



March

2010

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Issue 3

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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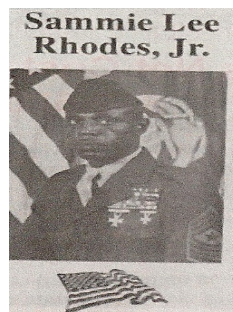


Muster: All present and counted for, Sir/ Mam!

- 1. Prince Roland Cobbs, a Montford Point Marine, passed away February 15, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Prince is survived by his wife Veronica Cobbs, daughter Desdemona Jahari Courts, Jr., Cobbs Court, grandson Jahari Courts and Great-Grandchildren Makayla Courts, Ahmeer Lewis and Kian Lewis. Prince also leaves an extended family including many adoring nieces and nephews.**



- 2. SgtMaj. Sammie Lee Rhodes, Jr. passed away February 19 2010. SgtMaj. Rhodes enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1960 and served 30 years. He is survived by his wife Rose Rhodes, two sons Ronnie and Carl and two daughters Samantha Rhodes and Sasha Rhodes. His Grandchildren Disaya and Jeryn, Jacob, Jordan and Mason.**





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Sick Bay

We are proud to say that no Marines have been reported to be in Sick Bay.

But I have a question that I would like to pose to all of you;

Why are Black Men Afraid of a Visit with The Doctor?

When we were on active duty we were required to have an **Annual Physical** as a **Preventive Procedure** to determine our fitness to serve and to perform our duties as Marines. Of course you didn't have a choice it was required but still you were notified early if you had an illness. That in itself was a good thing because it kept you from becoming seriously ill and unfit for duty and your fellow Marine new that you could be depended on to be available to your job.

Well the only thing that has changed now is if you're not on active duty you are not required to have an annual physical but the reason for an annual physical remains important. There are still people who rely on you being physically fit. Let me list a few;

1. **YOU!**
2. **Your family**
3. **Friends**
4. **Fellow Marines**

I've had fellow Marine who has told me that the reason they don't go to the doctor is because they don't want to know if there is something wrong with them. Now that is puzzling to me because if I can find out early on that there is something wrong and I can fix it, I would take care of it.

Don't forget you have the first and last say on whether you do something about the illness.

Further more you have access to a benefit that a lot of Americans don't have and that is Veterans Health Services. You've already paid for it so don't let it go unused. Get a physical it's been paid for by you when you served your country. You don't have to allow the Veterans Service Health System to treat you, you can still use your Primary Care Physician for treatment. Use the



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annual physical from the Veterans Health System as a **Second Opinion** and your Primary Care Physician as a confirmation.

Let me give you a good example of why it's a good idea to use an annual physical as a barometer for your physical fitness status.

I move to Florida from California in 2002 and I had to find another primary care physician so I could continue my annual physical regiment. Naturally when see a new doctor they want to have a complete exam even if you had just taken an exam. This doctor specialized in Internal Medicine so he asks for things that my other doctor may not ask for. So after I went through the lab works I was scheduled to have the results explained to me. During the appointment the doctor asked me "What medication are you taking for your Hypertension and Diabetes?" I told him "I am not taking medication for either". That is when I found out that I had diabetes and that my hypertension was serious enough for medication. So I began a medication regiment to control my diabetes and hypertension. Then I found that they were both service connected and that I rated compensation for both of them. I benefited by knowing about my health both **physically and financially.**

Get that Annual Physical assure you and your family and friends that they will have you around to enjoy for awhile longer.

I ask you as a fellow Marine to use your veterans' **benefits you've earned them.**

If you are not in the VA Health care System get enrolled by going to your local VA Clinic or Base.

Now, **Black Women** I don't know whether you have the same problem or not but if you have some words of encouragement for **Black Women** or **Black Men** write to me. I will be glad to share it with our readers.

Bobby Wallace
The Gator



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News From The Membership and Other Sources:

Over-The Counter (OTC) Medication Program resumes at No Cost

When Tricare's cost free Over-The Counter Medication test project was extended in November 2009, it coincided with the start of a new pharmacy contract that did not address the popular program. Until changes could be made, a \$3.00 copay for OTC medications was required. We are pleased to report that the necessary adjustments to the contract have been made and the program once again provides numerous OTC medications at no cost to the user.

