



## 3/3 RVN Newsletter



**Ron Thompson, Doc Bill Rister, Mike Mucyn, Doc Jerry Hrzic, Ray Clark  
Kneeling Tom Rudisill**

Another group of happy campers from our last reunion, alumni of K/3/3.

### REUNION 2010

Next reunion will be in Arlington VA at the DoubleTree hotel (where we met in 2004). Arrangements are in progress, however, we will be there **AUGUST 3-8** (vs the customary 3rd week in July). The dates change was necessary in order to negotiate the lowest possible room rates (\$109 day+taxes). Planning is to include the Tues Sunset Parade at the Iwo Memorial, the Marine Corps Museum, and the Friday Evening Parade at 8th & I, among other events. More on this as the planning progresses.

## MEMORIES

I always forget about my access to the 3rd Marines site so your effort was not in vain. As they say, God moves in mysterious ways....

On that subject, a strange thing happened the last night of the reunion. A Kilo Marine, originally from Philly, was talking to the wife and sister-in-law of our C.O. about some of his driving experiences in Up State NY, which is their home area of origin.

During the conversation, he mentioned that he drove a lot of church groups and they were good folks to work with, however, he was always very irritated when they would say, "Thank you Jesus," or, "Thank you Lord," or, "Thank you God," anytime anything good happened.

Later that evening, he mentioned a friend of his, John Emory Myles (Miles) (sp.) who was KIA on 7/2/68. This caught my attention because he was also a friend of mine and I always thought that he was a double tragedy because I know that he turned down a hardship discharge twice and maybe more times. He was from Peoria, IL and had five kids. His folks kept working through Red Cross to get him out and he refused to leave.

I told him that Myles was one of the guys on a squad sized LP/Ambush that was involved in a situation that

I still regard as the most difficult thing I have ever had to do in my life. We had been hit very hard with a ground assault by a numerically superior force that evening and the NVA definitely had fire superiority for a while. After the ground assault was stopped, the NVA kept running into the squad LP and they were calling our CP for mortar support.

My skipper called me to the CP and told me to call in fire support around the LP. I couldn't believe my ears. I tried to beg off and told the skipper that I couldn't just shoot into the dark without risking hitting our guys. I had no way of knowing where they were other than the sound of rifle fire.

He told me that the squad wanted some fire support before they were overrun. They were already hurt pretty bad and they wanted it now.....in fact, the squad leader was telling him to shoot it even if it hit them.....

This guy interrupted my story and said, "I know, it was me who was calling it in." I then continued by saying that I have never prayed so hard in my life. I knew that I had no control over the results of the fire adjustments because I had no way of judging where the squad was in relation to me. Believe me, Doc, I mean that with all sincerity.

I prayed before, during and after that fire mission. I adjusted fire

several times and the rifle fire subsided greatly. Later that morning, I was told by persons on the LP that I had rounds land on both sides of the squad, yet, none of them were hit by my mortars.

This fellow then said, "That's right, all of our WIA and KIA happened before the mortars came in."

When I left the group that night, I gave him a hug and told him how happy I was that I didn't hurt or kill him or anyone else in the squad. However, I really didn't want him to ask me for any more favors like that because my heart will not stand the stress at my advanced age.

Unfortunately, the one thing that I failed to mention to him before we left was that the last thing I said after that fire mission was over was, "Thank you, Lord," or "Thank you God," or "Thank you Jesus," I am not sure which. Believe me, again, that I have absolutely no claim to the results of that mortar fire.

As always, Doc, I love to share truthful war stories with those who can truly appreciate them, especially when it is you. I know that you are a nonbeliever, but, I believe enough for both of us, at least until you come home!

Much love and Semper Fi,

Bill Clough \_\_\_\_\_

## Re: MPC on the cover page



In 1969, David Selman mailed a \$20 MPC note home to his wife as a souvenir. When he completed his tour and returned home he noticed writing on the back side:

PFC Francis X. McCann Jr.  
I 3/3 246\*\*\*\*

David was with Lima Company and didn't know the man, but he often wondered if McCann ever made it back.

Recently, David discovered ThirdMarines.net that hosts a complete roster of every man in the Battalion. And sure enough, there was a record for McCann -- a perfect match -- right down to the service number. The only problem: no contact information.

