

"LISTEN UP"

NEWSLETTER OF THE LCPL SQUIRE "SKIP" WELLS DETACHMENT 647



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VOLUME III NUMBER III

ONE NATION, UNDER GOD

MARCH 2025

Jason Q. Bohm
(MAJ. GEN., USMC)

WASHINGTON'S MARINES

The Origins of the Corps
and the American Revolution, 1775-1777



Book review on page 6.

O'ER THE LAND OF THE FREE. BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE

SCOOP FROM THE CP

Good things are happening. Let me begin with some special recognitions for the past month:

- The highlight of our February Detachment Meeting was the induction of **Lee Raiford** as our newest member. Welcome Lee!
- Congratulations to **SrVice Lamar** – she will become the Department of Georgia District 1 Vice Commandant. She will be sworn in at the Department Annual Convention in May. Her district will include Detachments 1020 (Rome), 1280 (Jasper), and 1309 (Dalton).
- Thank you to **Charles (Fox) Foxworthy** who is taking over as our Eagle Scout Coordinator.
- Congratulations to Eagle Scout **Lucas Bliechner**. SrVice Commandant Lamar attended his Court of Honor and presented him with the MCL Good Citizen Certificate and Challenge Coin.

I began with these recognitions as they demonstrate some of

the efforts within our detachment by it's members to fulfill our MCL mission.

But.....It also causes me to think "what have I done?" over the past month to demonstrate my commitment to the MCL mission. What have you done? Sure, I wear my USMC hat, I say "Semper Fi" and "Oorah!" to Marines I meet, I stand at attention during the Marine Corps Hymn, etc. These are habits I hope all of us are doing on an ongoing basis. They identify us as Marines and show our pride in being Marines.

Beyond our daily USMC-related habits, are we really doing everything we could be doing to accomplish our mission? To paraphrase **Gary Sinise** (Lt. Dan from Forest Gump): We can't do everything, but we can do a little more.

What should the Detachment be doing beyond what we currently do? What events should we get involved in? What programs and charities should we support?

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Web Sgt(s).....	Getzie Lamar getzie.lamar@gmail.com Susan Caolo susan@scaolo.com

What do you suggest we do?

It takes everyone's time and talents to ensure the success of the Detachment. Is each of us doing our part?

Semper Fi,

Tony

P.S. If you haven't read Gary Sinise's book "Grateful American: A Journey from Self to Service" I highly recommend you do. Gary never served in the military, so he is not a veteran. His book tells the story of how the role of Lt Dan changed his life and turned him into a committed advocate for our service members and veterans.



**DETACHMENT YELLOW PAGES**

Detachment Commandant.....	1-(678)-270-8002	Military Records, DD-214's. . .	1-(314) 592-1150
Detachment Adjutant.....	1-(770)-895-4441	Social Security.	1-(800) 772 1213
HQMC Records Correspondence	1-(314) 801-0800	VA Benefits and Assistance . . .	1-(800) 827 1000
TRICARE South.	1-(888)-777-8343	Georgia Dept. of Veterans Service	1-(404)-656-2300

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MarCor, MCL and Veterans News



GUNS UP



Says the Editor

In quiet shift, Marines allow mixed-gender DI teams to train recruits

*By Hope Hodge Seck
 Military Times
 January 13, 2025*

Last year, without fanfare or a formal announcement, the Marine Corps took a step a key leader had formerly said was not feasible due to manpower constraints, assembling teams of both male and female drill instructors to train recruit companies and platoons at its two boot camps.

The Marine Corps Recruit Depots received a directive in December 2023 from the then-commander of Marine Corps Training and Education Command, **Lt. Gen. Kevin Iiams**, instructing boot camp staff to start building the teams, **Lt. Col. Stephen Draper**, TECOM branch head for individual training, told Marine Corps Times in an interview.

"They were able to start in a matter of months," Draper said. "I believe [Marine Corps Recruit Depot] San Diego was able to knock it out as early as Jan. 24."

While not every DI team can be gender-integrated due to a limited number of female drill instructors at the depots, Draper said mini-mums were established.

(Mixed-gender; continued on page 4)



(Mixed-Gender; continued from page 3)

At San Diego, where a total of 12 DI teams train as many recruit companies at any given time, leaders decided to have no fewer than three integrated teams, with the potential to staff more if resources permit.

