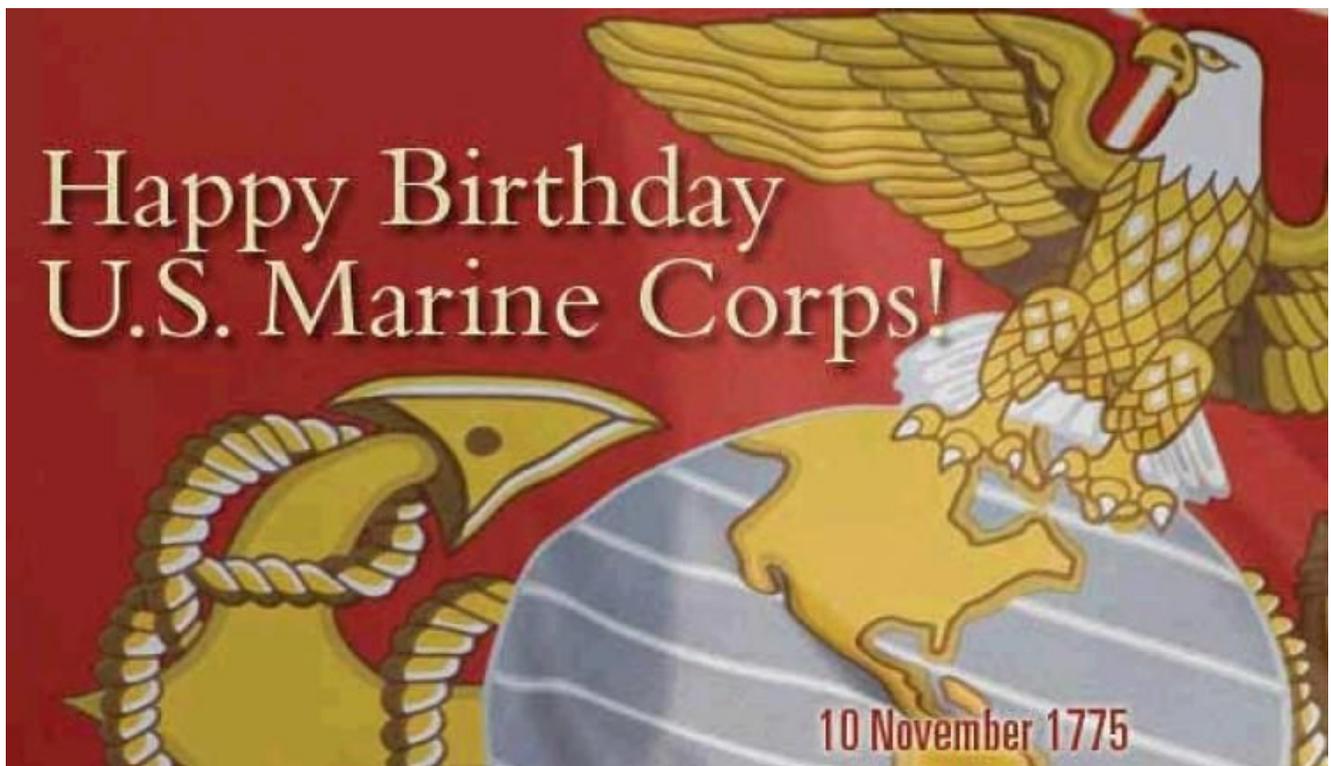




INCOMING NEWSLETTER

1ST BN 7TH MARINES VIETNAM ASSOCIATION NOVEMBER 2020



245th

SEMPER FIDELIS

1775 - 2020

A few words from our Commander
Terry Aldridge

Happy 245th Birthday to our beloved Marine Corps, November 10, 2020.
Here is a link to some Marine Corps Birthday history.

<https://nationaltoday.com/marine-corps-birthday/>

We hope this finds all of you and your family members safe from the Covid-19 Virus. This has been a year for the history books. As I remarked to my 18-year-old step-grandson, he will look back 50 years from now and say, " I lived through that in 2020."

I received a Vietnam statistics report from Doc Liekweg, that said out of 2,700,000 Vietnam Veterans who were in country during the Vietnam War, only about 850,000 of us are left! This is truly a shocking number. We who are alive today must consider ourselves very lucky. We all know our Marines who were KIA in the Vietnam War, we have honored them with our 1/7 Memorial Monument at the Marine Corps Museum, in Quantico, Virginia. As we continue to search for our Marines and Corpsmen throughout the country, we are discovering, that we have already lost many of them over the years. You will find a link to the full taps list that is maintained by Vic Vilionis and is posted on his website at www.marzone.com .

If you would like to check out more information about our 1/7 reunion group, go to our website at www.17marines.com and take a look around. Let us know your thoughts by filling out a contact form with your comments or suggestions. You will also find our PX and we still have hats, challenge coins, shirts, license plates and decals. Click on the 1/7 PX tab and you will find pictures of everything that's available. Just download and use the updated form you will find on the PX page.

