



Columbia Post 300 – Department of Maryland

NEWS LETTER

News Letter # 3 May 2005

<http://www.american-legion-post.us/300/>



Commanders Report

Roger Chang

Improving Awareness -

There are 650 undesignated American Legion members in our area with Columbia at the center. Recently Al Grinspoon joined us for the first time simply because he became aware of when and where we meet and the service to war veterans that defines this Post. Columbia Post 300 is small, but active. In our second year in existence our Oratorical contestant won Club, County, Regional, and took 3rd place in the State level! In our first year, members Joe Wall, James Savoy, and 1st Vice Commander Norm North supported Operation Give to collect toys and send them to the children of Iraq. Thanks to all our members for getting out there to make Veterans aware and the community aware of the Service we perform. Thanks Ed Trumble, Ed Jr. and Dot for getting the word out with our newsletter and the award winning web site! Thanks to all.

Chaplain's Corner

Rick Waters

As we enter into our areas of responsibility we have committed to and have been Entrusted with at our Post level for God and Country, we need to seek God's leadership in all things. We should participate in daily prayer, organized weekly worship, teaching/leading our children in spiritual matters through God's word. Our prayers should always include all of our brothers and sisters serving throughout the world, their families, and those families who have lost loved ones in service to their country, through giving their lives or missing in action. May we all, working as a team, be committed in accomplishing our individual tasks with confidence?

In our May Meeting we elected our new officers. They are listed elsewhere. The Commander, Mr.

Chang, also appointed an Advisory committee of Al Grinspoon, Tom Sexton, and Dot Morrell.

A Report on ROTC Medals and awards was given.

Atholton High School

James Khoury (Academic)

Elliott Loper (Military)

Howard High School

Brian Preston (Academic)

Jessica Burton (Military)

Oakland Mills High School

Kiata R. Pickel (Academic)

Scott Lovett (Military)



REMEMBER: Memorial Day Services at Arbutus Post 109 Monday May 30 1000 hrs Flag Raising, followed by a short service at nearby Veteran's Cemetery. Then return to Post 109 for luncheon (dogs, beans, burgers, etc/Free). At 1400 hours the Post Everlasting Ceremony will be held at the Post 109.

We still need two representatives for MD State Convention in O.C. July 12-15. One need not attend all days to represent our Post.





I watched the flag pass by one day. It
fluttered in the breeze.
A young Marine saluted it, and then
he stood at ease.

How many pilot's planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers
grave? No, freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of Taps one night,
when everything was still.
I listened to the bugler play and felt a
sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times that
Taps had meant "Amen."
When a flag had draped a coffin of a
brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children, of the
mothers and the wives,
of fathers, sons and husbands with
interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard at the
bottom of the sea,
of unmarked graves at Arlington. No,
freedom isn't free.

Author Unknown

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When Old Marines speak Marine cadets listen.

By Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 28, 2005 - You could hear a pin
drop as Marine Gen. Peter Pace told cadets at the U.S.
Military Academy here about his experiences during
the Vietnam War.

Pace, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was
doing more than telling war stories to an appreciative
audience on April 27. He was passing along hard-won
lessons to young leaders who in all likelihood could
find themselves in combat next year.

Pace, whom the president has nominated to be the next

I looked at him in uniform, so young,
so tall, so proud,
with hair cut square and eyes alert,
he'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him
had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign soil? How
many mothers' tears?
chairman, spoke to a class of seniors studying the
Constitution and law. The cadets will graduate May 28.

"You have earned the right to start at the bottom," Pace
told the cadets.

He told them that it has been 38 years since he was
commissioned out of the U.S. Naval Academy. He said
he was old enough to be their dad, but he felt more like
their running partner. "When I graduated, there was a
war going on. As you graduate, there is a war going
on," he said.

As his graduation approached in 1967, he said he
wondered if he had made the right choice to go into the
Marines and worried about how he would perform in
battle. "I presume that you are wondering about the
same things," he said.

