

Once upon a time I was about to graduate from Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts, wondering what I was going to do after graduation with a degree in History. As I walked across campus I noticed a woman in an amazing uniform and I gravitated towards her; she gave me the answer: After graduating, join the Marine Corps and get to wear that uniform!

I attended Officer Candidate School and The Basic School at Quantico VA, followed by training at the DOD Computer Institute for my MOS, Data Systems. My first duty station was at Camp Smith Hawaii on the staff of CINCPAC. During my year at Camp Smith I met my future husband, Captain Timothy Nunan, who already had orders for Camp Geiger. Half way through my tour in Hawaii, I took leave and flew to North Carolina. During my two weeks' leave we married, flew to Massachusetts to visit my family and flew to New York to visit Tim's family. I then returned to Hawaii to finish my tour, after which I was stationed at Camp Lejeune. At Camp Lejeune I worked in Data Processing for almost three years, during which time I attended the 200<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Ball. I left the Corps in November 1976, three weeks before the birth of my first child.



In 1980 Tim left the Corps and we lived in Massachusetts for eight years.

By the fall of 1988, Tim had decided he wanted to have a sheep farm, and our family had increased to five children. We decided to sell our house in Massachusetts and move to Tennessee. While living in a rented house in Kodak, we found a large old farm house with pastures and acreage. Tim raised his sheep, and eventually I went back to work after many years of raising children. Quickly realizing that computers had changed significantly since I worked with main frames and punch cards at Camp Lejeune, I enrolled at Walters State CC in Morristown, earning an associate's degree in computer science in 2001. I then taught at Northeast State Community College in Blountville for sixteen years during which time I earned a master's degree at ETSU, also in Computer Science.

Of my five children, only one joined the military, my oldest child Bridget. She decided to emulate her paternal grandfather, who was the next best thing to being a Marine; he served in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne during WWII, making all four combat jumps and earning a Silver Star. Years later, Bridget's son decided to emulate his two maternal grandparents; Corporal Garrett Michael Miller is currently in the Marine Corps Reserves in Knoxville.

I retired from Northeast State in 2016. In June of 2017, Tim was diagnosed with COPD. After being hospitalized nine times in 21 months, he passed away in April of 2019. Knowing that I needed to keep busy after his death, I joined two organizations: the American Legion and the Hamblen County Genealogical Society. I am currently the President of the Hamblen County Genealogical Society and the Commander of American Legion Post 52 in Morristown, where I am the only active Marine veteran. It finally occurred to me that I should join the Marine Corps League!

I am really looking forward to attending the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball!