Welcome to the 11th Annual Marine Corps Association & Foundation Ground Dinner Awards

Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel
8 May 2014
On October 22, 2010 General James F. Amos assumed the duties of Commandant of the Marine Corps. A graduate of the University of Idaho, General Amos has held command at all levels from Lieutenant Colonel to Lieutenant General.


General Amos’ staff assignments include tours with Marine Aircraft Groups 15 and 31, the III Marine Amphibious Force, Training Squadron Seven, The Basic School, and with the MAGTF Staff Training Program. Additionally, he was assigned to NATO as Deputy Commander, Naval Striking Forces, Southern Europe, Naples Italy where he commanded NATO’s Kosovo Verification Center, and later served as Chief of Staff, U.S. Joint Task Force Noble Anvil during the air campaign over Serbia. Transferred in 2000 to the Pentagon, he was assigned as Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation. Reassigned in December 2001, General Amos served as the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations, Headquarters, Marine Corps. From 2008-2010 General Amos served as the 31st Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.
AGENDA

Musical Support Provided by The Commandant’s Own, The U.S. Marine Corps Drum & Bugle Corps

Presentation & Retirement of the Colors – The 8th & I Color Guard

Welcoming Comments by MajGen Ed Usher, USMC (Ret)

Invocation by RADM Margaret Kibben, USN, Chaplain of the Marine Corps

Dinner

Introduction by LtGen Ronald L Bailey, USMC

Remarks by General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps

AWARDS PRESENTATION:

Department of the Navy Special Presentation
Chambers Trophy for Outstanding Leadership

Marines of the Year
1st Marine Division’s Marine of the Year
2nd Marine Division’s Marine of the Year
3rd Marine Division’s Marine of the Year
4th Marine Division’s Marine of the Year

Ground Leadership Awards
MARSOC NCO Critical Skills Operator of the Year Award
Douglas A. Zembiec Award for Outstanding Leadership in Special Operations
Hulbert Trophy for Outstanding Leadership
Leftwich Trophy for Outstanding Leadership

Closing Comments

DINNER MENU

Freshly Baked Bread
Supreme Salad
Grilled NY Strip Steak
Herb Roasted Baby Yukon Potatoes
Champagne & Strawberry Charlotte

Coffee Service

Wine Sponsored by
Leupold, MetroStar Systems, MSC Direct, Rheinmetall
Corporal Black enlisted in the Marine Corps in May 2012 and attended boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. Private First Class Black then attended the School of Infantry West, where he obtained the Military Occupational Specialty of 0311, Infantry Rifleman. In January 2013, Private First Class Black went to Marines Awaiting Reconnaissance Training and was picked up in Basic Reconnaissance Class 2-13. Private First Class Black graduated the Basic Reconnaissance Course as the class Honor Graduate and the class Iron Man in March 2013.

Corporal Black reported to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, and currently serves as a Team Scout/Medic in Company B, 1st Platoon, Team 2. Corporal Black has been meritoriously promoted to his current rank and has attended the following schools; Army Basic Airborne Course, Methods of Entry, Survival Escape Resistance Evasion Level C and the United States Marine Corps Combatant Divers Course.
Sergeant Joshua Moore was born on 29 January 1988 in Fairhope, Alabama. He graduated High School in 2006 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2009. He attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island South Carolina graduating in October 2009 from the 1st Recruit Training Battalion.

Upon graduation he received orders to the Infantry Training Battalion at the School of Infantry at Camp Geiger, North Carolina. Upon graduation Private First Class Moore obtained the Military Occupational Specialty 0311, Basic Rifleman. After graduation he executed orders to 2d Battalion, 8th Marines, 2d Marine Division in January 2010 and was then assigned as a Rifleman to 1st Platoon, Company E.

In April 2010, PFC Moore was promoted to Lance Corporal and subsequently attended the Scout Sniper Selection Screener. Lance Corporal Moore successfully completed the selection assessment and was accepted as a scout in 2d Battalion, 8th Marines Scout Sniper Platoon and was transferred to Weapons Company, 2d Battalion, 8th Marines. Lance Corporal Moore received a Certificate of Commendation in May 2010 for his exceptional level of professionalism and expertise demonstrated while participating in the Battalion’s Fire Team Leader Operational Readiness exercise.


