

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

-Henry Ford

Blue Diamond News



FIRST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

From the Headquarters



**77TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
REGISTRATION FORM**

PLEASE CLICK LINK BELOW FOR REGISTRATION FORM

[PLEASE CLICK REGISTRATION FORM](#)

**1st Marine Division
77**

**th Anniversary
January 29- February 02, 2018**

**50 / 50 Raffle
Tickets only \$10 each or 3 for \$20**

Drawing will be conducted at the FMDA Anniversary Banquet
January 2018
(Need not be present to win)

50% of Funds Raised from Ticket Sales

<p>NAME _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>PHONE _____</p> <p>50% of Funds Raised from tkt sales \$10 ea. Drawing Jan. 2018 at Anniv. Banquet 3 for \$20</p>	<p>50% Of Funds Raised from tkt Sales</p> <p>DRAWING TO TAKE PLACE AT Anniv. BANQUET Jan.2018</p> <p>(Need not to be present to win)</p> <p>Mail stub and check to: 1st Marine Division Association, Inc. P.O. Box 9000, Box #902 Oceanside, CA 92051</p>
<p>NAME _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>PHONE _____</p> <p>50% of Funds Raised from tkt sales \$10 ea. Drawing Jan. 2018 at Anniv. Banquet 3 for \$20</p>	<p>NAME _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>PHONE _____</p> <p>50% of Funds Raised from tkt sales \$10 ea. Drawing Jan. 2018 at Anniv. Banquet 3 for \$20</p>

Please click the link below to print the 50/50 Raffle Ticket

[50/50 Raffle Form](#)

UPDATED SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE

Chairman: Len Hayes
Mike Galyean
Elmer Hawkins
Charlie Kershaw

John Stevens

Thank You!

General Fund Donations

Please send your General Fund donations to the Association by December 31, 2017

If the Association receives \$2,000 for the General Fund by **December 31, 2017**, Mr. Larkin will match the \$2,000 for the General Fund.

Thank you for your support

Must Read Article



"Parasites From Vietnam May Be Killing Veterans"

HEROLD, W.Va. (AP) - A half century after serving in Vietnam, hundreds of veterans have a new reason to believe they may be dying from a silent bullet - test results show some men may have been infected by a slow-killing parasite while fighting in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

The Department of Veterans Affairs this spring commissioned a small pilot study to look into the link between liver flukes ingested through raw or undercooked fish and a rare bile duct cancer. It can take decades for symptoms to appear. By then, patients are often in tremendous pain, with just a few months to live.

Of the 50 blood samples submitted, more than 20 percent came back positive or bordering positive for liver fluke antibodies, said Sung-Tae Hong, the tropical medicine specialist who carried out the tests at Seoul National University in South Korea.

"It was surprising," he said, stressing the preliminary results could include false positives and that the research is ongoing.

Northport VA Medical Center spokesman Christopher Goodman confirmed the New York facility collected the samples and sent them to the lab. He would not comment on the findings, but said everyone who tested positive was notified.

Gerry Wiggins, who served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969, has already lost friends to the disease. He was among those who got the call.

"I was in a state of shock," he said. "I didn't think it would be me."

The 69-year-old, who lives in Port Jefferson Station, New York, didn't have any symptoms when he agreed to take part in the study, but hoped his participation could help save lives. He immediately scheduled further tests, discovering he had two cysts on his bile duct, which had the potential to develop into the cancer, known as cholangiocarcinoma. They have since been removed and - for now - he's doing well.

Though rarely found in Americans, the parasites infect an estimated 25 million people worldwide, mostly in Asia.

Endemic in the rivers of Vietnam, the worms can easily be wiped out with a handful of pills early on, but left untreated they can live for decades without making their hosts sick. Over time, swelling and inflammation of the bile duct can lead to cancer. Jaundice, itchy skin, weight loss and other symptoms appear only when the disease is in its final stages.

The VA study, along with a call by Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer of New York for broader research into liver flukes and cancer-stricken veterans, began after The Associated Press raised the issue in a story last year. The reporting found that about 700 veterans with cholangiocarcinoma have been seen by the VA in the past 15 years. Less than half of them submitted claims for service-related benefits, mostly because they were not aware of a possible connection to Vietnam. The VA rejected 80 percent of the requests, but decisions often appeared to be haphazard or contradictory, depending on what desks they landed on, the AP found.