So, David contacted me, contact man for India Company, in hopes that I might have information on McCann that wasn't on the site.

I told him I didn't but would put the word out to our top grunt hunters: Theresa Smith, Doc Hoppy and Doc Hardin. Turns out Theresa has been actively searching for McCann, as she does for all missing

India guys, and had a few “not our man” McCanns on her list.

Of course Hoppy and Hardin commenced to scouring the internet and came up with numerous possibilities, none of which panned out. Hoppy said, “This guy hiding in da bushes real good”.

Before David could reply to my email, he had several replies from our grunt hunters with reports on their efforts. David was impressed. He wrote, “Just got home from work and found all these e-mails from old Marines trying to help me find someone; God it is good to be a Marine. Thanks everyone for the help.”

I asked David if he could send me a picture of the MPC so I could include it with this story.

Somebody knew Pfc Francis X. McCann Jr. and he may have a new lead for us. (This was in Mar of 2005.)

Frank was located in 2006, and has attended an India Co. reunion as well as the 3/3 Orlando reunion.

Welcome Home Marine! ::>)

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Posted for Doc Hoppy et al:

### **How to Give a Cat a Pill**

1. Pick up cat and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.

2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.

3. Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.

4. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm, holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.

5. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden.

6. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.

7. Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from the hearth, and set to one side for gluing later.  
(continued)

8. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.

9. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink 1 beer to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.

10. Retrieve cat from neighbor's shed. Get another pill. Open another beer. Place cat in cupboard, and close door onto neck, to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.

11. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Drink beer. Fetch bottle of scotch. Pour shot, drink. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Apply whiskey compress to cheek to disinfect. Toss back another shot. Throw Tee shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.

12. Call fire department to retrieve the damn cat from across the road. Apologize to neighbor who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.

13. Tie the little bastard's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, find heavy-duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of filet steak. Be rough about it. Hold head vertically and pour 2 pints of water down throat to wash pill down.

14. Consume remainder of scotch. Get spouse to drive you to the emergency room, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order new table.

15. Arrange for SPCA to collect mutant cat from hell and call local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

### **How To Give A Dog A Pill**

1. Wrap it in bacon.

2. Toss it in the air.

~

Note: I have a "safer" method of administering medication to Rufus and MsKitty ... and certainly less expense ridden and painful ...

1. Carefully pet cat, and approach pre-opened cat carrier.

2. Attempt to keep all four legs in control while lowering cat into box ... also dodging claws and teeth.

3. Start over with step 1 and repeat with hope of success.

4. After several attempts (while other cat is observing and preparing its strategy), quickly close carrier door and head for Vet. Return home and release.

Repeat with second cat.

## AND THEN THE FIGHT STARTED..

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her someplace expensive.... so, I took her to a gas station.....

*and then the fight started...*

After retiring, I went to the Social Security office to apply for Social Security. The woman behind the counter asked me for my driver's license to verify my age. I looked in my pockets and realized I had left my wallet at home. I told the woman that I was very sorry, but I would have to go home and come back later.

The woman said, 'Unbutton your shirt'.

So I opened my shirt revealing my curly silver hair.

She said, 'That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me' and she processed my Social Security application.

When I got home, I excitedly told my wife about my experience at the Social Security office.

She said, 'You should have dropped your pants. You might have gotten disability, too!

*and then the fight started...*

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table.

My wife asked, 'Do you know her?'

'Yes,' I sighed, 'She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since.'

'My God!' says my wife, 'Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?'

*and then the fight started...*

I rear-ended a car this morning. So, there we were alongside the road and slowly the other driver got out of his car. You know how sometimes you just get soooo stressed and little things just seem funny?

Yeah, well I couldn't believe it ... he was a DWARF!!!

He stormed over to my car, looked up at me, and shouted, 'I AM NOT HAPPY!!!'

So, I looked down at him and said, 'Well, then which one are you?'