After his promotion, Corporal Moore attended the Scout Sniper Basic Course at Camp Geiger, North Carolina and graduated from the course in December 201, obtaining the secondary Military Occupational Specialty 0317, Scout Sniper. In April 2012, he attended the Advanced Infantryman Course and was selected by his peers to receive the “Lance Corporal Pittman Leadership Award” for his inspirational leadership and unwavering personal commitment.

In April 2013 Sergeant Moore redeployed to Afghanistan as a section leader in the Scout Sniper Platoon. In May 2013, he was meritiously promoted, to Sergeant. Upon returning from Afghanistan in August 2013 he reenlisted and is pending execution of orders to become an Instructor at the Scout Sniper Basic Course.

Sergeant Moore is married to Mrs. Carol Moore.

Sergeant Moore’s personal awards include the Navy Cross, the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement medal, the Combat Action Ribbon and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.
Sergeant Dahme enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 18 August 2008 reporting to MCRD San Diego, CA for recruit training with Company I, 3d Recruit Training Battalion and graduated as a squad leader on 14 November 2008. Upon graduation, PFC Dahme reported to the Marine Corp School of Infantry, Infantry Training Battalion, Alpha Company in Camp Pendleton, CA where he obtained the MOS of 0331 Infantry Machine Gunner graduating on 24 February 2009.

On the 25th of February 2009, PFC Dahme reported to 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, 3d Marine Regiment at MCBH Kaneohe Bay, HI. During his work up for a deployment to Afghanistan he was assigned the billet of vehicle turret gunner for lead vehicle and promoted to Lance Corporal. LCpl Dahme then did a combat deployment as a vehicle turret gunner to Nawa District, Helmand Provence, Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. During his tour with 1st Battalion 3d Marines his performance earned him a Certificate of Commendation and a school seat to Infantry Squad Leaders Course.

After LCpl Dahme’s deployment he attended Infantry Squad Leaders Course 4-10. During his time at ISLC he demonstrated great knowledge and physical fitness directly impacting the ability of his squad to receive Honor Squad at the end of the class and he received a Meritorious Mast. Shortly after returning back to 1/3 LCpl Dahme was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Corporal on the 2nd of December 2010. After his promotion he was given the billet of squad leader for 1/3 CAAT 1 Section 1. He was the squad leader during both Lava Viper and Enhanced Mojave Viper, were he assisted the section leader in running the 4 vehicles in the section.

Corporal Dahme assumed his current position as the NCOIC for 3d Marine Regiment Training and Simulation center on 1 June 2011. During May 2013, Sgt Dahme was meritously promoted to his current rank. Since joining the Training and Simulations center, Sergeant Dahme has been made the SNCOIC, participated in SY-13 and continued the support of marksmanship and infantry training to all units aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii. His duties as SNCOIC of the ISMT are to assist with scheduling of training areas and live fire ranges. Also assist with any training in Marine Common Combat Skills, Infantry Individual and Collective Tasks. Since he assumed this position Sergeant Dahme received his Good Conduct Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, (2) Certificate of Commendation, (5) Certificate of Appreciation and a Letter of Appreciation. Sergeant Dahme also attended Combat Marksmanship Coaches Course (CMCC), Combat Marksmanship Trainers Course (CMTC), Corporals Course 415-12, Foreign Weapons Instructor Course 2-13, Martial Arts Instructor Course 2-13, Sergeants Course 6-13 and Martial Arts Instructor Trainer Course 1-14. Sergeant Dahme was also the 3d Marine Division NCO of the Quarter for the January 2013 to March 2013 (1st Quarter). Sergeant Dahme was recently named the 2013 3d Marine Division NCO of the Year.

A Tulsa, Oklahoma native, Sergeant Dahme is married to the former Brittany L. Bewley and they have one son, Benjamin Dahme. Sergeant Dahme’s personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, (3) Certificate of Commendation, Meritorious Mast,(5) Certificate of Appreciation and a (2) Letter of Appreciation.
Jason T. Greene, a third generation Marine, was born in Jacksonville, FL, and has spent most of his life in Atlanta, GA.

Sgt Greene enlisted in January 2006 and underwent recruit training at 3d Recruit Training Battalion, Mike Company, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC. In July 2006, Private First Class Greene completed Infantry Training School at Camp Lejeune, NC. He was ordered to Reconnaissance Marines Awaiting Training (RMAT), 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, San Antonio, TX.

