

# ***A Marine and his Rifle ...***

***US Army General John "Black Jack" Pershing, once stated, "The deadliest weapon in the world is a Marine and his rifle!" As our nation continues fighting into its ninth year of war (Oct 2009) our sons and daughters continue to rise to the occasion of our nation's calling. Of these select and privileged few there remain a group, these "deadliest weapons", whom I am not one of, who are simply called, Marines. They are what our national leaders deploy to problem areas of the world when they need to send a clear signal that we mean business and will fight to a decisive win. Since 9-11 these Marines have faced the toughest and cruelest enemy forces, under the toughest of conditions, and in every case have met and beat them on their own turf. Their actions and contributions to our nation's security are legendary.***

***The following photos are exclusively of Marines, all these photos have been taken in Afghanistan, since Spring 2009, all from Afghanistan's Helmand Province where our Marines are writing their latest chapter of valor. The quotes are from or about Marines, taken from throughout the proud history of the Corps. This is my small attempt to honor their selflessness and courage. They are the finest our nation has to offer. They are brave, dedicated, honest, and professionals at their trade, they are our best. They are our **Marines**.***



**Bill Coffey,  
Camp Fallujah,  
Fallujah, Iraq,  
June 2006**

***Very Respectfully,  
Bill Coffey  
Major, US Army (Retired)  
coffeybil@aol.com***



**M** - Mean as hell  
**A** - All the time  
**R** - Rough and tough  
**I** - In the mud  
**N** - Never quit  
**E** - Every day  
**S** - Semper Fi! "





## **A Marine's Creed**

**I was that which others did not want to be. I went where others feared to go, and did what others failed to do. I asked nothing from those who gave nothing and reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal loneliness should I fail. I have seen the face of terror, felt the stinging cold of fear, and enjoyed the sweet taste of a moment's love. But most of all I have lived times others would say were best forgotten. At least some day I will be able to say,  
I was proud of what I was and always well be ...**

**A United States Marine.**



***“The Marine Corps has just been called by the New York Times, 'The elite of this country.' I think it is the elite of the world.”***

**Admiral William Halsey, U.S. Navy**



***“Marines have a history. They have fought in every major and minor engagement in which the United States of America has ever been involved. Marines are the Presidents guard. Marines are the best we have to offer as a nation. Marines have a tradition. Marines do not surrender. Marines do not leave their dead on the battlefield. Marines have an honor. Marines die for that honor. Marines are Americans in the highest sense. Marines guard the very gates of Heaven.”***



***“Marines are the United States elite military force. There are many specialty forces within the U.S. Military. Navy Seals, Army Green Berets, Army Airborne and other specialty units comprise the elite forces of U.S. Military. Only the United States Marine Corps stands out as an elite force in and of itself. MARINE is a word of respect. Whenever this word is used it evokes images of Spartans, exemplary examples of American excellence. The elite of the elite.”***



***“My only answer as to why the Marines get the toughest jobs is because the average Leatherneck is a much better fighter. He has far more guts, courage, and better officers... These boys out here have a pride in the Marine Corps and will fight to the end no matter what the cost.”***

**2nd Lt. Richard C. Kennard, Peleliu, World War II**



***"The man who will go where his colors go without asking, who will fight a phantom foe in a jungle or a mountain range, and who will suffer and die in the midst of incredible hardship, without complaint, is still what he has always been, from Imperial Rome to sceptered Britain to democratic America. He is the stuff of which legends are made. His pride is his colors and his regiment, his training hard and thorough and coldly realistic, to fit him for what he must face, and his obedience is to his orders. As a legionnaire, he held the gates of civilization for the classical world ... today he is called United States Marine."***

**LTC T R Fehrenbach, US Army, from his book, "This Kind of War"**





### ***United States Marine Corps:***

***Leader of men, teller of tall tales, legend in his own mind, U.S. Marine extraordinaire, stream fordable, air dropable, beer fueled, water cooled, author, history maker, lecturer, traveler, freedom fighter, defender of the faith. Wars fought, tigers tamed, revolutions started, bars emptied, alligators castrated. Let me win your hearts and minds or I'll burn your damn hut down.***

***As reported by a young recruit: So I'm talking to an Air Force Recruiter, the recruiter instructs me to, "sign here, here, here.....here, here.....and initial here. There you're all set and you know everything you need to know". "Can you tell me about basic training?" asks the recruit. "Don't worry about basic, its only 6 weeks long, and 4 of them are in a classroom. We aren't the Marines for Gods sake." To which the recruit replied, "Thanks for your time sir, oh, where is the Marine recruiting office?"***