*and then the fight started...*

## ALS UPDATE 05:

On September 23rd, 2008 the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that all veterans with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) would become presumptively compensable for the illness. This would apply to all veterans with 90 days or more of continuously active service in the military regardless of when or where they served. VA will provide disability pay, lifetime health care and death benefits. The 10-year cost for death and disability benefits is projected at \$505,839,000, said Tom Pamperin, the deputy director of the compensation and pension service at the Veterans Affairs Department. That figure does not include health care costs. VA Secretary Peake based his decision primarily on a NOV 06 report by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine (IOM) on the association between active-duty service and ALS. The report, titled *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis in Veterans: Review of the Scientific Literature*, analyzed numerous previous studies on the issue and concluded, 'there is limited and suggestive evidence of an association between military service and later development of ALS.' Studies indicate veterans are twice as likely to develop ALS as people with no history of military service. "This is a disease that progresses rapidly, once it is diagnosed. There simply isn't time to develop the evidence needed to support compensation claims before many veterans become seriously ill. My decision will make those claims much easier to process, and for them and their families to receive the compensation they have earned through their service to our nation."

ALS, also called Lou Gehrig's disease, is a neuromuscular disease that affects about 20,000 to 30,000 people of all races and ethnicities in the United States, is often relentlessly progressive, and is almost always fatal. It causes degeneration of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that leads to muscle weakness, muscle atrophy, and spontaneous muscle activity. Currently, the cause of ALS is unknown, and there is no effective treatment. The new interim final regulation applies to all applications for benefits received by VA on or after 09/23/08, or that are pending before VA, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims or the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on that date. VA will work to identify and contact veterans with ALS, including those whose claims for ALS were previously denied, through direct mailings and other outreach programs. The government expects 416 new cases among veterans in 2009, and a total of about 700 a year qualifying for the benefits. In some cases their survivors will qualify for death benefits. The death and disability benefits alone are expected to cost about \$23 million in 2009. For more information on VA's disability compensation program, go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or call 1-800-827-1000.

[Source: New York times Dennis Grady article 23 Sep 08]

## PROSTATE CANCER

UC Davis Cancer Center physicians today released results of research showing that Vietnam War veterans exposed to Agent Orange have greatly increased risks of prostate cancer and even greater risks of getting the most aggressive form of the disease as compared to those who were not exposed.

The findings, which appear online now and will be published in the September 15 issue of the journal *Cancer*, are the first to link the herbicide with this form of cancer. The research is also the first to utilize a large population of men in their 60's and the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test to screen for the disease.

"While others have linked Agent Orange to cancers such as soft-tissue sarcomas, Hodgkin's disease and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, there is limited evidence so far associating it with prostate cancer," said Karim Chamie, lead author of the study and resident physician with the UC Davis Department of Urology and the VA Northern California Health Care System. "Here we report on the largest study to date of Vietnam War veterans exposed to Agent Orange and the incidence of prostate cancer."

Chamie also said that, unlike previous studies that were either too small or conducted on men who were too young, patients in the current study were entering their prime years for developing prostate cancer. There was also the added advantage that it was conducted entirely during the era of PSA screening, providing a powerful tool for early diagnosis and tracking of prostate cancer.

More than 13,000 Vietnam veterans enrolled in the VA Northern California Health Care System were stratified into two groups - exposed or not exposed to Agent Orange between 1962 and 1971. Based on medical evaluations conducted between 1998 and 2006, the study revealed that twice as many men exposed to Agent Orange were identified with prostate cancer. In addition, Agent Orange-exposed men were diagnosed two-and-a-half years younger and were nearly four times more likely to present with metastatic disease. Other prostate cancer risk factors - race, body-mass index and smoking - were not statistically different between the two groups.

"Our country's veterans deserve the best possible health care, and this study clearly confirms that Agent Orange exposure during service in Vietnam is associated with a higher risk of prostate cancer later in life," said Ralph deVere White, UC Davis Cancer Center director and a study co-author.

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“Just as those with a family history of prostate cancer or who are of African-American heritage are screened more frequently, so too should men with Agent Orange exposure be given priority consideration for all the screening and diagnostic tools we have at our disposal in the hopes of early detection and treatment of this disease.”

Now a banned chemical, Agent Orange is a combination of two synthetic compounds known to be contaminated with the dioxin tetrachlorodibenzo-para-dioxin (TCDD) during the manufacturing process. Named for the color of the barrel in which it was stored, Agent Orange was one of many broad-leaf defoliants used in Vietnam to destroy dense forests in order to better visualize enemy activity.

It is estimated that more than 20 million gallons of the chemicals, also known as "rainbow herbicides," were sprayed between 1962 and 1971, contaminating both ground cover and ground troops. Most of the rainbow herbicide used during this time was Agent Orange. In 1997, the International Agency for Research on Cancer reclassified TCDD as a group 1 carcinogen, a classification that includes arsenic, asbestos and gamma radiation.

