

BACK IN ACTION AT MCI NORFOLK

THE MODERN PUSH FOR THE
VOICE OF THE INFORMED PRISONER
TO BE HEARD IS BACK BEHIND THE WALL!

CHANGES TO COME!!!



THE GATEKEEPERS OF REFORM

PRISONER UNITY
AND THE VOICE OF THE INFORMED PRISONER!

A BRIEF MESSAGE

What you are about to read is nothing short of extraordinary. Here you will find factual information that supports a claim that we, the friends and supporters of Joe Labriola, are making to anyone who will listen. This is the story of how the very same military record was used to convict one man and free another.

A "TIPPING POINT" is what defense lawyers or prosecutors call the element they use to sway the jurors in their favor when the trial seems to be hanging in the balance.

Nearly forty-four years ago, Joe Labriola was put on trial for first degree murder despite there being no eyewitness testimony and evidence that was circumstantial at best. The tipping point that the prosecution used was Joe's DD-214 military service record, which included information about Joe's service as a U.S. Marine who served two tours in Vietnam, was a fire team leader, an expert marksman, and a highly decorated, "trained killing machine." Soon after being presented with this information, the jury returned a verdict of guilty in the first degree. It's all there for you to read about at www.freejoelab.com.

In 1995, another Joe — this one with a surname of Yandle — filed for a commutation in front of the Governor's Council. Joe had over twenty years in on a first degree life sentence he was serving for felony murder. As the Council members debated about Yandle's situation, his attorney needed a tipping point, so a DD-214 military service record was introduced into the proceedings. The record included an honorable discharge from the U.S. Marines, highlighted by two tours in Vietnam as a fire team leader, an expert marksmanship rating, and his being a recipient of both a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for Valor. The Council members were highly impressed — so much so that they made a strong recommendation to the Governor himself to commute this war hero and return this warrior to society.

After coverage of this story in a segment on CBS's *60 Minutes* and in the *Boston Globe*, Joe Yandle was freed.

It was several years before the lie which freed him was exposed. Joe Yandle never set foot in Vietnam. His commutation was revoked and he was returned to prison for five more years before being re-paroled. Today, Joe Yandle is living a quiet life out in society.

So why is it that OUR Joe, Joe Labriola — the real-deal Joe — remains in prison and cannot get a hearing before the Governor's Council?

If you'd like to do something about this, we invite you to learn more and to take action. Pick up the phone and contact the Governor or the Governor's Council and let them know how you feel.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
The Joe Labriola Team

PLEASE CONTACT —

Office of Charlie Baker, Governor of the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
T 617-725-4000 | Email via the web site at
www.mass.gov/governor

The Governor's Council
George Cronin, Administrative Secretary
The State House, Room 184, Boston, MA 02133
T 617-725-4015

SOME POINTS OF INTEREST

WE WOULD LIKE to introduce you to our friend Joe Labriola. Marine Corps veteran, inmate. In 1973, shortly after his return to the USA and discharge from the Marines, Joe was found guilty of a murder he did not commit. He has been in Massachusetts prisons for nearly all of the last 43 years, serving a sentence of life without parole.

We believe Joe was grievously wronged by a flawed system, and has been legally "wounded" and left to die. He must not be abandoned. The following is a chronological list of Joe's activities from the year 1973 to the present.

1973

Founding member of the American Veterans in Prison (AVIP), which was the first of its kind inside of a Massachusetts prison.

1973 – 75

Spokesman for the National Prisoners Rights Association (NPRA). As spokesman, Joe initiated a face to face meeting inside of his cell within MCI-Walpole in 1973 with State Senators Jack Bachman and Barbra Gray for the sole purpose of finding alternative solutions to help de-escalate the violence that was running rampant to the point where Walpole had the highest per-capita rate of murder in the United States. This meeting was a precursor to eventual changes in prison policy.

1974 – 78

Worked with and counseled at-risk youth as part of the Reachout program, which eventually paved the way for the current youth programs that are active throughout the Department of Corrections.

1995 – 98

Chairman of the Norfolk Lifers Group Inc., which under Joe's guidance and direction donated thousands of dollars to charity, including the Alderson House in West Virginia, which is a home for single mothers transitioning back into society, and the Norfolk Home for Little Wanderers.

1995 – 97

AVIP Commander, MCI-Norfolk.

1996

As a member of the Bethany Catholic Community, Joe lived his first Cursillo. The following year, Joe sponsored six men so that they could live theirs and make positive changes in their lives. Presently, Joe is still active in both participating in Cursillos and sponsoring candidates to experience theirs.

1997

Formed the first Political Action Committee (PAC) inside of a state prison, and created the Ballots Over Bullets campaign, which resulted in over 700 men registering to vote for the first time.

