Hotel 2/5 Vietnam Veterans Newsletter

November/ December 2025 Volume 25, Issue 6





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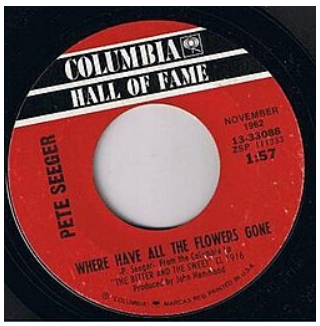
Hotel Co. 2/5 Celebrates Thanksgiving & Christmas

Marines of Hotel Co. 2/5 wish all our Marines, Corpsmen, and all military personnel around the world and all our American veterans, families, and friends a very special Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season. May you find peace, safety, good health, and happiness during this time of the year.

"Where Have All The Flowers Gone"

Most of us probably remember this song from the Sixties. It was acquainted with 'our war.' Oddly, though, it became a number one hit in 1962, three years before combat troops arrived in Vietnam, and before most Americans had ever heard of 'the place'. This was especially true of us who would have to go there to fight.

This song was written in 1955 by Pete Seeger. That was ten years before our Marines arrived at the beachhead near Danang in March,1965. It was almost like the song knew that it would be needed in the near future (at least, by some).



Sometimes, songs write themselves, for special people or special times. It doesn't seem appropriate that this tune would have been created for World War Two. The words just wouldn't fit.

But, oh, how so many Americans knew in their hearts that this song was meant just for us, that's you and me, not them. Virtue-signaling was very common in the 1960's. We were some of the most common recipients of it.

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Our next reunion will be in San Diego, CA.

Oct 7 - 11, 2026

JEROME J. DOHERTY

HOTEL 2/5 COMMANDING OFFICER

1966—1967



United States Marine Corps

Silver Star by Date of Action



CITATION:

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Captain Jerome John Doherty, Jr. (MCSN: 0-88119), United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as the Commanding Officer of Company H, Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, FIRST Marine Division (Rein.), FMF, in connection with operations against insurgent communist (Viet Cong) forces in the Republic of Vietnam, on 26 January 1967.

As the lead element of a battalion sized mission in support of Operation TUSCALOOSA, near Duy Xuyen District in the Quan Nam Province, Company F came under heavy enemy attack by a numerically superior Viet Cong force as they maneuvered through 300 meters of exposed area. As the well concealed enemy attacked with intense automatic weapons and mortar fire, an enemy mortar round hit the command group, seriously wounding the commanding officer of Company F. Immediately deploying his company to a vantage point, Captain Doherty continually exposed himself to the heavy volume of enemy fire to assess the tactical situation and direct close air support and artillery fire on the enemy positions. When the supporting arms fire failed to suppress the heavy concentration of enemy fire directed at Company F's positions, Captain Doherty, without regard for his own safety, again exposed himself to hostile fire to lead a two platoon assault in an attempt to outflank the enemy.

As the assault force approached a river bank, it too came under heavy attack and was unable to maneuver effectively. Dauntlessly, and with fierce determination, Captain Doherty then led his reserve platoon across 1,500 meters of open, fire-swept terrain to a tree line on the enemy's opposite flank. Subsequently, a heavy volume of intense fire was brought to bear on the enemy, forcing them to withdraw. Once the enemy's main defensive force was breeched, Captain Doherty continued to direct the efforts of both companies while he called in artillery fire and air strikes on the fleeing enemy. As a result of his intrepid fighting spirit and inspiring leadership, the units under his command were credited with more than forty confirmed enemy killed and numerous weapons and equipment captured. By his exceptional professional ability, courageous actions, inspiring leadership and selfless devotion to duty throughout, Captain Doherty upheld the finest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

JEROME DOHERTY

Jerome graduated from Regis College in 1963 with a degree in Economics. That sane year, he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. After basic officer training, he served with an infantry battalion for three years, in Okinawa, and Vietnam.

He served with honor as a Marine Captain and was awarded the Silver Star for bravery during his two tours in Vietnam. After completing his service, he was honorably discharged and carried with him an embodiment of strength and resilience.

Doherty has owned a construction company that specialized in heavy industrial construction in the Colorado area. He and his wife Rita, have four children, and two grandchildren.

He served in Operations Mississippi and Tuscaloosa including areas like Phu Loc 6, An Hoa, and Dodge City area.

Jerome is author of a well written book called "A Civilian in Green Clothes". He died in Nov 2024.



Recently, in Columbus, Ohio, at our yearly reunion, we had our memorial service for our fellow marines killed in combat while serving with Hotel 2/5. Yes, we brought flowers to this event. Members and their families read the names of our brothers who were lost long ago, without the cynicism and finger-pointing of a famous song written by people who supposedly loved peace. A number of speakers teared-up as they read the names. Many in the audience cried, too. This is how we remember the people that we love.

