



# 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter, Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)



WEBSITE: [www.b-2-1-196lib.com](http://www.b-2-1-196lib.com)

Volume 6

“A Soldier Once And Always”

August 2016

**Commanders Corner:** Reflections on the past and solitude usually go hand in hand and I'll get to that in a paragraph or two. As usual, this morning was like most others in that I generally wake up somewhere between 4:30 and 5:30 in the morning. It's been hot and muggy with the temperature in the 90's for the last couple of weeks so I've been trying to get my outside work done before it gets too hot. This morning about 5am, I went for a swim in the pool and decided it would be a good time to sweep it down before the sun came up. It was nice and peaceful and I was enjoying my coffee and the solitude and the sounds of the birds and various animals back in the woods doing whatever it was they were doing. Then, out of the clear blue, I suddenly started reflecting on the past and how lucky I was to be there at that moment, (I told you I'd get to it). Anyway, I started thinking about how many of my fellow veterans that gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country were not as lucky as I was being able to come back from across the pond. Lucky is a key word because I truly believe I was very lucky after being in the bush for over 10 months to come back physically unscathed. I thought about the times I get to spend with family and friends, the drinking beer and having some crazy times, being to travel at home and abroad and how lucky I was to find a wonderful woman to share all of this with me. Actually, I found 2 wonderful women to share it with but, the first one dumped me after 5 years of great times and bad times. As luck would have it (there's that word again), I was blessed with a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance on marriage and have had both the good times and bad times (99% good: that's for you, Honey) with my wife for 36 years now. But, I stray, back to some of my reflections. I always felt remorse for all of the friends I lost in combat but, especially for the ones that were married and even more so for the ones married that had children. They never were able to enjoy the rest of their lives like all of us who were lucky enough to return to families and friends and crazy times. So, I guess my point is you should take some time to reflect on the blessings you have and the chance you were given to by coming back to the "world". Live every day to its fullest and cherish what you have, no matter what cards you have been dealt in life; you still have the luck. We're all getting older and times a wastin'. Okay, with solitude and reflections out of the way, I want to remind all of you about the Albuquerque ADVA reunion in September and our annual chapter meeting there. I would like for any of you who plan on attending the reunion to send me an email and let me know you are going to the reunion. I'm trying to get an idea of how many we'll have. My email is [choldaway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:choldaway@sbcglobal.net). Jesse has made arrangements for 2/1 hospitality room down by the swimming pool area so don't fall in after a couple of toddies. Also,



we still have about 40 chapter challenge coins available; once they are gone there are no more. I also have quite a few "Widowmaker" patches specifically made up for Bravo 2/1 first platoon members. If you were in B 2/1 1<sup>st</sup> Plt and want one, just let me know and I'll get it to you. These were paid for a long time ago so I'm not going to charge for them; just for the postage cost. I'd like to mention there is a book available on Amazon.com written by former 2st Lt. Ty Harper (B & C 2/1); it can be accessed at <https://www.amazon.com/Grunts-Life-Illustrated-Surviving-Charlies/dp/1523710608>. Sitting outside on the deck this morning writing this column sort of had a soothing effect on me so I think I'll end this here and, since it's too early in the morning to have a beer, I'll just go refill my coffee cup.

Chuck

*Keep safe and may the bond of battle never be broken!*



**House of Representative Bill 5588:** On June 28, 2016, Representative Ralph Abraham (LA), Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, introduced H.R. 5588-the Veterans' Compensation COLA Act of 2016. This bill, if enacted, would provide an increase, effective December 1, 2016, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. This bill *does not* contain the round-down provision of previous years that reduced compensation and pension payments by millions of dollars-at the expense of disabled veterans and their families. Therefore, DAV strongly supports H.R. 5588. Please use the prepared electronic letter or draft your own to urge your Representative to cosponsor H.R. 5588, and to urge the House Leadership to bring this bill to the floor for a vote as soon as possible. As always, we appreciate your support for DAV and your grassroots activism in participating in DAV CAN. Your advocacy helps make DAV a highly influential and effective organization in Washington.

