

Root Scoop II

Vol. XXII, Issue 1

“The First Duty is to Remember”

Aug/Sept 2014

[43 Years as a “Civilian Marine”](#)

Jackie Huneycutt, Strong BVA Supporter, Retires But Pledges to Stay Involved

“I will still be seeing you at the Beirut meetings,” pledged Reinhild “Jackie” Huneycutt in a December 2013 departure email to friends and co-workers.

Ms. Huneycutt, who has been a strong supporter of the BVA over many years, retired in January 2014 after 43 years at Camp Lejeune.

Though she has worn many

hats over the years, her last was as the public affairs assistant at the Camp Lejeune Public Affairs Office.

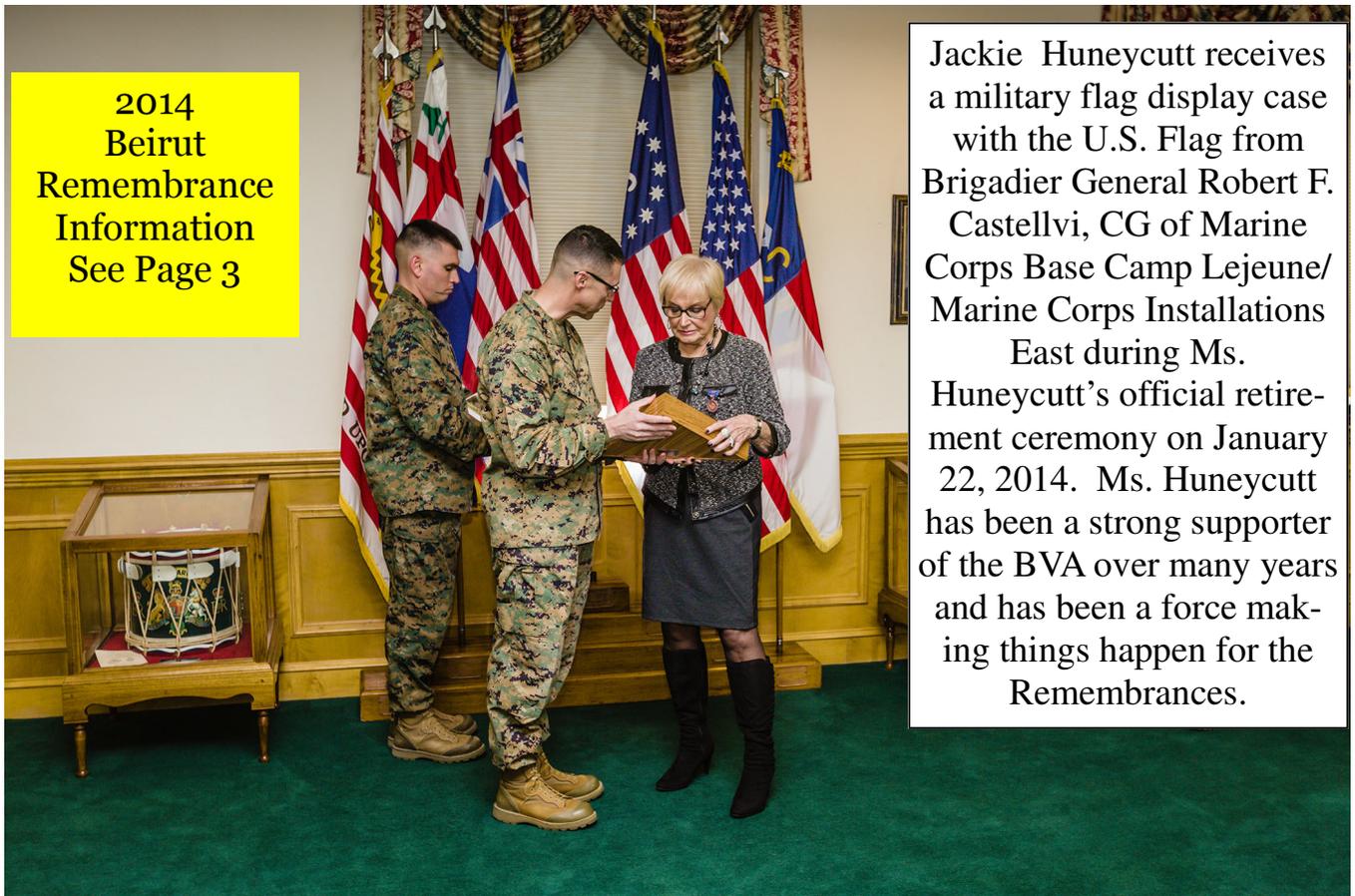
That was her official job, but her link to the BVA and her dedication to the Beirut families and veterans was not a job for her, it was a passion.