2008 – Present

Member of the Parish Council for The Our Lady Guadalupe Parish, Shirley, MA. He is a member of Pax Christi and the International Thomas Merton Society.

2008 – Present

Certified and registered with the Boston Archdiocese as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister.

2008 – Present

Joe actively participates in both bi-annual charity events held within MCI-Shirley Medium. Every May, a Walk-For-Hunger fundraiser is held outside in the prison yard. The Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Community is an official satellite event holder for Project Bread. Every October, a Toys for Tots Walk and Run is held to raise money to provide toys for underprivileged families. A check is presented to the United States Marines who sponsor the charity. Despite his various health issues, Joe gets his friend, Mike Skinner, to push him around the dirt track for a marathon at each event. Numerous people, both inside and out, sponsor Joe and his friend. To date, they have raised thousands of dollars for both charities.

2013 – Present

AVIP Commander, MCI-Shirley Medium.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION VISIT
FREEJOELAB.COM

WELCOME TO VIETNAM, LARRY

THE FOLLOWING ARE excerpts from letters sent to both Joe Labriola and Karen Schulman by Larry Bristow, a PFC United States Marine who served with Joe Labriola in Vietnam. Larry is now a gentleman farmer in Columbia, Alabama, after retiring as a Sheriff's Deputy. Larry is fighting for his life in a battle with cancer. He is a husband, father, and grandfather. He found Joe on the Internet after nearly fifty years of wondering what ever happened to the Marine he credits with saving his life. They were both 19 years old and combat-hardened.



Larry Bristow (L) and Joe Labriola (R).

"I have been searching for you for a long time. The last time I saw you, we were on patrol and the sergeant said to me

to get ready for R&R in Thailand. When I arrived back to the unit, Fred Hardy told me that you and Augie got wounded. [Francis J. ("Augie") August would later be reported KIA after returning from Japan.] But right before I left, you still gave me fifty dollars to spend while on R&R, and I have never forgotten that."

"Another thing I remember so well was when they sent me from a security team guarding the DaNang Airport to a line company. Upon arrival, I had to report to Lance Corporal Labriola. You were in a tent, sitting on a bare cot, loading some ammo into the M-14 magazines. You asked me where I was from, and when I told you Alabama, you started laughing because of my accent. Then you sat me down and told me that if I listened to you and followed all of your

orders, that you would do your best to get me home alive."

"I still have several pictures of you after you killed that Viet Cong. The very same Cong that went behind me while we were filling our canteens in the village well. You were on point when you shot him. I was not very observant in those days. Praise the Lord, because no one else was hurt or killed thanks to you."

"Another time we were ambushed and a lot of Marines were wounded or killed. Bullets were hitting the dirt next to my head when you came running up, firing on full automatic and shouting to me: WELCOME TO THE VIETNAM WAR, LARRY!"

"I was told by other Marines that Joe Labriola was street wise and wasn't afraid of anything. We were sent by



Unidentified soldier (L) and Joe Labriola (R).

chopper to re-enforce an artillery unit that was being overrun. When we arrived, it was dark and the sounds of war were everywhere. Joe showed no signs of being afraid. He told me and another Marine what to do, and, of course, encouraged us with every word out of his mouth. After we left the artillery unit, that morning, we ended up losing one Marine, named Raymond Garcia. A couple of days to rest and then we were sent to set up ambushes in the thick jungle as well as patrol the area. Joe was the bravest young Marine that I've ever seen. We were given orders to go and recover the bodies of several Marines who had been killed during the night. Moments after we arrived, we too were ambushed. Marines were shouting for corpsmen to treat the wounded and tend to the dead. Again, Joe showed no fear. After the firefight was over, we were carried out by chopper along with the rest of the dead and wounded, . . . yet the very next day, Joe told us that we were to get ready for another patrol, . . . this time it was to be a large village near a stream. Even when the heavy monsoon rain hit, our patrols continued. We did anything and everything to do with war."

"The memories of Joe and I during the Vietnam war are clear to me most of the time. It was like yesterday when Joe used to come and tell me to get ready for another patrol. He was so funny in just about anything he said or did. If I wasn't so sick, I'm sure that I could remember more. If other things do come to me, I'll be glad to share them with anyone who wants to know."