**Bill Hacker, 2/1 Infantry:** Bill Hacker died in July 2016. He had been in inpatient care for over 100 days before he succumbed to Cancer and lung disease. His life had been spared in January 1970, by the sacrifice of his close friend and squad member, Donald P. Sloat. Barbara, his wife, first words were that Don (CMOH recipient, Donald P. Sloat) and Bill will now be together again. He was a veteran of D company 2/1st Infantry Battalion. Please spend some time asking you God to see to it that this soldier is provided a straight and paved road to his eternal reward.

**POW/MIA Update:** The number of US personnel missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War is still 1,618. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced the identification of the following:

**Colonel Patrick H. Wood**, USAF, listed as MIA on 2/6/67, North Vietnam, remains returned on 12/14/15, and identified 2/29/16.

**LCDR Frederick P. Crosby**, USN, listed as KIA/BNR, North Vietnam, on 6/1/65, remains returned 12/14/15, and identified on 2/17/16, but not announced by DPAA until 5/25/16.

**Major Dean A. Klenda**, USAF, listed as MIA, North Vietnam, on 9/17/65, recovered 12/8/14 and identified 12/30/14, but also only recently announced by DPAA.

**SFC Alan L. Boyer**, USA/SF, listed as MIA 3/28/68, Laos, recovered 6/16/98, and identified 3/16/16.

**Marine Corps Pvt. Robert J. Carter**, 19, of Oklahoma City, who was buried July 13 in Arlington National Cemetery. Carter was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. Carter died on Nov. 20, 1943.

This brings the total accounted for to 965 since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and identified before the end of the war, bring the total of US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War to 1,028. Of the 1,618 still missing (POW/MIA) and unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR), 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,261 (VN-463, VS-798); Laos-301; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate when investigations result in changes to loss locations.

**Arlington National Cemetery's Future:** Currently, only one percent of those eligible choose to be buried or interred at Arlington, with the rest being interred at the VA's 134 national cemeteries or in state veterans cemeteries or elsewhere. Even so, based on its current pace, Arlington will run out of space sometime between the years 2050 and 2070, a timeframe that takes into consideration the 90,000 current available spaces, the 27,000 additional spaces from its millennium project, and the 45,000 to 50,000 spaces to be gained from a southern expansion into where the Navy Annex once stood. The question the Arlington advisory committee is pondering is whether changes could or should be made to eligibility requirements to extend the cemetery's lifespan. Right now, all active-duty deaths are eligible, as well as military retirees, those with qualifying medals, and those with honorable discharges.



**Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) for veterans:** On June 8, 2016, Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) introduced the Veterans' Compensation COLA Act of 2016. This bill increases the rate of disability compensation for veterans, their dependents, and their surviving spouses and children in amounts corresponding to increases in Social Security payments. Senators and Representatives strongly supported this initiative. On June 28, 2016, Congressman Ralph Abraham (R-LA) introduced H.R. 5588, a companion bill, in the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives passed this bill on July 11, 2016. The Senate then passed the measure on July 13, and on July 22, 2016, President Obama signed it into law as Public Law No: 114-197.

**Murdered Dallas Cops Were Veterans, Husbands and Fathers:** Five police officers – four from the city's main department and one from Dallas Area Rapid Transit were killed by a sniper late Thursday as they guarded anti-police brutality marches at a march. By Friday afternoon, three had been identified: Brent Thompson, Michael Krol, and Patrick Zamarripa. Thompson, 43, who joined the Dallas Area Rapid Transit police department in 2009, was the first member of the 27-year-old department to die in the line of duty. A former Marine, he had married a fellow police officer just two weeks ago, officials said. "Our hearts are broken," DART spokesperson Morgan Lyons said. "This is something that touches every part of our organization." After serving in the Marines, Thompson later worked for a private Pentagon contractor that hired and trained Iraqi and Afghan police in the concepts of "democratic policing." The instruction included training in how to avoid an ambush, according to his LinkedIn page. "I was responsible for the day to day operations conducted by our American police officers who trained and mentored the Iraqi Police," he wrote. Krol, 40, was a Detroit native who joined the Dallas Police Department in 2007 after working as a sheriff's deputy in the Detroit area. Zamarripa, 32, a five-year Dallas Police Department veteran, served three tours in Iraq with the Navy, according to the Washington Post. He was married and was the father of a 2-year-old daughter. The suspected shooter in the Dallas attack on police officers was a former enlisted Army reservist who served for six years, including a stint in Afghanistan.

