

MARINE FIGHTING SQUADRON-311

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON-311

## THE FIGHTIN' 311 TOMCATS

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### DECEMBER 2009 EDITION

**Correction to September newsletter:** I made this correction on line through **Fred Townsley** shortly after I mailed out the last newsletter but those of you who received the hardcopy didn't see it yet and I wanted to get it straight. I received a call from **Lou Pashby's** wife, **Lois** that I had erred in reporting that he was at the reunion in Philly. **Lou Pashby** was a Vietnam veteran and worked in 311 ordnance at Chu Lai in 64-65 and 68-70. He passed away from cancer in 2005. The person who was at the reunion in Philly was **Tony Golas** who was with 311 at Wallis Island. **Phil Baker** told me an aircraft slipped off the jacks and smashed Tony's foot and they evacuated him back to Pearl and he never rejoined the squadron again. My apologies for the mistake.

## PARDON ME BOYS; IT'S THE CHATTANOOGACHOO CHOO....

It's a done deal. Chattanooga, Tennessee September 8-11 2010. Mark it off on your calendar. All the incidentals haven't been ironed out but it's just a matter of choosing the menu and getting some entertainment. The hotel contract is signed. Sue and I went down to Chattanooga first week in November and were guests at the Holiday Inn Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel. The hotel is the actual railroad station that housed the train from Glenn Miller's song. It has been converted to a hotel but the whole property retains its railroad station history and décor. It has four eating places that you can choose from depending on how much you want to spend including Dinner in the Diner (Nothing could be finer!) and you can even sleep in a railroad car for the price. The whole thing is very tasteful and I know that you are going to enjoy the stay. The staff was super cordial and the entire town was very clean. The stroke of genius was the electric trolley cars that cover the entire downtown and North area. You get on at the

Choo Choo and it will take you anywhere in town forfree! Sue and I checked it all out and anything that you would want to see in the downtown area you can get to with minimal walking. Our hospitality room will be in Penn Station which is located on the right side of the depot through the lobby and down the loading docks about 60 yards. After you check in the hotel you can get your packets at the hospitality room. We'll have a table set up there along with refreshments and snacks.

For those of you who are online you can check out the hotel at [www.choochoo.com](http://www.choochoo.com) I just received word that the hotel is no longer a Holiday Inn. It was taken over by the Historic Hotels of America group. This year they celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and everyone that comes to the reunion will receive an anniversary pin.

I received some harsh reality at the Choo Choo. Glenn Miller has been deceiving us all these years! The Chattanooga Choo Choo ran between Cincinnati and Chattanooga. It didn't leave Pennsylvania Station and go through Baltimore and nobody had ham and eggs in Carolina. There was also no Track 29. There were only 14 tracks. You can get on the railroad trolley at the station and ride around the station complex for a couple bucks and get a good historic overview of the depot and the train system what it was then and now. Not a very long ride but very informative. The conductor knows his history.

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I should have the packets ready to be mailed out in February-March. **If you attended the reunion in Philly in 2008 you will be getting a packet in the mail. You do not have to call me.** If you did not attend the Philly reunion, you need to contact me or someone on the top of this newsletter that you intend on making the Chattanooga run and we will put you on the list to get a reunion packet. The packet will have all the information you will need for the reunion. This has worked out well in the past.

Any of you that subscribe to any veteran's periodicals you can go ahead and see if they will announce our reunion. I would say wait until January. I have the VFW Reunion Announcement submit and they post 6 months prior to the reunion. Web pages can go on anytime I guess. Military.com and Sgt. Grit will put it in whenever so we need to get it posted where we can. I'll take care of the VFW and AMVETS. Can somebody get the other mainstreams?

**Les and Bonita McMillan** will be handling the hospitality room which we will be setting up on Tues and Wednesday of reunion week. We will be there on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> so if you are coming in early make sure you drop in or look us up when you get to the hotel.