Sgt Greene completed Amphibious Reconnaissance School in December 2006, Basic Airborne School in January 2007, and Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape (SERE) in February 2007. In March 2007, Sgt Greene returned to Atlanta and reported to B Co, 4th Recon Bn, Smyrna, GA. Sgt Greene would later complete Marine Combat Instructor of Water Survival (MCIWS), and Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leader’s Course with the US Army’s Ranger Training Battalion at Fort Benning, GA.

In May 2009, Sgt Greene was mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and he would subsequently deploy to Helmand Province, Afghanistan as part of Task Force Leatherneck with B Co, 3d Recon Bn, from November 2009 to June 2010. While deployed to Afghanistan, Sgt Greene was assigned as the assistant team leader, and subsequently as the team leader for team 1, 5th platoon. Sgt Greene would participate in a number of offensive missions throughout Helmand Province. Sgt Greene would be recognized as the 2d MEB (Forward) NCO of the Quarter, and would receive a combat meritorious promotion to Sergeant.

After returning from Afghanistan, Sgt Greene returned to B Co, 4th Recon Bn and held billets as the platoon sergeant for the reconnaissance training platoon, Company Gunnery Sergeant, and his current role as the Company Operations Chief. Sgt Greene would also complete Marine Combatant Diver and Multi Mission Parachute Course.

Sgt Greene’s personal awards include Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars, Combat Action Ribbon, Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal with one star, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

When not in a Marine Corps uniform, Sgt Greene works for Merrill Lynch in Atlanta, GA. Sgt Greene is supported by his incredible wife, Lindsay, and their two children, Avery and Braedy.
Colonel Justice Marion “Jumping Joe” Chambers was born in Huntington, West Virginia, on 2 February 1908. He attended Marshall College, West Virginia, and George Washington University and received his Juris Doctor from National University.

Following the completion of a 2 year enlistment in the Naval Reserve in 1930, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve as a private and in 1932 was commissioned a second lieutenant. He was assigned to the 5th Battalion in Washington, DC. He was a major, attending annual summer camp in 1940, when his unit was called to active duty. After rigorous training, he was among the first contingent of Marines to assault the island of Tulagi, Solomon Islands, on 7 August 1942. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received while commanding a company of the 1st Raider Battalion. He received the Silver Star Medal for evacuating the wounded and directing the night defense of a battalion aid station on Tulagi, where he was a seriously wounded patient.

He commanded the 3d Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division in the Roi-Namur Campaign. On Saipan he suffered a blast concussion, but returned to lead his command there and on Tinian. He was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat “V” and a second Purple Heart following the Saipan-Tinian operations.

As a lieutenant colonel, he brought his battalion ashore at Iwo Jima on 19 February 1945. His sector was beneath high ground from which heavy enemy fire raked the whole landing beach. Capture of the high ground was essential to the success of the D-Day operation. Lieutenant Colonel Chambers lost more than half his officers and nearly half his enlisted strength on D-Day. By fearless disregard for his own life and leading a depleted battalion by example, he won the key heights that anchored the right flank of the Marines’ position. On day four, directing the Marines’ first rocket barrage and exposed to the enemy’s main line of resistance, Lieutenant Colonel Chambers fell under enemy machine gun fire.

Colonel Chambers was assigned to Quantico following his discharge from Bethesda Naval Hospital.

He entered the Senior Course at Quantico as a student and upon graduation was assigned as a member of the Marine Corps Reserve Policy Board. He was medically retired from the Marine Corps Reserve in 1946 and advanced to the grade of Colonel.

From 1946 to 1964, as a resident of Rockville, Maryland, Colonel Chambers held various public service positions to include: Assistant Chairman of the Federal Personnel Council, Staff Adviser to the Senate Armed Services Committee, an employee of the Civil Defense Administration, and Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Planning. He was later President of his own Consulting firm until his retirement in 1973.

Colonel Chambers received the Nation’s highest award, the Medal of Honor, on 1 November 1950. Presentation of the Medal of Honor was made at the White House by President Harry S. Truman for exceptional gallantry which helped assure the victory at Iwo Jima during World War II. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Silver Star Medal, and Legion of Merit with Combat “V”, Colonel Chambers’ decorations and medals include the Purple Heart with two gold stars, Presidential Unit Citation with three bronze stars, Organized Marine Corps Reserve Medal with two stars, American Defense Medal with one silver star (denoting five campaigns), and the World War II Victory Medal.