***"Sweat dries, blood clots, and bones heal, suck it up, be a Marine"***  
**Unofficial Marine Slogan**

**We don't  
promise you  
a rose garden**



THE MARINES ARE LOOKING  
FOR A FEW GOOD MEN

***"We Promise You Sleep Deprivation, Mental Torment, And Muscles So Sore You'll Puke. But We Don't Want To Sugarcoat It..."***  
**USMC Slogan**

***“I may look harmless, but I raised a Marine”.***  
**Marine Mom**



***"When the new recruit is standing in front of his D.I., he knows what he had to do, what his D.I. wants him to do, his Mama, his Daddy, his leader says to do. But what our whole recruit training program is heading towards is that Marine doing what he has been trained for when his leader, or any other "senior" is not there looking over him. Those moments when he is alone in combat, and he has to rely on one person, himself!"***

***Marine General Chesty Puller's Rules of Success!***



***"Marine Corps integrity is doing that thing which is right, when no one is looking."***

**Colonel Colin Lampard, USMC**

***“If you succeed here, the president of the United States will repose special trust and confidence in your patriotism, valor, fidelity, and abilities and therefore grant you responsibilities and privileges which you must always be worthy.”***

Sign outside of an Officer Candidate School building, Quantico Marine Base, Quantico, Virginia



***“Be a man of principle. Fight for what you believe in. Keep your word. Live with integrity. Be brave. Believe in something bigger than yourself. Serve your country. Teach. Mentor. Give something back to society. Lead from the front. Conquer your fears. Be a good friend. Be humble and be self-confident. Appreciate your friends and family. Be a leader and not a follower. Be valorous on the field of battle. Take responsibility for your actions.”***

**These words from Marine Major Douglas Zembiec were taken from his combat journal under the title “Principles my father taught me”. Major Zembiec was Killed In Action, March 11, 2007, during his fourth tour of duty in Iraq, during a raid against insurgent forces.**