## PHANTOM'S PLEA FOR AUCTION ITEMS

If you have been coming to our last two reunions you know that we have been in the auction business. On the Friday night of the reunion we hold an auction to raise money to keep the association in the black and we have had a lot of fun with it. **George Phander** is our recording secretary and **Chief Procurer of Priceless Antiquities**. Normally through his association with various beer distributors he was able to get a lot of things for free that we gave away or raffled off. He informs me that due to economic conditions, and whatever, the beer distributors have not come through and that well is dry. Sooooo, he asked me to put in the plea in this newsletter for donations to the auction. Anything is acceptable. Our head

auctioneer, **Ralphie Read**, can sell sand to the Arabs. If you are coming to the reunion bring something with you to auction off and if you would like to make a donation to the auction let the **Phantom** know so we can get some idea how many things we are going to have donated and how much we are going to buy. His phone and email are on this newsletter header.

## A HUMBLING HONOR

In October **LTC Mike Gough, CO of VMA-311**, invited **Les, George**, and **me** and our wives to be the guests of honor and guest speaker at the VMA-311 Marine Corps Ball in Yuma on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. Les and George were unable to attend but Sue and I were able to accept. As I told **Col. Gough**, someone once said that there is no greater honor than to lead Marines in combat. Being able to address Marines and represent our Alumni Association has to rank a close second. It was a humbling experience from the time we arrived until we left. **Col Gough, SGTMAJ Shaw, GYSGT Lund** and all the TOMCATS of 311 gave us the opportunity to meet many of the Marines in the squadron, tour the facility and be a part of the Marine Corps celebration. After we toured the facility GY Lund took us to the ballroom to give us an idea of what was going to transpire that night and what my part would be. Just to see the ballroom with no people in it was nothing short of awe. Doing a quick count of tables I estimated that between three and four hundred Marines, wives and honored guests. When we went back to the hotel room I told Sue that I didn't know if I could get through it without stepping on my tongue. When we got to the main event it was even more awesome. Every Marine in dress blues, women in formals, honor guards and colors teams. **LTC Gough** asked me if I was nervous and I said "Heck no. In three hours I drank four pots of coffee and smoked two packs of Marlboros. Not nervous at all." It was pageantry at its finest and something Sue and I will never forget from the procession into the hall, the ceremonial cake cutting, to the honor of being able address my peers. To this day I can't put the whole thing into justifiable words.

My speech had two points and I aimed it mostly the young Marines. One, the importance of keeping in touch with your friends through the years and what reunion groups represented and two, to be proud of being a Marine and proud of your job no matter what it is and to write it down for your future generations. All that history no matter how irrelevant it may seem to you is going to be important to someone in your future.

**LTC Gough and SGTMAJ Shaw** presented us with a beautiful plaque. We accept this honor for all the TOMCATS from 1942 to the present who have served with honor both in peace and in war. It's humbling to have your name on a plaque but we were just sitting on the wagon seat when the wheel went round. **Sue and I** offer our profound thanks to the Marines of VMA-311 and to all the Alumni.

NOTE: All of you who had sent pictures and such out to Yuma some years ago for the squadron history room will be glad to know that those things are in two gigantic scrape books that rest on pedestals outside the Commander's office. They were relocating to another building when we were there and they had plans to build in a library of squadron history. Anything that you wish to contribute will be given its honored place among the archives. I had taken a copy of **Richard Arnold's** memoirs with me to show as an example of writing down your service time. The XO asked me to copy it and I said that **Jeanette Arnold** would probably donate one if she still had any left. When I got home I called her and she was more than happy to send them one. Thanks Jeanette.