**US Board Declines to Release '20th Hijacker' from Guantanamo:** A board reviewing the status of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay has decided against releasing a Saudi who U.S. authorities believe narrowly avoided becoming one of the hijackers in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack. Lawyers for prisoner Mohammed al-Qahtani asked the Periodic Review Board last month to send the prisoner to a rehabilitation center in Saudi Arabia for treatment of severe mental illness. The board, made up of representatives of six government agencies, turned down the request. The board cited several reasons for its decision, including the fact that al-Qahtani "almost certainly" had been chosen by senior al-Qaida members to be the 20th hijacker in the Sept. 11 plot and his "refusal to respond to questions" about his past activities. Al-Qahtani tried to enter the U.S. before the Sept. 11 attack but was turned away by immigration officers at the airport in Orlando, Florida. The suicide attack went ahead with 19 hijackers, killing nearly 3,000 people in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington. He was captured in Afghanistan and in February 2002 taken to the U.S. base in Cuba, where he was subjected to brutal interrogation that a senior Pentagon legal official later said amounted to torture. The U.S. charged al-Qahtani before a military tribunal along with five other prisoners with war crimes for the Sept. 11 attack. But the charges against him were withdrawn because of his treatment at Guantanamo. The case against the others has been proceeding slowly at the base but no trial date has been set. Lawyers for al-Qahtani, 41, told the review board that long before he was taken into U.S. custody he suffered psychiatric disabilities that included schizophrenia, major depression and possibly neurocognitive disorder due to a traumatic brain injury sustained in a car accident when he was 8. One of his lawyers, Shane Kadidal of the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York, said they would not allow members of the board to question al-Qahtani about his past because of his mental illness and made that clear to the board.

**"The Budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome will become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance." - Cicero , 55 BC**

**Veterans Ticket Foundation (VetTix):** The Veteran Tickets Foundation (VetTix) provides FREE and discounted event tickets to military, veterans and their families in all 50 states and Washington, DC. VetTix teams up with major sports teams, leagues, promoters, organizations, venues and every day event ticket holders to provide free or discounted tickets to all kinds of events, including all sports, circus, comedy, concerts, performing arts, dance, dining, festivals, film, rodeo, theater, travel, and much, much, more. Free tickets are currently available for over 1,000 events. Visit [VetTix](#) to sign up.

Also of note: Disney Parks are offering special ticket and room prices valid through December 16, 2016 to U.S. military members, including active and retired members of the United States Coast Guard, National Guard and reservists or their spouses. Learn more at [Disney Discounts](#).

**TRICARE Prime Annual Increases:** TRICARE Prime enrollment fees increase each year on October 1. The basis of the increase is the annual cost of living adjustment for retired military pay. Please note that you are exempt from the enrollment fee increases if you are a surviving family member of a sponsor who died on active duty or a medically-retired service member or their family member. In these cases, your enrollment fee will stay the same as long as you keep TRICARE Prime. Learn more at Annual Increase.

