

Semper Fi!

I hope you had a wonderful birthday last week [236 years of proud tradition of protecting our freedom]

I am the President Elect of AAPA-OM and would like to offer my support as you take on the task of leading, training and taking care of "OUR MARINES". With Ed's help I am hopeful that we can continue the bond we have with our adopted family. The young men and women serving the Corps hold a special place in my heart as I know they do in the hearts and prayers of our members.

My attachment to the Marine Corps began in 1965 when I tried to join the Corps as a "Medic" [young and stupid] only to find out that I had to join the Navy to provide medical care for the Marines. I did become a Corpsman and completed FMSS at Camp Del Mar, Camp Pendleton in October 1966. From there I went to Camp Maragretta and was Senior Corpsman Lima 3/27, 5th Marine Division until March 1967 when I was assigned as a replacement Corpsman for 2/9, 3rd Marine Division in RVN. I was assigned as 81mm Mortar Platoon Corpsmen as it was called Camp Chinook, North of Hue City and patrolled out of there March and April '67. We moved up to Dong Ha in May and while on a patrol in the DMZ May 19th 1967, operating with 2nd platoon, Fox 2/9 was wounded and hospitalized for 4 1/2 months. One of my Marines, Roger Molton, was upset because he was order by the Platoon Commander not to allow me to get hurt and he felt he failed in his mission. When I returned in September I was assigned as, first as a Platoon Corpsman Echo 2/9 then as Senior Corpsman, Hotel 2/9 until I got hit the 6th time, November 25th 1967 and was told by Col. J. J. Peeler that I had to be transferred. I went down to 3rd Med Bn in Phu Bai and toured Hue City just before Tet Offensive 1968. After Tet I got to come back to the States but continued to long for my Marines. I reenlisted and got orders to MABS 14 Cherry Point, NC and then went to MABS 36 New River, NC. I got to go to college [ADCOP] in 1972 but upon graduating was assigned to I&I, 6th MT BN, 6th MarDiv, Providence RI until I was selected for Physician Assistant School. I left the Marines for a few years but finally went to Camp Lejeune, NC and Senior PA for Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune in 1991. I retired from Camp Lejeune in June 1995 with the 2nd Mar Div Band playing and honored that I was allowed to be the guest speaker for 1994 2nd Marine Division, Enlisted Birthday Ball. I have been privileged to have met General Puller, his son, and served with 3 Commandants of the Marine Corps. Most of all I have been Honored to have served with and cared for the finest group of men and women in the world, United State Marines.

You see, as a swabby, I have a history with the guys and gals you are going to mold into a force that keeps us free.

I thank you for your service to your charges, to the Corps and to the United States.

Semper Fi

God Bless and Protect

Thomas G. [Doc] Powell PA-C

LCDR/USN(Ret)

President Elect, AAPA-OM