There is no 'I told-you-so attitude.' How could anyone who proclaims to love peace and their fellow man be so cruel and clueless. But there they are. It's in the record books. They had a number one hit with virtue-signaling, back in 1962.

After the memorial service, we went inside and visited the museum. There, we saw the inscription from President Kennedy's inauguration speech, delivered in 1961. "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." We were young boys and young men when the president gave that speech, explaining his vision for America in the upcoming years. He knew that he couldn't, alone, achieve his goal. He would need young Americans, such as ourselves, to believe in and carry out his mission in the future. He wouldn't live long enough to witness the division of the young people on whom he relied. They would become too splintered to unite behind his goal.

President Kennedy's famous challenge would go unanswered by most Americans, young and old. The concern and dedication for others as exhibited by Americans in World War Two, and the Korean War, as well, didn't survive the Sixties.

The first verse of Pete Seeger's song goes:

Where have all the flowers gone?
Long time passing
Where have all the flowers gone?
Long time ago
Where have all the flowers gone?
The girls have picked them, every one
Oh, when will you ever learn?
Oh, when will you ever learn?

The second verse says:

Where have all the young girls gone?
Long time passing
Where have all the young girls gone?
Long time ago
Where have all the young girls gone?
They've taken husbands, every one
Oh, when will you ever learn?
Oh, when will you ever learn?

And finally:

Where have all the young men gone?
Long time passing
Where have all the young men gone?
Long time ago
Where have all the young men gone?
They're all in uniform
Oh, when will you ever learn?
Oh, when will you ever learn?

Two additional verses were added in 1960.They went as such:

Where have all the soldiers gone,

Long time passing?

Where have all the soldiers gone,

A long time ago?

Where have all the soldiers gone?

Gone to graveyards, everyone.

When will they ever learn?

When will they ever learn?

Where have all the graveyards gone,

Long time passing?

Where have all the graveyards gone,

Long time ago?

Where have all the graveyards gone?

Gone to flowers, every one.

When will we ever learn?

When will we ever learn?

Don't forget, these last two verses were added in1960, two years before it became a number one hit and five years before Vietnam began.

Publisher's note: I heard it first sung by the Kingston Trio, then by Peter, Paul, and Mary. Joan Baez also sang it in the 1960's.

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And, yes, 'when will we ever learn,' as the song says. When will we, as Americans from the 1960's and beyond, ever learn the whole story from that time. It's not written in a song, somewhere. It comes to us from our own President Kennedy in his inaugural address on that very cold January day: "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

He went on to say a few lines later, "To those people in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves, for whatever period is required--not because the communists may be doing it, not because we seek their votes, but because it is right. If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich."

Soldiers of old have never had much use for politics. We don't encase what we have done in glorified rhetoric. We talk simply and raw. We leave the 'speechifying' for others. But here, with John F. Kennedy's words, we might make an exception. After all, he did face the enemies of America on the battlefield as a young man. He was a 'doer,' not just a 'talker.' Later, as President, he faced other enemies and died for doing so, in front of our eyes.

We know something about 'that kind of thing.' His legacy transcends politics and partisan thinking. His famous words, *"Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."* still rings throughout this land almost sixty-five years after it was spoken.

As young men, we followed his clarion call, whether we meant to, or not. The words he spoke are embedded in our being, kind of like he knew what we would face in the coming decades, those of us who adhered to his challenge, and risked the fate of death as it had consumed him.

We went forth, empowered and inspired by his words. They are enshrined in the museum there in Columbus, Ohio, for all to see. They aren't 'something which was imagined a long time ago,' 'they are something which was said,' which gave us a guidepost, an anchor for the future. They are real and they still live to this day.

Those who made "Where Have All the Flowers Gone" their anthem, seemed to know so much more than we did. Where did they gain their knowledge of war or their distaste of it? Most of them never asked those of us who could tell them.

In 2010, "Where Have All the Flowers Gone' was listed among the Top Twenty Political Songs by the New Statesman Magazine. In other words, it was a political song, not a song of solemn and grateful remembrance.

There were so many of them in the Sixties. But there was another side to the 'decade of Vietnam (1965-1975)'. It was presented to us and all Americans, by none other than our own President Kennedy, who would become a 'KIA' himself. He finished his speech that day by saying:

"Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us here the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

This year marks the Two Hundredth and Fiftieth year of the Marine Corps. It is an amazing history of service to our beloved America.

Semper Fi to everyone!

By: Dennis Casey



To All Veterans Out There

Tuesday, Nov. 11 is Veterans Day. The holiday is observed annually in honor of servicemen and women who've served in the military and the sacrifices they've made in the name of their country.
In observance of the federal holiday, a majority of banks, schools, financial institutions and government agencies are closed to celebrate you!