Colonel Chambers died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 29 July 1982. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.
Captain White is from Eagle, CO. She graduated from the University of Puget Sound in 2005 with a double major, Bachelor of Science in Economics and Business Administration and a minor in Math. She was commissioned in the Marine Corps in August 2007. After graduating from The Basic School and Logistics Officers Course, she reported for duty as a logistics officer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 (MWSS-171), MCAS Iwakuni, Japan.

While assigned to MWSS-171, 1stLt White, (née Quinn), served as Maintenance Management Officer, Motor Transport Operations Platoon Commander/Company XO and Squadron Training Officer. During her service with MWSS-171, 1stLt White participated in multiple exercises to include two years of Talon Vision/PHIBLEX at Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

In August 2010, 1stLt White reported to Headquarters & Support Battalion, MCB Camp Lejeune, NC for the last four months of her active duty service obligation. She EAS’d in February, 2011.

In May 2011, Capt White affiliated with B Co, 4th Landing Support Battalion, 4th MLG. She joined the company as the Executive Officer and immediately attended annual training in South Africa for SHARED ACCORD 12. As the OIC for the detachment, she coordinated with the host nation to support operations. In November, 2011, Capt White assumed command of the company. Between November 2011 and March 2014, Capt White led the company through MPF Offload training in Paldiski, Estonia, BIC realignment, FSRG re-designation as a Transportation Services Company, and battalion annual training exercise BLUE THUNDER.

Captain White’s civilian employment has included retail management and investment operations in a fund-of-hedge-funds. She is currently studying prerequisites for a master’s program in engineering. She is married to CWO2 Thomas White, who is on active duty as an ordnance maintenance officer and is deployed on the 13th MEU. They currently reside in Vista, CA.
Master Sergeant Saunders was born in Bonn, Germany. After graduating from high school in Virginia, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and attended recruit training in June of 1999. Following recruit training, he attended the School of Infantry as was assigned to 2d Battalion, 6th Marines aboard Camp Lejeune, NC.

While in 2d Battalion, 6th Marines LCpl Saunders deployed twice with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) and participated in Operation DYNAMIC RESPONSE in Kosovo, and the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) participating in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Returning from that deployment Sgt Saunders was selected to go to Special Operations Command-Central and then assigned to a special operations task force participating in combat operations in western Iraq for the early portion of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

Returning from Iraq, Sgt Saunders returned to 2d Battalion, 6th Marines and then deployed to Okinawa, Japan for 10 months. Sgt Saunders then received orders to 1st Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST) in Norfolk, Virginia after attending the Basic Security Guard Course in 2004. While in 1st FAST, Sgt Saunders deployed to NAVEUR and Iraq in support of contingency operations and held Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, Operations Chief, and Company Gunnery Sergeant Billets.

In December of 2007, Staff Sergeant Saunders was assigned to 2d Battalion, 1st Marines (2/1) in Camp Pendleton, California. While in 2/1, he held Platoon Sergeant, Joint Terminal Attack Controller, and Platoon Commander billets, and deployed to Iraq for a third time in 2009.

In 2010, Gunnery Sergeant Saunders was assigned to the Marine Special Operations Regiment as a Critical Skills Operator after spending 8 months as a liaison to US Army Special Operations Command in Fort Bragg, NC. In February of 2011 he was assigned to Marine Special Operations Company H and deployed to Operation ENDURING FREEDOM as the Operations Chief for Team 8231. Following that deployment he assumed the duties of Team Chief and was promoted to his current rank on 1 September 2013.


Master Sergeant Saunders’ decorations include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, 2x Navy Marine Commendation Medal, 4x Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, the Combat Action Ribbon, and Good Conduct x4. He is married to Master Chief Danielle Saunders. They have one son, Vaughan.
Douglas Zembiec was born in Kealakekua, Hawaii on 14 April 1973. Growing up in New Jersey, and then New Mexico during his mid and high school years, he graduated from La Cueva High School, Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1991 and was the School’s first State Champ, first two-time-State Champ, first undefeated State Champ, first- high school All-American, and La Cueva’s first Division I College All-American. From wrestling he learned about life, how to work as a team, and how to face challenges and overcome fear. At the Naval Academy he wrestled all four years and became a collegiate, All-American Wrestler, winning college tournaments and was an inspiration and mentor to his fellow wrestlers.