**Hearing Loss and Veterans:** Hearing loss affects more than 28 million Americans, including more than half of those over age 75. When combined with tinnitus, which is a ringing, buzzing, or other type of noise that originates in the head, hearing issues are the most frequently found service-connected disability among American Veterans. If you worked with or near aircraft, running engines or in blast zones, hearing loss may be due to your service. Some hearing loss can be reversed through surgery or medication. In other cases, hearing loss is permanent, but can be reduced through the use of hearing aids. Though almost all people with hearing loss could be helped by hearing aids, only about one in five uses them. In addition, many Veterans score normally on hearing tests but have difficulty understanding speech. This condition, called auditory processing disorder, is often associated with blast exposure. VA researchers, engineers, and clinicians are studying ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat hearing loss. They are also addressing a wide range of technological, medical, rehabilitative, and social issues associated with tinnitus and blast exposure. VA has established a designated Center of Excellence for these issues, the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR) in Portland, Ore. At this center, researchers focus their attention exclusively on hearing loss and associated conditions.

**Patriot PAWS:** The mission of Patriot PAWS is to train and provide service dogs at no cost to disabled American veterans and others with mobile disabilities and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in order to help restore their physical and emotional independence. The organization currently only accepts applications from veterans who served during Desert Storm to present for fully certified Service Dogs. Pre-Desert Storm veterans can apply for a social companion dog. These dogs can be very helpful within the home but DO NOT have public access. For more information, visit the Patriot PAWS [website](#).

**People who laugh a lot are healthier than those who don't.**

**More US Troops Likely to Be Sent to Iraq: Gen. Votel:** The U.S. will likely commit more troops to Iraq to bolster local forces against "specific objectives" in the campaign to retake the last ISIS main stronghold at Mosul, ArmyGen. Joseph Votel, commander of U.S. Central Command, said recently. "We will look to add additional capabilities that are necessary to accomplish our objectives," Votel said. The extra troops would be in addition to the 560 recently authorized by President Obama to bring the Force Management Level to 4,657. "What we have tried to do is link our request for additional capabilities to specific objectives we're trying to achieve," he said. Votel said the 560 troops authorized last week would be slated for deployment to the airfield called Quayara West about 40 miles southeast of Mosul, which was recently retaken by the Iraqis. The 560 troops have not begun to deploy to the airfield in any significant numbers, but Votel said he expected that to happen shortly. Votel spoke with Defense Secretary Ashton Carter at a joint news conference following the opening session of a meeting of defense ministers of more than 30 nations in the anti-ISIS coalition at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland on boosting their contributions to the campaign. "We're all going to need to do more," Carter said. "We now have momentum in this fight and clear results on the ground, and today we made the plans and commitments to deliver [ISIS] a lasting defeat." The main goal was to accelerate efforts to back the Iraqi Security Forces and the Kurdish Peshmerga forces in retaking Mosul in northeastern Iraq while working with Syrian Arab and Syrian Kurd forces to retake Raqqa, the so-called capital of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in eastern Syria.

**Army Looks to Deactivate Long-Range Surveillance Companies:** The Army is moving to cut all nine of its Long-Range Surveillance companies from the active duty and the National Guard this year as part of a plan to restructure its force, Army officials told Stars and Stripes. The Pentagon will finalize a decision to deactivate three active-duty and six National Guard Long-Range Surveillance companies in the next 60 days. "Every year there are capabilities that must be added, but unfortunately this means the Army must divest some," Army spokesman Troy Rolan said. Commanders identified operational LRS units as a low priority, he said, adding that the decision to cut LRS companies was aided by "extensive computer models using combatant commander plans to determine what the Army needs." Army LRS companies are comprised of 15 six-man teams led by a staff sergeant. The teams specialize in navigating forward positions to monitor enemy movement and gather intelligence for commanders. Roughly 882 soldiers serve in the nine remaining LRS companies, Rolan said. Current and former LRS soldiers have criticized the pending deactivation, saying the loss of surveillance-trained troops will erode readiness and battlefield-intelligence gathering. Another concern: The Pentagon will rely too much on technological monitoring, not human surveillance, in a larger conventional war. "We're willing to put drones and, in the future, unmanned vehicles in more dangerous situations because they don't have mothers," he said. "That makes them more useful to the country and the president." Col David Maxwell, a retired Army Special Forces officer and Professor at Georgetown University said "having a handful of LRS companies is not something the Pentagon thinks will have sufficient impact when we can produce battalion after battalion of conventional infantry units] and surveillance drones."

