

“THEY CAME IN PEACE”



Dedication of the Beirut Memorial Monument to honor Indiana Servicemen killed October 23, 1983

12:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 21, 2019
Highway 49 and Porter Avenue
Chesterton, Indiana

BEIRUT MEMORIAL MONUMENT DEDICATION PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies

Myles Evans

Invocation

Rev. Father Nathaniel Edquist
Associate Pastor, St. Patrick Church

Posting the Colors

Color Guard - I & I Staff
Marine Corp Reserves, South Bend

National Anthem

Deborah Stout-Moulton, Soloist

Welcome and Recognition of Indiana Servicemen and Families

James Thorstad, Jr.
Former Capt. USMC

Guest Speakers

U.S. Representative Greg Pence
*R-IN District 6, Former 1st Lt. USMC,
Beirut Veteran*

Thomas Clark
*History Teacher, Former Sgt. US Army,
National Guard, Afghanistan Veteran*

Bradley Ulick
*Former Sgt. USMC, Beirut Veteran,
Beirut Bombing Survivor*

Dedication of Monument

Bradley Ulick

Blessing of Monument

Rev. Father Nathaniel Edquist

Laying of Wreath

Kathleen and Robert Hedge

*Widow of Staff Sgt. Thomas Thorstad USMC,
Retired Master Sgt. USMC, Beirut Veteran*

“Amazing Grace”

Alex Rodriguez, Bagpiper

Rifle Salute

Honor Guard, Elkart Area Marines Detachment
1397 of Marine Corp League

Taps

Special Music:

The Naval Hymn, The Marine Corp Hymn

Alex Rodriguez

Retire the Colors

Color Guard - I & I Staff

Benediction

Rev. Father Gerald Schweitzer

Retired Senior Priest, Diocese of Gary

Announcements

Myles Evans

Luncheon to follow

BEIRUT BOMBING

In the early morning hours of October 23, 1983, two Islamic suicide bombers drove truck bombs into the barracks that housed American and French military personnel in Beirut, Lebanon.

The military personnel were there as part of the Multinational Force in Lebanon, a peacekeeping operation requested by the Lebanese government, aimed at stabilizing the country during the Lebanese Civil War between Muslim and Christian factions.

The first suicide bomber struck the four-story First Battalion, 8th Marines Headquarters at about 6:22 a.m. The explosion killed 220 Marines, 18 sailors and 3 soldiers, making it the deadliest single-day death toll the US Marine Corps had seen since the Battle of Iwo Jima during WWII, and the deadliest single-day death toll the Armed Forces had seen since the first day of the Tet Offensive during the Vietnam War.

It was also the deadliest terrorist attack on Americans prior to September 11, 2001.

The 19-ton truck was filled with explosives that were later estimated to equal in force to about 15,000-21,000 pounds of TNT. The resulting explosion was the largest non-nuclear explosion that had ever been detonated.

Minutes later, a second suicide bomber drove a second truck bomb into the nearby Drakkar building, where the French troops were stationed, resulting in more fatalities.

In total, the attack killed 307 people, including 241 U.S. military personnel, 58 French paratroopers and six civilians, in addition to the two attackers. Hundreds more were injured in the blasts.

A Beirut Memorial Monument dedicated to the U.S. service members who lost their lives is located in Jacksonville, North Carolina, where the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is located.

“Our first duty is to remember...”

INDIANA SERVICEMEN



LCPL James R. Baynard USMC
8/6/1960 - 10/23/1983 (23 years old)

James was born in Louisville, Kentucky, but he moved to Greencastle, Indiana, with his family at a young age. He graduated from high school in Richmond, Virginia, where he met his bride Thomasine Brown and became a United States Marine.

He accepted Christ as his Savior in April 1981, and his personal testimony could best be expressed through Psalm 27, according to his family.

James had nine brothers and five sisters. Thomasine gave birth to their son, Stephen James Baynard, on September 8, 1983. Because of the bombing, James never met his son. Stephen has three sons: Malachi, 10; Ethan, 6; and James, 4. They live in Richmond, Virginia, with Thomasine.



LCPL Danny R. Estes USMC
9/27/1964 - 10/23/1983 (19 years old)

Danny was born and raised in Gary, Indiana, by Barbara and Charles Estes. He had two older sisters, Tammy and Terri, and a younger brother, Frankie. His extended family included two grandmas, aunts, uncles, cousins and his fiancée.

He liked dirt bikes, cars, snowmobiles and go-karts - the faster, the better, according to his family. He worked with engines and motors, and his favorite pastime was baseball. He played ball through Senior League at the Black Oak Little League Field, which is now dedicated in his memory. He loved to laugh and have fun, his family said. His smile was contagious, and even when he made people mad, he could always make them smile and forget why they were mad at him in the first place.

Danny joined the Marines after high school graduation in 1982. He completed basic training at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, California, and turned 18 during his time there. He was then stationed at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina, before being deployed to Beirut in 1983. He celebrated his 19th birthday there.



