



What Interesting Lives!

IN APRIL, 90 MARINES GATHERED TO REMINISCE and pay tribute to fallen comrades who had served together in days past. It was a gathering of officers who had been part of the 4th Marine Regiment in the 1st Marine Brigade in Kaneohe, Hawaii, in the early 1960s. Of the officers who served together in the 4th Marines, 33 percent had remained on active duty for full military careers. They included six general officers, five of whom had served in 1st Battalion and came to the reunion: LtGen Marty Brandt-

ner, who was awarded two Navy Crosses for heroism in Vietnam, retiring after serving as Colin Powell's J-3 Operations for Operation Desert Storm; LtGen Bob Johnston, who was Commanding General of I Marine Expeditionary Force in Somalia, as well as the Operations Deputy for General Schwarzkopf in the Gulf War; MajGen Dennis Murphy, who commanded the 2nd Marine Division and, when it was time for him to

give up command, passed the flag to another 1st Bn veteran, MajGen OK Steele; and MajGen Mike Myatt, who commanded the 1st Marine Division in the Gulf War. Sixteen had achieved the rank of Colonel, including Brian Fagan and Don Christy, who both had very successful careers in the Corps.

Of the 67 percent who left active service after their tour with the 4th Marines, all have led extremely successful civilian careers. Not the least is Ed Roski, who was our host at his Silverton Casino and Lodge, and who, as a Lieutenant in 1st Battalion, fought in Operation Starlight in August 1965 when he was decorated for heroism and wounded twice. Ed owns Majestic Realty, a very well known Southern California real estate company. He also is part owner of the Los Angeles Lakers, the Staples Center

and the LA hockey team. One of his partners is Kent Valley, who was a platoon commander in 1st Battalion as well. Jack Downing became Deputy Director of the CIA. John Martin was a well respected Lieutenant of Marines before he left active service and eventually became a Jesuit priest. Pete Paffrath was a top-ranked Marine before he left active duty to join Lynn Terry in the Bay Area. Pete was an executive with IBM before taking retirement and Lynn was a hi-tech sales executive with Deltek. Kevin Leary was a newspaper reporter and then on the Editorial Board for the San Francisco Chronicle. Jack Atwood was an initial stake holder of DHL. A number of the officers became very successful attorneys after they left the Corps.

The common thread of being a Marine first was noticeable in every conversation among the reunion attendees. They took time to honor the leadership they had at the time they were junior officers in the Brigade, including Col A.I. Thomas, who commanded the 1st Battalion in the early '60s. Col Thomas passed away earlier this year (see *Crossroads* Spring 2006, page 8).

Another officer honored was LtCol Bud Fredericks, who took command of 1st Battalion from Col Thomas. Bud and his bride of 59 years, Dot, were at the reunion. Bud Fredericks took the battalion to Vietnam in the spring of 1965. He had been a 1st Lt in the 5th Marines, the ground element of the now famous 1st Marine Brigade—the “Fire Brigade”—that was sent to reinforce the Pusan Perimeter in August 1950 to save the United Nations Command from being driven into the sea after the North Koreans attacked into South Korea. In the Pusan Perimeter campaign, he was in LtCol Don Taplett's 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. He was wounded during that phase. He fought as a rifle platoon commander in How Company of 3/5 at the landing at Inchon, up the Inchon-Seoul Corridor, and the fighting to liberate Seoul City. After the 1st Marine Division retook Seoul, he embarked with 3/5 on amphibious shipping at Inchon, and landed at Wonson Harbor in North Korea in October 1950.



Above: Father John Martin with Bud and Dot Fredericks; Below: Ed Roski, center, hosted the reunion at his Silverton Casino and Resort