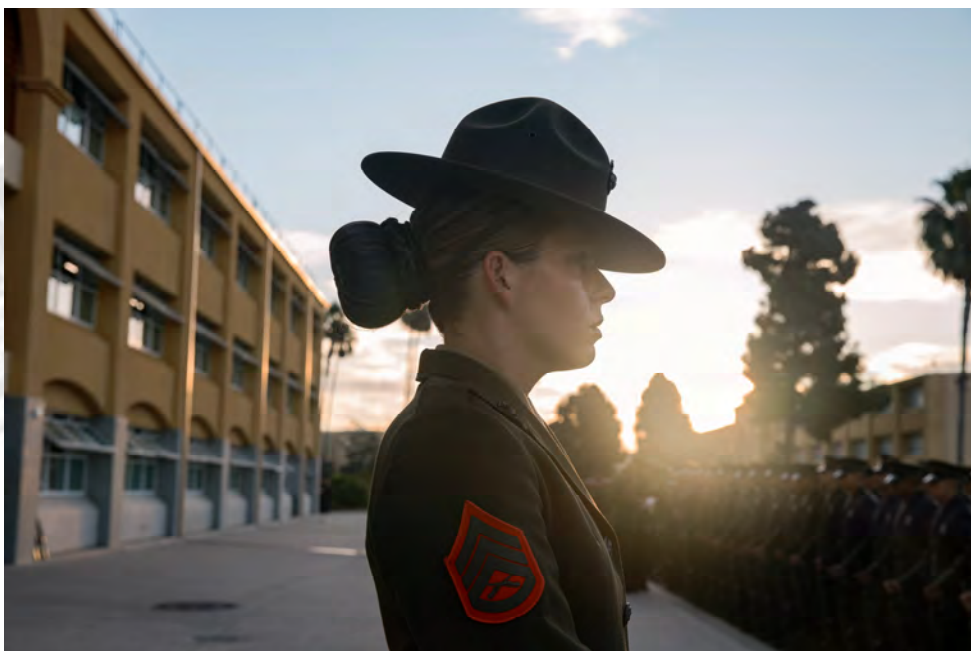
Across the depots, he said, about 10% of all DI teams are integrated — about the same proportion of female recruits at the depots. A typical integrated team, he added, will have three DIs of one gender and a fourth of the opposite gender, with most featuring three male instructors and one female.

"That number certainly fluctuates," Draper said. "[Recruit training battalion leaders] look at the flow of people coming in and where their DIs are employed, and then they allocate their DI teams and put them together as they see fit."

Moving to a mixed-gender DI team model was a key recommendation of a \$2 million independent study commissioned by the Marine Corps and carried out by the *University of Pittsburgh* between 2020 and 2022.

The study, which ran to more than 700 pages, cited a counterproductive "group think" they'd found that develops in single-gender leadership teams, and said a move to mixed-gender teams would give recruits a broader range of role models.

"The Marine Corps posits 'having strong leaders of both genders as role models for young recruits is integral to their assimilation into our ranks' yet recruits' primary training experiences are currently executed by same-gender drill instructor teams," the report



Staff Sgt. Savannah Pizano, a senior drill instructor with India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, participates in a battalion commander inspection at MCRD San Diego, Oct. 23, 2024. (Cpl. Sarah M. Grawcock/Marine Corps)

stated. ***"Receiving direct, sustained training from drill instructors of both genders reinforces for recruits the concept that men and women are equally respected and authoritative leaders of their service."*** (*editor says BS*)

Study authors proposed a model that would allow same-gender leaders to supervise platoons in squad bays overnight but otherwise enable a mixed-gender training experience.

The Marine Corps, which has taken significant steps — under pressure from Congress — to further integrate its training depots, including closing its exclusively female Fourth Recruit Training Battalion in 2023 and admitting female recruits to San Diego for the first time in 2021, continues to operate single-gender recruit platoons, citing privacy and safety reasons. In an interview with Marine Corps Times in 2022, Iiams said he didn't want to create mixed-gender DI

teams until staffing allowed all teams to be integrated.

"I'm a one-standard kind of individual," he said. "I don't want to have mixed DI teams for only portions of the recruit population. ... It's got to be everyone."

A TECOM spokesman, **Maj. Hector Infante**, took issue with the characterization of Iiams' subsequent order to integrate as a reversal of position, saying the Marine Corps had been following a "deliberate, methodical approach" to integrating all recruit training.