Examples of OTC medications available through the program include the allergy medications cetirizine and loratadine, and heartburn medications (proton-pump inhibitors) Prilosec OTC and generic form omeprazole.

As before, beneficiaries cannot just walk into a pharmacy and get OTC medications. To use the program they still need a prescription from their health care provider for the OTC drug.

Source: **Uniform Services Journal NAUS**

Eye Glasses for Retirees

All retirees, including TRICARE for Life recipients, may receive one pair of standard issue glasses each year from the Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity.

Visit the NORSTRA website <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nostra/order/pages/retiree.aspx> and select the "How to order: Retirees" link for more information.

Write to:
Naval Ophthalmic Support & Training Activity
160 Main Road, Suite 350
Naval Weapons Station, Bldg. 1794
Yorktown, VA 23691-9984 or call (757) 887-7611

Family members and surviving spouses are not entitled to NOSTRA support.

Source: **Uniform Services Journal NAUS**

Veterans Act Signed by President

President Barack Obama recently signed the Veterans' Emergency Care Fairness Act of 2009. This NAUS endorsed new law allows the VA to reimburse veterans enrolled in VA health care for the remaining cost of emergency treatment if a veterans' outside insurance only covers part of the cost. Previously, VA could reimburse Veterans or pay outside hospitals directly only if a veteran had no outside health insurance.

The law will ensure that veterans with limited insurance will not face financial ruin due to an uncovered emergency room visit.

Source: **Uniform Services Journal NAUS**



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Charter School in tough neighborhood gets all its seniors into college

Charter school in tough neighborhood gets all its seniors into college



Urban Prep Academy senior Keith Greer, along with his classmates, celebrates the news they will receive a free prom in Chicago because 100 percent of the graduating class was accepted into 4-year colleges or universities. (Tribune photo by Heather Charles / March 5, 2010)

The entire senior class at Chicago's only public all-male, all-African-American high school has been accepted to four-year colleges. At last count, the 107 seniors had earned spots at 72 schools across the nation.

Mayor Richard Daley and Chicago Public Schools chief Ron Huberman surprised students at an all-school assembly at Urban Prep Academy for Young Men in Englewood this morning to congratulate them. It's the first graduating class at Urban Prep since it opened its doors in 2006.

Huberman applauded the seniors for making CPS shine.

"All of you in the senior class have shown that what matters is perseverance, what matters is focus, what matters is having a dream and

following that dream," Huberman said.

The school enforces a strict uniform of black blazers, khaki pants and red ties -- with one exception. After a student receives the news he was accepted into college, he swaps his red tie for a red and gold one at an assembly.

The last 13 students received their college ties today, to thunderous applause.

Ask Ray Vaughn Hines what college he was accepted to and he'll answer with a question.

"Do you want me to name them all?"

For the 18-year-old from Back of the Yards, college was merely a concept--never a goal--growing up. Even within the last three years, he questioned if school, let alone college, was for him. Now,

the senior is headed to the prestigious Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga. next fall. Hines remembers the moment he put on his red and gold tie.

"I wanted to take my time because I was just so proud of myself," he said. "I wanted everyone to see me put it on."

The achievement might not merit a mayoral visit at one of the city's elite, selective enrollment high schools. But Urban Prep, a charter school that enrolls using a lottery in one of the city's more troubled neighborhoods, faced difficult odds. Only 4 percent of this year's senior class read at grade level as freshmen, according to Tim King, the school's CEO.

"I never had a doubt that we would achieve this goal," King said. "Every single person we hired knew from the day one that this is what we do: We get our kids into college."

College is omnipresent at the school. Before the students begin their freshman year, they take a field trip to Northwestern University. Every student is assigned a college counselor the day he steps foot in the school.



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The school offers an extended day--170,000 more minutes over four years compared to its counterparts across the city--and more than double the number of English credits usually needed to graduate.

Even the school's voicemail has a student declaring "I am college bound" before it asks callers to dial an extension.

Normally, it takes senior Jerry Hinds two buses and 45 minutes to get home from school. On Dec. 11, the day University of Illinois at Champaign- Urbana was to post his admission decisions online at 5 p.m., he asked a friend to drive him home.

He went into his bedroom, told his well-wishing mother this was something he had to do alone, closed the door and logged in.

"Yes! Yes! Yes!" he remembers screaming. His mother, who didn't dare stray far, burst in and began crying.