***“Every Marine is, first and foremost, a rifleman. All other conditions are secondary.”***

**General A. M. Gray, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps**



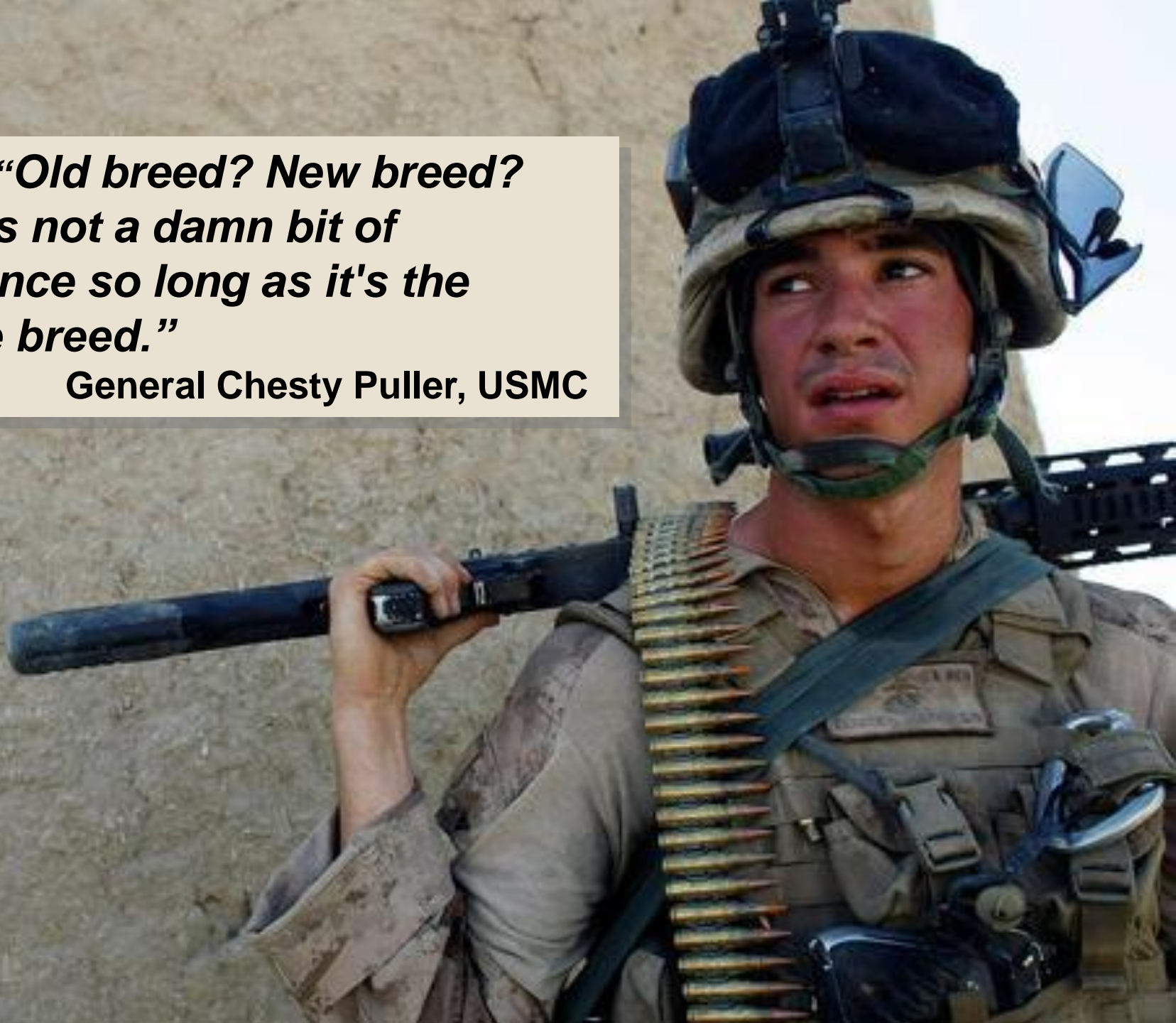


***"Marines I see as two breeds, Rottweilers or Dobermans, because Marines come in two varieties, big and mean, or skinny and mean. They're aggressive on the attack and tenacious on defense. They've got really short hair and they always go for the throat."***

**RAdm. "Jay" R. Stark, USN; 10 November 1995**

***“Old breed? New breed?  
There's not a damn bit of  
difference so long as it's the  
Marine breed.”***

**General Chesty Puller, USMC**



***"Marines are about the most peculiar breed of human beings I have ever witnessed. They treat their service as if it were some kind of cult, plastering their emblem on almost everything they own, making themselves up to look like insane fanatics with haircuts to ungentlemanly lengths, worshipping their Commandant almost as if he were a god, and making weird animal noises like a band of savages. They'll fight like rabid dogs at the drop of a hat just for the sake of a little action, and are the cockiest sons of bitches I have ever known. Most have the foulest mouths and drink well beyond man's normal limits, but their high spirits and sense of brotherhood set them apart and, generally speaking, the United States Marines I've come in contact with are the most professional soldiers and the finest men I have ever had the pleasure to meet."***

***--An Anonymous Canadian Citizen***





***“I like Marines, because being a Marine is serious business. We’re not a social club or a fraternal organization and we don’t pretend to be one. We’re a brotherhood of warriors - - nothing more, nothing less, pure and simple. We are in the ass-kicking business, and unfortunately, these days business is good.”***

***Colonel James M. Lowe,  
Commander, Marine Corps Base Quantico. 2004***



***“The money minted for use in our nation’s commerce may be dollars and cents – but the coin of the realm in the land of the free and the home of the brave is the blood of her sons and daughters. For 227 years U.S. Marines have bled to death, starved to death, burned to death, and frozen to death, drowned and crashed to their deaths for this nation and the cause of liberty and freedom.”***

***Captain Allen C. Allen, Chaplain, USN, Force Chaplain,  
Marine Forces Atlantic, Camp Lejeune, July 26, 2003***

***“We stole the eagle from the Air Force, the anchor from the Navy and the rope from the Army. We live like Soldiers, talk like Sailors, and slap the hell out of both of them.”***





***“It's hard to be humble when you're a U.S. Marine“***  
**Unknown US Marine**

***“Warriors by day, lovers by night, professionals by choice, and Marines by the grace of God.”***  
**Unofficial Marine Slogan**



**“The Creation of the Marine Corps” last paragraph;**  
***“And at the end of the eighth day, God looked down upon the Earth and saw that it was good. But was God happy? NO! God was not happy! Why? Because in the course of His labors God had forgotten one thing, He did not have a Marine uniform for Himself. But He thought about it, and thought about it, and finally satisfied Himself in knowing that, well .... NOT EVERYONE CAN BE A MARINE!”***