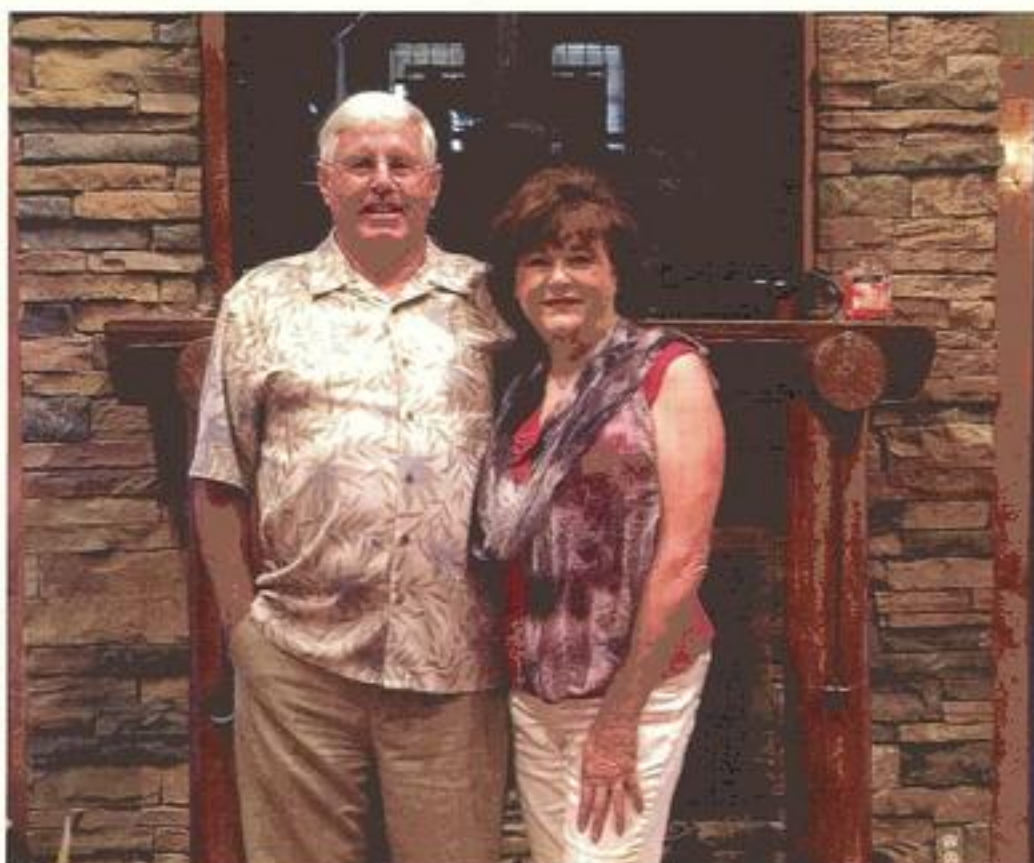
[For more, visit freejoelab.com]



Joe Labriola (R) with unidentified officer (L) receives the Bronze Star, 1966.
Official U.S. Navy Photograph by R. A. Bradshaw, PH1, USN



Joe Labriola, today.



Larry Bristow today (50 years later after Vietnam), with his wife Linda.

COMMANDER'S STATEMENT

(Transcribed from original document.)

STATEMENT of First Lieutenant Richard F. Wier, USMCR, Platoon Commander,

First Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FRF, FPO, San Francisco 96602

Corporal LABRIOLA has performed his duties as fire team leader and squad leader with exceptional initiative, aggressiveness and leadership. His courage and combat leadership were demonstrated repeatedly on several operations.

During Operation Orange, LABRIOLA assumed command of his squad under the most trying of combat conditions. His squad leader was seriously wounded, two others of the squad were casualties and he faced 15 VC armed with automatic weapons who had opened fire on the platoon point. His quick reactions and immediate following of orders enabled his squad to gain fire superiority and establish an effective base of fire.

He continued to serve as squad leader and always performed exceptionally well under stress.

Early in June he and another Marine were attacked by a small group of VC who were trying to infiltrate the platoon's defense. Despite a painful leg wound, LABRIOLA continued to fire and together with the other Marine succeeded in forcing the enemy to break contact. Here he once again displayed the exceptional leadership and courage that made him an invaluable asset to his platoon.

{Signed}

RICHARD F. WIER

JOE'S CITATION

(Transcribed from original document.)