Happy Veterans Day to all the brave men and women who served our country and fought for our freedom! You are appreciated beyond words. There aren't enough words to show our gratitude for all the troops who served our country. ***To all Veterans out there, we honor, respect, and support you!***

That said, In honor of the occasion,
post one of these meaningful or patriotic quotes to express your gratitude this year for all those who have served.

- “No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks.” — James Allen
- “I was born an American; I will live an American; I shall die an American.” — Daniel Webster
- “Let me ask you, sir, when is the time for brave men to exert themselves in the cause of liberty and their country, if this is not?” — George Washington
- “He who is brave is free.” — Lucius Annaeus Seneca
- “National honor is the national property of the highest value.” — James Monroe
- “All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.” — Winston Churchill
- “When duty calls, that is when character counts.” — William Safire
- “Every post is honorable in which a man can serve his country.” — George Washington
- “One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, one Nation, evermore!” — Oliver Wendell Holmes
- "A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles." — Christopher Reeve
- “Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.” — John F. Kennedy
- “We’re blessed with the opportunity to stand for something — for liberty and freedom and fairness. And these are things worth fighting for, worth devoting our lives to. And we have good reason to be hopeful and optimistic.” — Ronald Reagan
- “The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.” — General Douglas MacArthur
- “There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty, that makes human nature rise above itself, in acts of bravery and heroism.” — Alexander Hamilton

After Action Report

Overview

From October 7th to 11th, 2025, twenty-five Marines and their families gathered in Columbus, Ohio, for the 16th reunion of Hotel 2/5 Vietnam Veterans, commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Corps with magnificent weather

Wednesday: Welcome Celebration

The reunion began with a celebration at VFW 9857. Attendees enjoyed a wonderful buffet catered by Schmidt's Restaurant and were entertained by THE 232 music group.

Thursday: Tours and Museum Visits

On Thursday morning, attendees were transported by bus to visit the Ohio Stadium. There, the group was split into smaller parties to receive a VIP tour of the impressive facility. Dan Smith allowed himself to be photographed on the OSU fifty-yard line.

After the stadium tour, the group headed to the Budd Food Hall for lunch, followed by a visit to the Mott's Military Museum. Mr. Mott personally welcomed everyone and provided a tour of the museum's extensive collection of military artifacts. That evening, the group enjoyed cocktails at a reception and exchanged stories.

Friday: Memorial Service and Presentations

Friday morning began with breakfast before bussing downtown for a tour of Columbus. The itinerary included passing the Ohio State House and driving along the Scioto River Walk to the National Veteran's Memorial and Museum. The annual Memorial Service was held in the memorial garden, where a wreath was placed, and Father Pat Toner—a Vietnam Veteran and Army Chaplain—delivered a moving address. Attendees took turns reading the names of their brothers who were Killed in Action. Rick Bowling played Taps on his bugle. After the service, the group toured the Veteran's Museum and its exhibits.

In the evening, the group enjoyed a splendid meal provided by Wells Fargo, followed by a presentation on the Combat Action Ribbon (CAR) by Larry Tyler. Each Marine received a CAR Certificate.

This year, the group raised over $4,000 to provide seed money for next year's event. Thanks were given to those who donated items, bid, and purchased, with plenty of laughter shared throughout the auction.

Saturday: Banquet and Keynote Address

Saturday was an off day, allowing attendees to explore Columbus and visit various points of interest. That evening, the group reconvened for the banquet, with the meal provided by the Warrior Reunion Foundation.

The highlight of the evening was the keynote address delivered by Major Shawn Engel (Ret.). Major Engel shared his experience as a young Marine, explaining how his Vietnam Veteran NCOs played a crucial role in developing his leadership skills and encouraged him to pursue Officer Candidate School.

Many thanks to those individuals and companies that contributed to our reunion:

Warrior Reunion Foundation, Norm Speight, Brian Stevenson, Jay Knapp, Anthony Thomas Candy, Wells Fargo Advisors, The Covelli Foundation, Mott's Military Museum, Columbus Police Department, and The Veteran's Memorial and Museum.

Happy Birthday Marine - 250 Years



10 November 2025

A MESSAGE

FROM

THE COMMANDANT

OF THE MARINE CORPS

Two hundred and fifty years ago, before our Nation declared its independence, a small group of men gathered in Philadelphia and formed a Corps of Marines. From that moment, our story has been bound to the story of America itself. A quarter of a millennium later, Marines remain at the center of our Nation's defense. Ready to fight, ready to win, and ready to uphold the trust placed in us since 1775.

Across centuries, Marines have fought on distant shores and in desperate battles, earning a reputation for discipline, toughness, and valor. From the Revolution to the World Wars, from Chapultepec to today's operations across the globe, every generation has proven worthy of the title Marine. They secured liberty, defended allies, and carried forward the promise of a free Nation, and a free world. We are the heirs of that legacy, and we are its stewards.

