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Third Period

Blair Holm
United States Marine Corps
1954-1956
March 2017

Blair Holm



Many youths are eager to leave home, whether it is to flee or to explore the world. Some rush off to college, others join trade schools, or start working right away. For Blair Holm, it was an eager escape into the armed forces. Somewhere far from home and full of opportunities, were the promises advertised to his youthful mind. Holm's newfound escape offered travel and the promise of a different future. Later he would earn his position in the fifth Marines.

Blair Holm was born in South Dakota in 1935, and raised in a small town in Minnesota. His home life was rough being a middle child of eleven. As a young child Holm was only close with his younger brother until his brother was held back a year and the two boys drifted apart. In high school Holm enjoyed football, basketball, and track. He thrived in anything that could keep him away from home. One day as Blair Holm strolled through town he saw an advertisement, a simple and prideful escape from home appeared in front of him. The poster advertised enlistment into the United States Marine Corps. Unfortunately, Blair was only seventeen at the time, and his escape had to wait just a little longer until his eighteenth birthday in 1953.

Entering boot camp in January of 1954, Holm was eager and ready for all that was entailed. Holm was stationed at Camp Pendleton in Southern California. Being told that the Marines was hard, boot camp was the toughest, but he enjoyed all of it and thought it was sort of

fun. This is because of his extensive background as an athlete and ability to stay fit during his high school career. Getting out of boot camp he went out wherever they sent him, he had no say in what position he held right after training.

After his time at boot camp, Holm was stationed at Treasure Island in San Francisco. Holm's mission operation specialty was not picked by him. Instead he was to perform an assigned task based on his skill set. This task was learning to be an electronic technician, in which he repaired walkie-talkies and radios. He later was sent to Korea to repair radios. Throughout his time in service and his life he has always kept a distance to stressful situations. His time in Korea ended in February of 1955, and he officially reached American soil on March 17, 2017.

On December 18th 1956, his time in service has ended. He had an early release for the holidays that Holm had taken, so he was out earlier than expected. After being released Blair had one job working at Edison working on telephone poles. At the time he was dating a girl who convinced him that he should go to college. He ended up going to Mount Sac for his AA. During his college time, Holms' girlfriend's mother got him a job at the LA Puente Library, because they needed somebody old enough to hold the night shift. School was full time and work was part time at this point. After this Holm attended California Polytechnic State University, receiving a bachelor degree in social science. Later he went onto University of Southern California earning a master of science in library science degree which certified him as a professional librarian.

In Riverside, California at the Riverside National Cemetery a group of inactive Marines volunteer their time to honor deceased Veterans. This group is called Semper Fi #1 and is one of

many Memorial Honor Detail in the United States. Corporal Blair Holm is one of these very special men. In his retirement Holm learned of the group and decided to joined. Semper Fi #1 has been involved with many memorial services such as the Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades in the Riverside County.

In 1984, Blair married his third wife. He met his wife shortly after accepting a job at Colton Library, the two have been in love since. From his previous two marriages, he also had two daughters as well. Mr. Holm is extremely proud of his four daughters and all that they have accomplished.

To Corporal Blair Holm of the Fifth Marines, being a Marine means being there to do to one's own desires, getting the tools and the ability to do what is needed. He advises all to give it their all, and as the United States Army says, "Be all you can be." He believes that this applies to all branches of military, and anything one does.

From his eagerness to enlist and leave, to his time spent in active duty, and even into his retirement, Blair Holm has been self-driven and done so much in his lifetime. Although he never saw himself as accomplished, nor worth more than the next guy, those who have met him and love him see just how wonderful he is. Even though he never saw combat, Holm is an inspiration to all. Working his way up the ladder and going to three different colleges with degrees from all; becoming a children's librarian; volunteering his time at the Riverside National Cemetery; and being a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Blair Holm has demonstrated the fulfillment of the American dream.