Doug led a life of integrity and honor because he learned as a young man a set of principles from his father. “Live with integrity for without integrity we deceive ourselves, we live in a house of cards. Fight for what you believe, for without valor we lose our freedom. Be willing to sacrifice, for anything worthy in life requires sacrifice. Be disciplined, for it is discipline that builds the foundation of your success. Be a man of principle. Fight for what you believe in. Keep your word. Live with integrity. Be brave. Believe in something bigger than yourself. Serve your country. Teach. Mentor. Give something back to society. Lead from the front. Conquer your fears. Be a good friend. Be humble, but be self-confident. Appreciate your friends and family. Be a leader not a follower. Be valorous on the field of battle and take responsibility for your actions.”

Doug graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1995 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps, 31 May 1995.

After finishing Basic School, and Infantry Officer’s course, he served with First Battalion, 6th Marines as a rifle platoon commander. In June 1997, he was transferred to Second Force Reconnaissance Co., Camp Lejeune, serving as a platoon commander, interim company commander, and, for a month as operations officer. Doug’s force recon platoon was among the first forces to enter Kosovo during Operation Joint Guardian in June 1999.

In September 2000 he transferred to Amphibious Recon School (ARS) at Ft. Story, VA serving as the Assistant Officer-In-Charge for two years. Subsequently, he attended Expeditionary Warfare School at Quantico.

Following EWS, Doug took command of Company E, Second Battalion, First Marines in July 2003 and led 168 Marines and sailors in the first ground assault into Fallujah, Iraq during Operation Vigilant Resolve. In Fallujah Doug became known as the “Lion of Fallujah” for heroism while braving enemy fire to climb onto a tank to direct fire against insurgents. Turning over command in November 2004, he served as assistant operations officer at the Marine Corps’ First Special Operations Training Group where he ran the urban patrolling/Military Operations in Urban Terrain and tank-infantry training packages for 13th MEU. Doug transferred from 1st SOTG to the Regional Support Element, HQMC and was promoted to Major on 1 July 2005.

On his fourth Middle East tour when he was killed on 11 May 2007 while commanding a raid on insurgent forces in Baghdad, he was awarded the Silver Star for saving lives during the raid. He was 34 years old.


He is survived by his wife Pamela and daughter Fallyn Justice Zembiec, parents Donald and Jo Ann Zembiec, and brother John Zembiec.

“Even though it is the end we journey towards, it is the journey that matters in the end.”

Doug’s journey has been, and will continue to be an inspiration for many. Doug is buried in Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, VA.
Captain Jeffrey Bogle was born in Morristown, New Jersey in 1981. Captain Jeffrey Bogle attended Pennsylvania State University and graduated in May, 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a Minor in Cultural Anthropology. He entered the Marine Corps and reported to The Basic School in September of 2004 where he received his commission.

Upon completing Infantry Officers Course in June 2005, Second Lieutenant Bogle was assigned to Fox Company 2d Battalion, 5th Marines with whom he deployed to South East Asia on the 31st MEU. As a Platoon Commander with Fox Company, Second Lieutenant Bogle was the assault force commander for all boat raid operations. During this deployment he also conducted FID operations in Guam, Philippines, Thailand and South Korea.

His second deployed assignment was as a Mobile Assault Platoon Commander for Weapons Company, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines to Ar Ramadi, Iraq. While partnered with the Iraqi Police of South Central Ramadi, First Lieutenant Bogle also supported all of the battalion's clearing operations, coordinating with the rifle companies, and the Battalion Commander.

His third deployed assignment was as the Operations Officer for Combat Advisor Team 0731, to COP North Al Qaim, Iraq. Partnered with the Operations Officer of 1st Battalion 3d Brigade Iraqi Army, Capt Bogle planned and executed combined operations along the Syrian border in order to build capacity in the Iraqi Army, and minimize cross border smuggling. Upon returning to CONUS, he was assigned to Advisor Training Group (ATG), 29 Palms. Capt Bogle served as the OIC of the Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX). He designed and controlled the final exercise for all OIF and OEF teams rotating through the 5-week advisor course. Completing RSAS in the Sept of 2009, Capt Bogle returned to ATG as the MRX OIC, to include traveling abroad to cross train with Australian OMLTs and mentor the battalion staff of the Republic of Georgia for an upcoming OEF deployment.

In April of 2011, he reported to Marine Special Operations School and completed the Individual Training Course in December of that same year. He is currently assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion as a Team Leader.