**The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else.**

**Does Honorable Service Earn Noncitizen Vets a Chance to Call US Home?:** On a morning in early June in this border town, 82nd Airborne veteran Hector Barajas-Varela donned his maroon beret, tucked his pants into his Corcoran jump boots — with an apology that they weren't spit-shined — and steeled his nerves. The 39-year-old grabbed his cane, locked the glass doors of the small shelter he runs for deported veterans and headed to the border to meet with a U.S. Customs and Immigrations Services official for fingerprinting. This is a big deal for Barajas-Varela, who was deported permanently from the United States in 2009. Born in Mexico, he came to the U.S. when he was 7 and grew up in a rough, racially tense southern California neighborhood. When he was old enough, he joined the Army, which made him eligible for citizenship. But Barajas-Varela, like many deported veterans, never followed through on his naturalization paperwork, and after serving honorably, he got in trouble with drinking and drugs. He was banished after he pleaded guilty to a felony in 2002. Since then, he has built a life in Mexico, helping others who went astray after serving. He runs a shelter and spends his time advocating to reverse the deportations — including his own. Barajas-Varela maintains an abiding wish to return to the country he sees as his home. That opportunity is in his sights. Fingerprinting, a crucial step in getting his case for citizenship reconsidered. "I don't know if I will get to go home, to help raise my daughter." For the past few years, Barajas-Varela garnered scattered attention as he built up the Deported Veterans Support House, a shelter for former U.S. military service members known as "the Bunker." "Barajas-Varela is featured on the cover of the report, called "Discharged, Then Discarded," and is credited by the ACLU with giving deported veterans "a collective voice whose cries are finally being heard." The customs service, USCIS, is considering Barajas-Varela's application after his crime — discharging a firearm — was reclassified and is no longer an aggravated felony. He says he's been told that immigration officials are looking at other deported veterans' cases. He has helped submit requests for 13 deportees — 12 veterans and a civilian who works with him and advocates for deported mothers — to receive humanitarian parole and be allowed to return to the U.S. based on a dire need for physical or mental health care. Returning might be a long shot for veterans deported for serious crimes. But Barajas-Varela came away from his own morning at the border with an optimism he said he hasn't felt for more than a decade. For the deported veterans at the Bunker, their predicament has created a surprising community of felons and recovering addicts who share an emotional bond. They grappled with problems that hundreds of thousands of veterans face as they transition out of the military, particularly after service in times of war. The question is whether their military service earned them a second chance. Across the border, fellow veterans receive help from the government they served. But in Tijuana, these men are mostly left to their own devices. Support comes from fellow veterans or volunteers like retired Master Sgt. Cesar Medrano, who arrived at the Bunker one day from Los Angeles with a carload of donated groceries and supplies, and Miguel Gabriel Vazquez, one of two Vietnam War veterans who offer counseling at the Bunker. Vazquez, a trained counselor with a master's degree in psychology, practices holistic healing, using a technique called EFT that involves tapping points on the body to release emotional duress. He comes to the bunker once a week to do individual counseling. "They all have PTSD whether diagnosed or not," said Vazquez, who has not been deported but lives in Rosarita Beach, Mexico, where he moved to write a book on healing PTSD naturally. "These guys get all that plus the trauma of being deported."

