

PROUD TO CLAIM THE TITLE OF UNITED STATES MARINE (246th Marine Corps Birthday)

"His Name shall endure forever: His Name shall be continued as long as the sun...." Psalm 72:17

We have been called a lot of names: Marine, Grunt, Jarhead, Leatherneck, Doc (Navy FMF Corpsman), and Ground Pounder. The Germans at Bella Wood referred to the advancing Marines as Devil Dogs. Perhaps the title that holds the most prominent place in this list is included in the Marine Corps Hymn.

From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli,
We will fight our country's battles in the air, on land and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom, and to keep our honor clean,
We are proud to claim the title of **United States Marine**.

We are proud to claim the title of United States Marine. I don't know of anyone who has served with the Marines who doesn't advertise their affiliation with the Corps in some way or another. We wear covers and shirts displaying the globe and anchor, and we decorate our vehicles and houses with flags, stickers, license tags, and other paraphernalia to make everyone aware of our service in the Marine Corps. In the movie 'Born on the Fourth of July' Tom Berenger's character was that of a Gunnery Sergeant sent from a Massapequa Recruiting Office to speak to the local high school seniors. He said, "First off young men, let's get one thing straight; not everybody becomes a United States Marine. We want the best and will accept nothing but the best, because there's nothing prouder, nothing finer, nothing standing as straight as a United States Marine."

A name says a great deal. Over the last several years, I have compiled some very unusual names that the African people have given to their children, perhaps inspired by the painful and toiling travail of natural childbirth, deep in the African bush. Here are a few examples with the meaning of each one. Dikotsi (accident); Ramakeele (he came to us by surprise); Phindile (oh no, not again); Dikeledi (tears); Samanay (unknown one, or who's your daddy); Mafatle (bald head); Kgosiatsela (king of the road); Molahlehi (the last one); Kcolkantse (been thinking of you); Tebatso (make me forget); Seretse, (his name is mud); Moswabi (disappointment); and Lungile (the good one).

A few years ago, the U. S. Social Security Administration also released some very unusual and yet popular names. A few examples are (brands) Tesla, Fanta, Baretta, Evian, Maybelline; (material) Denim, Suede; (spiritual) Halo, Lucifer, Yogi; (prestige) Kaiser, Pharaoh, Czarina; (attitude) Arson, Furious, Envy, Vanity, Slayer, Shooter; (notorious) Jezebel, Capone, Stalin; (intriguing) Candelaria, Calcifer, Artreyu, Aerabella, and Bereket.

All these names raise an eyebrow, and we wonder, what in the world were these kid's parents thinking when they branded their children for life with these unusual names? When people hear the name Marine however, they sit up and take notice as they acknowledge America's 'first to fight' military force. We are proud to claim the title of United States Marine. Our name is prominent throughout the world, but our name is not preeminent! Our birth and our name were given in 1775, but His Name has no beginning, and His Name has no end.

God's Name is unique, it is one of a kind, and it is above all others. 'Name' is singular and yet it refers to all of the various Names given to Him in the Scriptures which describe His marvelous attributes. **"His Name shall endure forever...."** No other name can be compared with His. It stands alone. His rank, His titles, His dignity, are above all others.

We must always remember our allegiances to God, Country, and Corps. Many of us remember the ball cap that Sergeant Major David Hatfield occasionally wore. The inscription was his battle cry; **GOD, COUNTRY, CORPS.** Serve God, pray for our Country, and be proud of the fact that you are called a **UNITED STATES MARINE**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARINES! Semper Fi

Chaplain Ren