Tuesday, July 12th, 6 PM: In lieu of our usual monthly business meeting, we will be attending a Carolina Mudcats baseball game! The Mudcats will be playing against the Delmarva Shorebirds. Please wear your MCL covers and, if you have one, your red polo shirt.


2-14 July 1967 - The 9th Marines conducted Operation Buffalo to counter a North Vietnamese offensive near the Marine base at Con Thien just south of the DMZ. In very intensive fighting with heavy casualties on both sides, the Marines repulsed the North Vietnamese.

Significance: The North Vietnamese in the eastern DMZ begin to escalate the war in the north and would continue to mount attacks against Con Thien.

4 July 1801: President Thomas Jefferson reviewed the Marines, led by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, LtCol William W. Burrows and the Marine Band, on the White House grounds. The smartly uniformed Marines performed drills and fired various salutes in observance of the new nation’s 25th anniversary.

5 July 2002 – AV-8B Harrier pilots assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 261 flew their first combat mission over Afghanistan as part of the 22d MEU. The pilots conducted a reconnaissance mission, using the new Litening II targeting pods, which was the first combat mission for the new advanced targeting system. The Harriers launched from the amphibious ship USS Wasp.

16 July 1917 – The 1st and 2d Battalions, 5th Marines, move to Gondrecourt and begin trench warfare training with the 30th, 70th and 151st Battalions of the French Alpine Chasseurs, known as the Blue Devils. The 3d Battalion remains at St. Nazaire.

20 July 1950 - CMC orders to duty Organized Marine Corps ground reserve units, consisting of 22 units and 4,830 personnel. Partial call up for 6,000 air reservists in 30 Marine Fighter (VMF) Squadrons and 12 Marine Ground Control Intercept (MGCI) Squadrons.

July 1988 – Three women Marines, the first to graduate from Marine Security Guard (MSG) School, Quantico, Virginia, since the field was re-opened to women in April, moved to their respective assignments at MSG detachments at U. S. Embassies in Ottawa, Canada; Paris, France; and Geneva, Switzerland. The only initial change made to accommodate the women at MSG School was the addition of the women’s physical fitness test. Women attended the same classes and received the same training as the male Marines.
Citation reads as follows: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as demolition sergeant serving with the 21st Marines, 3d Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 23 February 1945. Quick to volunteer his services when our tanks were maneuvering vainly to open a lane for the infantry through the network of reinforced concrete pillboxes, buried mines, and black volcanic sands, Cpl. Williams daringly went forward alone to attempt the reduction of devastating machine-gun fire from the unyielding positions. Covered only by four riflemen, he fought desperately for four hours under terrific enemy small-arms fire and repeatedly returned to his own lines to prepare demolition charges and obtain serviced flamethrowers, struggling back, frequently to the rear of hostile emplacements, to wipe out one position after another. On one occasion, he daringly mounted a pillbox to insert the nozzle of his flamethrower through the air vent, killing the occupants, and silencing the gun; on another he grimly charged enemy riflemen who attempted to stop him with bayonets and destroyed them with a burst of flame from his weapon. His unyielding determination and extraordinary heroism in the face of ruthless enemy resistance were directly instrumental in neutralizing one of the most fanatically defended Japanese strongpoints encountered by his regiment and aided vitally in enabling his company to reach its objective. Cpl. Williams' aggressive fighting spirit and valiant devotion to duty throughout this fiercely contested action sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.
Last weekend (June 24th and 25th) was my first time attending a Mid-East Division Conference. Since it was in Raleigh and local to me, I decided it was time to go. Of course, there was a MODD Growl on Friday night, and I got to play golf with DoNC Commandant Ric Ledford and North DVC Jim Mitchell that morning. We’re not very good, but we always have a good time. I will add that I got my first moving car that day. Have you ever hit a golf ball from about 100 yards out and heard it smack a car? It’s loud.

I’ve been to the DoNC Conventions and Spring/Fall Business meetings and the main difference I noticed is that the Mid-East is part Business, part teaching, whereas the DoNC is mostly business. The National Executive Director/COO Bob Borka did the teaching portion of the day and covered a lot of different subjects. Just a couple being, Uniforms. Make sure what you wear while representing the Marine Corps League is correct and in order with the MCL Admin Procedures Enclosure 3. The National website, www.mclnational.org. Bob gave information about accessing the library and the difference between the Library and the Member Library. (The latter being password protected.)

For me, the most important subject was End of Life preparation. I remember when I enlisted and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, filling out a will and power of attorney and then updating it after I was married just prior to shipping out for Desert Shield/ Desert Storm. It’s been a long time since then. This coming September will be 30 years since my EAS. Also, in September I will be turning 54 years old. Can you say ‘procrastination’?

A lot has changed since 1990 when I last signed a will and PoA. Two wives couldn’t cut it, so I had to find someone who could kick my ass. The good Lord sent Tami to do His bidding and we’ve been together over 20 years; married 18. Children, grandchildren, too many pets. I’ve had to change jobs four times since then. I have now been in Clayton for 11 years. I bought this home in 2013 and I plan on growing old and being planted in this back yard after I pass on. (Can I put that in my will?)

But here’s the point that Bob wanted to get across to everyone. Does your family know where your DD214 is? Do they know what to do with it when you pass? If you’ve answered NO to either of those questions or you don’t know how to answer those questions, it’s time that you find out those answers. We, as Veterans, have benefits to be used when we pass. One example, did you know that you can be buried in a National Cemetery of your choosing? I didn’t know that. As a Veteran, it is our responsibility to not only know what benefits we have earned, but to inform our family of those benefits. I will be looking at all the VA information and having a discussion with my family.

I have a lot of work to do to get my affairs in order. Do you?

Respectfully submitted,

Commandant William Dunn
The Mud Run is always a great time and a great fundraiser for several charities to include the Wounded Warrior Battalion of Camp Lejeune, the Young Marines and Toys For Tots. Our Detachment had three members and four family members running with the DoNC Mud Turtles and three members were our cheerleaders. Great showing, Carry-On! Can’t wait to do it again next year!
Please remember, Marines! Let us help our building host, American Legion Pou-Parrish Post 332, with collecting pop/beer tabs for the Durham/Wake Ronald McDonald house!