

Once a Marine...

Moss Creek residents 'adopt' a group of Marines in Iraq.

BY ROB DEWID
BLUFFTON TODAY

Roger Garreau wasn't a Marine for very long, but in the Corps that never seems to matter.

He was in the Corps, once upon a time. He was and is, because you never stop being a Marine.

Garreau moved to Moss Creek from New Jersey in 2003. The Rhode Island native served from 1952-1955 but missed Korea.

He wanted to go. He begged to go. His sergeant wouldn't let him.

Instead, he was ordered to train as an aviation electrician. Good call. He fell in love with it and left the Corps in '55 to pursue a career as an electrical engineer.

He worked for Ma Bell and helped McDonnell Douglass develop anti-ballistic missiles during the Cold War.

He retired from AT&T in 1996 after 37 years with the company.

"I had a wonderful career. I owe it all to the Corps," he said. "If that

sergeant had listened to me and sent me to Korea, I never would have got into electronics, assuming I ever made it back."

He made it back. So now he's giving back.

Garreau helped found the Moss Creek Marines late last year. He and two other Marines found themselves at a party, where they began to reminisce about their service and other Marines they knew in Moss Creek.

"We said, 'Tees, you know, there are enough former Marines here' to form a club, Garreau said. "We said we ought to get together to celebrate the Marine Corps' birthday, part of the tradition, on Nov. 10."

That was 2005. Plans fell through that fall, so they're planning the first MCM members-only Marine Corps party this November.

But they're doing more than that. The Moss Creek Marines have "adopted" a group of 80 Marines in Iraq.

One of the MCM's members, Bill Mott, has a son-in-law serving in Iraq with 2nd Recon Battalion, Alpha Company, Unit 76676.

The Moss Creek Marines asked their overseas brethren what they'd most like from home. The answer: Calling cards.

"That was their choice," Gar-

reau said.

The group's collecting a minimum of \$20 per member to buy cards, but some have donated \$150.

Although the group's membership is limited to Marines (or their relatives) in Moss Creek, participation in the drive to help active duty overseas Marines is certainly not.

To donate, call Garreau at 836-2240 or e-mail him at lorogare@hargray.com; or call treasurer Bill Mott at 837-5066.

"It means everything, donating like this," Garreau said. "That's what you're there (in the Corps) for. It's a job you do. You're part of the Corps, always faithful. Semper Paratus."

"You're somewhere to do a job and we take that very seriously, but like everyone else you want to feel like it's appreciated - you want a pat on the back, to have support," he said.

That applies to all active-duty Marines. "But when you're in the thick of things, I think it's more important," Garreau said.

The Moss Creek Marines include 28 former Marines, two former Navy Corpsmen (who serve as Marine Corps medics), the widow of a former Marine, and the mother of a Marine serving overseas.



Roger Garreau

Rob Dewid/Bluffton Today

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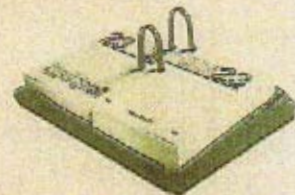
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