## NEW ALUMNI

**FLEAGLE, BENJAMIN**

3413 White Spruce Drive, North Pole, Alaska 99705  
907-488-5976, [bdfleagle@alaska.edu](mailto:bdfleagle@alaska.edu)  
1985-88, Iwakuni, El Toro, A4 Hydraulics man

**WALSH , CARMELO**

[carmelo.walsh@gmail.com](mailto:carmelo.walsh@gmail.com)

## EMAIL CHANGES

**WILLIAMS, JOEL**  
**DOBSCH, TOMMY**  
**FINNEGAN, BILL**  
**HARMON, DON**  
**APPL, FRED**

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**HARNETZ, MIKE**

24 Quiet Falls Ct., St. Charles, MO 63304 PH: 636-235-6510

**SCOTT, WALT**

PO Box 932, Alliance, NE 69301-0932

**SOUCY, PAUL**

135 Fairfield Ct., Wheeling, IL 60090-6936

## TAPS

**PARCHAN, JACK**

San Jose, CA, 1964-66, Chu Lai, Pilot

**PASHBY, LOU**

Farmington, MI, 1964-66, 68-70, Chu Lai, Ordnance. Cancer

**MacCAFERY, JACK**

VMA-311 XO, 1967-68, Chu Lai. Passed 2008

(Note: Names will be read at the Memorial service in September 2010.jg)

## LOST IN THE MAIL

TERRY TIERNAN

LKA Spring Hill, FL

## DONATIONS TO THE MAILING FUND

**John Mendes**, New York, NY: **Hugh Reynolds Jr.**, New Jersey: **Billy Dale**, Gales Ferry, CT: and **Richard Arehart**, Latham, OH. Thanks Marines!!

## LET'S HEAR FROM THE TROOPS

**BEN FLEAGLE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA:** (Note: Ben sent me his 311 info and I noticed he was from the North Pole! So I had to ask!-jg) "North Pole is a small town of about 1700 or so and is located about 10 miles SE of Fairbanks. I'm not sure who named the town but it does have a striped pole in the city park which was drooped over the pole and fetched back several years later. The town has an establishment called the "Santa Claus House" and is the official purveyor of "Letters from Santa". I live outside town a mile or two and have more or less gotten used to the motif and really don't notice it that much. What I do notice is a constant throng of folks here to see the very realistic Santa that sits there for all but about two weeks a year with kids on his knee. People come from all over the world. Especially our old friends from Japan. I recognize a few names from the small list you sent me. McCullough and I worked together. I think we used to call him "Chainsaw" or something. **Bill Blackburn**, that would probably be Capt. Blackburn (Good Pilot) and **Greg Sloan**. I think he would be my CO if it is the same Sloan. **Chris Harmon** is a familiar name. So many guys, so many years ago. I am an entirely different man now. How 311 shaped my view of things!!"

(Ben sent a picture of a patch he had made up in Iwakuni during 1986 WESTPAC. It's one that I have never seen and I'll have to run it in the newsletter if I have space. Fred may have put it on the web site.jg)

**JOHN BLAKENEY:** "I stumbled onto your web site and was delighted to find a little info on my father who served with VMF-311 in WWII. One of your members, **Wayne Knight**, even posted a photo that had my dad, Capt. John W. Blakeney in it on Roi-Namur- what a find after all these years!! But, mistakenly there was an asterisk next to his name that said he rotated back to the states after Roi-Namur and never went to Okinawa. I have to point out that Mr. Knight is incorrect- my dad did serve in Okinawa and I have paperwork and his own flight log (as well as some stories over the years) to attest to this. Further on in the May 2009 newsletter it credits him with 2 dive bombers on the Okinawa campaign. My dad passed away in 1987 and took great pride in service to his country so I thought at least I could do is to honor his memory is to make sure people knew he served on Okinawa. My father also spoke on many occasions of his wingman "**Todd**". I never knew if this was his first name or last name until I seen that photo that Mr. Knight posted and listed a "Todd" in the photo. I would very much like to locate Mr. Todd and tell him how much my father held him in regard. If you have any info on him and could share it with me I would be greatly appreciative." (Maybe you Roi-Namur ground crews and pilots could help out John. I checked back to my original roster from 1996 and I couldn't

come up with a “Todd” from WWII. John’s email is [jblakeney@atlanticplywood.com](mailto:jblakeney@atlanticplywood.com) but I have no phone number or address. If you guys have any info I’ll pass it along. Thanks.-jg)

