): \$104.47

*Cost of general active ingredients:
\$0.13*

Percent markup: 80,362%

Vasotec:10 mg

Consumer price (100 tablets): \$102.37

*Cost of general active ingredients:
\$0.20*

Percent markup: 51,185%

Xanax:1 mg

Consumer price (100 tablets) : \$136.79

*Cost of general active ingredients:
\$0.024*

Percent markup: 569,958%

Zestril:20 mg

Consumer price (100 tablets) \$89.89

*Cost of general active ingredients
\$3.20*

Percent markup: 2,809%

Zithromax:600 mg

Consumer price (100 tablets):

\$1,482.19

*Cost of general active ingredients:
\$18.78*

Percent markup: 7,892%

Zocor:40 mg

Consumer price (100 tablets): \$350.27

*Cost of general active ingredients:
\$8.63*

Percent markup: 4,059%

Zoloft:50 mg

Consumer price: \$206.87

*Cost of general active ingredients:
\$1.75*

Percent markup: 11,821%

Since the cost of prescription drugs is so outrageous, I thought everyone should know about this.

It pays to shop around! This helps to solve the mystery as to why they can afford to put a Walgreen's on every corner. On Monday night, Steve Wilson, an investigative reporter for Channel 7 News in Detroit, did a story on generic drug prices gouging by pharmacies. He found in his investigation that some of these generic drugs were marked up as much as 3,000% or more. So often we blame the drug companies for the high cost of drugs, and usually rightfully so.



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But in this case, the fault clearly lies with the pharmacies themselves. For example if you had to buy a prescription drug, and bought the name brand, you might pay \$100 for 100 pills.

The pharmacist might tell you that if you get the generic equivalent, they would only cost \$80, making you think you are saving \$20. What the pharmacist is not telling you is that those 100 generic pills may have only cost him \$10!

At the end of the report, one of the anchors asked Mr. Wilson whether or not there were any pharmacies that did not adhere to this practice, and he said that Costco consistently charged little over their cost for the generic drugs. I went to the Costco site, where you can look up any drug, and get its online price. It says that the in-store prices are consistent with the online prices. I was appalled. Just to give you one example from my own experience I had to use the drug Compazine which helps prevent nausea in chemo patients.

I used the generic equivalent, which cost \$54.99 for 60 pills at CVS. I checked the price at Costco, and I could have bought 100 pills for \$19.89. For 145 of my pain pills, I paid \$72.57. I could have got 150 at Costco for \$28.08.

I would like to mention, that although Costco is a 'membership' type store, you do NOT have to be a member to buy prescriptions there as it is a federally regulated substance. You just tell them at the door that you wish to

use the pharmacy, and they will let you in.

Source:

Story verified @ <http://www.snopes.com/medical/drugs/generic.asp>

“Pride has been the cause for more Black Veterans not to receive Disability Benefits than anything else.”

Over the past few months I have had many conversations with our membership and the most disturbing have been about making benefit claims.

I am currently in the process of waiting action on claims that I submitted for Service Connected Disabilities. So, I have to visit the Local VA Clinic and I meet fellow Vietnam and Iraq veterans who are either receiving treatment or there to get medical records to support their VA claims.

I have had discussions with mostly Vietnam vets and asked them why they were there and they would say that I have high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis or many other illnesses.

They're using canes or walkers to get around or just walk generally as they may be suffering from something. I ask them how are they doing with their claim and the response I receive is “I haven't submitted a claim”. I ask why and their response is “there isn't



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anything wrong with me”! I practically fall out of my chair because of that response.

Marines, don’t try to be your physician or Veterans Representative and make a determination if you are deserving of “Service Connected Disability Compensation”.

The funds have been set aside to support claims for veterans who deserve compensation for their service connected disabilities.

*There is another Compensation program that helps those that are retired with 20 years of service and have disabilities that are Combat Related. This compensation is “Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC). Again these funds are already set aside for those who rate the compensation. The real kicker is **“Its tax free”!***

We have many members that are Veterans Service Officers and they are here to help you with your claims. They are able to move you in the right direction no matter where you are in the United States.

Sometime the process can be long but I look at it like this “I can wait a while to receive the benefit that I deserve. Remember you don’t have to be retired to receive compensation. You are a veteran and you have earned what you will receive.

Don’t let Pride deprive you of your earned benefits you are not being given anything you’re collecting a debt owed.

Semper Fi, Marines



*Bobby Wallace
The Gator*

Recognizing another Marine Patriot that displays his service to his country daily



MSGT Mose Hooks (USMC Ret.)

Mose, like many of us is proud to be a Marine and his service to our country. He is so proud that he displays patriotism to his community and everyone that passes his home in North Little Rock, Arkansas. So I decided to feature him in this newsletter.

Semper Fidelis my brother.



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www.blackmarinereunion.com

**Bobby Wallace
The Gator**

Websites of Interest to Visit

ACES Museum honoring Black and minority veterans of World War II and their families

<http://www.acesmuseum.org/main.html?src=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.acesmuseum.org%2Findex2.html>

Montford Point Marine Association:

<http://www.montfordpointmarines.com>

Veterans Benefits, News and Information:

Visit this website for information regarding veterans!

<http://www.veteransnetwork.org> or <http://www.veteransnetwork.net>

Dave Culmer is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Veterans Foundation.

Support These Internet Sites

www.16centsaday.org

www.shoptoearn.net/jarheadenterprises

- www.ytbnet.com/6721*

BRENDA MITCHELL HAS A NEW TRAVEL BUSINESS AND YOU CAN VISIT HER WEBSITE AT

<http://www.ytb.com/travelwbreez>

2011 Reunion Reminder

Here we are with less than a year before we gather in Virginia Beach, VA. Wow!

Where has this year gone?

We made the announcement at the Orlando reunion last year that Virginia Beach would be the next reunion site and the response was outstanding. We began planning for our fourth reunion and now we are reaching out to get a feel of how many might attend the event.

If you would take the time to go to the website and participate in the Poll it would certainly be helpful to the Reunion Planners. They plan events to make each reunion exciting and hope to get a lot of interaction from the attendees. After all that's what reunions are all about.

While you're there create a profile and let others know that you're are apart of the Black Marine Reunion family.

This one little step will be so helpful in preparing for the reunion.

I am fired up and ready to go to Virginia Beach, VA.

See you there in 2011.



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Bill Dozier has a new website that promotes electronic smokeless cigarettes. Go to www.nationalsmokeless.com

Distribution Request:

We ask that you provide a copy of this Newsletter to fellow Marines who do not have access to e-mail. Also, if they have access to a Fax machine we will fax a copy of the Newsletter and other information to them. Tell them to send their fax number to 352-259-2435 or 949-364-4300.



Bill Woods
The Gunny
949-364-4318



Bobby Wallace
The Gator
352-259-2435