



THE SCOOP SHEET

Issue 47

*Information For And About Members Of The First
Marine Aircraft Wing Association – Vietnam Service*
www.1stmaw.com

Winter 2016



Lt. General Victor Brute Krulak CO FMF PAC
Inspects VMA 225 Flight Line at Chu Lai July 1965



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...



Wishing all of you Marines and your family a very happy 2016 and may all our troops return home safe and sound soon !

It's hard to believe that it has been 50 years since some of you first stamped your membership into our 1st MAW Association in the nam. Some of you from '65 should share your stories and pictures in our Scoop. We have much history that we seem to only see at our reunions. Once again thanking Dave Hugel our historian, for the great stories he submits about our history. also thanks to Monty Hopey for taking over and fixing our website and for your submissions to our Facebook page. Also to Marty Halpin for your great pics .

It is with sadness that I announce the passing of former board member and my brother James ' Swampy ' Lejeune last month. Swampy made many of our reunions memorable and I will always remember his smile and friendship and especially his cane Rover! May he and all our First MAW members and family that have left us too early rest in eternal peace. You will never be forgotten. Semper Fidelis !

I will be traveling to San Diego soon, to start planning for Reunion 2017. I will be visiting both of the hotels we stayed at for our two reunions there and pick the best for us . Plans are for October 2017. Our point Man John Skidog Walsh is waiting for my arrival and I'm sure he will help open doors for us. Anyone else in the San Diego area, is welcome to help in any way to make this our best reunion. Remember we only succeed with max participation, so start making your plans to join us for our 29th anniversary reunion. Don't forget to contribute to our web Page and Facebook page.

Once again I thank all of you, our members for your confidence In me and our board as we continue to take our Association into the future!

SEMPER FI !!!

Your President

Frank(PACO) Arce



James D. LeJeune



LeJeune, James D. age 67, of Falcon Heights. Passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on November 6, 2015. With Jim at his passing were his wife Donna Trethewey; his daughters, Sara (Derek) Schmitt and Heather (Jeffrey) Zappo and his son, John LeJeune. Jim is also loved by his granddaughter, Helena Schmitt and grandsons, Anthony and Vincent Zappo; siblings, Lawrence (Jean) LeJeune, Thomas LeJeune, Rita (H.A.) Engelbrecht, D'Ann (Douglas) Avery; many nieces, nephews & great nieces & nephews. Jim was greatly loved by friend, Susan Scarborough & her sons Grady and Colin. Jim will be missed by former wife & friend, Joanne (Art) Seaberg. Jim was a proud combat Veteran from the Vietnam War serving with the 1st Marine Airwing, VMO-6. Jim was very close to his Marine brothers who will greatly miss him. Part of a closeknit neighborhood, Jim will be missed by David & Nancy Wearne, Ron & Marjorie Jaschob and Rice' Davis, and many others. Jim's cat, Bob, is lonely without him. Special thanks to the VAMC staff, nurses, and doctors for their excellent care and their great warmth, and to his caregivers from Intrepid Home Services. Semper Fi, Swampy! Visitation 5-8 PM Wednesday, Nov. 11th at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel, West 50th St. and Vernon Ave at Hwy 100. Mass of Christian Burial 11 AM Thursday, Nov. 12th with visitation beginning at 10 AM at the Church of Christ the King, 51st and Zenith Ave. S., Minneapolis. Interment Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Memorials preferred to Disabled American Veterans or People & Pets Together. Washburn-McReavy.com Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Bill Walsh

Bill Walsh was a retired USMC Captain who served in Vietnam and the Korean war with the First Marine Aircraft Wing. He was one of our earliest members.

Bill will be interred in Arlington on Wednesday April 20th at 3:00pm with full military honors.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

DUES RENEWALS

Please send in your yearly dues of \$25.00. Send them to:

First Marine Aircraft Wing Association—Vietnam Service
c/o Jerry Sergeant—Membership
5282 Ousterhout Drive
Sterling, MI 48659

Any questions contact Jerry Sergeant jleesarge@hotmail.com. Subject should say First maw.

ELECTRONIC SCOOP

The Electronic Scoop list is growing. Any other members who desires to receive their “Scoop” electronically in order to reduce mailing and publishing costs please contact Al Frater at teanal@optonline.net and please cc Frank Arce at frankpaco69@aol.com. Those members who have requested an electronic SCOOP will be removed from the mailing list as requested.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED - UPDATE

Volunteers are always welcomed for Veterans day at the wall. For those who live near Quantico VA and the National Museum of the Marine Corps The Heritage Foundation is seeking tour Guides for the Museum. Training will be provided. Contact the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation at 703-640-7965..

PX

We have removed the PX page from this issue due to some price changes and that we were getting very few inquiries. However if you want to order any 1st MAW stuff please call Frank Arce 646-752-0447 or email him at frankpaco69@aol.com

NEW WEB PAGE URL

Our WEB page is now up and running thanks to the effort of Manty Hopey.
<http://firstmaw.homestead.com>

1st MAW NOW ON FACEBOOK

We are now moving to the modern age and have a Group on FACEBOOK. If you are a FACEBOOK user please join our Group. at “**First Marine Air wing Association - Vietnam Service**”. If you are not a FACEBOOK member, join FACEBOOK and our Group. Information and photos will continue to be posted on our group. Please post any pictures or comments on our group.