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
HEADQUARTERS, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC
FPO, SAN FRANCISCO 96602

In the name of the President of the United States, the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific takes pleasure in presenting the BRONZE STAR MEDAL to

CORPORAL JOSEPH FRANCIS LABRIOLA
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For heroic service in connection with operations against insurgent communist (Viet Cong) forces while serving with Company D, First Battalion, First Marines. On 2 April 1966, during Operation Orange in the vicinity of DaNang, Corporal LABRIOLA's squad was acting as point element of a sweep which was penetrating deep into Viet Cong controlled territory when it was suddenly subjected to automatic weapons fire which immediately wounded the Squad Leader and two other members of the squad. Realizing the urgency of the situation, Corporal LABRIOLA, a Fire Team Leader, rallied the remainder of the squad, and established a base of fire which gained and maintained fire superiority over an estimated fifteen Viet Cong. His inspiring leadership was instrumental in causing the enemy to retreat and enabled the wounded to be evacuated. On the night of 2 June 1966, while serving as a Squad Leader with Company D, Corporal LABRIOLA and another Marine were attacked by a small group of Viet Cong attempting to penetrate their platoon's defensive position. Despite a painful leg wound sustained during the fire fight, Corporal LABRIOLA continued to fire on the attacking enemy, causing them to break contact. Corporal LABRIOLA's courageous actions and selfless devotion to duty throughout were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Corporal LABRIOLA is authorized to wear the Combat "V".

FOR THE PRESIDENT,
V.H. KRULAK
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING

HIS VIETNAM TALE EXPOSED AS A LIE, A KILLER IS BACK IN CUSTODY

By Carey Goldberg — Published August 27, 1998, The New York Times

BOSTON, Aug. 26, 1998

THEY CAME FOR Joseph Yandle today, as he had feared they would: two Massachusetts parole officers to escort him from his home in Rutland, Vt., back to prison, possibly for life.

His lie had unraveled.

It had been not merely a fib but a whopper. Sentenced to life without parole for first-degree murder and desperate to be free, Mr. Yandle had passed himself off to the Governor of Massachusetts, the state pardon board, veterans' groups and national news outlets—including the CBS News television program "60 Minutes," which introduced him to the country in an atypically gullible moment—as a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War. In fact, he did serve during the Vietnam War, but only as a clerk with the Marines in Okinawa, he has now admitted.

In 1994, Mike Wallace of *60 Minutes* reported that Mr. Yandle had served two tours in Vietnam as a Marine and "came home with a Bronze Star for valor, two Purple Hearts and something else, too: a heroin habit."

That Vietnam-acquired habit, Mr. Yandle's story went, had led him into crime that included a string of armed robberies and ultimately cost the life of a liquor store clerk, Joseph Reppucci, in a 1972 holdup that Mr. Yandle helped a partner commit.

With veterans' support, and sym-

pathetic news coverage that focused largely on how he had been rehabilitated in prison and even earned a bachelor's degree and a master's while incarcerated, Mr. Yandle won commutation in 1995 and was freed on the parole that his sentence had denied him. He had served 23 years.

Although it was not the only element in the decision to commute Mr. Yandle's sentence, his claim of Vietnam combat clearly influenced the pardon board and William F. Weld, then the Governor, who made the final decision. Mr. Weld said at the time that Mr. Yandle "went to serve his country in Vietnam" and "returned a scarred man, and he has served a lengthy prison sentence."

Today, Acting Governor Argeo Paul Cellucci moved to revoke the commutation of Mr. Yandle's sentence. Mr. Cellucci submitted his recommendation to that effect to the eight-member Governor's Executive Council, which is to consider it next Wednesday. In the meantime, Mr. Yandle is being held in state prison, because the state parole board is already considering revocation of his parole, the board's spokeswoman said tonight.

Mr. Yandle's fabrication might have held, and he might have kept living with the wife he had married and the two children he had fathered on prison furloughs, if not for a

Dallas businessman named B.G. Burkett, also known by the nickname Jug, who turned up his lies in the course of writing a book about Vietnam veterans and impostors.

Mr. Burkett took his doubts to *60 Minutes* about four months ago, said Keven Tedesco, the spokesman for the program. On Monday, Mr. Wallace finally succeeded in interviewing Mr. Yandle about the accusations that he had lied. In a segment broadcast that very night on the *CBS Evening News*, Mr. Yandle admitted to lying and said he felt particularly sorry about hurting the real combat veterans who had earned real medals.

"Those are the people that I most need to apologize to," he said, "the Vietnam veterans and the people who supported me."

Mr. Yandle, now 49, managed somehow—he has not publicly specified how—to fabricate a very convincing set of documents attesting to his phony wartime record.

Both *The Boston Globe* and *The Boston Herald* carried apologies today made by Mr. Yandle in interviews.

In *The Herald*, he said he had made up the Vietnam lie as a way of protecting himself in prison, and "it snowballed into something I could no longer control, as most lies do." In *The Globe*, he admitted, "The fact is, I just wanted to go home after 23 years in prison, and I had no other opportunity of ever getting home."

But his apologies seem to be having little effect. Governor Cellucci, for one, has denounced Mr. Yandle's lie as "a massive fraud" and "an insult to veterans who clamored for the commutation and to the family of the victim."

[For more, visit freejoelab.com.]