**FRED TOWNSLEY’s EMAIL from GREG SLOAN, YORBA LINDA, CA:** (Greg was commenting on the TOMCAT FACT in last newsletter when 311 moved from Chu Lai to Da Nang) **TOWNSLEY:** “I know it was a fact because I was there as NCOIC of the GSE. Took a while to get my “secret clearance” recognized so I could read the secret orders for the move! Truth is that I already knew more about the move than the orders provided. I made the trip to Da Nang to coordinate the move with MAG-11 GSE. We launched our entire schedule from Chu Lai, recovered them in Da Nang and then finished the schedule from Da Nang. It was a ball buster!! **SLOAN:** “I’ve procrastinated long enough. Reading the Sept newsletter I saw a bit about the move to Da Nang and thought I could add a little color. I can assure you that **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Reed** added some (with the blue streak he was cussin’ at the Da Nang end of this move!) My comments follow: “We flew all our fragged sorties and didn’t miss a one. I was the embark officer for that deal. I was at Chu Lai and **Jack Reed** was in Da Nang unloading the equipment. The whole thing was accomplished by ground transportation. Funny thing, we had a loading ramp in Chu Lai so we could drive the rolling stock on from the side but Jack had no unloading ramp in Da Nang and overcame some, shall we say, challenging unloading problems using a fork lift on either side of the flatbed trucks and then driving the truck out from under the forklifts suspending the item.”

**JOHN PERKINS, BELAN, NM:** “Thanks for keeping me on the mailing list. Even though I was with 224 and not with 311 I enjoy hearing about our time with MAG-31. Our group from VMF-224 has dwindled down to about six guys. Unlike you of 311, we had almost 100% WWII attendees. We still try to meet every year at the Navy Lodge in Pensacola. I have not been able to attend for about four years.

Your statement about finding information about the 1942-46 guys caught my attention. I had a really good buddy in 311. His name was **Charles Kelley** or Kelly. He was enlisted and I can’t remember if he was ordnance or a plane captain. Pretty sure he was a plane captain.

While we were at Miramar waiting to be shipped out, we dated a couple of girls from that area. We would go down and dance to the music of Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys at the Mission Beach Ballroom. **Kelly** and I went to AMM School at Norman, OK and then to pre-gunnery school at Purcell, OK. While we were in mech school the Navy instructors delighted in telling us that the US government was spending \$10,000 on each of us to give us our education. Then they would add “In the case of you Marines, will be a total waste, because you all seem so damn dumb!” When I got out Roi-Namur and we were being assigned to our various placements, this came back to me. The people choosing the crews had us all lined up and started to make assignments. “How many mechs?” I raised my hand. Not chosen. “Who can field strip a 50 caliber?” Hand up, Not chosen. “Who can field strip a 20 Caliber?” Hand up. Not chosen. The replacement pool was really getting small and I was still in it! Finally when there was about 5 or 6 of us left the guy said “The rest of you guys are in the bomb section.” My mind raced “Bomb section?” I’m a mechanic, I am a gunner. I do not know anything about bombs. Then the navy instructors words came back “In which case is a total loss!” However, I did learn about bombs and was lead man for 224 at Okinawa.

Like your correspondence, **Ron Birchler** and **Bob Leavengood** I joined VMF-224 at Roi-Namur and made the April 1945 landing in Okinawa. I was also at Yontan and

Chimu. Would it be possible to send me the address of **Rendol Whidden** from Winterhaven? God bless and Semper Fi! (I think I sent that to you John but if I didn't give me a call-jg)

**CARMELO WALSH, YUMA, AZ:** "I served with VMA-311 as an ordnance guy from 92/93 to 96 during the time of the AV-8B. I was honorably discharged with the rank of Corporal. While performing my duties, the computer debuted and made its way into the shop in 93/94. I was a know it all at the time (as most Marines are) but didn't understand what it meant to be humble. I boasted a lot about knowing how to do a lot which got me into trouble and nobody took me seriously. Eventually, after doing the same thing for a couple years, I did know a heck of a lot about ordnance. It bored me, so I took on helping to get from paper forms to computer forms. I played with a computer as a hobby then.