Pace said the cadets who go into combat will know
fear. "There were times in my Marine Corps career in
Vietnam that I wished that I could've crawled up in my
helmet and waited for my mom to call me home from
the schoolyard," he said. "If you feel fear, it is natural."

But the cadets must remember they "are in the world's
best Army" and will have the best training, equipment
and troops in the world. "When you look to your left
and your right and you see your soldiers looking
back at you for leadership, you will instinctively know
exactly what you need to do right then," he said.

Pace said the soldiers want to follow their leaders.
They want you to be good," he said. "They will cling to
leaders who care about them."

Pace said the worst thing a new lieutenant in combat
can do "is to get yourself killed."

He said getting killed "is the easiest thing to do" in
combat. "As a leader, you will have to decide who does
what in life-and-death situations," he said. It is easy for
a new leader to just do it.

"It's easier to do it yourself than to send one of your
soldiers out and watch him get killed doing what you
told them to do," Pace said. "But you've got to worry
about more than one soldier and all of your soldiers are
looking to you for leadership.

"They will do whatever you tell them to do," he in the fire support, giving the direction, telling them what to do. They'll go do it. They understand the risks."

If a new lieutenant gets killed then "you have taken away their leadership and in thinking that you were being self-sacrificing, you have really done damage to your unit."

Pace said he has remained on active duty because of the debt he owes to Marines he served with in Vietnam. Pace arrived in Hue City, South Vietnam, and became a platoon leader in Golf Company, 5th Marines. There were only 14 Marines in his platoon. Of the 158 Marines in Golf Company when he arrived, only three - including himself - were not wounded.

Pace said he can still remember the names and see the faces of the Marines whom he served with in Vietnam. "I never want to lose that," he said. "Under the glass on my desk is a picture of Lance Cpl. Guido Farinaro of Bethpage, N.Y., a 19 year-old corporal killed by a sniper. He was the first Marine I lost in combat. I keep his picture as a reminder that he and Lance Cpl. Chubby Hale, and Lance Cpl. Buddy Travers and Cpl. Mike Witt and Staff Sgt. Willie Williams and all the others died following 2nd Lt. Pace's orders. I can never repay that."

Farinaro's death taught Pace another lesson. "We were on patrol and my immediate reaction was one of complete rage," Pace said when the sniper killed his Marine. "I called in an artillery strike on the village from which the fire came."

Between the time he called in the mission and the time the guns were laid and ready to fire, his platoon sergeant, who was on his second tour in Vietnam, said nothing. "He just looked at me," Pace said. "And I knew I was wrong, and he was right, and I called off the artillery barrage."

The unit swept through the village like it should have and found nothing but women and children. "I tell you that because I ask you to think through who you are - check your moral compass - as you get closer and closer to go into combat," Pace said. "The time to decide whether or not you will do what I almost did ... is not when one of your soldiers gets shot."

"Because the waves of emotion that roll over you are so strong, that if you are not holding onto an anchor that you have already thought through, you can get swept away," he said. "Thanks to Sgt. - now Sgt. Maj. Retired - Reed B. Zachary, I did not get swept away."

Finally, the general spoke about the duty and "sacred

continued. "They do not want you to do it for them. They need to have you, lieutenant, on the radio calling trust" to take care of soldiers. "As I look back on 38 years, my desire to take care of my Marines was sincere," he said. "I didn't always do as well as I could have, or should have, but I tried."

And his Marines sensed that and responded to it, the vice chairman noted. They knew they could trust him and "because they knew I cared, they performed at a level beyond anything I ever could have demanded from them."

Pace thanked the cadets for their service and congratulated them on their upcoming graduation. He told them there isn't another profession where the chief executive officer or corporate vice president would want to switch places with the newest employees in the company. But in the military, "all of the general officers" would.

Pace told the cadets to take whatever assignments they have received and do the absolute best job they can. "Because on that path are soldiers who are looking to you to be their leader," he said. "And they deserve every ounce of leadership skill that you have, just as much as any other soldiers anywhere else in our Army."

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