Captain Bogle's personal awards include two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medals, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.
A native of Yorkshire, England, Henry Lewis Hulbert enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 31 on March 28, 1898. Upon graduation from recruit training at Mare Island, California, he was assigned to the Marine Guard, USS Philadelphia. Within a year of his assignment to the USS Philadelphia, American and British forces landed a joint force in Samoa to protect their consulates. During a clash with natives on April 1, 1899, Gunner Hulbert was a member of a small rear guard which held off attackers while the remainder of the column moved back to the beach. With two Marines killed and their Colt automatic gun disabled, the other members of the rear guard withdrew. Despite being wounded in the attack, he continued his mission, conducting a one-man delaying action that enabled the wounded men and civilians to reach safety. For his actions he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Following his service aboard the USS Philadelphia in 1902, Gunner Hulbert (then Sergeant Hulbert) served in a succession of billets ashore and afloat. He was awarded the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal for every enlistment period and never fired less than Expert Rifleman in his regular service rifle re-qualifications.

By 1917 Gunner Hulbert had attained the grade of Sergeant Major and was serving on the personal staff of Major General George Barnett, Commandant of the Marine Corps. It was also in 1917, shortly before America’s entry into World War I, that Hulbert appeared before an examining board to determine his fitness for appointment to the newly established grade of Marine Gunner. On March 24, 1917, with the enthusiastic recommendation of the president of the examining board, Brigadier General John A. Lejeune, Henry Lewis Hulbert became the first Marine to don the bursting bomb insignia of a Marine Gunner. As the United States entered World War I, Gunner Hulbert, then 50 years old, pressed his commanders to be assigned to service in a combat unit. After continued petitions he finally won the approval of MajGen Barnett and sailed for France with the 5th Marine Regiment in July 1917.

Not long after his assignment to the 5th Marines, Gunner Hulbert, was assigned as a platoon leader with the 66th Company (later C Co), 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Wounded in his regiment’s first major engagement, at Belleau Wood on June 6, 1918, Gunner Hulbert was twice cited in official dispatches for acts of bravery. On one occasion, armed only with a rifle, he single-handedly attacked German machine-gun positions where he “left seven of the enemy dead and put the remainder to flight.” A second dispatch commended him for continuing to lead his platoon in attacks that routed the defenders of a series of strong points despite being painfully wounded himself. A third act of heroism led him to be decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross, one of the first Marines to be so recognized. In his official report of the month-long fighting in Belleau Wood, Army Major General Omar L. Bundy, commanding general of the 2d Division in which the 5th Marines served as part of the famed Marine Brigade, singled out Hulbert, “for his extraordinary heroism in leading attacks against enemy positions on June 6th.” General Bundy concluded, “No one could have rendered more valuable service than Gunner Hulbert.”

On July 17, 1918, he was appointed a temporary Second Lieutenant, and on September 6, 1918 he was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant. Less than a month later during the Battle of Blanc Mont, in the Meuse-Argonne the 2d Division having seized its initial objectives fought off an onslaught of German counterattacks. On October 4, 1918, while reorganizing his unit for one such counter-attack, Gunner Hulbert was killed by fire from an enemy machinegun. For his actions during this battle, in which he continually exposed himself to enemy fire while leading his men, he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

Gunner Hulbert was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his actions at Belleau Wood. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Gunner Hulbert’s personal awards include the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Purple Heart (multiple awards), Good Conduct Medal, fourth award and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.
Gunner LaRose began his career in October 1993 at Marine Recruit Depot Parris Island SC. Meritoriously promoted to Private First Class, he continued to School of Infantry East (SOI-E) where he was again meritoriously promoted at graduation.

In January of 1994, as a fire team leader in 2d Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 2d Marines, he deployed to Cuba in support of Joint Task Force 160. During the deployment, he was selected for the Battalion’s Scout-Sniper Platoon. In 1996, Gunner LaRose graduated from the prestigious Scout-Sniper School and returned to 1st Battalion, 2d Marines Scout Sniper Platoon as a Scout-Sniper Team Leader and then Platoon Sergeant.

In May, 1997, Gunner LaRose was assigned to 2d Recon Battalion, where he deployed with the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). Following the MEU, he was selected as an instructor at Scout-Sniper School, Weapons Training Battalion, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. During his tour at Scout-Sniper School, he was twice selected to represent the Marine Corps at the International Sniper Competition in Canada, placing fourth of sixty International competitors.