Anyway, after I left the corps, I decided to chase being a computer person. Since there aren't many opportunities in the civilian world for being an "ordie" I've been working on computer stuff since. Hardware/software/networking/management and security. I feel like I was one of the early adopters of the internet in the home and have been online looking for friends that stayed in the Corps or moved on and away. I've found numerous web sites but couldn't find anyone that I knew. Someone in Yuma created a bulletin board, I believe the owner was a wife of a 311 Marine (May have been **Christina Hawkins's** web site-jg) and found a few people there but the site one day was over run with bots (fake people) pushing sex sites. MYSPACE was a big hit, couldn't find anybody there, the FACEBOOK, but I still couldn't find anybody. I did so many searches for my friends and only found Marine groups. So, in hopes of finding them, I created a group called Marines: VMA-311. It's not a huge hit, because there are only about 190 people in the group, but it's reunited and it's online, many from my time and generation.

Since I have a larger audience, I completely offer my group and services to you and your group and web site. I think we can bridge the generation gap and bring some history and culture to all TOMCATS.

I have a lot of sentiment hidden behind my eyes and it makes me truly happy finding people that I served with, partied with and went through hard and easy times with. I feel that way also when people have been looking for someone and I know where they are and can get them together.

My reunion efforts right now are not bountiful, as I can only gather a small handful of people willing to meet on short notice. I am thinking of a plan that will hopefully bring more people. You were right when you say that this may

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be life long. I hope it will be. I've actually been thinking about some secondary administrators should anything happen to me because I do want there to be a memory of TOMCATS.

With that being said, how can I help you and your group out? I can offer free web hosting with unlimited space, web sites, email and what I can't think of, ask. I may be able to pull it off."

(NOTE: I emailed Carmelo at [carmelo.walsh@gmail.com](mailto:carmelo.walsh@gmail.com) when someone told me about his group on Facebook. I was glad that he was getting a group together and tried to offer some assistance in his endeavors. When **George Shriener** handed this group off to us I went to the people who knew how to set up reunion "The Reunion Network" and Sue and I attended one of their seminars. They have them all over the country every year and they train you how to be a



planner and organizer. The dos and don'ts of reunions. They publish a book every four months called "Reunion Friendly News" for free. Get on their mailing list at [www.reunionfriendly.com](http://www.reunionfriendly.com) it's a great wealth of information. Create a roster and keep it updated. Create a newsletter both email and hardcopy. Contact with your group is very important for them and for you. Above all don't try to do it all yourself. Find Marines who you know and trust to help you. You can't do it yourself. It's too big.

Let's face it. We are not going to be doing this forever. Someone down the line is going to have to take over the reins and keep the group going. It's great to see someone like Carmelo step up and try to get something going and maybe years down the line we can bring the whole thing together.-jg)

**CORA SCHULTS, YONKERS, NY:** "The pictures I am sending are copies of pictures that my husband, Bill, had from his tour with the Marines during WWII. I don't know the names of the Marines in the Roi-Namur picture but maybe some of the others from that time will be able to recognize them. The other photo is from Memphis in September 1944. I do enjoy reading your newsletter. Bill was always very proud of being in VMF-311 "Hell's Belles" (Thanks Cora for the photos. I'll put them in the 42-49 history books. The photo on Roi was a common photo. They must have got each shop or group to get in front of an F4 and took a picture. I'll have to match it up with the others to find out what group it was and maybe pin some names on it. The other photo from Memphis has the names on the back but I don't recognize any of them. Will add both to archives. Thanks again. -jg)

**JON MENDES, NEW YORK, NY:** "Keep up the good work in keeping the VMF-311 story alive. I was first aware of the VMF-311 in Sept. 1943 when they landed on Wallis Island led by Dartmouth 1939 Maj. Jim Feeley of football fame. I was a Dartmouth 1942 and brand new 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. with VMSB-151. Several months later both squadrons flew 2500 miles up the line- they to Roi-Namur at Kwajalein Atoll and we to Engebi at Eniwetok Atoll.