***“You cannot exaggerate about the Marines. They are convinced to the point of arrogance, that they are the most ferocious fighters on earth - and the amusing thing about it is that they are.”***

**Father Kevin Keaney,  
1st Marine Division Chaplain, Korean War**



***“One last thing ... when you check into your first unit and start the fantastic voyage that only Marines will ever know ... kick some serious ass ... because it is a full time job and there is a lot of that activity that must occur for America and her allies to survive. Long live the United States .... And success to the Marines.”***

**Colonel James M. Lowe, Commander, Marine Corps Base Quantico**

***“When I give you the word, together we will cross the Line of Departure, close with those forces that choose to fight, and destroy them. You are part of the world’s most feared and trusted force. Engage your brain before you engage your weapon. Share your courage with each other as we enter the uncertain terrain north of the Line of Departure. Keep faith in your comrades on your left and right and Marine Air overhead. Fight with a happy heart and strong spirit. For the Mission’s sake, our country’s sake, and the sake of the men who carried the Division’s colors in past battles – who fought for life and never lost their nerve – carry out your mission and keep your honor clean. Demonstrate to the world there is No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy than a U.S. Marine.”***

**MG James N. Mattis. Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, March 30, 2003, Central Iraq, excerpts from his “Message to All Hands”, on the eve of crossing into Iraq**





***“Our country is counting on us even as our enemies watch and calculate, hoping that America does not have warriors strong enough to withstand discomfort and danger. You, my fine young men, are going to prove the enemy wrong - dead wrong. You will demonstrate the same uncompromising spirit that has always caused the enemy to fear America's Marines. With strong discipline, solid faith, unwavering alertness, and undiminished chivalry to the innocent, we will carry out this mission. This is our test-our Guadalcanal, our Chosin Reservoir, our Hue City. Fight with a happy heart and keep faith in your comrades and your unit. Stay alert, take it all in stride, remain sturdy, and share your courage with each other and the world. You are going to write history, my fine young Sailors and Marines, so write it well.”***

**J.N. Mattis, Major General, US Marines, Iraq, 2006**



***“Hot and sunny on Good Friday...quiet in Fallujah and Al Ramadi. The Coalition has announced a pause in offensive operations. The bad guys are regrouping. So are the Marines. The brawl will begin again...probably tonight. We are on the edge of the town..we see the minirets of the city and we hear the immams sermons as they rail against us..good thing few here understand Arabic cause I can tell you the preachers weren't teaching the golden rule today. Morale, sky high...extra intensity..friends are on the line. The senior NCO's and officers here, feel the pull the most. They have served with or trained everyone on the line. The Corps is a small community. This is very personal. If a person can do something to help the outcome of the fight..they'll find a way..it's that kind of day..all for one, one for all.”***

**Marine Chaplain, serving in Fallujah, Iraq, 09 April 2004**



***“If you think the Marines were tough on you when they were cleaning out Fallujah a few weeks ago you haven't seen anything yet. If you want to know what it feels like to have the Wrath of God called down upon you then go ahead and do it. We are not Turkish truck drivers, or Pakistani laborers, or independent contractors hoping to find work in your country. We are the United States Marines, and we will be coming for you.”***

**Andy Bufalo, MSgt USMC (Ret)**



***"Marines about to go into battle. Some were standing watch, some readied equipment, some slept or rested, but all were quiet. No nervous jabbering, no false bravado, no whining, no melodramatics... they were professionals."***

**2nd Lieutenant "Vic" Taylor, on "The Magnificent Bastards"**



***“I don't know how the Marines do it .. but the COC [Combat Operations Center] is loaded with strack looking Marines. The senior NCO's all look like NFL lineman. The junior officers look like marathon runners and the mid-grade officers look like NFL halfbacks...the senior officers are lean, tanned and serious..deadly serious. The place exudes the warrior spirit. These Marines are in a street fight. They don't have the word 'lose' in their vocabulary. They've been bloodied and their anger is up. This is a tribe of warriors. They exist to close with and destroy the enemy. They have their tribal mores, rituals and rites. Their enemy has desecrated members of the tribe and taunted the Marines. They've asked for a fight. The Marines are in full pursuit and absolutely determined to annihilate their foe. We are in a violent land, with an evil element and they are having violence visited upon them. There is no room here for half measures. This is a test of wills...one side will prevail. That is clearly understood and never discussed..it is obvious. We aren't playing paintball..we are at war.”***