The number of claims submitted reached 60 in 2017, up from 41 last year. Nearly three out of four of those cases were also denied, even though the government posted a warning on its website this year saying veterans who ate raw or undercooked freshwater fish while in Vietnam might be at risk. It stopped short of urging them to get ultrasounds or other tests, saying there was currently no evidence the vets had higher infection rates than the general population "We are taking this seriously," said Curt Cashour, a spokesman with the Department of Veterans Affairs. "But until further research, a recommendation cannot be made either way."

Veteran Mike Baughman, 65, who was featured in the previous AP article, said his claim was granted early this year after being denied three times. He said the approval came right after his doctor wrote a letter saying his bile duct cancer was "more likely than not" caused by liver flukes from the uncooked fish he and his unit in Vietnam ate when they ran out of rations in the jungle. He now gets about \$3,100 a month and says he's relieved to know his wife will continue to receive benefits after he dies. But he remains

angry that other veterans' last days are consumed by fighting the same government they went to war for as young men.

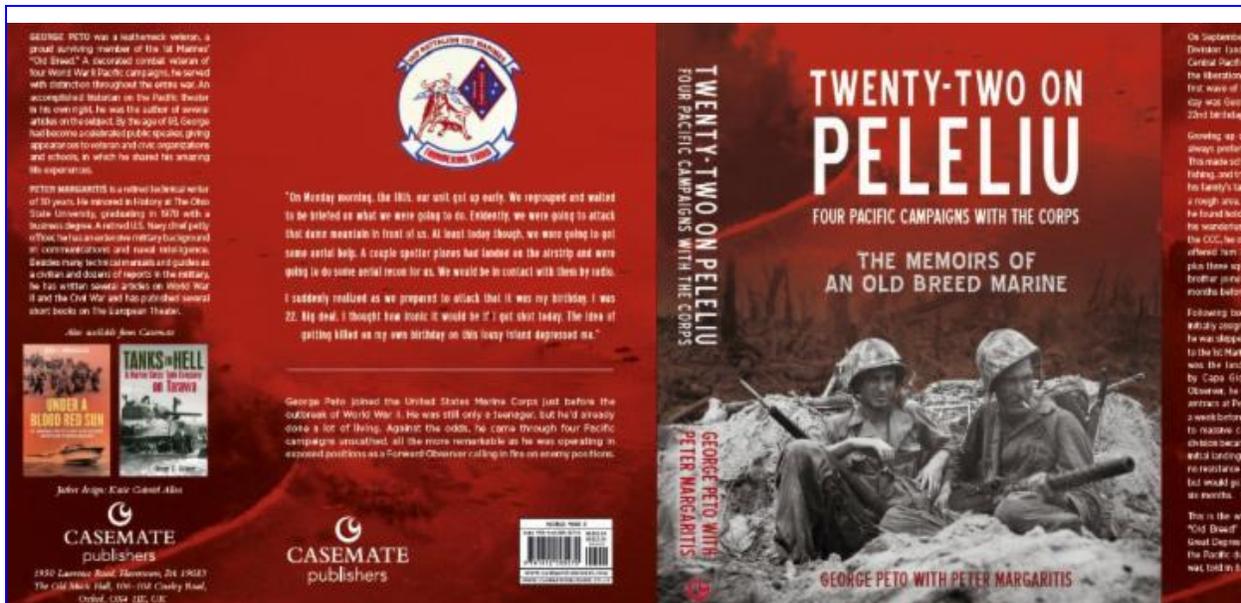
"In the best of all worlds, if you came down with cholangiocarcinoma, just like Agent Orange, you automatically were in," he said, referring to benefits granted to veterans exposed to the toxic defoliant sprayed in Vietnam. "You didn't have to go fighting."

Baughman, who is thin and weak, recently plucked out "Country Roads" on a bass during a jam session at his cabin in West Virginia. He wishes the VA would do more to raise awareness about liver flukes and to encourage Vietnam veterans to get an ultrasound that can detect inflammation.

"Personally, I got what I needed, but if you look at the bigger picture with all these other veterans, they don't know what necessarily to do," he said.

"None of them have even heard of it before. A lot of them give me that blank stare like, 'You've got what?'"

Remarkable Books To Read



" Twenty-Two on Peleliu" Written By Peter Margaritis

For the last two years, I have been working on a book depicting the life of a veteran celebrity here in Central Ohio: George Peto. In his last twenty years, George many times was allowed to be a guest speaker at various middle schools and high schools, telling the students about his experiences during World War II.

