



One Year Old

This month marks the 1st anniversary of your newsletter. This time last year we were busy getting everything organized and ready to print.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you that contributed articles for publication during the last year – keep them coming!

Thanks Norm



PGCS's Web Site

The Coffee Shop has it's very on web site at www.welcomehomeveteran.org. 'Welcome Home Veteran' visitors can browse through the names of the hundreds of veterans who have signed in over the years. Richard always welcomes each veteran with a warm smile, a firm handshake and a heart felt 'thank you'.

You can click on the 'Media' tab to see movies of the B-24 and B-29 landings in Charlotte; listen to military music and view various pictures. The 'Newsletters' tab will let you view past newsletters. You will need to load the free Adobe Reader software to open the newsletters on your computer. Don't panic, there are instructions on how to load the software – but - if you have any questions send Norm an email or grab him at the Coffee Shop on a Saturday morning.



August Birthday's

John Godfrey – August 2

Jack Wait - August 4

Mike Crea - August 10

Joe Sparacio – August 15

Harry Naas – August 16

JD Chamberlain – August 18

Charles Warren – August 27

Marines at Midway

The name Midway means much to Marines. At the very outset of war, when Midway's sole garrison consisted of a Fleet Marine Force defense battalion stationed there in advance of hostilities, the Japanese found that here, as at Wake, Marines were ready. Subsequently, in the battle of Midway, the heroism of Marine fighter and dive-bomber pilots, who attacked effectively and unhesitatingly against tremendous odds, demonstrated once again that courage and discipline are among the high traditions of our Corps.

There is another lesson to be derived from the Marine story of Midway, however, and that is the unity of the Fleet Marine Force as a completely integrated air-ground team. This, too, is traditional, but it has never been better demonstrated than by the integration of Marine artillery and infantry (who secured the base) with Marine air which struck the first blow at the Japanese carriers from that base. While Marine fighters were slashing at enemy air, Marine artillerymen were shooting the Japanese planes down, and Marine dive bombers were harrying the enemy fleet.

This coordinated interaction by land and sea and air embodied the time-tried and proven doctrines of the Marine Corps in one of its primary fields: that of the defense of advanced bases. To all students of this subject, I commend the story of Marines at Midway.

C.B. Cates

General, U.S. Marine Corps,

Commandant of the Marine Corps



If you don't know about this site and want some interesting reading visit

www.pacificislandtravel.com, then select Micronesia.





Message from Dustin

Hello Everyone!

I am excited to say that this will be my last real update as far as for being in Iraq. By the time this letter goes out I will be back in the states a few days after. I am inside of 25 days left. I can't wait to get home.



Anyhow since this is my last letter for being over here I want to make it a little bit different and it will be a little bit longer.

Over the Past year we have been through a lot. When we first got here and started working with the IP (Iraqi Police) they were very sloppy. They would walk around with weapons on their shoulders and just not care about their job. Now we got them to the point that they can actually lead a dismounted patrol and carry their weapons in a ready position. The amount of change they have gone through is remarkable. It's as if they are totally different people.

I will never forget the cold and heat over here. We had both. It would be 35 outside and we would be on tower guard shivering. Now its 135 and we are outside with 70+ pounds of gear walking for 5 miles on a dismounted patrol through the city. Through it all though I cant complain. The times that I have shaken a kid's hand, given them a dollar, pen, pencil,

piece of candy, or just a few minutes of my time and to see the smile it puts on their face is priceless. It is worth the extra minute in the heat, the extra dollar out of my pocket just to see these kids smile.

We had our close calls of being shot at, trying to be blown up by a suicide bomber, getting mortars and rockets launched into our compound during the day or night. I got to thank God for keeping us all safe over here.

Throughout this entire year I have realized more and more how lucky we are to live in the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!! We live in the best country in the world, and I will never forget that. I will never forget seeing the poverty of this country. I will never take it for granted again.

GOD BLESS THE USA!!!

I want to thank all of my family and friends who have helped me through my bad times. This is definitely a year I will never forget. I have made a lot of mistakes, but through it all it has only made me into a better man. I have learned from my mistakes and will use them for the future. I want to also thank everyone who has kept us in their thoughts and prayers. Every prayer helps. Last but not least I got to thank God again. I couldn't have made it through without his help.

I love you all and will see you soon!

Dustin Buzze





YOU TOOK MY PLACE

One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up near and the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the Visitor stood up and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "what happened to you?" The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I TOOK YOUR PLACE."

Taken from the BLACK BEAR Advertiser.
A monthly publication, from Blairsville Georgia.

Thanks to Gary Baxter for the e-mail.

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Military History

The oldest weapon still in use in the American military arsenal is the Mameluke hilt sword carried by officers in the U.S. Marine Corps. The sword dates back to the Barbary Pirate Wars of 1801-1807. The sword was given to Lt. O'Bannon by a desert Chieftain for the aid rendered by the Marines in the Mediterranean Fleet.