This anniversary reminds us that our standards are the foundation of our Corps. Honor, Courage, and Commitment are not abstractions, but the code that binds us to one another and to all who went before. Every Marine, in every clime and place, must hold true to these values. The conflicts ahead will demand nothing less.

I could not be prouder of the Marines I see serving today. At home, at sea, and across the globe, you carry forward our proud traditions with skill and ferocity. It is your discipline, initiative, and fighting spirit that anchor our Corps. The battles of the next 250 years will challenge us in new ways, but I have no doubt we will prevail. Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

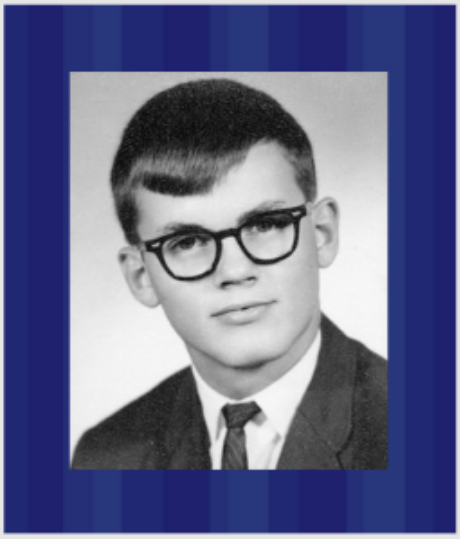
P.S. Click on above picture to review 10 minute USMC Birthday Video.

Eric M Smith

General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

REMEMBERING OUR MARINE BROTHERS



Captain (USMC) Robert William Poolaw Sr., known as "Corky," died on April 2, 2025, at age 86 in Norman, OK, after a brief illness, surrounded by family. He was born July 17, 1938, at Kiowa Indian Hospital in Lawton, OK, to Horace and Winnie (Chisholm) Poolaw). Capt. Poolaw was first assigned to Golf Co. 1969 (?) and was wounded by a bullet to his right arm. After, extensive self-rehabilitation therapy he requested release from the hospital in Danang, VN to returned to 2/5 around April/May 1969. and assumed command of Hotel Company 2/5 as the Commanding Officer. (Company Commander).

Mansil Hurlbut III, 78, of Circleville passed away on September 28, 2025. He was born on August 18, 1947, in New Kensington, PA to Mansil "Bud" Lorenza and Elvera Louise (Guenther) Hurlbut II. Mansil a Marine veteran with Hotel 2/5 1967. (pictured, left).

- contributed by Dennis Noah



I said to the Skipper, "I know you are an American," and he said, "No, I don't mean a Native American, I mean an American." I replied, "Skipper, that is what I meant too. You are a true American."

Captain Robert W. Poolaw was a true American and Warrior that loved America first. -Tony Marengo

HOTEL 2/5 VIETNAM VETERANS NEWSLETTER

We continue to add new information to our website each month. If you haven't been on the website in a while, take note of the "Recent Posts" section on the righthand column on the frontpage. It has some pretty cool information.

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FAMILY TIME

Special Days

In every edition of our newsletter, we like to take time to celebrate the H 2/5 veterans and their wives by acknowledging their birthdays and anniversaries. If you are interested in sharing your special day with us, please email me at stephcasey2018@gmail.com and I will add you to our list. We hope you have a wonderful time celebrating!

Birthdays

Don Thomas- October 4th

John McKay- October 7th

Robert Van Leeuwen- October 10th

Stephanie Bates Dec 5

Tom Keene Dec 19



Anniversaries

None

-by: Stephanie Casey

HOTEL 2/5 REUNION A RESOUNDING SUCCESS, ATTENDEES SAY

It was another great celebration- this time in the beautiful city of Columbus, Ohio.

"My wife Valerie and I had a great time. Met a lot of new and good people and found out I may have trained one or two of these Marines in ITR; they went thru from Feb 67 'til Feb 68 when I was an instructor. Dancing was great and the places we visited were fantastic. Also learned about the next reunion which I am already preparing for. Thought everything was so well organized and just enjoyed the hell out of myself." **— Rick Bowling**

"My wife [Khanh] and I would like to thank Joe Soderman for his diligent efforts to arranging and locating the ventures like the VFW and other locations, food, transportation and other amenities. We know that this would not have been possible without his wife's [Lynn's] assistance." – **Tony Marengo**

The Columbus reunion was great! Great friends, great food, and great fun! I truly had an awesome time. -**Randy Pate aka "Raddy"**

Rita and I enjoyed touring the Ohio Stadium and found it a privilege to meet and spend time with Mr. Mott at the Mott's Military Museum. The fish tocos from Budd's Food Hall were delicious. Joe's planning and selection of venue for our memorial service was very appropriate and emotionally touching. - **Larry & Rita Tyler**