**Marine Chaplain, serving in Fallujah, Iraq, 09 April 2004**



***“They are the strongest tribe.”***

**Iraqi Army officer, upon seeing a squad of Marines patrolling  
by his position, Al Ramadi, Al Anbar Province, Iraq, 2007**





***“We're Marines, We took Iwo Jima, Baghdad ain't shit.”***  
**General Kelly, USMC, Iraq, 2006**



## **Excerpts from “US Marine Corps Rules For Gunfighting”**

- *Anything worth shooting is worth shooting twice. Ammo is cheap. Life is expensive.***
- *Always cheat; always win. The only unfair fight is the one you lose.***
- *If you are not shooting, you should be communicating and reloading.***
- *Someday someone may kill you with your own gun, but they should have to beat you to death with it because it is empty.***



***"They (Marines) have given us our only real fight."***  
**Commanding Officer of the British, War Of 1812**



***“The American Marines are terribly reckless fellows...  
they would make very good storm troopers.”***

**German officer at Belleau Wood, WWI**





***“Panic sweeps my men when they are facing the AMERICAN MARINES.”***

**Captured North Korean Major, Korean War**

***“Do not attack the First Marine Division. Leave the yellowlegs alone. Strike the American Army.”***

**Orders given to Communist troops in the Korean War; shortly afterward, the Marines were ordered to not wear their khaki leggings.**



***"The safest place in Korea was right behind a platoon of MARINES. LORD, how they could fight!"***

**Major General Frank Lowe, US Army, Korean War**



***“They told us to open up the Embassy, or “we’ll blow you away.” And then they looked up and saw the Marines on the roof with the really big guns, and they said in Somali, ‘Igaralli ahow’, Which mean ‘Excuse me, I didn’t mean it, my mistake.’”***

**Karen Aquilar, in the U.S. Embassy;  
Mogadishu, Somalia**





***“Even an Army guy like me has to admit that it is always best to have a Devil Dog unit on your flank in combat because that's one flank you don't have to worry about. Here's a true story: In 2003 when the Marines and the Army 3d Infantry Division had taken down Baghdad and had truck convoys scattered all the way into Kuwait, I was a plans officer at USCENTCOM when our intelligence intercepted an order from the Iraqi insurgency commander. It was a field order to all the insurgent unit commanders and it went something like this:***

***"Resistance Commanders, When attacking supply and truck units you must be aware that there are two different American "armies": 1. The US Army which wears tan desert uniforms like this (photo of a Soldier wearing the old desert uniform); and. 2. The US Marine Corps which wears a different uniform like this (photo of a Marine wearing the newly issued USMC digital uniform). When planning your attacks on supply lines and truck convoys ensure that you do NOT attack a US Marine unit. If you do, these supply-unit Marines will immediately act like Army infantry and they will attack you and hunt every one of your men down and kill them. The US Army truck and supply units will not pursue you. Attack them instead."***



***“There are only two kinds of people that understand Marines: Marines and the enemy. Everyone else has a second-hand opinion.”***

**Unknown**

## **Excerpts from “US Marine Corps Rules For Gunfighting”**

- *When in doubt, fix bayonets, empty the magazine, throw all your grenades, and charge.***
- *When in grave doubt, ask the Gunny for advice, which will be to charge faster while shouting graphic descriptions to the enemy of what you are about to do to him. Example: "I am going to kill you, dirtbag! I am going to kill you slow! I am going to skin you and build a kayak out of your ribcage and a humidor out of your skull!"***



***“Now I recall the Recon Marines ragged, filthy cammie shirted young men in green paint who move silent like the fog with deadly purpose in their eyes. Swift, Silent, Deadly..... I smile.”***

**Gunnery Sergeant Correll, USMC, Retired -- Recon Marine**





***“Dear Dad, It is incredibly humbling to walk among such men. They fought as hard as any Marines in history and deserve to be remembered as such. It was a fight to the finish in every sense and the Marines delivered. My whole life I have read about the greatest generation and sat in wonder at their accomplishments. For the first time, as I watch these Marines and Soldiers, I am eager for the future as this is just the beginning for them. Perhaps the most amazing characteristic of all is that the morale of the men is sky high. They hurt for the wounded and the dead but they are eager to continue to attack. Further, not one of them would be comfortable with being called a hero even though they clearly are.”***

**Letter home on the combat in Fallujah, from Dave, a Marine Corporal, Nov19, 04**



***“The Marines fought almost solely on esprit de corps, I was certain. It was inconceivable to most Marines that they should let another Marine down, or that they could be responsible for dimming the bright reputation of their Corps. The Marines simply assumed that they were the world's best fighting men.”***