We are very sorry that we had to cancel the 2020 reunion, but for the safety of our Marines, Corpsmen and family members, we really had no choice. When there is a vaccine, we will be able to start our planning for the next reunion. For now, please stay safe, wear a mask, wash your hands often, keep your 6 ft social distance, and for those of us who still can....a little PFT probably wouldn't hurt either.....LOL.

The date and location of the next reunion will be announced as soon as possible.

Semper Fi!
Terry C. Aldridge
President 2020-2022

DID YOU KNOW?

DATA ON VIETNAM VETS

Only 31.4% of Vietnam Vets are still alive.

Of the 2,709,918 Americans who served in Vietnam, less than 850,000 are estimated to be alive today, with the youngest Vietnam veteran's age approximated to be 60 years old.

DRAFTEES VS. VOLUNTEERS

25% (648,500) of total forces in country were draftees. (66% of U.S. armed forces members were drafted during WWII).

Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam.

Reservists killed: 5,977

National Guard: 6,140 served: 101 died.

Total draftees (1965 - 73): 1,728,344.

Served in Vietnam: 38%

Marine Corps Draft: 42,633.

CASUALTIES

Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old.

The oldest man killed was 62 years old.

Hostile deaths: 47,378.

Non-hostile deaths: 10,800.

8 nurses died - 1 was KIA.

61% of the men killed were 21 or younger.

11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old.

Of those killed, 17,539 were married.

Average age of men killed: 23.1 years.

Missing in Action: 2,338.

POWs: 766 (114 died in captivity).

As of January 15, 2004, there were 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for.

STATISTICS FOR INDIVIDUALS IN UNIFORM AND IN COUNTRY VIETNAM VETERANS

9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam Era (August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975).

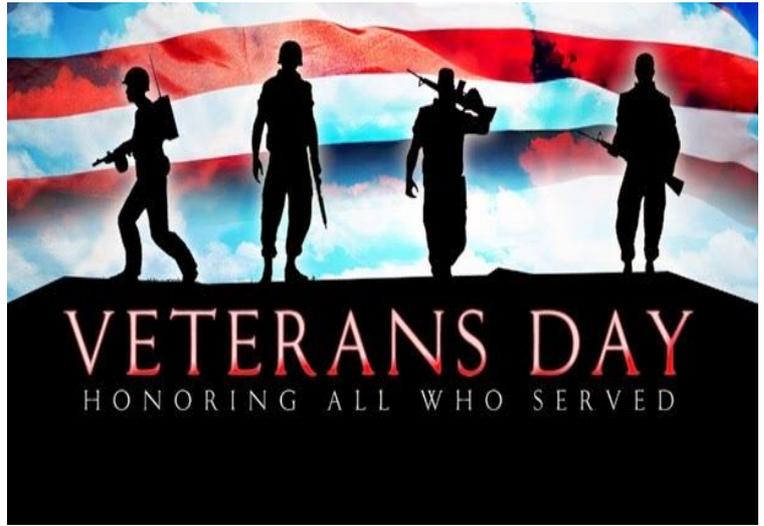
* 2,709,918 Americans served in Vietnam. This number represents 9.7% of their generation.

* 7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam.

*Agent Orange is taking a huge toll on Vietnam Veterans with most deaths somehow related to Agent Orange exposure. No one officially dies of Agent Orange, they die from the exposures which causes Ischemic Heart Disease and failure, Lung Cancer, Kidney failure or COPD related disorders.

These statistics were taken from a variety of sources to include: The VFW Magazine, the Public Information Office, and the HQ CP Forward Observer - 1st Recon April 12, 1997.

SEMPER FIDELIS





TAPS
Recently reported deaths among 1/7
Marines and Corpsmen.

For a full taps list go to

<https://www.17marines.com/taps-and-remembrances.html>



LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI		UNIT	DATE
BANKSTON	Edward	E.	USMC	D	7/27/1969
BROWN	Floyd		USMC	D	3/13/2009
CLARK	John	L.	USMC	D	1983
DEVINE	Robert	W	USMC	D	6/16/2020
MAGEE	Frank	J	USMC	D	5/14/2020
SCHLUETER	Dennis	Joseph	USMC	A	10/23/2012
SHAHAN	Michael	L	USMC	D	11/01/2008
SLETNER	Donald	F	USMC	D	08/10/2020
SPANGLE	Howard	J	USMC	C	04/19/2015
VANDERLOO	Harold	Lee	USMC	D	07/30/2020
VASTOLA	Joseph	H	USMC	H&S	12/03/2015
WITWER	Michael	W	USN	H&S	09/25/2017

Please remind your family members to notify us of your passing so that you can be listed
in our taps section.

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