



DESERT MUSTANGS OF ARIZONA

Fall 2022

President's Notes – Mark Blaydes

Semper Fi Marines

Fall meeting in Yuma

On November 9th, the Desert Mustangs met on the Parade Deck at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. The Station was celebrating the 247th Birthday of our Corps with a uniform pageant and cake cutting ceremony. For those that attended, seeing the young Marines in those vintage uniforms, the military pageantry, the music, just the sights and sounds of years past was enough to make all stand a little taller. Afterwards the Chapter moved to the Pizza Hut in the Yuma Foothills and conducted our Fall meeting. We had good attendance from the Yuma area. Of course, after the meeting we had our own traditional cake cutting. The oldest Marine present was Don Mosley who is going on 90 years old. The youngest was Mark Blaydes at a spright 67.



Starting left and going clockwise: George Meegan, Jo Meegan, Don Mosley, Evelyn Mosley, Mark Blaydes, Cindey Blaydes, Evelyn Culver, John Culver, Carol Hougard, Frank Cornelius, Nancy Cornelius, Theresa Rhodes and John Rhodes.



PASSING THE TRADITION

Vice-President George Meegan cut the cake and presented to the oldest Marine, Don Mosley, and the youngest Marine, Mark Blaydes.

Vice-President's Notes – George Meegan

Support of the Phoenix Vet Home continues. Bingo with snacks and drinks is still one of our programs. We have not been able to support in person due to health restrictions around Covid, but we have been supporting financially. The BBQ was also postponed due to some of the same issues. Our hope is to get back to supporting them fully soon. That takes your support. Be ready to help out in person when health issues are no longer a concern for the residents. We are also looking to start a new donation drive for the Yuma Veteran's Home. Look for more information on that in the near future. I will start working the Marine Corps JROTC units soon so please help by donating to our scholarship fund. If you have any questions, let me know.

The **NATIONAL MUSTER** will be held in San Diego in October of 2023. Start looking for details in the *Mestengo* and online at the National website.



MCAS Yuma Uniform Pageant

Desert Mustang Bio

Major John Rhodes

I joined the Marine Corps Reserve Unit in Tucson when I was a senior in high school. I did it so I wouldn't have to join the Navy ROTC which was required at the UofA. I wanted to play football but when I registered, they sent me to the bookstore, and I got all the textbooks I needed and told them I only wanted to play football, but they told me it didn't work that way, so I went on active duty in November of 54.

After boot camp I went to radio school (Morse Code) and had a 2533 MOS. December 1958 I made SSgt (E-5), That was the selection board for SSgt E-5. We all were immediately As Sgt's or ASS Sgt's. That is when they changed the rank structure and added L/Cpl. I was selected for the 3rd WO Class in 1962 and designated a Marine Gunner the next year. They did not select any WO's in the communication field so I was selected as an 0130 (Administrative Officer). Two tours in Viet Nam 66-67 I was adjutant of 1st MP Bn for 6 months and 2d Bn 26th Marines for 6 months. Second tour 69-70, Adjutant 3rd AMTRAC Bn till they left country after 5 months and was Adjutant of the 7th Regiment for the second half of my tour.

Retire as a Major on 1 November 1974 and came back to my home in Tucson.

Married to my wife Theresa since 1960 and we had four children, 13 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

After I retired, I went back to the UofA and graduated in 1977 and my partner and I opened our own real Estate Appraisal Service.

That about covers it,

John



John and Theresa Rhodes

MARINE BIOGRAPHIES

George Meegan has been trying to collect short biographies of our members. As you saw above, we want to highlight members so we can get to know each other a little better. How else would I know that George went to Boot Camp BEFORE I was born!!! So, write up a little Bio and send to George...you may be surprised what you find out when you read about other members' experiences in the Corps.



WE NEED A FEW GOOD MUSTANGS!

After Jim's passing, I have been working the finance side and trying to get it reset. Desert Mustangs need someone to step up and take over the finances of the Chapter. Duties include receiving dues and donations and then covering our expenses as they occur. It is a small account but as an officer, I cannot hold two billets. Contact me if you are willing to take charge of our Wells Fargo account.

Are you talented on the computer? Do you like puzzles? Well, we could use someone who can put together this newsletter. George and I provide most of the content and we really need someone who can put it all together. Let me know if you are willing and able to help out in this important endeavor.

At the National level, a special election was held. As everyone knows, a letter was recently sent out to energize and motivate members to participate in the leadership of our Association. There was an awesome response. Many old members and new members stepped up to the call. A nomination committee was formed, and this committee read through the qualifications and resumes and then interviewed all the candidates. The committee then put forth a slate which was unanimously approved on 19 November's special meeting. The following are the results for the following billets:

PRESIDENT – Vincent Martinez

VICE-PRESIDENT – Brian Kalk

SECRETARY – Michael Graham

DIRECTOR – Robert Dulin

DIRECTOR – Shawn Hughes



CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE MUSTANGS NOW IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS!

Winter Muster has been set!!

**Desert Mustangs will muster in Tucson on 11 February 2023.
Our next muster will be at the Barnfire Restaurant located at
8310 N. Thornydale Rd., Tucson, AZ. 85741**

**More details as we get closer but put it on your calendars!
Thanks to John Rhodes and Mark Ballinger for coordinating this event.**

**January is our annual Dues month for the Chapter. Your \$20 goes to
funding the Veteran's Home BBQ, Vets Bingo and the MCJROTC
Leadership Plaques. Donations are also accepted to keep these programs
going. You can sponsor one of our high schools. Until a Treasurer is
found, send your dues and/or donation to**

**Mark Blaydes
1802 N. Desert Willow St.
Casa Grande, AZ. 85122**

**Please indicate on the check where the funds should be applied (dues,
leadership plaques, Veterans Home events, etc.)**

If you have questions about dues or donations, contact George or Mark.

**NATIONAL DUES ARE ALSO UP FOR RENEWAL FOR MANY OF US.
IF YOUR NATIONAL DUES HAVE EXPIRED, GET CURRENT!! IT IS EASY.**

**GO TO
MarineCorpsMustang.org
WEBSITE AND PAY ONLINE.**

**\$40 FOR NEW MEMBERS
\$35 FOR ANNUAL RENEWAL
\$90 FOR A THREE-YEAR RENEWAL.**



We just celebrated 247 years in our Corps. As we recognize our Birthday, I had to post this photo. That is me in the top left, my daughter at top right, youngest son at bottom left and son-in-law at bottom right. I couldn't help but notice the differences both in background and covers. Can you spot the Hollywood Marine??



Thanks to George and Cindey for their help in putting this Newsletter together. I think I have less hair now than when I started, but hopefully it gives you some information. As always, if you have questions and, more importantly, if you want to get more involved....talk to me. I want to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas! Be safe during the holidays.

Mark