"The main reason the USMC had not integrated DI teams who conduct troop handling duties at the platoon level before 2024 was due to privacy issues with the recruits, as well as ensuring adequate rest for DIs," Infante said in a written statement, saying that a requirement for same-gender supervision of troops as they sleep and perform hygiene

(Mixed-Gender; continued on page 5)



(Mixed-Gender; continued from page 3)

activities in their squad bays required an adjustment of standard procedures and staff rest plans with mixed teams.

"On a team with four DIs, if one is opposite gender, then only three DIs are part of the ... overnight duty rotation, which means less time off/rest for those DIs," he said.

It's not clear when the Marine Corps might ever be able to staff integrated DI teams across the fleet. With women continuing to make up such a small proportion of the service, efforts to ramp up the female DI population come at the expense of other career opportunities they might have in the fleet, leaders have said.

Draper said the unannounced rollout of the mixed teams wasn't

designed to deflect attention from the change.

"We weren't looking for a pat on the back or anything," he said. "We were just looking at: what's the best way to do this, what makes the most sense and what makes the most lethal Marines?"

Staff burnout has long been a concern for drill instructors at large, and particularly for female DIs, a community for which smaller numbers have typically meant less time off between rotations and little flexibility for the demands of life and family.

"The inflexibility of single-gender drill instructor teams combined with personnel shortages necessitate female drill instructors shortening their between-cycle breaks to ensure sufficient coverage for every female platoon," the University of Pittsburgh report found.

"Without sufficient time to rest and prepare between cycles, the drill instructor job takes an even greater toll on physical, mental, and emotional health.

"An enlisted female Marine Corps training cadre member from Parris Island stated, 'Most of our female drill instructors lose custody of their children, their marriages fall apart, [and] their bodies end up in casts.'"

In early findings from the change, Draper said the mixed teams had indeed taken some pressure off and created more possibilities for female DIs.

"It's really kind of opened the door, that they have a lot more opportunities at the depots to do other things," he said. "So, all around, I think it's a much more efficient use of personnel."

Editor's Note....Perhaps some, if not many, of my comrades and friends will take exception to my remarks and adamant disapproval of this abomination that is currently Marine Corps recruit training as related above. If so, that's too damn bad, these are my feelings and my feelings alone. Had I had a female DI in my team during my time on the field their presence would have greatly hindered my and my fellow drill instructor's ability to graduate properly trained, obedient and "Gung Ho" Warriors. And please don't give me that bilge that the other services are doing it. We are the United States Marine Corps, a band of warriors, not a "service"; we don't do deliveries, pickups or repairs of anything.

Those Marines who claimed a patch of dirt under a white cross on Iwo Jima 80 years ago last month are surely rolling over in their graves in response to this abomination. Maybe there is a chance that Pete Hegseth can clear this mess up. But, don't hold your breath.

*Dicere non
& Semper Fi,*

Bernie



Has the Marine Corps Lost Its Edge?

The Marine Corps' shift toward unproven anti-China strategies has weakened its core capabilities, leaving it vulnerable to scrutiny from the upcoming Department of Government Efficiency.

By Gary Anderson
The Defense Post
January 16, 2025

If President Donald Trump had instituted a *Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)* in 2016, it would not have bothered me regarding the future of the Marine Corps.

For decades, the Corps carved out a unique role in national defense, providing 24/7 coverage in global hotspots like the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf, and the Western Pacific.

Marine Expeditionary Units served as rapid-response forces, handling emergencies from natural disasters to the evacuation of American citizens and diplomats.

These small but lethal units could quickly scale up into brigade-sized combat teams, participating in joint operations or conducting full-scale amphibious assaults, as they did in Desert Storm.

But in 2019, this legacy underwent a radical transformation.

Strategic Shift Toward China

Under *General David Berger's* tenure as Commandant, the Marine Corps shifted focus toward countering Chinese naval power. This new approach, centered on the *Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations (EABO)* concept, envisions small Marine units deploying anti-ship missiles from islands in the South China Sea.

To fund this strategy, much of the Corps' traditional combined-arms capabilities were sacrificed.

General Eric Smith, Berger's successor, continued this trajectory.

With the advent of DOGE, we may well find that Berger and Smith have walked the Marine Corps into a baited trap ambush of their own making.