**Robert Sherrod, 1943, regarding the battle at Tarawa**



***“I have just returned from visiting the Marines at the front. There is not a finer fighting organization in the world!”***

**General Douglas MacArthur, US Army, Korean War**

***Marines Only Fear God, No Others***







***“Ensure that no Marine who honorably wore the eagle, globe and anchor is lost to the Marine Corps family.”***

**General James L. Jones Jr.,  
Commandant of the Marine Corps**



***“I was a Marine for all of these years because it was necessary, because it was rewarding, because our nation needed individuals like us and because I liked and admired the Marines I served with ... but it sure wasn’t fun. I can’t promise you ‘fun’, but I can promise you the reward and satisfaction of being able to look in the mirror for the rest of your life and say: ‘I gave more to America than I ever took from America ... and I’m proud of that’”. Semper Fi and God Bless you all!”***

**Final remarks from Marine Colonel Wayne Shaw during his retirement ceremony of a career that spanned 28 years.**

***Do Draft Dodgers Have Reunions? If So What Do They Talk About?***





***“To observe a Marine is inspirational, to be a Marine is exceptional.”***

**Unknown**

***“We are United States Marines. We are the best troops in the world. We fight odds that are heavily against us – and win! Our spirit is indomitable, our courage unexcelled, and our loyalty is unquestionable. I felt like writing to you. Perhaps it sounds foolish. Perhaps it is. But you can never imagine what it is like – not knowing if I’m coming back down that hill. I wanted you to have something from me to you. I love you, Bob, but you are too young to know it. Someday you will know. I will leave you now – time is short. Love to you, Brother John.”***

Closing paragraph from LCpl John Tanney, USMC, to his 7 month old brother Bob. This letter was only to be opened in the event of John’s death. Unfortunately, LCpl Tanney was killed in action in September 1968 in the jungles of Vietnam.





***“Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference. The Marines don't have that problem.”***

**President Ronald Reagan**

A group of Marines in uniform are kneeling on a beach at sunset, their heads bowed in prayer. The scene is dimly lit, with the warm glow of the setting sun creating a somber and reflective atmosphere. The Marines are arranged in a loose line, with some in the foreground and others receding into the distance. The background shows the silhouettes of other personnel and equipment on the beach.

## The Marines Prayer

*Almighty Father , whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold. If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again. Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.*



***Thank you Marines for your service and sacrifices!***

***... nuf said***



Since November 2007 I have created and distributed other similar tributes, each with a slightly different focus, all of which have intended to honor and thank our Warriors; Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen alike, heroes all.  
Bill Coffey, [coffeybil@aol.com](mailto:coffeybil@aol.com), 719-351-8321 (cell)

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These other tributes may be found in a number of sites throughout the internet, to include, but not limited to:

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**“These are my credentials”**, put to music:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jbas7dml5c>

<http://www.soft-vision.com/warriors/>

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**“These are my credentials”**, slides posted:

<http://www.rivervet.com/images/FollowMeThese%20Are%20My%20Credentials.pdf>

[http://honorthenames.com/images/These\\_Are\\_My\\_Credentials.pdf](http://honorthenames.com/images/These_Are_My_Credentials.pdf)

<http://www.soft-vision.com/warriors/TheseAreMyCredentials.pdf>

<http://www.redscarclub.com/PPS%20page.html>

<http://www.slideshare.net/lexl/credentials-193529/>

<http://www.go-patriots.com/Pictures/Warriors/Warriors.htm>

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**“On Point”**, slides posted:

<http://www.redscarclub.com/PPS%20page%202.html>

<http://www.slideshare.net/RSC56/5-on-point-warrior-quotes-master-copy?src=embed>

[http://www.highlifter.com/forum/%22On Point - Warrior Quotes%22/m\\_2377223/tm.htm](http://www.highlifter.com/forum/%22On Point - Warrior Quotes%22/m_2377223/tm.htm)

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**“21st Century Spartans”**, slides posted:

<http://www.redscarclub.com/PPS%20page%203.html>

<http://www.slideshare.net/RSC56/6-21st-century-spartans?src=embed>

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**“We Happy Few”**, slides posted:

<http://www.slideshare.net/carterfsmith/we-happy-few-master-16-oct08-lores-presentation>

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**Collection of essays, speeches, articles** by MAJ (Ret) Coffey:

<http://www.globalspecialoperations.com/majcoffey.html>