The study was funded by the UC Davis Cancer Center. In addition to Chamie and deVere White, study authors were Bryan Volpp, associate chief of staff, clinical informatics, VA Northern California Health Care System; Dennis Lee and Joon-ha Ok, UC Davis resident physicians with the Department of Urology; and Lars Ellison who, at the time the study was conducted, was an assistant professor with UC Davis and chief of urology with the VA Northern California Health Care System. Ellison is now affiliated with the Penobscot Bay Medical Center in Maine and a major in the U.S. Army Reserve currently serving active duty in Iraq. A copy of the study can be requested by e-mailing Amy Molnar at [amolnar@wiley.com](mailto:amolnar@wiley.com).

Prostate cancer is the second most common malignancy and the second leading cause of cancer death in American men. It is estimated that there will be about 186,320 new cases of prostate cancer in the United States in 2008 and about 28,660 men will die of the disease this year.

Designated by the National Cancer Institute, UC Davis Cancer Center is leading the way in identifying the molecular pathogenesis of carcinoma of the prostate, enhancing therapeutic response and identifying chemopreventions.

For more information, visit [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer).

## MOST LIKE IT ... EVENTUALLY

Sailors Converted Into Marines In More Than One Hard Lesson

By PETER EIDEN

*CAMP PENDLETON* - A dedicated group of men follows the unusual pursuit here of converting sailors into Marines.

At least, this is the practical effect when Navy corpsmen complete the 40-day course at the field medical service school. The school is one of two operated by the Navy Department to prepare corpsmen to serve in the field With Marine combat unit.



*Marine Sgt. E. D. Shore, left, instructs sailors in the probing for and clearing of mine. Sailors learn to work in the field with Marines.*

*Above left: G. W. Flock, wearing mask, simulates wounded man in Field Medical Service School at Camp Pendleton. H. P Hamon, left, works under direction of Chief R. W. Ellers. All are Navy personnel taking part in the continuously operating. 40-day course.*

An instructor staff of Navy and Marine officers and noncoms train about 1,000 corpsmen a year in subjects ranging from how to survive in a pup tent to handling booby traps.

The corpsmen are taught to fire and maintain pistols and rifles for their self-defense.

The sailors even crawl through the traditional infiltration course, keeping heads down from live machine-gun fire interspersed with explosive charges set off in barricaded foxholes.

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## SOME RESENTMENT

Cmdr. J. A. Kelly, USN, commander of the school, said virtually every Corpsman who makes a career of the Navy will spend some time with the Marines as a field corpsman.

Of the men entering the school, many are volunteers for duty with the Marines but many others resent serving with the Leathernecks because they joined the Navy to be sailors. One of the first problems is to convince the reluctant Corpsmen they will like the duty. Kelly said. Nearly all of them end up liking the field duty, and some will spend the biggest part of a 20-year career with Marines.

Of the new students, some are Corpsmen with many years service; others are 17-year-olds with six months in the Navy, their only experiences being boot camp and corpsman school.

## HONOR TOLD

The classes indoors and out stress the differences in duty aboard ship or in a hospital and what must be expected in the field under combat conditions. Even the types of wounds and sanitation needs differ.

All the graduates are assigned to the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions. 1st Brigade and 1st and 3rd Air Wings in the Pacific Fleet Marine Force.

The other school of this type is half the size and is on the east coast.

Navy Corpsmen serving with the Marines in World War II won seven Medals of Honor, 55 Navy Crosses and 402 Silver Stars. In Korea five Medals of Honor were won by them. The World War II record book of Purple Hearts for Navy corpsmen with the Marines runs nearly 50 pages.

*[I think I speak for most of us Doc's when I submit that it was indeed an honor to serve with our Marines. Even though the dread of having to served FMF was real, as mentioned in the article, it was overcome quickly when we arrived with our FMF unit. Thanks for taking care of us ... and it was returned to the best of our abilities.]*

*"Doc"*

## Remembering Doc Harry J Kordasiewicz, KIA 4/6/68

by Doc Dan Houston Mike Co. 3/3 67-68

I joined Mike Co. 3/3 Nov. 19, 1967. At that time Mike was in Cam Lo. As the new guy all the Doc's made me feel right at home and were kind enough to give me a hooch right next to the big guns that literally shook me deeper into the ground.