I believe I know some of the individuals who will shape whatever organization DOGE morphs into. These are people who have little patience for inefficiency and are dedicated to eliminating waste, redundancy, and inefficiency in government in general and in the Defense Department in particular.

It may be some time before DOGE turns its attention to the Marine Corps, but I can envision a conversation with the Commandant at that point unfolding something like this:

Hypothetical Conversation With DOGE:

DOGE: General, you've continued Force Design, an anti-Chinese strategy that places small units on islands in the South China Sea. You have been at it for over a half decade. What's the status of this initiative?

Commandant: Sir, we've converted one infantry and one artillery regiment into Littoral Combat Regiments to support the EABO concept.

DOGE: Congratulations, general. How many missiles are ready for deployment?

Commandant: None, sir. Procurement has been more complicated than expected.

DOGE: What's the range of these missiles, if and when they're operational?

Commandant: About 100 to 120 nautical miles, sir.

DOGE: How does that impact a Chinese invasion of Taiwan?

Commandant: It depends on which nations we're operating from. This isn't just about Taiwan; it's a broader naval superiority concept.

DOGE: How many nations have signed on to support this concept?

Commandant: None yet. We are counting on the Department of State to work that issue.

DOGE: General, the Army and Navy are developing hypersonic missiles with longer ranges that don't require regional basing rights. They will be much harder for the Chinese to shoot down than your version. Did the Marine Corps consider partnering with them? That would smack of the kind of needless redundancy that this organization is chartered to eliminate.

Commandant: That decision was made under General Berger's leadership. You would have to ask him.

DOGE: We are given to understand that General Berger also reduced the Navy's large amphibious ships from 38 to 31 to fund smaller ships for EABO. How many of these Landing Ship Mediums have been built?



(Lost Edge; continued from page 6)

Commandant: Ahh, none sir, the bids came in higher than projected. The Navy is working on the issue.

DOGE: So, you abandoned traditional amphibious warfare for a concept dependent on unproven weapons and international basing agreements, none of which are operational after five years. Why, general, should this organization recommend keeping the Marine Corps? Give me one good reason that the XVIII Airborne Corps could not do the job cheaper and with less overhead.

Commandant: Uhh, let me get back to you on that, sir.

A Nightmare Realized

For all the time that I was in the Marine Corps, and since I retired, Marine Corps leaders worked tirelessly to ensure such questions were

never asked. Beginning in 2019, however, those efforts evaporated.

The restructuring gambled on a narrow, unproven strategy, leaving the Corps vulnerable to questions about its relevance and readiness.

The very possible exchange described above was our nightmare scenario.

Making the Marine Corps Great Again

If the Secretary of the Navy wants to preserve the Marine Corps' legacy, urgent action is needed.

First, leadership must change. Appoint a Commandant committed to restoring the Corps' combined-arms capabilities and its role as a global rapid-response force.

Second, halt or reassess Force Design until tangible results are achieved.

Finally, re-prioritize investments in platforms and strategies that ensure the Corps' readiness to respond to crises anywhere, anytime.

Rebuilding the Marine Corps to its pre-2019 capabilities will take years, but it's a necessary step to deflect the kind of existential questions posed above. Anything less risks the future of one of the world's premier fighting forces.

Gary Anderson served as the Chief of Plans (G-5) of the Marine Corps Expeditionary Force responsible for the Indo-Pacific area. He was the Director of the X Unit, which evolved into the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab. When he retired, he was the Lab's Chief of Staff.

He lectures on Alternative Analysis at the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs.



... Marine Corps Commandant Tells a Whopper ...

General Eric Smith denied the existence of DEI programming in the Marine Corps, disgracing himself and the entire Corps in the process.

By Gary Anderson
The American Spectator
January 25, 2025

For the first time since I joined the Marine Corps in 1969, I am ashamed of the organization. Until now, no Marine Corps commandant has been accused of lying to the American public. On January 15th of this year, General Eric Smith

told a whopper. When asked by a group of reporters what the Corps' position was, Smith answered unequivocally; "As far as DEI, the Marine Corps has not had DEI programs, never have."

If General Smith does not willingly resign, he should be fired and re-

placed by one of the retired three-star generals who were forced to retire.

