



July

2010

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Issue 7

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!

- Gysgt. William H. “Tango” Flewellen** passed away on Sunday, June 27, 2010. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1935. Tango served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 25 years, serving in Vietnam. He worked at YPG for 5 years as well. His hobbies were fishing, and playing bingo. However, his passion was sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as writing Christian music. Tango is survived by his wife of 51 years, Kyoko; children, Andre, Joseph, and Uvet; grandchildren, Alex, Jason, Justin, Rika, and Ryker. Tango will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved him! Cremation is being handled by Sunset Vista Mortuary. He was laid to rest at the Veterans Cemetery in Phoenix, Arizona. Per his request no services were planned. Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Gysgt. W. “Tango” Flewellen



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2. Ms. Mary Virginia Brackeen passed away June 27, 2010 in Los Angeles, CA.. Mary Virginia was among the first African American Women that joined the Marine Corps Reserves in the early fifties. Virginia's life was always one of service. She faithfully served her country, community and her Lord through her church as long as she was able.

Virginia, was a proud member of the Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. Chapter 8 in Los Angeles, CA.

Services for Virginia were held July 9, 2010 at Greater Mt.

Hermon Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, CA. and she was interned in Inglewood Park Cemetery.



3. ***Captain Herman White passed away July 15, 2010 in Tigar, OR. Services for Herman will be held August 6, 2010 at Williamette National Cemetery at 11:00 AM. He is survived by his wife Marianne, Son Herman, and three daughters Alicia, Sybil and Cledra. You may send condolences to the family at 11935 SW Morninghall Dr., Tigard, OR 97223-1840 or call at 503-524-8202.***



Herman White

Capt. USMC (Ret.)



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4. *Master Sergeant Lawrence Harris (“Harry the Cat”) passed away July 27, 2010 Harry joined the Marine Corps in 1952 and retired in 1983. Harry was known for his quiet and yet no nonsense demeanor. He is survived by his younger brother Larry Harris who resides in Texas. Funeral services are being coordinated and I will send the announcement as soon as it is received. We will all miss “Harry the Cat.”*



Msgt. Lawrence Harris



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. Bertha is trying to put weight on him so that his rehab will be a little smoother. She also wants everyone to know that they appreciate the calls and prayers they have received because they have certainly helped. 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. Ed is getting his strength back and is gaining weight. 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.



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News From The Membership and Other Sources:

VA Awards to Some Stationed at Camp Lejeune

The U.S. Department of the Navy says that more research is needed to connect ailments suffered by Marines who served at Camp Lejeune and their families who lived there to decades of water contamination at the 156,000-acre base in eastern North Carolina. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs has quietly begun awarding benefits to a few Marines who were based at Lejeune.

Brad Flohr, the assistant director for policy, compensation and pension service at the VA, told a meeting of affected Marines and family members in April that any Camp Lejeune veterans who files a claim is presumed to have been exposed to the contaminated drinking water.

It's estimated that as many as 1 million people were exposed to the water from the 1950s to the 1980s. The water was laced with trichloroethylene, known as TCE; tetrachloroethylene, known as PCE; benzene and other volatile organic chemicals.

Veterans who think they might have been affected by contaminated water at Camp Lejeune can apply for service

connection health benefits from the VA. NAUS recommends you contact a Veterans Service Officer in your local area to assist you with your application.

Veterans who have applied for benefits related to water contamination at Camp Lejeune say they strongly recommend a medical nexus letter from a doctor.

The Marine Corps also has a [website](#) about the Lejeune contamination and a group of Marine veterans and affected family members have their own [website](#) on the issue.

NAUS Note: NAUS is encouraged to see the VA finally beginning to recognize this problem, but what about the children and dependents who lived there? Who will cover their conditions? NAUS will press the issue.

Source: NAUS Weekly



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VA Plans New Online Claims System

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced last week plans to develop a fully automated, online system for handling veterans' disability compensation claims. Automation would substantially reduce processing time and increase accuracy while simplifying the way that veterans interact with the claims process. You can view the Secretary's official press release [here](#)

Source: Military.com

VA Makes Filing Claims Easier

The VA has reduced the paperwork and is expediting the process for veterans seeking compensation for disabilities related to their military service. The new forms on [VA's website](#) include a shortened VA Form 21-526 for veterans applying for the first time to VA for disability compensation or pension benefits. VA provides compensation, pension, education, loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation, employment, and insurance benefits to veterans and their families through 57 VA regional offices. For additional information, visit the [VA website](#) or call VA's toll free benefits number at 1-800-827-1000.

Source: Military.com

VA's My HealtheVet

My HealtheVet is the Department of Veterans' Affairs' e-health website that offers veterans, active duty Soldiers, their dependents and caregivers anywhere, anytime Internet access to VA health care information and services. Registering and using My HealtheVet is easy, and it is free. Veterans who receive care at a VA facility should ask about In-Person Authentication or "IPA." Registered My HealtheVet users who are VA patients and have completed the IPA process will be able to view the names of their VA prescriptions, access their personal VA Wellness Reminders, and communicate with their providers through Secure Messaging as that benefit is delivered to each facility. For more information, visit the [HealtheVet Web page](#).

Source: Military.com

Update on Extra Social Security Credit

Our May-June edition of the USJ Journal contained a note on page 25 concerning extra social security credit for military service between 1957 and 2001. The extra credit was automatically credited since 1968 but may not have been credited before 1968. the article did not contain a phone number, so we are updating the contact information. You can check on your extra credit by going to the



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website

www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm or by calling 1-800-772-1213. You can also call or visit your local Social Security office.

*Source: Uniform Services Journal
July/August 2010*

The Mayonnaise Jar



When things in your life seem almost too much to handle,
When 24 hours in a day is not enough;
remember the mayonnaise jar and 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and starts to fill it with golf balls.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured it into the jar. He shook the jar lightly.

The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with an unanimous 'yes.' The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor, as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life..

The golf balls are the important things - God, family, children, health, friends, and favorite passions Things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the things that matter like your job, house, and car.

The sand is everything else -- The small stuff..



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'If you put the sand into the jar first,'
he continued,
'there is no room for the pebbles or
the golf balls.
The same goes for life.

If you spend all your time and energy
on the small stuff,
You will never have room for the
things that are
important to you.

So...
Pay attention to the things that are
critical to your happiness.
Play with your children.
Take time to get medical checkups.
Take your partner out to dinner.
Connect with friends.
There will always be time
to clean the house and fix the
dripping tap.
'Take care of the golf balls first --
The things that really matter.
Set your priorities. The rest is just
sand.'

One of the students raised her hand
and inquired what the coffee
represented.
The professor smiled.
'I'm glad you asked'.
It just goes to show you that no
matter how full your life may seem,
there's always room for a couple of
cups of coffee with a friend.'
Please share this with other "Golf
Balls"

I just did.....



Chuck Rogers
MAJ. USMC (Ret.)

2011 Reunion **Reminder**

Here we are half way through the
year and 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.



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This one little step will be so helpful I preparing for the reunion. I don't know about you but I am excited about going to Virginia Beach, VA.

See you there in 2011.
www.blackmarinereunion.com

Bobby Wallace
The Gator

WWW.JACKIESTRAVELSTORE.COM
JUST ONE CLICK FOR ALL YOUR TRAVEL NEEDS
[BRENDA MITCHELL](#) HAS A NEW TRAVEL BUSINESS AND YOU CAN VISIT HER WEBSITE AT
<http://www.ytb.com/travelwbreez>

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

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*

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





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Bobby Wallace

“The Gator”