Gunner LaRose’s exceptional performance continued to be noted as the Honor Graduate at the Advanced Scout-Sniper Course in Quantico, Virginia. He then attended the U.S Army Ranger School where he was recognized by his peers by achieving a 99% peer rating, the highest rating achieved by a student to date. Continuing to excel, as a Sergeant, he attended the U.S Army’s Airborne Course where he was assigned as the Class Commander and selected as the course Honor Graduate.

Stepping outside of his infantry comfort zone, Gunner LaRose moved to Recruiting Station (RS) Pittsburgh, Recruiting Sub Station (RSS) Belle Vernon. While serving as Station Commander, the RSS was recognized by the 1st Marine Corps District for exemplary performance.

In September of 2004, as a Staff Sergeant, Gunner LaRose was requested by name and assigned as the Scout-Sniper Platoon Commander, Anti-Terrorism Battalion (AT-BN), 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He coordinated, planned and conducted the first “out of cycle” Urban Sniper Course, Special Operations Training Group usually reserved exclusively for the MEU’s.

In March 2005, Gunner LaRose was then assigned to form, train, and equip the first Personal Security Detachment (PSD) AT-BN, for the Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward). Deploying as the detachment Officer-In-Charge with 21 Marines, he personally conducted over 120 ground missions and 40 helicopter borne missions.

In March of 2006, after attending an elite training program in Hereford, England, Gunner LaRose was reassigned to form the next II MEF (FWD) PSD in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08. He successfully deployed with 140 Marines in support of Regimental Combat Team-2 (RCT-2) and the MEF (FWD). During this combat deployment Gunner LaRose was selected to become an Infantry Weapons Officer (Marine Gunner).

After completing the Warrant Officer Basic Course and the Infantry Weapons Officers Course, Gunner LaRose was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines. Gunner Larose’s relentless pursuit of excellence drove 3/6 to hone its skills throughout training at Fort A.P. Hill and Enhanced Mojave Viper. He then deployed to Afghanistan and received the 2013 Hulbert Award.
and participated in Operation Mushtaref, the liberation of the city of Marjah from Taliban control.

Reassigned to 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines (3/9), Gunner LaRose again deployed to Afghanistan. While deployed, Gunner Larose was asked to take over as the Regimental Combat team-6 (RCT-6) Gunner. Returning to Camp LeJeune, he immediately deployed for training with RCT-6, then back to Afghanistan. During this time, he flawlessly mentored ten Battalion Gunners and managed over $75,000,000 in weapons, equipment, and ammunition. His performance was recognized by all around him, and Major General Berger, Commander, 1st Marine Division (FWD) wrote, “Gunner LaRose is a fearless leader on the battlefield” and “a battle tested example of our Corps best”.

In May 2013, while deployed for training to 29 Palms California with RCT-6, Gunner LaRose was hand selected by the 2d Marine Division to deploy as the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines (1/9) Gunner. Deploying to Afghanistan in September 2013, Gunner LaRose successfully completed the deployment in April 2014.

Gunner LaRose’s personal awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars in lieu of second and third awards, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon with gold star in lieu of second award.

Gunner LaRose is happily married to Major Amy LaRose. They are the proud parents of three boys and three girls ages 3 to 12.
LtCol William G. Leftwich, Jr., was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant on 5 June 1953, upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy. As Brigade Captain during his senior year at the Naval Academy, he was commended at graduation for exemplary officer-like qualities, which contributed... “to the development of naval spirit and loyalty within the Brigade.”

LtCol Leftwich completed The Basic School in January 1954, and later served as a rifle platoon commander with the 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. During 1955-56 he served with the 3d Marine Division in Okinawa. On his return to the United States, he was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, where he was promoted to captain in July 1957. He began a 3-year assignment at the Naval Academy, serving as a company officer. An excellent athlete, he performed collateral duties as assistant varsity tennis coach and battalion football coach.

In 1960, he rejoined the 2d Marine Division, serving as a company commander until 1962, when he was named aide-de-camp to the Commanding General. In June 1963, he was assigned as aide to the Commandant, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia. He reported for duty in Vietnam in January 1965, as Assistant Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese Marine Brigade.