That statement is a bare-faced lie. Starting in 2021, the sitting commandant, General David Berger, slavishly complied with the guid-

(Whopper; continued on page 8)





(Whopper; continued from page 7)

ance of the new Biden administration to embrace DEI as service doctrine. Berger went all in. In his human resources guidance called "Manpower 2030," **Berger created a vibrant program to implement DEI across the Corps.**

A special assistant for DEI was hired and an office was established. General Smith was the assistant commandant at that time. When Smith became commandant, he did nothing to change Berger's policies until President Trump made it clear that DEI was persona non grata in the federal government. Suddenly, all mention of DEI was scrubbed from the Marine Corps' website. Presumably, the commandant's DEI advisor is — or soon will be — unemployed along with his staff. What amazes me is that Smith thought he could get

away with his assertion that the program never existed.

No one has ever accused Smith of being the brightest bulb on the Christmas tree, but the enormity of the lie is so blatant and the truth so transparent that his incompetence is staggering; did he truly believe that deleting something from a website wipes it out completely?

Smith Must Leave Marine Corps

The general was obviously trying to save his skin in the inept attempt to erase history, but it will probably ensure his firing. The recently canned commandant of the Coast Guard was fired for ineptitude, but at least she didn't lie about her policies. Smith will likely be terminated both for incompetence and for knowingly making a false public statement.

What the general should have said when queried by the press regarding DEI is this: "In 2021 we complied with the Commander-in-Chief's directive to implement DEI. The new president has reversed that guidance and the Marine Corps will salute smartly and follow orders."

I am one of many retired Marines (as well as many on active duty working covertly) to attempt to reverse former Commandant Berger's Force Design and Manpower 2030 initiatives. The former is bad strategy; the latter is bad policy. Our objections to Force Design were professional, but our distress with the way Smith handled the DEI situation is personal; he disgraced not only himself but the Marine Corps as well. Once a reputation for integrity is lost, it is hard to get it back.

If General Smith does not willingly resign, he should be fired and replaced by one of the retired three-star generals who were forced to retire for quietly opposing the Berger/Smith policies.

Hopefully, in the next few weeks, Smith will learn the truism of an old saying. "To err is human and to forgive is divine, neither of which is Marine Corps policy."

BERGER LEGACY AT PLAY

Company Commander:
"TANKS UP....NOW."

1stSgt:

"SORRY SKIPPER....THEY'RE STILL AT SEA ON THAT ARMY TRANSPORT FROM THE STATES."

Company Commander:

"WELL THEN....BEND OVER AND KISS IT GOODBY."

Bernie



MGen. Jason Q. Bohm

WASHINGTON'S MARINES

The Origins of the Corps and the American Revolution 1775—1777

*Reviewed by 1stLt. Bernie Eveler
USMC (Ret)*

The fighting prowess of United States Marines is second to none, but few know of the Corps' humble beginnings and what it achieved during the early years of the American Revolution. Jason Bohm rectifies this oversight with his eye-opening *Washington's Marines: The Origins of the Corps and the American Revolution, 1775–1777*.

The story begins with the oppressive days that drove America into a conflict for which it was ill-prepared, when thirteen independent colonies commenced a war against the world's most powerful military with nothing more than local militias, privateers, and other ad hoc units. The Continental Congress rushed to form an army and placed George Washington in command, but soon realized that, to win its freedom, America would need men who could fight on the sea and on land. Enter the Marines. Bohm artfully tells the story of the creation of the Continental Marines and the men who led them during the parallel paths followed by the Army and Marines in the opening years of the war and through the early successes and failures at Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, Canada, Boston, Charleston, and more.

As General Washington struggled to preserve his command after defeats in New York and New Jersey in 1776, the nascent U.S. Navy and Marines deployed the first American fleet, conducted their first amphibious operation, and waged a war on the rivers and seas to block British reinforcements and capture critically needed supplies. Desperate times forced Congress to detach the Continental Marines from the Navy to join the embattled army as Washington sought an "important stroke" to defeat his adversary.

Washington's Marines joined their fellow soldiers in a protracted land campaign that culminated in turning-point victories at Trenton, Assunpink Creek, and Princeton. This chapter of the Continental Marines ends in Morristown, New Jersey, when Washington granted Henry Knox's request to leverage the Marines' expertise with naval guns to fill the depleted ranks of the army's artillery during the "Forage War."

