

2007 CHA Reunion and Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Evening Parade, 5-7 July 2007, Washington, D.C.

In a two-day span, a total of about seventy CHA members and guests got together for our biannual CHA reunion and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Evening Parade, held on 5 July fifty years ago - 1957! The reunion and anniversary events were held in the Washington, D.C. area at: (of course!) Center House at the Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.; the USMC Museum in Quantico; and the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. They consisted of: a couple of receptions; a tour of the USMC Museum; a membership meeting; a parade; many hours of partying and catching-up in the hotel's hospitality suite; and a farewell breakfast on our last day. We came to this reunion with the indefatigable spirit of former Barracks Officers who were there to have a great time with those who share fond memories of their tours at the Barracks, no matter the "era"! We succeeded, of course -- never letting 'em see us sweat, in typical Barracks style and panache! (Well, maybe they saw a drop or two on that bus ride down to Quantico!)

We were incredibly privileged to have present with us for the reunion several of the men, and their wives, who were either very critical to the process of breathing life into that first evening parade or who were actually there that night performing one or more of the wide variety of duties required to pull off a successful parade. They are:

- The S-3, Col Larry Marousek and his wife, Jeanne
- The MCI Supply Officer, Col Bill McGrath and his wife, Nancy, and guests LtCol Dave Higley, USMC(Ret) and his wife, Joan
- The Barracks Property Control Officer, Mr. Tom Regan and his wife, Judith
- One of the USMCR MCI Course Writers, Dr. Frank Mainzer (his wife Joan was there with us in spirit all the way from Erie, Pennsylvania!)
- Another USMCR MCI Course Writer, Mr. Jack Dougherty and his wife Jo Anne

As a point of considerable interest to all of us who have served at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., Steve Trimble, another 1957-era CHA member who marched as the Platoon Commander of 1st Platoon, MCI Company in that first Evening Parade (but unfortunately couldn't be with us during the reunion) has created the following items:

- A presentation which focuses on the first Evening Parade and life at the Barracks in the mid-1950's. To view this program, turn up your sound and [click here](#). (If you would like to save this presentation on your own computer, right-click on the "click here" line, and on the drop-down menu select "save target as .. ." and then designate the folder in which you would like to save it.)
- A three-part, in-depth history of the Evening Parade -- [click here](#).

The rest of this august group who gathered during these two days of reunion/anniversary activities was composed of "the follow-on crew", and their guests, proud to carry on the high standards set for them by the 1957-era Officers:

- Col Chuck Akstin, USMC(Ret); 1972, Property Control Officer, and wife Pat
- Maj Bob Burge, USMC(Ret); 1983, PltCdr/XO/CO CoB; MCI AWSNRP
- Mr. James Cooney, 1966; Dir MCI Test Section; S-3A; WHSA, and wife Patricia
- Mr. Doug Davidson, 1966; XO/CO H&S Co; MCI; WHSA, and wife Charlsie

- Mr. Kevin Flynn; 1994, CO CoB, and wife Joelle
- Col Jim Flynn, USMC(Ret); 1991, CO MarBks, and wife Josie
- LtCol Pat Fontaine, USMC(Ret); 1992, OpsO/XO MCI, CO H&SCo; Parade Cdr, and wife Nancy
- LtCol Glenn Gearhard, USMC(Ret); 1985 and 2000, PltCdr A1/XO CoA, S-3A, then DepDir MCI, and wife Karin
- Maj Donna Gerlaugh, USMC(Ret); 1994, Chief MCI StudOps/MIS
- MajGen Frank Hamilton, Jr, USMC(Ret); 1976, MarBks S-4, and wife Sandy
- Mr. Ron Holman; 1974, S-3A, XO H&SCo
- Maj John Hoogerwerff, USMC(Ret); 1979, OIC MCI Writer Unit #1, and wife Florence
- Dr. Gene "Hud" Huddleston; 1966, MCI Inf Writer Unit #2, MCI PltCdr, and wife Victoria
- LtCol Nancy Hurless, USMC(Ret); 1994, MCI Registrar, Director MWR, CO H&SCo, Parade Staff FlankO, and husband Pat
- LtCol Mike Kessler, USMC(Ret); 1995, XO MarBks, and wife Kim
- Maj Fred Lash, USMC(Ret); 1975, CO SctyCo, CO H&S Co
- Col Steve Lindblom, USMC(Ret); 1974, CO H&SCo, Head MCI Writer Unit, and wife Ann
- Col Mike McGowan, USMC(Ret); 1964, PltCdr GdCo, SpecCerePltCdr, AsstOps&TrngO, Parade Adj, WHSA, and wife Rita
- Maj Neal Noem, USMC(Ret); 2000, MarBks S-6/InfoSysO, and friend Julie Stanich
- Col Dan O'Brien, USMC(Ret); 2002, CO MarBks, and wife Charlene
- Maj Mike Owen, USMC(Ret); 1984, PltCdr B Co; XO HQSvc Co
- Maj Roger Patton, USMC(Ret); 1975, S-4A, and wife Elaine
- MajGen "Duff" Rice, USMC(Ret); 1975, CO MarBks
- LtCol Gil Robinson, USMC(Ret); 1978, CO H&SCo, XO MCICo
- Maj Bob Rudolf, USMC(Ret); 1976, MCI StudSvcsO (author of MCI's first and very long-lived automated information system!), and wife Donna
- Maj Carter Valentine, USMC(Ret); 1967, Registrar MCI; Parade Cdr, and wife Carvel
- Col Jim Van Ripper, USMC(Ret); 1970, XO/CO GuardCo, CO H&SCo, S-3B, and wife Connie

Additionally, as a delightful surprise addition to our group, the son of the Barracks S-4 who played a crucial role in implementing the first Evening Parade, Maj Bud Schmid, was able to join us with his family at our farewell breakfast on the morning of 7 July at the Hilton.

We did manage to have quite a productive membership meeting wedged in between all the fun times and friendship renewals -- to read the minutes of the membership meeting, please click [here](#).

And of course, throughout the entire time, there were countless priceless "Kodak Moments", some of which are captured in this [slideshow](#). If you have any photos that you would like included on our website, please don't hesitate to forward them to me at: chamembers@centerhouse.org.

Our next reunion will be held in 2009, two years from now. Now, though, as we bask in the warm afterglow of the company of old and new friends, 2009 seems a mite too far away...

Donna Gerlaugh
Center House Association, VP Membership
August 2007