LtCol Leftwich participated in 27 major operations against the Viet Cong in the central highlands of Vietnam, and spent more than 300 days in the field. He was wounded in the battle of Hoai An, 9 March 1965 and, in addition to receiving the Purple Heart, was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism. According to his citation, he “…played a major part in all phases of the successful relief of the village of Hoai An which was under heavy enemy attack by two Viet Cong battalions… By his own personal example…, he led the attack… Despite injuries by enemy machine gun bullets in the back, cheek, and nose, he went to the aid of a mortally wounded comrade… and delayed his own evacuation until he could call for additional air strikes and brief the task force commander of the situation.”

Upon his return to the United States in January 1966, he served as an instructor at The Basic School. He completed the Command and Staff College in June 1967, and was named to the school’s honor list. Assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel in November 1967, while serving as a systems analyst with the Manpower Management Information Branch, G-1 Division.

In 1968, LtCol Leftwich was selected by the Under Secretary of the Navy to be his special assistant and Marine Corps aide. He served in this capacity under the Honorable Charles F. Baird, and Mr. Baird’s successor as Under Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable John W. Warner.

In April 1970, he began his second tour of duty in Vietnam, serving initially as an infantry battalion commander with the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines. On June 30, he assumed duty as the Commanding Officer, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Reinforced).

On 18 November 1970, LtCol Leftwich was, per his practice of accompanying every emergency extraction called for by his reconnaissance teams, serving as senior “extract officer” for such a mission on the day of his death. The team had incurred casualties and requested an emergency extraction from enemy-infested territory, in an area being enveloped by dense fog. The team was extracted under LtCol Leftwich’s personal supervision. As the helicopter began its ascent, it crashed into a mountainside in enemy territory, killing all aboard.

LtCol Leftwich’s medals and awards include: the Navy Cross, the Silver Star (posthumous), the Legion of Merit with Combat “V” and two gold stars, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with one gold star, the Purple Heart with two gold stars, and various personal awards from the Republic of Vietnam.
Captain Ashinhurst graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2004 with an Economics Degree and subsequently remained assigned to the Physical Education Department as an Assistant Sprint Football Coach. Following the 2004 season, he attended Officer Basic Course, The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia where he was designated an 1802. In June of 2005 he attended and graduated Armor Officer Basic Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

In November 2005, Capt Ashinhurst checked in to 1st Tank Battalion at Twenty Nine Palms, California and was assigned to Company A. He served as a Platoon Commander and as Company Executive Officer for Company A from 2005 to 2008. With Company A, he deployed to Haditha, Iraq in 2006 and to Fallujah, Iraq in 2008. Following his re-deployment in 2008, Capt Ashinhurst executed orders to Parris Island, South Carolina.

At Parris Island he was assigned to Company F, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion where he served three recruit training cycles as a Series Commander. In his fourth cycle, he became the Company Executive Officer for Company F before transitioning to be the Company Executive Officer for Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. In May 2010, he became the Company Commander for Company H, completing three cycles before attending Maneuver Captain’s Career Course at Fort Benning, Georgia.

After graduating from MCCC in October 2011, Captain Ashinhurst was reassigned to 1st Tank Battalion. Immediately upon checking in, he was sent on an Individual Augment billet with the 1st Marine Division staff. Deploying to Afghanistan with 1st Marine Division (Forward) as Task Force Leatherneck, Captain Ashinhurst held the billets of the G-3 Senior Watch Officer and the G-3 Current Operations Plans Officer-in-Charge.

Following his return from Afghanistan with the Division staff, he assumed command of Company D, 1st Tank Battalion in June 2012. In January 2013, Company D deployed to Afghanistan as the Operation Enduring Freedom tank company. The company participated in Operation DYNAMIC PARTNER and Operations WOLF, THUNDERSTRUCK, and 38 EAGLE. In July 2013, the company re-deployed to Twenty Nine Palms and Capt Ashinhurst continues to serve as Company Commander.

Captain Ashinhurst’s personal awards include the Navy and Marine Commendation Medal with 2 gold stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Marine Corps Drill Instructor Ribbon, Bronze Star with "V" Device, and the Combat Action Ribbon with one gold star.
Awards Being Presented Tonight

Marine of the Year Awards
Presented to Division Marines of the Year and
MARSOC NCO/Critical Skills Operator Award
Presented to MARSOC Marine of the Year

Chambers Award
Presented for Outstanding Leadership by a Company Grade Officer in the Marine Reserve Component

Hulbert Award
Presented for Outstanding Leadership by a Marine Gunner

Zembiec Award
Presented for Outstanding Leadership in the USMC Forces Special Operations Command

Leftwich Trophy
Presented for Outstanding Leadership
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