“I am extremely thankful for all the many wonderful years as a

“Civilian Marine” at Camp Lejeune,” she wrote. There may be many BVA members who don’t know who she is. That’s because she generally chose to stay in the background; however, she made things happen that ultimately benefited BVA members and families without them ever knowing. She “greased the skids” and enabled

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Jackie Huneycutt receives a military flag display case with the U.S. Flag from Brigadier General Robert F. Castellvi, CG of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune/ Marine Corps Installations East during Ms. Huneycutt’s official retirement ceremony on January 22, 2014. Ms. Huneycutt has been a strong supporter of the BVA over many years and has been a force making things happen for the Remembrances.

New BVA President Bryan Ayres

Prepared to Apply His “Service To Others” Attitude to BVA

New BVA President Bryan Ayres has accepted his new post with eyes wide opened.

“I am cognizant that it is a labor and time intensive position,” he wrote in an email to the Board of Directors. He cited a long family history of service to others. “My grandfather was a successful practicing obstetrician in Greenwich, CT during WWII. When our country called for his special set of skills he shipped immediately and almost lost his life as a ship board surgeon at Midway. He never

asked for anything in return. My mother gave her entire professional life as an emergency room nurse helping others,” he explained.

“Never in my life have I felt more satisfied and whole as when I have been able help others,” he added. “Whether in Beirut, a retail shopping store, on the side of the road fixing a flat tire for a stranger, helping my kids with homework or any other time. I am at my best when I am doing something for someone else.”

Ayres joined the Corps at age 17 in September 1982. After boot camp at Parris Island and infantry training at Camp Lejeune, he was assigned to Weapons Company, Dragons Platoon, 1/8 in March 1983. He deployed with the 24th MAU to Beirut between May and December 1983.

The Greenwich, Conn. native returned to his home state when he was honorably discharged from the Corps in July 1986. He initially worked in retail security as an undercover and lead detective but migrated to the transportation field. Since 2006 he has been the safety manager for the largest solid waste hauler in Southwestern Connecticut.

In an effort to promote longevity in the BVA Ayres has issued a first-ever “**BVA Presidential Challenge.**”

“I challenge each and every member of the BVA to locate at least one service member or family of a victim and get them involved in the BVA this year, even if it’s just to join and come to one of the Remembrances,” he asserted. “If everyone accepts this challenge we will grow our membership and help ensure the men behind the names on the wall are never forgotten.”

In conclusion Ayres expressed his devotion to the cause, saying, “I want to emphasize how honored I am to be serving as president of the BVA.”

Immediate past President Craig Renshaw expressed his confidence in Ayres. “Over the last 10 years many of us have been working together to bring the BVA back to a strong organization and we have. All of us can hold our heads up high and be proud of the fact that our brothers will live on in the hearts and minds of the people of the United States. I’m sure Bryan will carry on that tradition with honor and enthusiasm.”



2012 BVA Board of Directors

Jon Warmeling, Pat Metcalf, Glenn Dolphin, Randy Gaddo, Rick Cunningham, Bill Yontz, Bryan Ayres, Mary Ellen Jackowski, Alicia Shields

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This publication is intended as a communication tool for members and friends of the BVA. Views and opinions are those of contributors and do not necessarily reflect views of BVA board, officers or members.

In Memory Of...

CWO4 George Ross Allen, Beirut Veteran,

USMC “Retired;” age 73, passed away suddenly on the evening of Monday, November, 18, 2013.

George is survived by his loving wife, Marilyn Dolores Allen, with whom he enjoyed a marriage lasting 52 years; his children, Joseph Baneth Allen and Selma Victoria Franz; son-in-law Christopher Franz; his grandchildren Jeff, Zack, and Ashley and her husband Kevin, who he held close to his heart; and his great-grandchildren Addison and Markaylynn. George is preceded in death by his parents, Wade B. Allen and Florence Victoria Allen; his sisters, Vicki, Marie, and Mary-Ann; and his brother Wade B. Allen, Jr

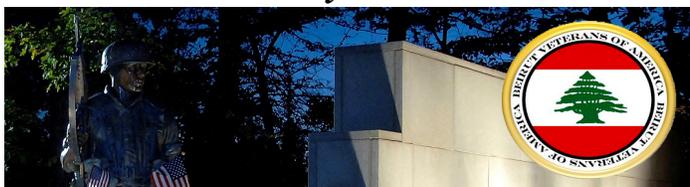
George’s passion for military service spanned 35 years – 30 of which were spent in the United States Marine Corps. Not a day went by that he did not live by the Marine Motto.