Enclosed are some photos of some of my experiences when I was the OPS officer in VMF-311 during the last 6 months of the Korean War. Please note the VMF-311 patch on my flight jacket which is on display at the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico. In my seventy missions I seldom took battle damage. Ted Williams occasionally took hits and John Glenn frequently because after his drop he would circle the target to see where he hit.

I had the dubious privilege of leading the last F9F mission in the Korean War- a division CAS mission in support of a Korean Marine Battalion at the MLR. A retired Korean Marine general whom I met in Seoul ten years later claimed he had been the CO of the battalion we supported. Small world!" (Thanks Jon. Anyone who travels to the Museum in Quantico make sure you note that the flight jacket with the 311 patch on it was donated by Jon. Thanks for the photos.-jg)

## **MCAA NAMES VMA-311 "TOMCATS" SQUADRON OF THE YEAR 2009**

(Reprinted from Leatherneck Magazine) "Marine Attack Squadron 311, the "TOMCATS", was named the attack squadron of the year by the Marine Corps Aviation Association, July 28<sup>th</sup> 2009. The squadron was recognized for its mission readiness and overall performance



between May 2008 and April 2009. “They are, no doubt, the best squadron this year,” said LTC Tim Hogan, MCAA Awards coordinator. This is the fourth year VMA-311 has earned the MCAA’s Lawson H. M. Sanderson Award for the Corps’ top harrier squadron. “The squadron was recently in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and a detachment was deployed on the 15<sup>th</sup> marine Expeditionary Unit,” said Major James Vallario, VMA-311 OPS officer. “I think that it was the challenges of breaking up the squadron into two

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parts and still accomplishing the mission that made the squadron stand out. In the end both the maintenance Marines and the pilots came together and executed the mission flawlessly,” said Vallerio. “If we don’t have working jets, we can’t train; we can’t be ready for deployment. I think that this award is, in big part, thanks to those Marines.”

According to the award citation, the squadron “executed nearly 4,500 flight hours without experiencing a single flight related mishap.” During its deployment in Iraq, the squadron never missed an assigned target or experienced weapons system malfunctions in combat missions.

In addition to receiving a trophy at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual MCAA Symposium and Awards Dinner in Reno, NV, this month, a plaque also will be sent to the Flying Leatherneck Museum in San Diego.

(Note: From all of the alumni “WELL DONE, TOMCATS”-jg)

**BILL FINNEGAN, ANCHORAGE, AK:** “I was transferred from VMA-211 in Iwakuni to VMA-311 in Chu Lai, Vietnam. We left Japan on the night of November 10<sup>th</sup> (Marine Corps Birthday) 1965 and arrived on November 11<sup>th</sup> (Veterans Day). VMA-311 rotated back to Iwakuni for December and January, if I remember correctly, and then went back into country. I was a pilot in the squadron, with collateral duty in maintenance. I flew 67 combat missions and was promoted to Captain while with 311.

I am sending pictures of four pilots who were traded from VMA-211 to VMA-311, in a big rotation of pilots among all the squadrons in the Far East at that time. Frank Onstott told me the other day he was on your roster. I don’t know if you have **Chuck Sorenson** and **Ed Weihenmayer**. (Note: I don’t-jg). I left the squadron when I rotated home in June 1966. Following the tour with 311 I went to TACP School in Coronado, CA and became Assistant Air Officer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division, Camp LeJeune, NC. I left active duty in 1967. (Note: Thanks for the pics Bill. When I printed them out I only got Chuck and Frank in the military one but the 211 reunion came out good.-jg)

**HUGH REYNOLDS, JR:** “My father had just finished your latest newsletter and was sorry to hear of **Ray Barrett’s** passing. Apparently Ray and my father flew together on both Roi-Namur and Okinawa. Dad even recalled a few good stories of Ray and their adventures. In your newsletter you mentioned receiving some pictures from Ray’s widow. If these were digital would it be possible to forward them? I would appreciate any Corsair from 311. Dad is well and enjoys your updates very much. Thanks for all your work.” (I believe I sent those Hugh but if I didn’t let me know. Thanks again to **Elizabeth Barrett** for providing the photos.-jg)

