



COLONEL Tullis J Woodham, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)

September 7, 1928 - January 15, 2018

COLONEL TULLIS J. WOODHAM, JR., U. S. Marine Corps (Retired)

Colonel Tullis J. Woodham, Jr (US Marine Corps Retired) 89, died Monday, January 15, 2018 at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center in Myrtle Beach. He was predeceased by his wife , Joanne, of 59 years. _

He was born in Fort Myers, Florida, 7 September, 1928 , graduated from Robert E .Lee High School in Jacksonville, Florida in 1946 and enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps, serving as a weapons instructor at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC. Upon release from the Marine Corps in 1948 he attended, and in 1951, graduated from, the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. In April 1951,during the Korean Conflict, he was recalled to active duty , ordered to OCS at Parris Island, S. C., commissioned a Second Lieutenant in June 1951 and from April 1952 until March 1953, was assigned to the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division in Korea. . He was the Staff Secretary, MCRD Parris Island, in 1956, during the infamous Ribbon Creek /McKeon trial.

In October 1961, he was assigned to The Basic School, MCS, Quantico, Virginia and served as the Chief Instructor, Military Law Section, and Company Commander, Student Officer Company.,

After attending the Marine Corps Command and Staff College he was transferred in August 1965 to the NROTC Unit, University of Oklahoma as Senior Marine Officer and Marine Officer Instructor.

Colonel Woodham served in, and commanded, numerous infantry, tank,

engineer and logistic units/organizations prior to his attaining senior officer rank

Colonel Woodham was transferred to the 5th Marine Division, Camp Pendleton ,CA in 1968 and was designated as the Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 27th Marines.. It was while serving in this capacity in February 1968, that his Battalion, as part of Regimental Landing Team 27, was airlifted from the continental limits of the United States (El Toro, California) to Vietnam to become part of the 1st Marine Division's campaign against the Tet offensive. As Battalion Commander, Colonel Woodham received the Silver Star for Gallantry in action and the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for exceptionally meritorious service. Additionally, his Battalion was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for valorous achievement in action against enemy forces. Subsequently, while serving as Assistant Chief of Staff Manpower for the Third Marine Amphibious Force (Danang) he was designated the Chief of the NVA/US Prisoner Release Team.

Colonel Woodham attended the Defense Language Institute, Monterey, California, in preparation for his assignment in December 1969 as Senior Marine Officer, U. S. Naval Mission to Brazil.. He was awarded the Brazilian Naval Order of Merit and the Joint Services Commendation Medal for duties performed while serving as advisor to the Brazilian Marine Corps and Amphibious Warfare Instructor to the Brazilian. Naval War College. Upon termination of his assignment in Brazil, in August 1972, Colonel Woodham was ordered to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton and was named Base Manpower Coordinator. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his duties as Senior West Coast Coordinator for the planning, coordination and supervision of returning US prisoners of war from Viet Nam. (Operation Homecoming)

On 1 July 1974, he was designated as Chief of Staff, Marine Corps Base

Camp Pendleton. Colonel Woodham received the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of the second award for his services involved in the planning, coordination and execution of the Vietnamese/Cambodian refugee resettlement program (Operation New Arrivals).

In July 1976, Colonel Woodham was ordered to Marine Barracks Yokosuka, Japan for duty as Commanding Officer and Senior Marine Officer, U. S. Naval Forces, Japan. He was awarded his third Meritorious Service Medal upon termination of his duties. He and his wife were awarded the keys to the city of Yokosuka and were the first husband/wife foreigners to be designated Honorary Citizens of Yokosuka.

Reporting to MCS, Camp Butler, he assumed the office of Chief of Staff on 11 July 1979. In October 1981, he was also named as Deputy Base Commander and additionally assigned the function as Deputy Okinawa Area Coordinator within the U. S. Forces Japan Joint Forces Coordination Authority.

Upon completion of his tour on Okinawa in June 1982, Colonel Woodham was awarded the Legion of Merit with gold star In lieu of the second award for his leadership and managerial control over the diverse and complex staff functions which sustained the day to day operations of the Marine Corps' largest overseas support base. He completed thirty-six years of military service 1 July, 1982.

