“THE MARINES ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN”

Captain William Jones - 1799

The Adams Family: Robert, John, Tim and Dan receive MCL Life Membership certificates

The Marines found a few good men, a father, and his sons! Sergeant Robert Adams served during the Korean War and his three sons, John, Tim, and Dan, picked up his mantle and also served honorably in the United States Marine Corps. We hold this family in high esteem, and we welcome them as members of the Lieutenant Alexander Bonnyman, Detachment 924, of the Marine Corps League, Knoxville, Tennessee. The Marine Corps League makes a tremendous difference in our society. Service, tradition, faithfulness, high principles, and worthy purposes. Marines get the job done!

SERGEANT ROBERT ADAMS

In 1949, following graduation from high school, Robert was off to enlist in the Navy, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His goal was to join his two older brothers, but the Navy Recruiter was “out to lunch.” However, the Marine Recruiter next door, in typical Tun Tavern fashion, shanghaied Adams. In no time, he found himself at Parris Island. After boot camp, he was stationed at Camp Lejeune with the 10th Marines. The unit was transferred to the west coast to become the 11th Marines, attached to 1st Marine Division. He was immediately deployed to Korea with King Battery. He climbed over the seawall at Inchon, went to Seoul, then headed north to the Chosin Reservoir. While fighting nine Chinese Divisions, two Marine Regiments made their way south to Chesty Puller’s Regiment at Hagaru-ri, where Robert was wounded by a Chinese mortar attack and medevac’d to Japan. After recovering from his wounds, he was sent back to his battery in Korea to complete his overseas duty. Following his tour in Korea, Sergeant Adams was stationed at the Philadelphia Brig to finish his enlistment.

Robert receives a Quilt of Valor from Marsha Reep

CAPTAIN JOHN ADAMS

Following in his father’s footsteps, John joined the inactive reserves in 1974 through the PLC Program. He was commissioned in 1977 and then reported as an Officer of Marines to Basic School, Quantico, Virginia. He did a short tour with the Military Police, followed by Flight School at Pensacola. He was first assigned to HML-167 at the New River Marine Corps Air Station, as a Bell UH-1N, Twin Huey Aviator. He was later deployed to Norway, and engaged in various other assignments. In 1982 Captain Adams returned to VT-3 at Whiting Field as a fixed-wing flight instructor. In 1985 he was stationed with the 3rd Marine Division Air Office, as a Forward Air Controller. He was later sent to Kaneohe Bay in 1986, with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron HMH-463, also having the Bell Huey attached to the squadron. Among his

many accomplishments, he served as Intel Officer, Weapons and Tactics Instructor, and Maintenance Test Pilot. John completed his last two years of service as the Executive Officer of Headquarters, and Headquarters Squadron, Kaneohe Bay. He flew the Beechcraft King Air and the Model CH-46, a twin-engine search-and-rescue helo, for Station Operations and Maintenance Squadron (SOMS). Captain Adams was discharged from active duty in December 1989.

SERGEANT TIM ADAMS

Tim joined the Marine Corps in September 1976. He was the Honor Graduate of his platoon at Parris Island. He was assigned to VMO-1 at Marine Corps Air Station New River, NC where he served as an airframes structural mechanic and flew rear seat in the OV-10 Broncos. Additional duties included ground tune-up mechanic, corrosion control, hydraulics, fiberglass, and quality assessment. He was deployed to 29 Palms, Jacksonville, Yuma, and Pax River. He was meritoriously promoted to PFC, Lance Corporal, and Corporal. Tim is the recipient of a letter of commendation and has received four Rifle Expert Awards. He was discharged in September 1980.

SERGEANT DAN ADAMS

Dan joined the Marines Corps in 1980. When he was asked "Why?", his answer came in one word…PROUD. In September of 1976, the Adams family went to Tim's graduation in Paris Island. Seeing Tim standing there in his dress blues, Dan wondered, where did my brother, my friend go? Because from where Dan stood, he saw a Man, a Marine in his place. He looked and sounded like Brother Tim, and Dan wondered, is this what The US Marines Corps does? Make Marines! And, yes, Dan was very proud of the man his brother had become.

Dan Adams receives a Quilt of Valor during a membership meeting

A year later, in September 1977, once again the Adams family was off to another graduation. This time it was John graduating and receiving his commission from college. Seeing his oldest brother standing there in his dress whites with gold bars on his shoulders, Dan though again what did the Marine Corps do with my big brother? All he saw was an officer standing in front of him. He knew he wanted to be just like the other men in his family.

Dan served with the 4th Combat Engineers, Company D. He was deployed to Guantanamo Bay and raised the flag at the opening ceremony of the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee. He served as sword detail and escort for the Miss America Pageant. Sergeant Dan Adams was discharged in 1986.

Robert Adams is a role model to his three sons. They look up to him and respect him and for all the life lessons he taught his offspring. He doesn't talk about the Korea War and the Frozen Chosen. But the boys knew he went through Hell.

The four Marines, Robert, John, Tim and Dan recently went on a road trip to The USMC Museum in Quantico, Virginia. At the Korean War exhibit, standing beside Robert, the boys were speechless. After a minute of silence, Robert turned to his sons and told them, "It was a hell of a lot colder over there." He said this is the way it was, pointing out all the bodies on the road that were stacked up like cord wood. It was a very humbling experience. They visited Tun Tavern and toasted the Marine Corps and all its brothers and sisters that served and to the ones that gave the Ultimate Sacrifice.

Robert wishes he could find some of his buddies that served with him, he thinks of them often.

His boys are rightfully proud of their father and all that he has endured. As Tim says "Who wouldn't want to grow up to be like that? When I hear the word Marine. I think of my father."

The Lieutenant Alexander Bonnyman Detachment #924 is honored and proud to have the Adams Family of Marines among its membership.