That night he made more than 30 phone calls, at times shouting "I got in" on his cell phone and home phone at the same time.

This is what our young people can do when given the right tools and opportunity to achieve.

The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment

Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California and Western Recruiting Region, was honored to host a special performance by one of the world's premiere Ceremonial Military Units, The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment

On March 20, 2010 at 2:30 PM The "Commandant's Own" The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps and Unit States

Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, performance was unwavering in front of many active, retired, family, friends veteran groups (Montford Point Marine Association Inc, San Diego Chapter #12, Marine Corps League, Buffalo Solders members) and guest of the Marine Corps on the parade deck at MCRD San Diego.

Reviewing Officer of the Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment was Major General Anthony L. Jackson (Commanding General, Marine Corps Installion West) and Brigadier General Ronald Bailey (Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego). Reception was held at the MCRD Museum immediately following the conclusion of the Battle Color Ceremony.

The back story of this event is the two Generals that were in review are Black Marines.

I received a call from Bill Woods who was in attendance and he said that it was so refreshing to see these two generals. It made him reflect back on his career as a Marine and realize that all the "stuff" (I want print his actual words) he had endured and the reason we persevered was being realized.

Bill, Wade Moore and Walt Washington spoke to both generals and the generals thanked them for their service and said that if it were not for them and other Black Marines, this would not have been possible.

MajGen. Jackson joined the Marine Corps a year after Bill Woods retired.

***Bobby Wallace
The Gator***

NO ONE HAS CALLED

Well, it has been over thirty years and no one has called, so I guess I can presume that they are not going to call.

They must have figured out how to run things and they really don't need me to help them. It would seem that things are not falling apart and there are people who can run things and who actually know what



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they are doing. And, they can do it as well as, or better than I did.

I guess that I can relax now and get on with my life because no one is going to call and ask me to come rescue them, to straighten things out, to help folks get a handle on things, or any of that.

This is the way that I saw it: Six months, a year on the outside, after I retired I would receive a call from the Commandant asking me to return to active duty to help keep the Corps running as efficiently as it did when I was in.

I thought if the Commandant did not call, then at the least the Sgt/Maj of the Corps would call. You know--enlisted to enlisted--the Commandant would think that two enlisted men could relate better.

They would want me to come back on active duty because the Corps was falling apart since I got out and they did not know how they could carry on without me. They would want me to come back and at least train some others as to my techniques and ways of doing things. They would want me to do this so that when I got out the next time, the Corps could continue without me.

Now, of course, I would contemplate the situation and ask them for a couple of days to think about it. Inside, I would be gleeful knowing that it was happening just as I suspected it would, having always known that the Corps would fall apart without me, having known from the beginning that I was the glue that held the Corps together and, without me, they could not function well.

My only thoughts would be: **how would they function for that year that I was out?** How did they keep things going without me to work out the kinks and the pitfalls? How did they manage to keep the

screw-ups in line and on track without me, without having me to talk to them and explain to them the error of their ways? In other words, why didn't they call sooner? Those would have been my thoughts, had they called within a year after I got out.

They did not call after a year, or two, or three, or four. In my heart I knew they would call at some point because I knew that the Corps could not really function effectively without me.

After I had been in for a few years, I saw how mucked up things were and I set about straightening things out. I set about talking to people and making adjustments and doing the things that needed to be done to bring the Corps to a hard-driving, fully functioning, efficient and dedicated organization. And, all of my hard work paid off because when I got out, the Corps was operating at peak & proficiently.

I was hesitant about getting out when I did because I was not certain there was anyone who could do the job as effectively as I did. So, I expected a call to come back, sooner rather than later.

No one called, not even to ask for advice. No one has called to ask me to come back on active duty to help out. No one has called to tell me how much they need me back to help save the Corps. I know that they have my address, my telephone number, my fax, my email address, my text address, and my cell phone number.

I keep them up to date on all of that. Yet, no one has called, and it has been a little over thirty years since I retired.



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No one has called; at least no one has called, YET!

Billy Woods

The Gunny



***On Speaking
(Understanding) Female***

You scoff. I can see you, and you are thinking, *what is he talking about now?*

Speaking Female, There is no language called Female, you say? Well, my dear mono-lingual brother that is where you are misinformed. There is, indeed, a Female language and I know how to speak it, . . . a little.

