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Bill McInroe

US Marine Corps

24 years of service

2016



Bill McInroe

Bill McInroe served in the United States Marine Corps for a total of twenty four years. He is currently eighty five years old and his father was also in the Marines. Mr. McInroe took part in the Cold War, Korea, and Vietnam. He served six campaigns in Korea and three in Vietnam.

Mr. McInroe graduated from San Diego High School in 1950 before he joined the military. He played football, ran track, and was also a swimmer. He lettered in all of these sports and had a successful high school career. After high school, Mr. McInroe enlisted into the Marine Corps and traveled to Camp Penelton to complete his training requirements. At Camp Penelton, he learned how to drive a tank, fire a 90mm, and basic maintenance skills. After completing his training, Mr. McInroe set off to fight in the Korean War. He was a part of the first Marine Division, which was made up of about twenty to twenty five thousand men, and fought as part of the tank battalion containing approximately seventy five tanks. This group of responders was

sent to Japan where they were loaded onto ships and set off towards South Korea. They landed in Incheon and from there made way to Seoul, the capital of South Korea. During his time in the Korean War, Mr. McInroe was a gunner in a tank as well as a tank commander. He was wounded in the legs and ears when his recover vehicle tank was towing a broken tank towards safety and it hit a mine. Two men were killed and another's leg was severed. In honor of his wounds, he was awarded a purple heart.

Mr. McInroe was also involved in one of the most critical battles for the US Marine Corps at the Chosun Reservoir. It was twenty five degrees below zero and they were attacked from a small forest area. Mr. McInroe was in a tank that drove onto a snow bank and one of the tracks fell off because it was so slippery and icy.

There was also a time when Mr. McInroe and a few other guys at his base pulled a prank on a young man who would always leave his locker open. They put a can of kimchi, a fermented cabbage dish known for its intense smell, in his locker and ensured that he would never leave it open again.

After fighting in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953, Mr. McInroe was sent to Vietnam. In Vietnam, he was part of a combined action platoon that helped protect small villages. Children in these villages would often steal watches and valuables from the Marine men to buy enough food to survive. After completing his service in Vietnam, Mr. McInroe served in the Cold War until 1970. When Mr. McInroe retired from the service, it was bittersweet because it was something extremely important to him and was like his family. He went on to work for the VA as the training coordinator for all of Southern California. He also became a drill instructor and earned a degree in business and government management.

Mr. McInroe was married 40 years to a woman he met in Bolivia, Central America. Her name was Maria Antoinette Mialon McInroe, and Mr. McInroe loved her very much and carried a picture of her with a lock of her hair during battles. Mr. McInroe's wife passed away twelve years ago. He also has four children, one girl and three boys, who all turned out to be very successful, as well as eight grandchildren, two of them which are his great grandchildren. He loved his time in the US Marine Corps and wouldn't trade it for the world.

Mr. McInroe taught us about the flag, and what it meant to him. The American Flag represents liberty, freedom, justice, and peace. To Mr. McInroe, there were a lot of important things that should also be important to other people such as the value of life. He also taught us key words that we should remember throughout life. The 3 C's character, conduct, and communications were among those words. These reflect how we will be remembered, behave, communicate with others. He stated, "God gave us a mind to think and understand, and a heart to love others, which is a big part of the 3 C's, the bare necessities." He also taught us about the 3 F's which are what we should always remember when dealing with other people. One, to be fair, two, to be firm, and three, to be friendly. All these key words work together to tell a story, and they are all a part of being a good person, having healthy relationships, and having a great character.

Jayda Smith
Period. 5

Bill McInroe
Marine Corp.
Twenty-four years
Sixth year of King High Remembers

Bill McInroe

Bill McInroe was a sweet, kind, driven, and brave man that I interviewed for a history project, King High Remembers. King High Remembers is a day where the Junior class of students interview Veterans. Bill McInroe happened to be the Veteran that I was placed with for the day. Which to me was the best Veteran I could have been placed with. I didn't just learn about Bill McInroe's life but I also gained many nuggets of wisdom as I sat and listened to him as well as asking questions and what his responses were.