It was here that I met a man that I would think of and remember for the rest of my life. Doc Kordasiewicz, a tall skinny fellow with a NY accent. We became good friends. I called him "Granny", because he had been raised by his grandmother in Kenwood, NY.

In my first letter that I received from home came the news that made me seem even further away. I remember it well. "Dear Dan, I have sold your motorcycle." After a shock like that came the second, "We are going to have a baby!" That was some tough news to handle knowing you would be away for 13 months. At least I thought I would be able to see my wife when I go on R&R in Hawaii.

However, in those days they wouldn't let women fly if they were past 6 months with their pregnancy. I wouldn't be eligible for R&R 'til late April or even early May. But Doc Kordasiewicz, came to me one day and said, "I will get my R&R in March and I'll let you have mine and I'll take yours so you can meet your wife. Only there will be two conditions."

What conditions, I asked. "If you have a little girl I want you to name her Kimberly Ann, and then I want you to bring me a bottle of John Jameson's Irish whisky." I told him the whisky I can do, but I think I have seen enough people named Kim to last me a lifetime.. He agreed just the whisky would be okay.

Because of Harry I was able to meet my wife and hug her and tell her about this band of brothers.

I brought Harry his bottle and he was very pleased. We drank it and laughed as I told him about the trip.

It was a week later that Doc Harry J. Kordasiewicz was killed in action by a direct hit from a mortar round. I wrote my wife to tell her about Harry and I wrote these lines, "If we have a little girl her name will be Kimberly Ann."

For 40 years now when her birthday rolls around, I tell my daughter Kim about Harry and how she got her name.



**COL. JOHN W. RIPLEY USMC Ret**

November 3, 2008 Baltimore Sun

John W. Ripley, a retired Marine Corps colonel and a renowned hero of the Vietnam War, was found dead at his home in Annapolis over the weekend, family members said. A cause of death for Ripley, who had undergone two liver transplants, had not been determined yesterday. He was 69.

A Virginia native, Colonel Ripley was best known for a daring feat during the Easter Offensive of 1972, when he dangled for three hours under a bridge near the South Vietnamese city of Dong Ha to attach 500 pounds of explosives to the span, ultimately destroying it. His action, under fire while going back and forth for materials, is thought to have thwarted an onslaught by 20,000 enemy troops and was the subject of a book, *The Bridge at Dong Ha*, by John Grider Miller.

Last week, after he failed to appear for a scheduled appearance at a Marine Corps event in New York, worried associates contacted one of his sons, Stephen B. Ripley, who went to his father's house Friday to check on him. The younger Ripley concluded that his father - who lived alone near the gates of the Naval Academy, from which he graduated in 1962 - had died in his sleep Tuesday night.

"His health was good for someone who'd had two liver transplants," said Mr. Ripley, who also honored a family tradition by serving in the Marines and retired as a captain.

When asked to describe a single quality that defined his father, Mr. Ripley said, "Tenacity."

"He was tenacious in his love for his country, his family and the Marine Corps," said Mr. Ripley, who also lives in Annapolis. "He never did anything halfway."

Earlier this year, Colonel Ripley was inducted into the U.S. Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Ga., an honor that he added to his many decorations. They included the Navy Cross, the second-highest combat award a Marine can receive; the Silver Star; two awards of the Legion of Merit; two Bronze Stars; and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. His tale is required reading for every Naval Academy plebe. In Afghanistan, a forward operating base was named for him.

"I admired John not only because of his obvious war heroism, but because of how he conducted himself after the war," said Thomas L. Wilkerson, a retired major general in the Marines and chief executive of the U.S. Naval Institute. "John was the standard to which we all aspire. There wasn't any baggage around John re: how things should go. He walked his own talk."

(continued)

Another Marine Corps colleague, Ray Madonna, who served with Colonel Ripley in Vietnam and retired as a lieutenant colonel, said he had known him for almost 50 years and had seen him Oct. 25 at the Navy football game against Southern Methodist University in Annapolis.

"He was with a couple of his grandchildren," Mr. Madonna said yesterday. "He looked fine. He was walking a couple of miles a day, building himself back after the surgeries. So it was a total shock."