**Green Beret Medic Could Be Next Vietnam War MOH Recipient:** The story of Green Beret Gary Michael Rose's heroism is an epic of classified warfare and a stinging media scandal, but it might soon end with a Medal of Honor. In 1970, Rose was the lone medic for a company of Special Forces soldiers and indigenous Vietnamese fighters during a risky assault deep into Laos. The badly injured Rose helped bring all the soldiers back alive and received the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest military honor, during a ceremony at the time in Vietnam. "He is not a gung-ho person, he is very thoughtful, but he was a hell of a medic and I trusted him with my life," said Keith Plancich, 66, who was a Special Forces squad leader. But Rose and the other men were wrongly accused of taking part in war crimes in 1998 after the mission, called Operation Tailwind, was declassified and unearthed for the first time by CNN and its partner Time magazine. Stunning claims that Rose and the Green Berets were sent to Laos to kill American defectors and that the military used sarin gas during the mission were fully discredited. CNN and Time retracted the story, which was co-written and presented by famed journalist Peter Arnett, but it cast a shadow over the mission that still remains. The highest recognition of heroism is close for Rose and the Green Berets. In September 1970, Rose and 15 Green Berets along with more than 100 Montagnards were dropped into the Laotian jungle by CH-53 helicopters. The elite soldiers were with the Army's opaquely named Studies and Observations Group based in southern Vietnam. Far from studying intelligence, the Special Forces unit was leading groups of the indigenous fighters on classified raider missions into Laos, where the United States was waging a covert war against North Vietnam along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. "They were going to create such havoc," said retired Maj. John Plaster, a former Special Forces sniper and military historian who also served with Rose in the SOG. The Green Berets and their company of indigenous fighters were tapped to take pressure off the CIA, which was running operations in the Laotian highlands by drawing the attention of at least two North Vietnamese Army regiments in the area, Plaster said. Once off the helicopters, the company almost immediately heard telephones ringing in the jungle. It found and overtook a 500-yard-long string of bunkers stocked with enemy rockets, according to a history of Operation Tailwind. Rose and the unit, backed by constant U.S. air power, almost never stopped moving for the next four days while taking small arms, mortar and rocket fire. Half of the Green Berets were wounded. Many more of the Montagnards had injuries. The company continued attacking by calling in an air strike. Rose was wounded multiple times and had treated about 60 injured troops. But all of the soldiers survived. As the last Green Berets lifted out of Laos, the NVA forces were closing in around them and they had a cache of hundreds of pounds of documents seized from an enemy command center, which ended up being one of the biggest intelligence hauls of the Vietnam War. The story of Operation Tailwind remained locked away for a quarter-century. In June 1998, Mike Hagan, a Green Beret who fought with the SOG in Vietnam, had been interviewed in 2009 by a network and assumed the debut episode would be about veteran benefits. But the investigative expose, which was titled "Valley of Death" and hosted by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Peter Arnett, instead made a series of hard-hitting allegations about the mission all those years ago in Laos. CNN claimed that Rose, Plancich, Hagan and the other Special Forces soldiers were sent to kill American military defectors, banned under international law, according to a detailed examination of the reporting by the Defense Department.



## "An Interesting piece of forgotten U.S. History"

At the height of the 18th century, Muslim pirates (the "Barbary Pirates") were the terror of the Mediterranean and a large area of the North Atlantic. They attacked every ship in sight and held the crews for exorbitant ransoms. Those taken hostage were subjected to barbaric treatment and wrote heart-breaking letters home, begging their government and family members to pay whatever their Mohammedan captors demanded. These extortionists of the high seas represented the North African Islamic nations of Tripoli, Tunis, Morocco, and Algiers - collectively referred to as the Barbary Coast - and presented a dangerous and unprovoked threat to the new American Republic. Thus, the birth of the U.S. Navy. Beginning in 1784, 17 years before he would become president, Thomas Jefferson became America's Minister to France. That same year, the U.S. Congress sought to appease its Muslim adversaries by following in the footsteps of European nations who paid bribes to the Barbary States rather than engaging them in war.