ETC(SW) Michael W. Gorchinski USN
9/27/1948 - 10/23/1983 (35 years old)

Michael was born in Evansville, Indiana, and he enlisted in the Navy after high school in 1967. His life defined passion, according to his family, and his intelligence was only exceeded by his mischievous smile and charm.

As a sailor, his passion and expertise earned him a place of leadership and respect with his peers and superiors, and many still cite him as a mentor and role model. He gave the younger sailors something to aspire to and to be inspired by, his family said.

He was dedicated to both his family and his Naval career. He loved hunting, boating, water skiing and fishing, and he was a national award-winning competitive shooter. In his last competition in 1983, he won the Navy's Pacific Fleet matches in San Diego just before the USS New Jersey deployed.

He was survived by his wife, Judy; his three children, Christina, Kevin and Valerie; his mother, Patty; and his sister, Penny.



2nd Lt. Maurice E. Hukill USMC
11/26/1957 - 10/23/1983 (25 years old)

Maurice (Maury) was born in South Bend, Indiana, to Virginia (Ginnie) and Henry (Hank) Hukill. He went to high school in Virginia and attended Virginia Tech to pursue a degree in Forestry and Wildlife Management.

Upon graduation, jobs in this field were hard to find. At a friend's suggestion, Maury attended Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia. After graduating, Maury married his college sweetheart, Mary, and moved with her and his golden retriever, Gandy, to his assignment at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

In summer 1983, Maury and Mary visited his parents and siblings in Pennsylvania, the last time they saw him alive. In letters to family from Beirut, Maury often said he believed in their mission of aid to the Lebanese people. He was proud to be a Marine and serve his country, according to his family. Maury had just returned from leave in Turkey prior to the bombing.

Maury was survived by his wife, parents and six siblings: Mark, Matthew (Debbie), Meredith (Ken), Monte, Mitchell and Melissa.



HM2 George N. McVicker II USN
2/6/1948 - 10/23/1983 (35 years old)

George was born in Wabash, Indiana. He was the only child of Marilyn Lockwood Wiley and George N. McVicker I.

He first entered the service in the Air Force in 1967 and served in Vietnam, and he re-enlisted in the Navy in 1975.

He served in the Naval Regional Medical Center in Okinawa from 1970 to 1980 and in the 2nd Marine Division Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, where he worked in the Division's Surgeon's Office.

George served as a Hospital Corpsman in Beirut. He had been married and divorced with one son, Mark. His parents, ex-wife and son have since died, and he has no known surviving relatives.



SSGT Thomas P. Thorstad USMC
7/18/1956 - 10/23/1983 (27 years old)

Thomas (Tom) was born in Chicago, Illinois, to James and Barbara Thorstad, but his family moved to Chesterton, Indiana, in 1967. He had seven siblings: Susan, Janice, James Jr., Kathryn, Barbara, Patricia and John.

Tom loved corny jokes and trivia. He made friends through high school wrestling, camping, fishing and playing football and baseball with his neighborhood friends. They called themselves the Weasels, according to Tom's family.

As a young man, Tom wanted to become an Indiana State Trooper or a Chicago policeman. A school counselor advised him to join the Marine Corps while he waited to meet the police academy age requirements, so after graduating high school in 1974, Tom enlisted.

His first duty station was the Marine Corps Depot in Barstow, California. Later, he entered Marine Security Guard for Embassy Duty in Luxembourg, where he met his wife Kathleen. From there, Tom decided to make the Marine Corps his career and focused on Counterintelligence.

Tom was survived by his wife; his two sons, Adam and Ryan; his parents; his siblings and many extended family members.

Special Appreciation to...

Myles Evans, *Monument Designer*
Edmonds & Evans Funeral Homes
Chris and Clay Watkins, *US Army Veteran, Former Spec 5 Vietnam Veteran, Veterans Memorial Committee Chairman*
U.S. Representative Greg Pence, *Guest Speaker*
Thomas Clark, *Guest Speaker*
Bradley Ulick, *Guest Speaker*
Honor Guard, *Elkart Area Marines Detachment*
Color Guard, *Marine Corp Reserves South Bend*
Regis Hess, *Commandant of Dunes Leatherneck*
Post 170 American Legion
Jim Atkinson, *Commandant of Dept. of Indiana Marine Corp League*
Andrew Goodpaster, *Patio Pros*
Allen Zosso, *Electrician*
Kaitlin Edquist, *Program Designer*
Hawkins Print Shop
Kabelin Ace Hardware, Michigan City
The families of these Indiana men



The Beirut Memorial Monument in Chesterton, Indiana, is donated by the family of James and Barbara Thorstad and dedicated to the memory of the six Indiana servicemen killed in the Beirut Bombing on October 23, 1983. Four U.S. Marines and two sailors are recognized.

This monument displays the Marine and Naval emblems. The sentry on the monument is an image of the statue created by Abbé Godwin located at the Beirut Memorial Monument at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina (shown above). It is displayed with the permission of the Beirut Memorial Advisory Board.