In July 2002, after unsuccessful transplant surgery, Colonel Ripley's life was saved by a second operation at Georgetown University Medical Center, in which he received a liver from a 16-year-old gunshot victim in Philadelphia. The surgery became possible only after a high-speed military mission transported the organ to Georgetown in a Marine Corps helicopter from the president's fleet.

Colonel Ripley's liver had been damaged by a rare genetic disease as well as by a case of hepatitis B that he believes he contracted in Vietnam.

Describing the Dong Ha incident in a June 2008 interview with Marine Corps Times , Colonel Ripley said he "had to swing like a trapeze artist in a circus."

"I used my teeth to crimp the detonator and thus pinch it into place on the fuse." He said. "I crimped it with my teeth while the detonator was halfway down my throat."

Yesterday, on the Web site of World Defense Review , Maj. W. Thomas Smith Jr., a former Marine infantry squad leader who has researched Colonel Ripley's life, wrote that after Colonel

Ripley had set the charges and moved back to the friendly side of the river, the fuses detonated and Colonel Ripley "was literally blown through the air by the massive shock wave" he had engineered.

"The next thing he remembered, he was lying on his back as huge pieces of the bridge were hurtling and cart-wheeling across the sky above him," Major Smith wrote.

Major Smith quoted an interview that Colonel Ripley gave for Americans at War , published by the Naval Institute, in which he said: "The idea that I would be able to even finish the job before the enemy got me was ludicrous. When you know you're not gonna make it, a wonderful thing happens: You stop being cluttered by the feeling that you're going to save your butt."

Colonel Ripley was shot in the side by a North Vietnamese soldier and during two tours of duty was pierced with so much shrapnel that doctors found metal fragments in his body as recently as 2001.

After Vietnam, Colonel Ripley continued to serve, losing most of the pigment in his face from severe sunburns while stationed above the Arctic Circle.

[*amended*] Services were held at the US Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis on November 7th and interment in the Academy cemetery.

In addition to his son, Colonel Ripley is survived by his wife, Moline; three other children, Mary D. Ripley, Thomas H. Ripley and John M. Ripley; a sister, Susan Goodykoontz; and eight grandchildren.