Washington's Marines is the first complete study of its kind to weave the men, strategy, performance, and personalities of the Corps' formative early years into a single compelling account. The sweeping prose relies heavily on primary research and the author's own extensive military knowledge. Enhanced with original maps and illustrations, *Washington's Marines* will take its place as one of the finest studies of its kind.



DETACHMENT BULLETIN BOARD

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Is Your Address Wrong?

Please send change of address
to:

Adjutant, Det 647
203 Wright St
Marietta, GA 30064

email: dougkmtc@gmail.com

ATTENTION TO ORDERS

...NOTICE...



Don't be a ring-a-dingy during our meeting. Turn off your dadgum phone **BEFORE** you receive that unimportant call.

CHAPLAIN'S INFORMATION

Chaplain Griffen would appreciate being notified of members or relatives in ill health or distress.

Call him at:

678-612-2345 or
email at: winwithgod@bellsouth.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

April Meeting
04/05/25
1100



April Happenings



Det meeting	05	A. Griffin BD	05
C. Roberts BD	10	J. Epps BD	12
Flag raised at Derna, Libya	27 (1805)	W. Vaughan BD	30



Heaven's Unit Diary



Editor's Ramblings



A 21 year old professional killer and his 17 year old fiancé. Istanbul 1958

At ease Marines. Fallout! Drop your packs, gather round and listen up. Smoke 'em if you got 'em.

First of all, I urge you to get and read a copy of *Washington's Marines*. As a Marine you'll appreciate the realistic revelation of our Corps origin, rather than the simple, childish pronouncement that we were "born in a bar".

Secondly, I apologize for my extreme negativity this month (2 "*Guns Up*"), but I'm inclined to make my readers aware of our Corps' happenings, *warts and all*. As we learn through life, things constantly change, but not always for the best.

And thirdly, please share your birthday (not year) and spouses' names with us to recognize y'all when appropriate; I've been asking you for this small favor for over two years now.

Lastly, congratulations to the newly elected and appointed officers and thank you for stepping up to the plate. Your selfless action is on par with:

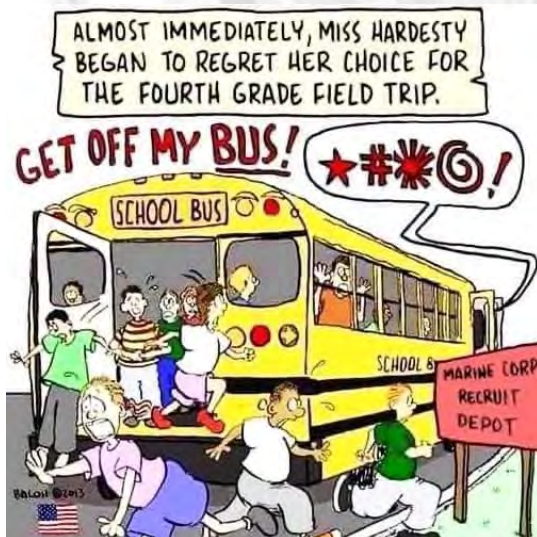
Honor, Courage, Commitment.

Semper Ti,



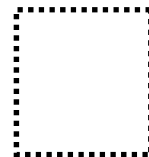
Bernie

<u>Marine</u>	<u>Tour of Duty</u>	<u>Date of Last Transfer</u>
Raymond G. Davis, COOH	1915-2003	3 Sept. 2003
Joseph O'Connor	1934-2009	14 Oct. 2009
Squire K. P. Wells	1994-2015	16 July 2015
Al Oeade	1937-2016	30 Apr. 2016
Dorothy Pollock	1920-2016	13 Aug. 2016
Robert Kitchen	1949-2017	21 Feb. 2017
John W. Delton	Unk-2017	23 Oct. 2017
Gene W. Whitten	1933-2017	12 Nov. 2017
George W. Lewis	1936-2020	28 Feb. 2020
George Bailey	1933-2020	18 June 2020
Raymond Frazier	1953-2021	1 Feb. 2021
Charlie B. Stephenson	1923-2021	21 Aug. 2021
Arthur Dunlea	1944-2021	1 Dec. 2021
Richard Wakefield	1943-2022	27 Oct. 2022
Harry Kone	1920-2022	30 Dec. 2022
Neal Lawrence	1938-2023	17 Oct. 2023





Listen Up
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