

Friday, July 1st 2011

My Brothers!

I am honored by your words, memories and encouragement. Thank you all and "Semper Fi".

It's also nice to see this blog is working. Even though it's been more than 20 years since we served together... you found me. Perhaps people will understand why Marines are such fine examples of American spirit. Through good times and bad, victories and disaster, our brotherhood is one born from shared hardship, adversity and triumph.

Some days I feel an overwhelming shame. When you strive to do your best, work hard and be honest in life it's not supposed to end up like this. Every morning I have to ask God for the strength and mercy to endure another day. No excuses though, I'm paying the consequences for not seeking help before it was too late.

I'd be lying if I said I didn't cry when I received a copy of all the posts up to 6/19/11 in the mail a few days ago.

I've often wondered, "did I do any good in 2/8?" You've reminded me of that deep down strength only experienced after you reach the point of total exhaustion and you believe you can not go one more step.

A fellow Marine comes along side, grabs your shoulder or lifts some of your gear and in the way of all warriors in the past says an encouraging word like...

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"Come on Devil Dog!"

"One more hill!"

"Just a few more steps!"

"You can do it!"

"Reach down and find you a pair!"

"Don't quit!"

"We'll get through it together."

"A-A-RU-GG-AH!"

Thank God above, I'm not alone. I can endure ... another day ... another week ... another year. On the brighter side, since I'm already a mental case, I shouldn't go crazy in here. ☺

I'll look forward to any letters, and we can catch up on a more personal level than this public forum. I'm proud to be counted among you and really glad you've connected with each other. Hopefully you've found some Corpsmen too.

At the next Birthday Ball maybe lift a glass for me if you think of it.

"Semper Fi!"

D. Liley (David)