Mr. McInroe (pronounced Mac-In-row) was born on February 8, 1931. McInroe grew up in a home where each one of his brothers, as well as his Father were all in the Marine Corps. Therefore, Mr. McInroe took on the same role as becoming a member of the Marine Corps since it was more of a family tradition. Bill took his basic training in San Diego at the Marine Corps Depot. He was in the Korean war in June 1950, the Cold War, as well as the Vietnam War. Bill McInroe was in the Marine Corps for 24 years. When he retired he worked for the VA which helped other Marine Corps Veterans with compensation, and other things like that. McInroe was married 40 years to a woman he met in Bolivia, Central America, her name was Maria Anttonette Mialon McInroe, he loved her very much and the way he talked about her was so lovely as well as the way his face and eyes lit up as he talked about her. McInroe had four children, one girl and three boys, who all turned out to be very successful. McInroe also has eight grandchildren, two of them which are his great grandchildren.

In high school Bill was the all American young man, he played football, swam and ran track. He lettered in all sports that he did. He grew up in San Diego and attended San Diego High School, which he graduated in 1950. One story he enjoyed telling my group about was his Senior Ditch Day. Everyone got on a train down to the beach and how much fun it was. In June of 1950 right after high school that is when Bill enlisted into the Marine Corps.

Life in the Marine Corps was very interesting for Bill, and he says he really enjoyed it. The day of his retirement he was sad in some way because it was all he had known for the last twenty years, but he didn't have too much time to be saddened about it because he retired on a Friday, and the next upcoming Monday he went into work. Bill was a hard working man, and had taught me so many life lessons within just telling me about his life, and he sure was full with a bunch of

faith. When he first went into the Marine Corp he was stationed at Camp Penelton, a Marine Corp base just outside of oceanside. There is where Bill learned all about Tanks, he learned how to operate it, the maintenance, how to fire the weapons and how to fix them in time of repair. During his time in the Marine Corp Bill was in an incident that hindered his hearing a bit, he was going to repair a tank with his crew and he went over a bomb in his tank which created a hole through the middle of the bottom of a tank, killing one of his crew members, blowing ones leg off completely, Bill was extremely blessed and just hindered his hearing. Bill taught me many things about the different cultures he learned. For entertainment, Bill and others would play pranks on each other. One thing they did was put a can of tomato and onion in one of his friends locker because of how bad it smelt. During the Korean War, Mr. McInroe was in the first division that went to Japan. He took the role of a gunner and Tank Commander during this time. During his time in the Marine Corp, he also trained, and inlisted others into the Marine Corp. Bill also got to visit many different countries and states, and travel during those years. One thing Bill did for goodluck was carry a picture of his lovely wife and a lock of her hair at all times. Bill recieved many rewards, ribbons, and metals for his service and the things that he did during his time in combat and just while being in the Marine Corp. I learned many , many good things from Mr. McInroe.

Mr. McInroe taught me about the flag, and what it meant to him and what it meant to me. The American Flag is Liberty, Freedom, Justice and Peace. Bill did what he did for the flag and its symbols. To Mr. McInroe there was a lot of important things to him, that should be important to all people. The Value of life, and what we as people really think the value of life is. Bill taught me about the key words, the key words that tell stories. The 3, C's which are bare necessities

character, conduct, and communications. Which are How I will be remembered, how i will behave, and how i will communicate with others. Bill believes that God gave us a mind to think and understand, and a heart to love others, which is a big part of the 3 C's, the bare necessities. He also taught me about the 3 F's which are what I should always remember when dealing with other people. One, to be fair, two to be firm, and three to be friendly. All these key words end out to tell a story, and they are all apart of being a good person, having healthy relationships, and having a great character. The most important things to McInroe were to maintain and remember these words as well as always remember to be faithful to God, Country, family and community.

Having the oppurtunity to talk to such a kind loving heart and soul of a man was amazing, and I learned so many things I will store in my heart forever. Bill McInroe age 85, is such a young soul and I will forever remember him and what he has taught me.