How The Rich Get Richer.

A businessman walked into a New York City bank and asked for the loan officer.

He said he was going to Europe on business for two weeks and needed to borrow \$5,000.

The loan officer said the bank would need some security for such a loan. The business man then handed over the keys to a Rolls Royce that was parked on the street in front of the bank.

Everything checked out and the loan officer accepted the car as collateral for the loan.

An employee then drove the Rolls into the bank's underground garage and parked it there. Two weeks later the businessman returned, repaid the \$5,000 and the interest which came to \$15.41.

The loan officer said, 'We do appreciate your business and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a bit puzzled. While you were away we checked and found that you are a multimillionaire.

What puzzles us is why you would bother to borrow \$5,000?'

The business man replied: 'Where else in New York City can I park my car for 2 weeks for 15 bucks?'

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Did You Know

Spiral staircases in medieval castles are running clockwise. This is because all knights used to be right-handed. When the intruding army would climb the stairs they would not be able to use their right hand which was holding the sword because of the difficulties in climbing the stairs. Left-handed knights would have had no troubles except left-handed people could never become knights because it was assumed that they were descendants of the devil.

It's tuff being left-handed!





Jeanne and her brother, 1942

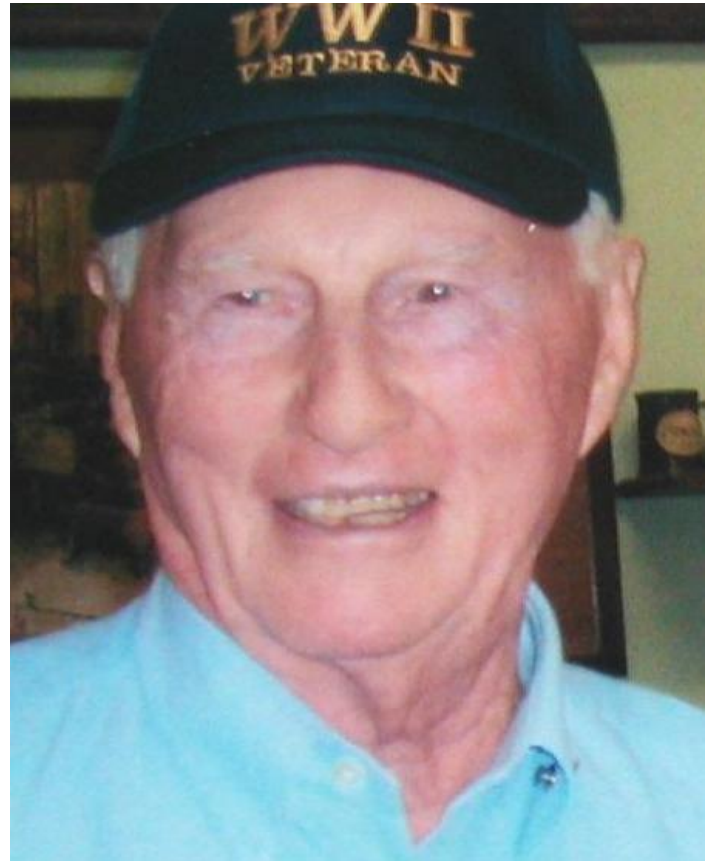
A SERENDIPITOUS EVENT

by Jeanne McCutcheon Britton

I enlisted in the Army Nursing Corps in October, 1942. After basic training at Lawson General Hospital in Atlanta, GA, our unit was shipped to Oran in North Africa. Following the liberation of Sicily and the "boot of Italy," we were then shipped to Naples where the 106th Station Hospital was established, and remained there until the end of the European campaign. The unit cared for the wounded soldiers throughout this period. During this time, Vesuvius, the volcano near Naples, "blew its top" and spewed huge clouds of ash over the countryside as far south as Taranto, a seaport in the "sole" of Italy. We took time out from our work by going to the Isle of Capri where the U.S. Forces had an R and R unit. Otherwise travel was limited. However, after Rome was liberated, we were allowed to visit that city.

When the European hostilities ended our unit was once more on the move, and we were told that our destination was the South Pacific. During the voyage, about a month, we learned that Okinawa was our destination, and our services would be needed for the invasion of Japan. We landed in Hawaii on the day that the Japanese had surrendered. We were not allowed to go ashore, and headed for Okinawa.

One day, an American Major was driving by the hospital and recognized the U.S. Army Hospital number, the 106th, and asked if this hospital had been based in Italy. He was told that it had, and said: "My sister is a nurse with that outfit." The man replied: "Sir, I will take you to Captain Jeanne McCutcheon." I don't know how he got the names right, but he did, and I guess my brother and I look alike. This was serendipity at its best!



Lyn McCutcheon today