Japanese sailor's flag returned to his homeland 70 years after end of WWII.

By David H. Hugel

When Marine Medal of Honor recipient Woody Williams traveled to Iwo Jima last March, he brought with him a Japanese flag once carried by a Japanese sailor during WWII.

Upon meeting Tsuruji Akikusa, the only Japanese Iwo Jima survivor attending the 70 Anniversary Commemoration ceremony, Williams asked Akikusa if he would try to locate the deceased sailor's family, or return the flag to a shrine in Japan, and Mr. Akikusa agreed to do so.

After returning to Japan following the ceremony, Akikusa, working with American author Dan King, began a search for the family of the deceased Japanese sailor, Chief Petty Officer Yokichi Takimoto. Their efforts were rewarded at a meeting in June at the Tokoname Japan City Hall, where Dan King and Tsuruji Akikusa presented the flag to 73 year old Osamu Takimoto, the deceased sailor's son.

Takimoto expressed his family's gratitude to Woody Williams, Dan King, Tsuruji Akikusa and all who played a role in returning the war relic to his father's homeland. Dan King has written two fascinating books about the Japanese experience during WWII, "A Tomb Called Iwo Jima", and "The Last Zero Fighter."



Japanese Chief Petty Officer Yokichi Takimoto with his wife, young son Osamu and daughter Hatsue, taken during the early days of WWII.



Osamu Takimoto, son of the deceased Japanese sailor, Tsuruji Akikusa, who returned the flag from Iwo Jima at Woody William's request, and author Dan King at the Tokoname City Hall ceremony last June.

National Museum of the Marine Corps: The Grand Design Moves into the Final Phase

By David H. Hugel

When the National Museum of the Marine Corps was dedicated on November 10, 2006, its major exhibit galleries focused on the Marine Corps' combat role during WWII, Korea and Vietnam. In June 2010, the museum opened three new galleries to the public featuring exhibits depicting the years from the Marine Corps' founding in 1775 through the end of WWI. This did not happen by chance, but was a planned component of the museum's design that it would be expandable to showcase future periods of Marine Corps history.

Early in 2015 construction began to double the museum's size over the next several years, adding new exhibits covering Marine Corps deployments since the Vietnam War, as well as a Hall of Honor celebrating all Marine Medal of Honor recipients and an I-Max theater. The first phase of construction required removing 90,000 cubic feet of earth from the west side of the museum where these new faculties will be built.

In late October, I joined a couple Marine pilot buddies, Ben Cascio and Rusty Sachs who both flew helicopters in Vietnam, for a personal hard hat and muddy boots tour of the construction site. What we saw was the museum's 2 feet thick outer wall being removed one panel at a time and the pouring of new interior walls that will separate exhibit galleries and I-Max Theater. In order minimize disruption of museum operations, a temporary wall has been built separating the museum's interior from the old exterior wall, that looks like the marble surfaced wall that is being removed during the construction project. As construction continues the museum will need to be closed from early January through late March 2016.

When the museum reopens, the Sikorsky UH-34 Seahorse helicopter donated by members of the Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 Veterans Association will be displayed in the atrium known as Leatherneck Gallery. The helicopter, which saw extensive combat in Vietnam, replaces the HRS-1, Korean era helicopter that will be removed for much needed restoration work. The other addition to Leatherneck Gallery is a SBD Dauntless dive-bomber flown by Marines during WWII that will be suspended from the atrium.

Watch for future articles with updates on other new exhibits in future issues of [The Scoop Sheet](#). Contributions to fund the continuing expansion of the National Museum of the Marine Corps can be made by sending a check to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, 3800 Fettler Park Drive, Suite 104, Dumfries, VA 22025.

MUSEUM UPDATE



Aerial view of museum construction site taken in late November after interior walls for I-Max Theater have been poured. Once the construction his complete, a roof will be built over the new exhibit space. (Photo courtesy Sisson Studio)



In this diagram of the museum expansion effort, the entire right side of the museum, is depicted in a dark shade. When fully built out, it will house several new galleries and an I-Max theater. The first of these galleries, honoring Marine Medal of Honor recipients and an I-Max theater are scheduled to open in 2017.





While this work is in progress, new exhibit space interior concrete walls are being poured that will separate the new exhibit galleries and I -Max Theater. Once the old walls have been removed and the new galleries built, a new exterior wall and roof will be built over the exhibit space, the roof will be covered with soil and grass to match the other side of the museum.

(Photo by David H. Hugel)



An artist rendering of YN-19, the Sikorsky UH-43 helicopter that flew extensive combat missions in Vietnam, will go on display in Leatherneck Gallery next year.

(Courtesy of National Museum of Marine Corps)



**First Marine Aircraft Wing Association –
Vietnam Service**
5282 Ousterhout Drive
Sterling, MI 48659

We are a fraternal organization of Marines and others who were attached to or supported First MAW units serving in the Vietnam War. The organization was founded in 1986 and incorporated as a not-for-profit entity in New York State in 1988. Our purpose is to reunite members of the First MAW either through scheduled reunions or by means of our newsletter, web site, or other various functions. The organization strives to disseminate information about our history as well as about legislation, entitlements, and welfare involving First MAW members.