I am not fluent in it, no male *is* or *can ever be*. However, I know enough to get by when speaking with a Female.

Any male over the age of twelve who has dated a woman knows that women speak another language that most men cannot-- and are not supposed to-- understand. It is deliberately confusing to keep us wondering all of the time. I know what you are thinking right now. You are thinking, *then how is it that I can understand my, wife, girlfriend, sister, mother or any female I may be talking to?*

And I retort,

One: most females speak male, and they are fluent in it.

Two: you only understand what they want you to understand.

Think about it, how many times have you heard two women talking and had the thought, *what are they talking about?*

Ha! See! The reason you had that thought is because you did not really understand what they were talking about. Now, you may have understood the words, but you did not understand the conversation. Admit it, you know that I speak the truth.

Women have a way of communicating that is beyond men, and any man who is reading this and who is being honest will admit that. If the above statement was not true, then explain to me why men get into so much trouble when talking with their significant others.

Why do men make statements like, *I thought you meant*, or *But you said*, and how about, *But, I do listen to you*.

How about the, *But, baby, I do love you and I did not do it to hurt you. I do care about what you think*. Those are just a few choice attempts that men make in a courageous, yet mistaken effort to understand their significant others. I could go for another page, but you get the idea.

So, are you ready to admit that: **Yes, women do speak a language that is different and you do not have a clue about how to speak it or understand it.**

Good, because once you are willing to admit that truth, then it makes it easier for me to help.

The information that I am about to share with you will change your life. It will help you have a better relationship with your significant other, and the two of you will be able to have conversations that consist of



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you saying more that just, “Yes, dear”, and having that dumb look on your face. Female is a difficult language to learn; it is comprised of nuances, sounds, eye movements, body movements and intuition. That last word there, intuition, is what throws most men off. Intuition involves feelings. I may have lost about eighty percent of you just then, because most men don’t have a clue about what a feeling is. May I explain: **feelings are comprised of emotions, intuitions and compassion.**

Ok, let me stop because I can “see” that a lot of the men reading this just when blank. Rather than me attempting to go into a lot of detail here, ask a female person in your life about the statement above. Hopefully, she can help you understand what I mean.

It would be impossible for me to teach you to speak Female here, because there is not enough space. In addition, I don’t know that I even know enough to teach someone else. What I am going to share with you will change your life from this point on, especially in how you deal with the female of the species.

Pay attention and read slowly, you can thank me later.

When speaking to a female:

1. Appear to be listening closely
2. Look her in the eyes
3. Nod occasionally so that you appear to be conscious
4. Do not glance off toward the television or the bathroom or the fridge. For safety sake, if the television is on, turn it off.
5. If you are outside, never, ever under any circumstances glance toward another woman. You could put your life in jeopardy, so keep you eyes cast directly at her eyes. A little higher, her eyes.

6. Clear your throat occasionally so she knows that you are awake
7. This is the most important one on this list: Never, never, never, never offer any advice unless you are directly requested to do so. Let me repeat that. No matter how many problems she brings up or even if it appears she is seeking advice, do not, **don’t**, Verboten, Nyet, Dame’ yo, don’t do it, do not offer any advice unless specifically, directly and/or clearly requested to do so. I know you want to help, just don’t.
8. You listen, she talks and you will be well on your way to understanding how to communicate with women without all of the drama.

Well, there it is. And, if you have not learned anything from reading this, then you just were not paying attention. You just don’t listen or pay attention, you don’t even care about my feelings, you only think about yourself. Now you have gone and upset me, just the same thing over and over.....



Billy Woods
The Gunny



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What I like about the Marine Corps:

I like the fact that you always know where you stand with a Marine! With Marines, there is no middle ground or gray area. There are only missions, objectives and facts.

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*

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.BRENDAMITCHELL.COM)
<http://www.ytb.com/travelwbreez>

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.

News to all!

The Newsletter is now posted on the Black Marine Reunion Website.

www.blackmarinereunion.com by clicking on the News tab on the menu bar. If you missed the December thru February Newsletters, go see what you missed.

While you're there review other information, provided on your website. The Webmaster Winston Walker has taken our old website from Static to Dynamic. Go there and join the community, you might like it!



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Bill Woods

“The Gunny”

949-364-4318



Bobby Wallace

“The Gator”

