

Cathy Ding

Rebecca Whitehead

Peters

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The Story of Bill McInroe

Marine Corps veteran, Bill McInroe is eighty four years of age and has dedicated the United States Marine Corps with twenty four years of honorable service. McInroe was a purple heart recipient and fought in the Vietnam War, the Korean War as well as the Cold War. He has four kids, three boys and a girl, and a beautiful wife and loves to raise coffee in Bolivia. He attended college and received an education from the G.I Bill that provided veterans with education opportunities. McInroe is now part of the Veterans Administration Office in Los Angeles where he serves as a counselor, as well as a training coordinator, and he is part of the USMC Tankers Association and attends meetings annually.

McInroe was raised in Texas and joined the marines partly because of a family tradition. His father was also a retired Marine Corps veteran. He volunteered himself to serve and enlist in the wars that he fought in. Throughout his war experience McInroe learned a lot and discovered some of his own core values during this experience. There are four

words that describes why McInroe volunteered for the Marine Corps and fought passionately for: justice, freedom, liberty and peace. Those four things are most important values that he has learned throughout his experience in the war effort.

Something very important that McInroe experienced was how to deal with the manifestation of fear. He strongly believes that the Marine Corps trains its people that in times of fear you have learn how to react, perform and fight. He talked about the three F's that consume the human body and mind when everyone is in fear: Freeze, Flight and Fight. Throughout his journey, McInroe learned that in times of fear you have to know how to react to fight not just the enemy but and the fear manifested inside of you. As a tanker, McInroe experienced an unfortunate accident that allowed him to receive the purple heart award. There was one case where he and his crew were in a tank and the tank hit a box mine because the minesweeper didn't pick up on the box mine. Upon hitting the mine, the entire tank blew up leaving McInroe the sole survivor of the tragic accident. He was hospitalized for three weeks and automatically returned to his duties afterwards.

Leadership was another valuable idea that McInroe explored during his time in the US Marine Corps. He believed that a leader had to be fair, firm, friendly and fun all at the same time. He also strongly valued character, conduct, communication and christianity. During wartime, McInroe always tried to keep in touch with his family. He was a prolific writer who wrote letters to his wife almost every night to maintain communication. He is a man of good character with excellent conduct that gave him the

success he had during war. McInroe described that the hardships he faced during his war experience , the fear, cold and hunger, is really what shaped him in the person he is today. He described that one the day that he retired from the Marine Corps, he felt that he was truly done his duties and served America well.

Like many other veterans, McInroe met his wife while he was in the Marine Corps. He was in charge of the Marine Security at the US Embassy in Bolivia when he saw his future wife across the street talking to a man. The way he spoke about his eyes could make anybody's heart warm, describing her as being the most beautiful woman he had ever seen and thought since she was talking to another guy that he would have no chance. It turned out he didn't have any competition since the man was her brother and after going to lunch with mutual friends he "never let her go".

Throughout his service, whether it be the Marines or the Veterans Administration, McInroe has been continuously helping people for decades. In Vietnam, McInroe was a Combine Action Platoon Chief Instructor which sent squadrons out to villages and helped them protect themselves. The Marines would help them set up defensive measures around the village to protect themselves from the Viet Cong. In the VA, he helps veterans, some disabled get their VA benefits which he started to do as soon as he got out of the service. He also goes and helps homeless vets at March Air Force Base right here in Riverside.

Bill McInroe is a very inspirational person with so much knowledge to give. He emphasized hardship, sacrifice, honor and duty while describing his time in the Marines. All these words would accurately describe how a Marine should act and what they go through while protecting our country and the freedoms that come with it. Some other essentials for him in service were bullets, bandages and beans. He said you always have to have these things with you in times of war, and even if you're not in war beans and bandages can always come in handy.

A hardship McInroe faced during his service was during the Cold War. There was limited training and not enough money for the Marines. They could only use the tanks for 30 minutes in the morning just to make sure they worked which was not enough practice for the tankers in a time when war could break out in a press of a button. They were restricted from practicing and training as much as they would have liked to be prepared for a war the nation was scared could happen.

McInroe's dedication to the Marines is reflected in the fact that he is a decorated soldier. He has achieved many ribbons like the Presidential Unit Citation, USMC commendations for valor, for extraordinary duties and the good conduct ribbon for years of good conduct in the military. He was also a recipient of the Korean Presidential Unit Citation for serving in the Korean War and the National Defense ribbon. McInroe also received many other ribbons such as ones for combat action. Dedication was a huge

part of the lesson he hoped to pass on to the youth of today and his achievements are a perfect example of someone who is dedicated and honorable.

After serving in the Korean War from 1950-1953, serving two tours in Vietnam, and being stationed at Camp Pendleton in the Cold War, McInroe went on to dedicate his time to the VA to help other disabled and injured veterans like himself. Hoping to pass on the 3 C's, which are character, conduct and communication, his wise words engrained themselves into the mind of the young people who found a great role model to influence their character and life choices in an environment where its hard to see what is right. Bill McInroe is a great inspiration on how to live an honorable, fulfilling life full of charity and service to others.