A partial list of his medals and decorations includes;

Silver Star

Legion of Merit with Combat "V"- with gold star in lieu of second award

Bronze Star with Combat "V"

Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars in lieu of second and third awards

Joint Services Commendation Medal

Combat Action Ribbon
Presidential Unit Citation
Navy Unit Citation
Meritorious Unit Commendation
Brazilian Naval Order of Merit

Following retirement he became active in the Myrtle Beach golfing community serving as President of The Deertrack Men's Golf Association, Chairman of the Prestwick Country Club Golf Committee, and member of the Prestwick Board of Governors. He was a student in the Horry Georgetown Technical College Golf Course Management and Operation Program and founded and coordinated a men's traveling golf group called Woodham's Warriors. Colonel Woodham was a 32nd degree Mason and a Master Gardener. He was a Founding member of Prestwick Country Club.

Survivors are his three children : Jan C. formerly Lt USMC and married to Colonel John Metterle USMC(Ret) Tampa, FL and their children, Tracee and Michael; Scott A., Major USAF(Ret) and daughter, Melis currently residing in Izmir, Turkey; and Brian L. formerly Captain USMC and wife Pam of Tampa, FL and their children, Christopher and TJ.

The family will receive friends from 3:30-5-30 PM on February 16th at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel. Memorial services will be held the following morning at 11AM at Garden City Baptist Church. Inurnment with military honors will be at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. where he will be placed with his wife, Joanne.

Memorials may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Tribute Wall

SM

“ Col. Woodham was our Commanding Officer at the Marine Barracks Yokosuka, Japan. I was very fortunate to be his driver for over a year in parts of '77 and '78. I was blessed to know Mrs. Woodham as well; her kindness during a time of loss in my family was heart-warming.

The Colonel led by example with fortitude, moxie and compassion for his Marines. His guidance and encouragement benefitted many a Marine. I was but one of thousands. Brian and Scott, I wish you and your families well and all the best.

Semper Fi

Cpl. Steve Murphy

Former MN State Senator

But always a Marine!

Steve Murphy - January 13, 2023 at 01:06 AM

RJ

“ He was my dad's best friend for many years they served together in Korea, at the Basic School in Quantico Va. and on Operation Homecoming that I know of. I know he engaged in the 68 Tet offensive and I remember him describing the intensity of the combat RIP "Boomer"

Robert F Glancy Jr - January 04, 2023 at 12:12 PM

JD

“ NEVER WAS A REAL MAN....DIABOLIC AND VERY UNJUST BESIDES LOSING MANY LIVES IN BATTLE.....MAY HIS MAKER RECONCILE WITH HIM. AMEN

JOHN DOE - July 15, 2021 at 02:08 AM

YF

“ Your FHWC Gym Family! purchased the Garden Accent - "Someone you love..." for the family of COLONEL Tullis J Woodham, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps (Retired).



Your FHWC Gym Family! - February 08, 2018 at 03:03 PM

YF

“ Your FHWC Gym Family! purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of COLONEL Tullis J Woodham, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps (Retired).



Your FHWC Gym Family! - February 08, 2018 at 02:59 PM

AD

“ WE HAVE LOST A LOVING FRIEND. TULLIS ALWAYS KNEW I WAS REAR GUARD FOR HIM AS A FRIEND AND NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR .HE LOVED THE PASTRIES THAT MY WIFE MADE AND LOOKED FORWAD TO EVER HOLIDAY WHICH CAME JUST ABOUT EVERY DAY WHEN IT CAME TO TREATS. WE KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW AND WHO HE IS WITH. I GAVE HIM AN ORDER TO CALL IN FIRE POWER ON OUR HEADS CLEARING THE WAY FOR MY WIFE AN ME AND THAT WE WOULD TRY TO BRING "COOOOKIES" AND SUCH WHEN IT WAS OUR TIME TO ADVANCE .HE WOULD GRIN WITH THAT BEAUTIFUL SMILE HE HAD. PEGGY AND ADM. JIM T.

ADMIRAL JAMES D - January 24, 2018 at 11:34 AM

TF

“ Fair winds and following seas, dear friend...

The Tully family - January 21, 2018 at 03:48 PM

S1

Tully family- is this W. Patrick Tully's family??