In the spring of 2015, Mr. Peto and I struck up a friendship. I had a number of lengthy conversations with this amazing Marine veteran. In doing so, I began to realize that not only were his wartime experiences on Peleliu and Okinawa remarkable, but there were many unusual occurrences in other parts of his life as well. As he told me tales of his youth (Again, I marvel at the man's consistent, detailed memory of events that happened to him over eight decades ago), I finally realized that a great book to write would be about his life. We thought that we'd make a good team, since I am an experienced writer and researcher, and George was a good story teller. He good-naturedly agreed, and so we were off.

A year later, our first draft was done. It is filled with his exploits as a young boy during an interesting period in our history, his early career in the Marines, his intensive Pacific campaigns, and his interesting life after the war. I have never met a man who has had as exciting a life as his.

Unfortunately, on Independence Day of 2016, just after we had completed our first draft, Mr. Peto passed away in bed at the age of 93 years old, after having watched fireworks the previous evening. I vowed to finish the book and fortunately, Casemate Publishers agreed to publish. Entitled *Twenty-Two on Peleliu*, it details this man's remarkable life, and is available at most book outlets (Barnes & Noble, Amazon, etc.)

Several reviews of the book have been most favorable.

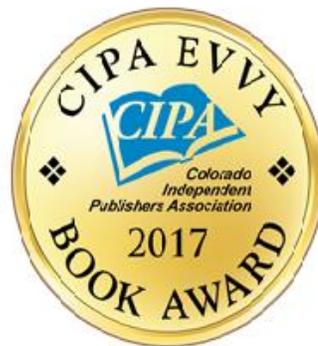
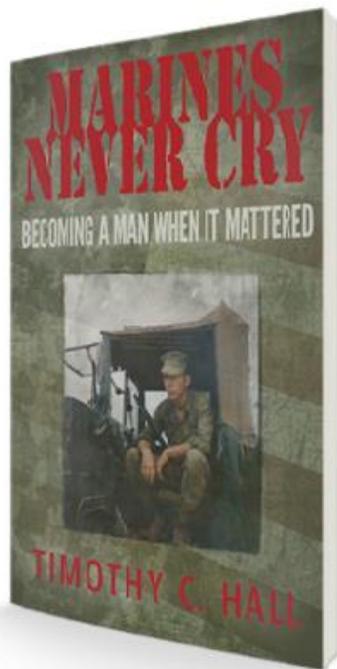
I just thought that you might appreciate knowing that the exploits of one of the Old Breed has now been documented in a book.

I figured that the association would want to mention the book, since he had a remarkable life, including four Pacific campaigns with 3/1.

Thanks!

Peter Margaritis

"Marines Never Cry" Written By: Timothy C. Hall



MONEY MATTERS

From the Treasurer A.J. Burn:

Updates will follow as soon as possible

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome to our New Members

Name	Sponsor
Carter E. Fairbanks	Jim Robinson

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS

All FMDA Members please use your USAA card- the First Marine Division Association, Inc gets a small but helpful rebate.



By making your contribution by credit card, your donation can help more quickly the FMDA fundraising and administrative costs. (Note Credit Cards can be personal or Corporate.)

Type of Credit Card

Visa Master Card American Express Discover

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date _____

Name as it Appears on Card: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Funds received in response to this solicitation will not be subject to federal contribution limits.

To have an immediate impact you may also contribute to FMDA while online at:

www.1stmarinedivisionassociation.org

TAPS

Deceased

Click The Blue Links Below To Read The Obituaries.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wesley_L._Fox

Wesley Lee Fox



Colonel Wesley L. Fox, U.S. Marine Corps

Born	September 30, 1931 Herndon, Virginia
Died	November 24, 2017 (aged 86) Blacksburg, Virginia
Allegiance	United States of America
Service/branch	 United States Marine Corps
Years of service	1950–1993
Rank	Colonel
Unit	3rd Battalion, 5th Marines 1st Battalion, 9th Marines MAG-11 MCRD San Diego 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company Marine Air Detachment SHAPE Basic School, Quantico
Commands	Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th



Allan Joseph Hottinger of Craigmont passed away Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017, at the Idaho State Veterans Home in Lewiston at age 73. He was born to Albin and Helen (LeMire) Hottinger on Sept. 3, 1944, in Cottonwood. As a young child his family lived in several different locations including Kooskia; the Mission at Jacques Spur; Clarkston; Akron, Colo.; and Seattle. Allan graduated from St. Gertrude's Academy in May of 1962. In December 1962, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, and got an honorable discharge December 1966.

Deceased

Gordon Hyland Cameron Nov. 8, 2017

"Gone But Never Forgotten"

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