

SOME GOOD FRIENDS

At the Garand Collectors Convention in Reno, NV August 2006

Seated from the left Me, Captain Jim Mulloy, Major Frank Stolz and Captain Eddie "Machete" McCourt the latter three all USMC (Ret). Standing in the casino Mulloy, Me, McCourt and Stolz. See Major Stolz's website at www.WMDTerror.com

MSgt Al Loreth USMC (Ret)

I list Al first in the individual photos because of the early impact he had on my young life. I first met him in 1958, at Pendleton, and later served under him at Camp Bishagawa and Camp Kinser, Okinawa. He was our 3.5 rocket section leader with I/3/3/3 and H/2/3/3. I was barely 18 and Al was 21. He was an important influence on me even though he did not know it at the time. Only three and a half years older, but the difference in our psychological development was dramatic.

When I was starting High School in 1953, Al was already in the Marine Corps at 16, and had "pulled" his first Far East tour. By the time I met him he was a "man of the world", while I was barely out of New Jersey. He later pulled three tours in Vietnam, and was in the USMC for 26 years, retiring as a Master Sergeant. He now lives in Colorado Springs and we are in regular contact. See his memories and humor from the "Old Corps" on my **Sea Stories** page.

Colonel Wayne Morris USMC (Ret)

The Colonel runs the highly informative WayMor, Inc. email-networking connection from his CP in Jacksonville, NC. He recently completed a 17-month contract tour at a FOB in Afghanistan. This tour further completes his very successful and active military career, which included three tours in RVN. His dedicated wife, Marlene, held down the WayMor fort during his assignment in Afghanistan. In addition to his email service, the Colonel remains actively engaged in a number of military consulting assignments.

SgtMaj Grant Beck USMC (Ret)

Grant and his wife Nancy; and Grant with Tom Westman, the Survivor Show Palau winner during a golf tournament at the Paradise Point Golf Course, Camp Lejeune, NC where Grant is the Assistant head professional. I should be so lucky as to have a good friend who is also a PGA professional.

Cpl. Steve L. Niebur USMC (HD)

Steve Niebur was one of my two best friends in the USMC; in fact, I named my first son after him. We first met on Okinawa with I/3/3 and we later served together with G/2/5. Early on we stayed in touch and visited each other several times over the years. We had been out of contact for more than a decade, but you can find anyone on the Internet today.

Steve retired after 26 years with the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department. One time he took me on duty with him and it was interesting to see him in action. In those days

he was a plain clothsmen in an unmarked car but it was obvious everyone on the street knew and respected him! In 1988 he retired from the KCPD and became the Chief of Police in Osceola, Iowa. He has now retired for the second time. He is married with two grown children and enjoys golf and fishing. I will look forward to some day playing golf with him here at Bermuda Run and he can fish in the lake across the street.

Major Frank Stolz USMC (Ret)

Please visit www.WMDTerror.com and review the Majors complete history and excellent book *WMD Attacks on America*. The Major and I traveled to Reno, NV to meet in person after several years of Internet and email exchanges. He later traveled here to Bermuda Run and we had a great three day visit! He has become one of my best friends!

LCPL Mick Putterbaugh USMC (HD)

Mick is my other best USMC friend. I also met him at Bishagawa in I/3/3. Mick, Steve Niebur, and I were in rockets and served under then Cpl. Al Loreth who was our section leader. Mick and I were also later stationed at Camp Margarita in G/2/5 and we spent many fun times in the field and in Oceanside.

On 10/15/2002 Mick came to pay me a visit here in Bermuda Run. We spent the day reminiscing and looking at more of my photos and stuff. We called Al Loreth in Colorado and had a nice conversation with him as well. As kids, 44 years ago, there was no way we could have envisioned seeing one another again, and even more, all that has intervened in our lives since those days at Bishagawa. My best to Mick and his wife Jane who has also become a good e-mail "buddy"!

Major Dick Culver USMC (Ret)

Dick Culver is truly unique. You can read all about him on the *Jouster* page of this website or dig even deeper into his activities at <http://www.jouster.com/>. After years of correspondence and phone calls, Dick and I also met in Reno, NV. He is now one of my closest friends, and we are planning another trip soon.

Captain Jud Blakely USMC (HD)

Jud is now semi-retired from a very successful consulting career and lives in rural Idaho. He is also an accomplished author and syndicated columnist.

Lt. Colonel Craig Roberts AUS (Ret)

Craig served a tour with the USMC in RVN and was medically discharged as a result of wounds received there. He later completed a complete career in the US Army. See his web site www.RifleWarrior.com for complete information on all his projects and writings. Craig is certainly an accomplished author and it was also rewarding to finally meet him in Reno, NV.

Cpl. Joe Cullen USMC (HD)

Joe and I have corresponded for years and finally met at his Marines of Long ago convention in South Carolina back in 2003. At that time we also made a visit to Parris Island to view graduation ceremonies. For complete information on his organization and upcoming conventions visit his great website at www.Marinesoflongago.com. In April

2008, Joe also stopped for a visit here in Bermuda Run. We had a great time and conversation.