## Final Muster 2007-2008

H&S			
THOMAS C. RAUWALD	09/17/08	JOSEPH F. WALKER III	04/12/07
Doc WM D. BECKWITH	05/03/08	Doc BRUCE E OLSON	04/02/07
PETER D. LEONARD	03/16/08	ERWIN B. ROBERTSON	03/22/07
ANDREW W. PATAKI	02/28/08	ALVIN E. HAFFORD	03/10/07
ROBERT B. WATSON	02/27/08	HOWELL D. HUNNICUTT	02/16/07
LARRY D. SMITH	02/24/08	Lima	
VICTOR M. MORALES	02/03/08	JOHN W. RIPLEY	11/02/08
ROBERT J. JENKINS	12/21/07	HARRY P. BIDWELL	09/03/08
JOSEPH B. DUTTON	12/18/07	ROBERT C. COOK	08/03/03
JAMES P. MELVILLE	10/11/07	JOHN W. SPRINKLE	07/25/08
RONALD E. SHARER	09/18/07	SHERMAN W. COLLINS	04/28/08
Doc RONNIE E. EPPERSON	09/14/07	RICHARD W. ZEIGLER	04/19/08
B. RICHARD MAJOR	07/31/07	EARL M. RAY	02/26/08
JOHN R. MURPHY	07/01/07	TONY E. AGOSTI	01/08/08
GARY P. WLODYKA	06/25/07	JAKE B. SIMS	10/27/07
JOSEPH TONNA	06/15/07	WILLIAM P. ALVARADO	09/12/07
WILLIAM JOHNSON Jr.	06/12/07	DENNIS J. FAIRFIELD	06/13/07
KENNETH A. DILLON	05/24/07	JOSE R. GALAVIZ	05/23/07
WALTER R. Russ HAUCK	04/07/07	BENJAMIN C. MICHAEL	01/18/07
Doc AUSTIN RAY HENSLEY	02/25/07	ALFRED H. ADAMS III	01/18/07
JACK W. RUBY	01/06/07	Mike	
PAUL E. BAILEY	02/21/07	RALPH M. EMERICK II	10/12/08
ROBERT H. SAWYER Jr.	01/06/07	JAMES M. PRATER	08/10/08
India		WILLIAM C. DICKSON	07/04/08
GARY M. RENTCH	06/06/08	RUEL E. ORDWAY	04/17/08
JAMES C ROBINSON Jr.	06/21/08	LARRY W. MCKENZIE	04/02/08
RAYMOND B. MARTIN Jr.	04/15/08	JAMES R. STEPHENS	02/21/08
THOMAS L. REIDER	03/27/08	Doc 'Dutch' VanBENCOTEN	01/29/08
TERRY A. HILL	03/06/08	Doc ROBERT L. CLARK	12/24/07
ANDERSON B. BROWN	01/27/08	ROBERT SMITH	10/28/07
JOHN F. SISSON Jr.	12/19/07	TERRY A. FULLER	10/24/07
RICHARD R. LEHMAN	10/31/07	JAMES F. SAWTELL Jr.	10/19/07
ESREVAN VELASQUEZ Jr.	10/29/07	JACK L. COST	09/27/07
DAVID P. SMELTSER	08/07/07	GARY C. RAUCH	09/09/07
JAMES H. KREMER	07/12/07	RONALD L. HOLLAND	09/01/07
RICHARD W. WALKO	05/18/07	ERNEST S. WEAVER	08/25/07
CHARLES R. ENOS	03/31/07	DENNIS E. MEREDITH	08/07/07
Kilo		KEVIN T. SWEENEY	08/07/07
CHARLIE L. TAYLOR	08/12/08	LEOREN H. MARTIN	07/04/07
W. CALIXTO SILVIA	07/10/08	JOSEPH DIXON	06/23/07
W. ALAN CAWLEY	02/03/08	FRANK ADOLPH	06/11/07
HUGH "Mike" HULL	12/28/07	BRUCE E. ROBBINS	06/08/07
JAMES A. WRIGHT	07/24/07	LOUIS A. ZIMMERMANN	06/01/07
DAVID A. RAMSEY	07/15/07	CHARLES W. VAUGHT	05/17/07
WILLIAM L. BOND Jr.	06/18/07	WILLIAM F. SHANDS Jr.	05/15/07
GARY F. FERRELL	05/02/07	WILLIE R. HUTCHERSON	04/20/07
		TED M. DUDASH	02/02/07

This newsletter mailed out 3 times per year to our 3/3 alumni, *to those requesting it*, who do not have Internet access. There is no compensation for printer costs or computers, etc. Donations are used only for basic costs of paper, inks, envelopes and postage.

No one is compensated one dime for their efforts.

3/3 RVN Ass'n and [ThirdMarines.net](http://ThirdMarines.net) have NO dues (*we all paid those long ago!*).

3/3 RVN Reunions are supported independently.

All issues of the newsletters are at:

<http://www.mikecompany33.com/0NewsLtr/NwsLtr.html>

The locator website is at: <http://www.ThirdMarines.net> (*roster access via this page*)

The original Bn home site is at: <http://members.aol.com/gruntusmc/index.shtml>

India Co. site: <http://www.homestead.com/dochoppyshelp/indiaco.html>

Kilo Co. site: <http://www.homestead.com/dochoppyshelp/kiloco.html>

Lima Co. site: <http://www.L33namvets.com/index.html>

Mike Co. site: <http://www.MikeCompany33.com>

There are other sites by our alumni, found in the Links pages of [ThirdMarines.net](http://ThirdMarines.net) (above) ... as well as links to most USMC Nam units, and other sites of interest ...

If you have online access, and email, please let us know so that we can control our mailing list and keep a handle on costs. *The online version is basically identical to the printed version, and all issues are archived and available online.*

I hope you enjoy our efforts, and please contact us for info on old comrades that you may wish to get in touch with. We are locating more every day, and would love to be able to send out a roster to everyone... however, more than 5,300+ have been contacted at this writing (07/25/2008), and the list grows daily. Too many to print, but updated daily online.

Call, e-mail or write Doc Hoppy for a specific individual(s). Additionally, we may be able to provide documentation to assist with VA Claims, or obtain un-awarded PH's. We have documented over 3,400 individual Purple Hearts, 650 who were KIA with 3/3 (*or subsequent units*), and have documented over 1,300 who are known deceased since Nam. That last group is growing all too quickly

# Semper Fi