Sergeant Wayne Diana, USMC, 1976-1979 - February 07, 2018 at 04:23 PM

PM

“ *Tullis loved to garden and shared cuttings from his favorite plants. I have a walkway lined with plants from Tullis. Every time I walk there I think of Tullis.*

Patricia Mariano - January 20, 2018 at 07:41 AM

MR

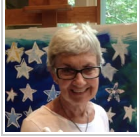
“ *Mel and I will always be grateful for the friendship and kindness of Tullis and sweet Jo. Now they are together again forever.*

Maria Renkey - January 19, 2018 at 03:02 PM

LB

“ *Tullis was an avid volunteer and reader at Socastee Library forever! His charm and wit were unmatched as was his love for "man" books. He will be greatly missed by the staff, volunteers, and patrons. His military service is one of true honor. Going to miss ya buddy (or I use to say "Private"). Staff of Socastee Library*

Lee Brown - January 19, 2018 at 12:18 PM



“ Tullis and Jo were my neighbors from the time I moved to Deerfield in 1987. Though I never knew the details of his military service, looking at the walls of Tullis’ Study gave me an idea. Tullis and Jo were very special people. My last conversation with TULLIS was October when I went back to Surfside. We sat on his porch for over an hour and had such a nice visit. I loved them both; the loss of Jo and now TULLIS leaves a big void in that close knit neighborhood.
 Elaine Koenig

Elaine Koenig - January 19, 2018 at 11:08 AM



“ Thanks for your service Marine and Fellow Vietnam Vet !!!
 Wayne Williams
 United States Marine Corps



Wayne Williams - USMC - January 19, 2018 at 10:14 AM



“ I served as Tullis' XO at MB Yokosuka. Sylvia and I have many fond memories of our time with Jo and Tullis. His daily leadership was an inspiration for this Marine. He was a great Marine and a great friend.
 Jim Brandon, USMC, (Ret)

Jim Brandon - January 17, 2018 at 10:42 PM



Hello LtCol Brandon- I just learned of Colonel Woodham's passing. He was a great man and great leader of men. Sgt. Wayne Diana, MarBks Liaison Clerk...1977-79

Sergeant Wayne Diana, USMC, 1976-1979 - February 07, 2018 at 04:28 PM

SM

Wayne Diana, I owe you a belated response to an email from years ago. Unfortunately I don't have your address. If you would hit me at stevemurphy.sm69@gmail.com take care my friend.

Steve Murphy - January 13, 2023 at 01:13 AM

BH

“ *It was a honor to have served under your command with the 3/27. With such little time and preparation and training we were thrown into the jungles of Vietnam against some highly trained Viet Cong and hard core nva troops. Thank you for your leadership of all the brave marines who served under your command. May you guide all the fellow marines who are now in heaven. Rest In Peace sir*
Corporal bob bulldog Hontz
3rd. Battalion 27th marines
Lima company

bob hontz - January 17, 2018 at 04:20 PM

JY

“ *The Colonel was one my very favorite patients and I continue to hold him in deepest admiration and respect. I always enjoyed seeing him in the office and I knew I would fall behind as I enjoyed so much talking to this amazing man. It was an honor to be of service to one who was of such great service to our country.*
James Yates, MD

James Yates - January 17, 2018 at 01:37 PM

AJ

I had the extreme pleasure to serve as Colonel Woodham's Staff Judge Advocate and Staff Secretary in Okinawa. No finer Marine nor friend. He was one of the finest Marines and professional officers that you could hope to serve with. He was a great mentor with astute guidance and advice. He was the glue that keep everything together. Throughout my career, I found many officers who engaged in the give and take. Colonel Woodham was the epitome of an officer who gave what it took to do an outstanding job in each and every endeavor.

Al Grieshaber Jr. - January 24, 2018 at 05:47 PM

DF

So sorry I only just learned of Tullis' death. He was a very special person and dear, dear friend. We became friends through our love of books and appreciation of the Socastee Library - where I worked and he visited regularly. I know his reunion with his wife was celebrated throughout Heaven. I'll miss you, Tullis. Wish we'd had that lunch together that we kept promising each other. Semper fi.

Debbie Floyd - May 27, 2018 at 03:42 PM

RM

Just learned of Tullis' passing. I had the honor and privilege of serving with Tullis and Jo at the NROTC Unit, University of Oklahoma, 1965-67. He was a fabulous Marine and a great and loyal American. I spent many nights at his and Jo's home being fed and loved. We can rejoice that they're together again, but I for one will miss them. Rest in peace my friends.

Robert Mead - January 26, 2019 at 11:19 AM