## THIS AND THAT AND OTHER THINGS

I received a packet from **Joel Williams**, Lykens, PA that he had copied. Included were the 311 lineage, honors and commanding officers among other things. The really neat things in here was a map of the “New Pacific” that encased all the islands from the Northern Marianas in the east to French Polynesia in the west and another map that details Kwajalein Atoll with an inset of Kwajalein Island. This shows Roi Namur on the northeast and Kwajalein being on the south tip of the atoll. Good map. Thanks Joel!

When Sue and I went out to Yuma and took part in the Marine Corps Birthday celebration the commander was kind of surprised when I said that this was the second time that I had been to a Marine Corps Ball. My first was in Memphis while attending ADJ-A school in 1966. There is only one Marine Corps ball I know of around here and the Marine Corps League in Youngstown puts it on about 30 miles from here so I never had much of an opportunity to go to those. They traditionally read “Order 47” which I don’t ever remember hearing or even seeing before. It is the order that established November 10<sup>th</sup> as the official Marine Corps Birthday. I have a copy of that order that was signed by **General John A. Lejeune** on November 1<sup>st</sup> 1921 and issued to all commands. If anyone wants a copy I’ll be glad to send you one.

Some of the things to look forward to in Chattanooga. The Chickamauga Battlefield and Museum, Ruby Falls, Rock City, Lookout Mountain, the Southern Belle lunch or dinner cruise, Singing waiters at the Choo Choo, authentic (?) English Tea House, downtown Mystery Dinner Theater, aquarium just to name a few.

**TOMCAT FACT:** *5 December 1952: VMF-311 dropped a record of 47.9 tons of explosives on enemy positions and by the end of December exceeded 15,000 sorties and accumulated nearly 30,000 combat flight hours in Korea.*

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This is copy of the patch that was sent by Ben Fleagle. I know that some of you collect 311 patches and as I said here is one that I hadn't seen yet.

## IT'S A WRAP

Well, the Christmas season is again upon us and we have made it another year. On behalf of Les and Bonita, George and Jackie, Old Sarge Fred and Ethel, Ralphie and Anita and the "Gunny" and I extend our wishes for a safe and healthy new year. We hope that the future will hold prosperity and love for all of you. We thank you for making our past years those that we will remember and cherish. When you hit your knees at night remember all of the men and women who serve us in far lands away from their families, that they remain safe, true to our country and remain strong in their resolve. God bless you and Semper Fidelis!

For the Reunion Association  
Jim Galchick

## ALMOST FORGOT—THE OLD INFO LIST

Believe it or not this is working. Little by little I'm filling in the gaps on the roster so to continue, if you are on this list contact me so I can complete your 311 data. If anyone knows these Marines I'll go that way also: Mike Berger, Chet Bigalow, Jim Booth, Warren Bragg, Don Checksfield, Clinton Collins, C. Lou Cornish, Philip Corral, Ried Dahart, Billy Dale, Rod Daley, Jack Dalton, Ernest Gilbert, Milt Griffin, Richard Gustafson, Bill Hall, Chuck Harris, Joe Henry, Jack Hoxie, Barry Ickes, Chuck Ingle, Dewey Jackson, Wade Kelly, George King, Ed Kroyer, Tom Lackovic, Robt. Lewis, Carl Loysen, Dan Luty, Jack Mattos, Speed McLean, Clint Mendanhall, Diane Murdock, Jim Navies, John Outhout, James Panknin, Bernard Quinn, Alvin Ransom, Col. Rief, Mat Reilly, Bill Sammut, Milard Savage, Rich Serfilippi, Conrad Skow, Bill Smorey, John Smyth, Paul Soucy, Bob Sprunck, Al Tedeschi, Tom Turner, Terry Tiernan, Ken urban, Jack Vancil, Norm Von Allmen, Bob Wheaton and Howard Worman.

**MARINE AIR: ON TIME ON TARGET!!**