He did three tours of duty in Viet Nam; was present and injured during the terrorist attack at the Beirut International Airport; and served in both Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In his spare time, George earned his certification as a gemologist; and was an amateur archeologist. He also enjoyed going to the ruby mines in Franklin, North Carolina, fishing, and going out on family outings.

The memorial service with full military honors was held at the Jacksonville National Veteran’s Cemetery in Jacksonville, Florida on Monday, November 25, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.

The First Duty Is To Remember



2014 Beirut Remembrance Planning Information

The City of Jacksonville and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune will once again honor their pledge to never forget as they hold the 31st Beirut Remembrance on October 23, 2014.

The BVA will staff an information and check in station at the Jacksonville USO from noon—6 p.m. Oct. 21 and 10 a.m.—6 p.m. Oct. 22.

BVA President Bryan Ayres said, “We will have a business meeting at 3 p.m. at the USO on Oct 22nd. We have some board seats to fill, new business to address and general concerns that need to be discussed. I urge anyone in town to plan to attend.”

The Candlelight Service will be held as is custom at 6 a.m. Oct. 23 at the Memorial. Candles and holders are provided by the BVA. All names on the wall will be read by family members, friends and fellow service members.

The traditional 10:30 a.m. official ceremony is being planned by the City of Jacksonville and Marine Corps Base at the Beirut Memorial. At 2 p.m. the Marine Corps League hosts its annual Devil Dogs Ceremony at Camp Geiger Circle.

BVA Vice President Danny Joy has been working in Jacksonville to secure blocks of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express, Comfort Suites and Candlewood Suites, at special BVA rates. He is also asking for up to three handicap rooms at each hotel. Watch the BVA Website (www.beirutveterans.org) for updated information.



Heinl Award & Geiger Award

BVA Co-Founders Receive Heritage Foundation Awards

The founding president and vice president of the BVA each received awards from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation recognizing journalistic excellence.

Retired Marine Major **Robert T. Jordan**, founding President of the BVA, received the Heinl Award.

The Colonel Robert D. Heinl, Jr. Award is given in memory of the distinguished Marine Corps officer, journalist, and historian. He was a founder of the Heritage Foundation and author of *Soldiers of the Sea*. The award is given for a distinguished example of feature writing by an individual dealing with U.S. Marine Corps history or Marine Corps life, giving prime con-

sideration for high literary quality and originality.

Jordan just retired as the senior faculty member at the Defense Information School's Public Affairs Leadership Department, Fort George G. Meade, MD. He received the award for an article in the October 2013 *Leatherneck Magazine* entitled, "Urgent Fury – Grenada 30 Years Later. A Squad Leaders Story."

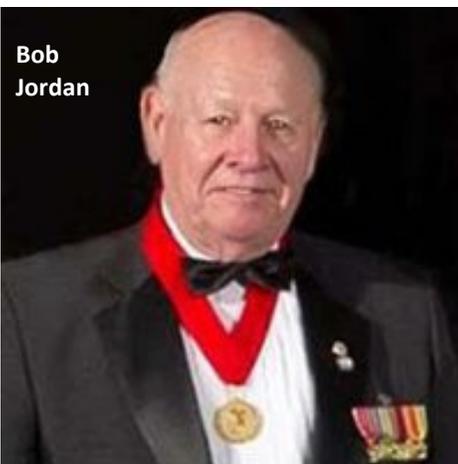
Retired Marine CWO-4 **Randy L. Gaddo**, BVA's founding vice president, received the Geiger Award.

The General Roy S. Geiger Award was established by Colonel G.F. Robert Hanke, USMCR, in memory of his father, Wing Commander Ralph Hanke, Royal Air Force. It is named for General Geiger, the fifth designated naval aviator in Marine Corps history, who commanded both air and ground units during World War II. This award is given to the author of the best aviation article published during the 2013 calendar year.

Gaddo is a contributing editor with *Leatherneck Magazine* and President of RGCommunications, a strategic communications company, living in Beaufort, SC. He received the

award for an article he wrote in the January 2013 issue of *Leatherneck* entitled, "Living Their History: VMFAT-501 Marines Document F-35B Flying and Maintenance Experiences." The article documents the groundbreaking process the Marine Corps employed to transition the F-35B into the operating forces.

The awards were presented at an annual MCHF banquet in April held at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.