When Jefferson saw there was no negotiating with Muslims, he formed what is now the Marines (sea going soldiers). These Marines were attached to U. S. Merchant vessels. When the Muslims attacked U.S. merchant vessels, they were repulsed by armed soldiers, but there is more. The Marines followed the Muslims back to their villages and killed every man, woman, and child in the village. It didn't take long for the Muslims to leave U.S. Merchant vessels alone. English and French merchant vessels started running up our flag when entering the Mediterranean to secure safe travel. Why the Marine Hymn Contains the Verse "... to the shores of Tripoli." In 1786, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams met with Tripoli's ambassador to Great Britain to ask by what right his nation attacked American ships and enslaved American citizens, and why Muslims held so much hostility towards America, a nation with which they had no previous contacts. The two future presidents reported that Ambassador Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adja had answered that Islam "was founded on the Laws of their Prophet, that it was written in their Quran that all nations who would not acknowledge their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found, and to make slaves of all they could take as prisoners, and that every Musselman (Muslim) who should be slain in Battle was sure to go to Paradise."

Despite this stunning admission of premeditated violence on non-Muslim nations, as well as the objections of many notable American leaders, including George Washington, who warned that caving in was both wrong and would only further embolden the enemy, for the following fifteen years the American government paid the Muslims millions of dollars for the safe passage of American ships or the return of American hostages. The payments in ransom and tribute amounted to over 20 percent of the United States government annual revenues in 1800. Jefferson was disgusted. Shortly after his being sworn in as the third President of the United States in 1801, the Pasha of Tripoli sent him a note demanding the immediate payment of \$225,000 plus \$25,000 a year for every year forthcoming. That changed everything.

## **"An Interesting piece of forgotten U.S. History" 2.**

Jefferson let the Pasha know, in no uncertain terms, what he could do with his demand. The Pasha responded by cutting down the flagpole at the American consulate and declared war on the United States. Tunis, Morocco, and Algiers immediately followed suit. Jefferson, until now, had been against America raising a naval force for anything beyond coastal defense, but, having watched his nation be cowed by Islamic thuggery for long enough, decided that it was finally time to meet force with force.

He dispatched a squadron of frigates to the Mediterranean and taught the Muslim nations of the Barbary Coast a lesson he hoped they would never forget. Congress authorized Jefferson to empower U.S. ships to seize all vessels and goods of the Pasha of Tripoli and to "cause to be done all other acts of precaution or hostility as the state of war would justify".

When Algiers and Tunis, who were both accustomed to American cowardice and acquiescence, saw the newly independent United States had both the will and the right to strike back, they quickly abandoned their allegiance to Tripoli. The war with Tripoli lasted for four more years and raged up again in 1815. The bravery of the U.S. Marine Corps in these wars led to the line "...to the shores of Tripoli" in the Marine Hymn, and they would forever be known as "leathernecks" for the leather collars of their uniforms, designed to prevent their heads from being cut off by the Muslim scimitars when boarding enemy ships.

Islam, and what its Barbary followers justified doing in the name of their prophet and their god, disturbed Jefferson quite deeply. America had a tradition of religious tolerance. In fact Jefferson, himself, had co-authored the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, but fundamentalist Islam was like no other religion the world had ever seen. A religion based on supremacy, whose holy book not only condoned but mandated violence against unbelievers, was unacceptable to him. His greatest fear was that someday this brand of Islam would return and pose an even greater threat to the United States .

This should concern every American. That Muslims have brought about women-only classes and swimming times at taxpayer-funded universities and public pools; that Christians, Jews, and Hindus have been banned from serving on juries where Muslim defendants are being judged; Piggy banks and Porky Pig tissue dispensers have been banned from workplaces because they offend Islamist sensibilities; ice cream has been discontinued at certain Burger King locations because the picture on the wrapper looks similar to the Arabic script for Allah; public schools are pulling pork from their menus. But in turn several American companies have placed the Muslim symbol on their products in the name of Allah; on and on and on and on..

It's death by a thousand cuts, or inch-by-inch as some refer to it, and most Americans have no idea that this battle is being waged every day across America. By not fighting back, by allowing groups to obfuscate what is really happening, and not insisting that the Islamists adapt to our own culture, the United States is cutting its own throat with a politically correct knife, and helping to further the Islamists agenda. Sadly, it appears that today America 's leaders would rather be politically correct than victorious!