Cpl. Bob O'Dowd USMC (HD)

At Cookies Tavern in Philadelphia PA, during the annual USMC birthday festivities there. For complete information on Bob, check his great website at www.Platoon308.com. Bob and I also participated in the 2007 *Gathering of Eagles* in Washington, DC.

Ann and Bill Masullo

My sister-in-law, Ann, has been a volunteer with the West Orange First Aid Squad (WOFAS) for nearly 30 years and is the longest active service riding member on the squad. Ann has had more than 16 CPR saves in her years of service. On September 11, 2001 she was called to Ground Zero after the attack on the World Trade Center.

Her husband Bill has served New Jersey for more than 25 years as an EMT with both the Berkeley Heights Rescue Squad and WOFAS; and as a Lieutenant with the Berkeley Heights Fire Department. Bill also served on active duty with the U. S. Air Force 1970 – 1978; and then served two tours with the New Jersey National Guard. He retired from the military in June 1999 with 22 years service.

Bill and Ann married on April 6, 1991 after meeting while Ann was re-certifying as an EMT and Bill was one of her instructors. They are now both CPR Instructors.

John D. Ellison

Shown here with his wife Betty. When I joined Harley Davidson John was my District Manger for the Mountain states working out of his office in Denver. We traveled thousands of miles together from Montana to Mexico. I will never forget one night going from Santa Fe to Four Corners. John stopped the van in the middle of nowhere and said, "Get out"! We had had a tough day and I did not know what was next. I looked up and I have never seen the sky like that. It was almost solid white with stars! He just wanted me to see it!

John knows more about motorcycles than anyone I have ever met, except maybe Jack Malone. He was ahead of his time and knew things that later became common practice on vehicles. We worked well together and he became the Number 1 District Manger in the Motor Company in 1976 and 1977. His performance helped me become General Sales Manager. I have ridden trail bikes with John to the top of Decker's Park in Colorado and he has been here to Bermuda Run and taught us how to barbecue shrimp wrapped in bacon.

Brian Follas

Brian writes "Bob and I met at Eaton Corporation where I had the privilege of learning from his marketing expertise. Our friendship and professional relationship have continued to grow since that time, while my experience has continued to benefit from his knowledge. For some people whose paths cross in life the value of the time they share is only realized retrospectively. And, though we can really never know the exact reasons nor comprehend the timing involved, the blessings that sometimes result can never be disputed. Some lives change completely because of a chance meeting. Unfortunately, some people never have the opportunity to know the impact they've had on others, so let it be said here that Bob's significant and profound influence on my life is unmatched.

To express in words the gratitude I feel is beyond my ability. Just saying thank you hardly seems enough, but thanks Bob!"

And, my thanks to Brian! He has become a good friend who has helped me in business and made my personal websites possible. I know enough about computers to know that Brian, the "Brain", knows more about them than anyone else I have ever met! My best to him and his wonderful family – Wife Alana and sons Seaver (8), Aidan (5) and Owen (2).

Sgt. Jack Helms USMC (HD)

Jack and I did not know each other on Okinawa as he was there earlier. Already 21 when he went to Parris Island, he became a model Marine. His maturity allowed him to be his platoon leader and earn PFC right out of boot camp. Then a meritorious promotion to Corporal put him in line to take and pass the Sergeants exam all in 18 months. This experience later helped him with his studies and he earned a BBA and an MBA from the University of Miami.

I met Jack through the Bishagawa military section on Classmates.com and we have become good e-mail friends. Here he is on duty here with the brig guard detachment at Jacksonville Naval Air Station, FL - probably in January of 1959. Jack lives in Florida and is a good golfer. Maybe someday we will have the chance to play a round!

Cpl. Larry "Woody" Woodfield USMC (HD)

I also "met" Woody on Classmates.com where he was posted as having been in my same USMC unit. We never met on Okinawa but have had a lot of fun communicating on the Internet. We both feel if we had known each other in the Corps, we could have been good friends. "Woody" competed on the 3rd Division rifle & pistol team. He trained as a scout sniper at Barbers Point, Hawaii and was stationed at Camp Bishagawa, and Camp Kinser on Okinawa. Upon returning to the states he was stationed at Camp Lejeune NC, for a year prior to completion of active duty.

After service Woody graduated from college and has been in the packaging business since 1961. He is now semi-retired on the Fox River in Barrington, IL. He travels, boats, fishes, and generally, keeps busy doing the things he didn't seem to have time for in the past. Woody and his wife Donna have three grown kids and are the proud grandparents of three girls, and one boy. Maybe someday they will travel through North Carolina! "Woody is most proud of the fact that his daughter is married to a USMC Major who just completed his Masters Degree at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey California. I am sure we will be hearing more about Major Ryan Gutzwiller USMC.

Captain Pete Edris, US Army Air Corps (B-17) out of England POW in Germany and American Airlines Captain Retired (B-737)

Pete and wife Bette here with Jonnie and I in our living room after a back yard picnic. See Pete's whole story "There I was" at the link on the top of my Friends page. I met Pete through my uncle who was a schoolmate with Pete back in the 1930's.