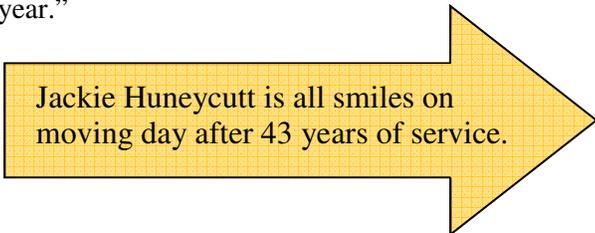
Bob Jordan



Randy Gaddo

Huneycutt Retires...from page 1

Access to resources at Camp Lejeune for BVA officers who help organize annual Remembrance events and the 5th-year special commemorations. German-born Huneycutt said, "I have been very lucky over the years in learning from the very best and am grateful for all the kindness and friendship bestowed on me. It certainly will be a very difficult transition for me in the coming year."



Jackie Huneycutt is all smiles on moving day after 43 years of service.



Memorial Honors Those Lost in Middle East, Including Beirut

Illinois Wall Is A Hidden Gem

Unless you happen to live in Illinois, you may not have heard about the Middle East Conflicts Wall Memorial. The memorial is located along the Illinois River in Marseilles, Ill. It honors service men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom in conflicts from 1979 to present. The wall includes the names of those killed in Lebanon between 1982-84.

On June 19th, 2004 a Granite Memorial Wall was dedicated commemorating the servicemen and women who have lost their lives in worldwide conflicts since 1979. The project was conceived by Jerry Kuczera and Tony Cutrano and built with donated material and labor and is said to be the first of its kind to give honor to our fallen by name while a conflict is ongoing.

It took 20 years to Honor our Vietnam Veterans and almost 60 years to Honor our World War II Veterans. The names on the wall represent our fallen heroes from such diverse locations as Panama, Lebanon, the Balkans, Grenada, Somalia, Haiti, USS Cole, USS Stark, Terrorist attacks in Italy, Greece, Scotland, and the current conflicts in the Middle East.

The Wall is located at [200 Riverfront Drive in Marseilles, Illinois.](http://www.middleeastconflictswallmemorial.us)

The Purpose of the Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run, a contributor to the memorial, is to show servicemen and women and their families support is there for them and to honor fallen heroes.

The route is lined with Americans waving American Flags and paying tribute. In the past there have been tens of thousands of participants. The money raised through generous donations is used to update and maintain the Memorial and to put

the event together. The first Memorial was erected in the small town of St Anne, Ill., the hometown of Capt. Ryan A. Beaupre, one of Illinois' first casualties in the war against terror.

The group has donated memorials to all of the Veteran Homes and Hospitals in The State of Illinois in Honor of all Veterans, past and present. They have assisted many of the

fallen heroes' children with funds for their education, in hopes that through education, they will learn to diplomatically resolve our problems.



February 20, 2014

The Honorable Congressman Walter B. Jones
Attn: Messrs. Glen Downs & Jason Lowry
1105-C Corporate Drive
Greenville, NC 27858

Sent Via Facsimile & Email to:

Jason.Lowry@mail.house.gov
Glen.Downs@mail.house.gov
202-225-3286 Facsimile

Re: LeJeune Memorial Gardens Master Plan

Gentlemen:

This correspondence is requesting Congressman Jones' support for the LeJeune Memorial Garden Trail as originally proposed by the joint committee in its Master Plan. We understand he has some concerns with the Master Plan, and has proposed an alternate path. The Beirut Memorial Advisory Board and Beirut Veterans of America leadership is in favor of the Master Plan as presented; our organizations strongly oppose the Congressman's new proposal for the section of the Trail that would cross Montford Point Road and pass between our Beirut Memorial and Highway 24.

Several of our members also served in Vietnam. I assure you we have great respect for our Brothers in the Vietnam Veterans of America, and would never propose nor support a plan that would detract from their beautiful Memorial located nearby. It is our belief that the Master Plan Trail at no point comes closer to the current paved walkway to their Memorial, and in no way would interfere with the magnificence one beholds as they walk the path, cross the bridge, and gaze upon the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Deviating from the Master Plan as proposed by the Congressman will, however, greatly affect the solemn splendor that is The Beirut Memorial, and will obstruct the view from LeJeune Boulevard (which also serves as a beacon to those presently not familiar with the area and its improvements). The Master Plan will prevent additional unsightly, expensive and quite extensive construction, and will provide a more safe and secure ingress and egress to the Trail.

We strongly urge Cong. Jones to reconsider his opposition to the Master Plan. The Congressman's dedication in supporting veterans is legendary, and the sacrifices of our Brothers in the Vietnam Veterans of America are greatly acknowledged by our membership: Most of us served with Vietnam Veterans, and were often led by them!

Surely the Congressman's skills as a Statesman can once again find a way to resolve any opposition to the Master Plan, and we strongly request his assistance in supporting the same.

Respectfully,

Jonathan R. Warmeling

Jonathan R. Warmeling, Beirut Veterans of America,
Chairman

