

Eulogy of Daniel Kelly Beirne

As presented by His Brother Patrick Leo Beirne January 13, 2010

**Born April 14, 1928
Died January 8, 2010**

That doesn't tell much about Dan. We could talk about his growing up on a farm in Pennsylvania, his school days, his family, and about Dr. Dan. But that still leaves a gap, the story who he really was and what made him what he was. Sometimes to tell a story one has to go back in history. In this case 1775, Tuns Tavern Philidelphia, the Marine Corps was founded, (the true birth date for Dr. Dan). 185 years later Lt Dan stood his post in the history of the Corps. Few people know the horror of war, the savagery of war, the brutality of war, and the sorrow of war, but Dan Beirne did. The Corps taught their officers to live with, eat with, and fight with their enlisted men. It was an officer's responsibility to take care of his men, Duty, Honor, esprit de corps and get the job done. No one learned it better than the young Lt from the Hills of Pennsylvania. When 250 marines were attacked by 16,000 gooks on a desolate hill in Korea, Lt Beirne and 55 of his men stayed behind and fought a rear guard action, while the rest of the company pulled back to form a better fighting position. After 4 ½ hours of brutal fighting Lt Beirne pulled out at 11PM. At 6AM he was given the honor and glory to

lead the attack to retake Bunker Hill. At 8AM Lt Beirne and 26 of his platoon stood on top of Bunker Hill.

On another occasion when his reinforced platoon was completely surrounded by 700-800 gooks and couldn't stop them, he called his own artillery in on top of his position. When it was all over there were 400 dead gooks, 14 dead marines, and a Lt that was devastated because he lost his troops. It didn't help him much when the general pointed out that his quick and daring action saved 46 marines. On several occasions Dan and I were in the same action about a mile apart. When the senior officers found out, I was pulled out. You know rank has its privileges. That's how the corps works.

These are just a couple of stories of Dan. I could go on for hours regarding his time in Korea. Some stories scary and some funny. There was a regimental garbage dump in Korea named Beirne Heights. Why the Colonel named it so ----- that's another story.

Lt Dan (Black Bart) Beirne, loved, respected, and admired by his troops, the real test for a good officer.

The only Dr. that could put Capt. USMC on his letter head. His return to civilian life was a tough job, with night mares and needless guilt feelings, and “Luke the Gook”, who came to visit quite frequently in the middle of the night.

There were hundreds of pictures of his men and of action in Korea. We sat in the kitchen of the farm house one night and burned them all, except a few our sister Virginia confiscated.

There was a bottle of something on the table that night. I don't remember what it was -----maybe milk.

This is just a small recap of Dr. Dan, Capt USMC, husband, father, grand father, brother, and good friend.

Semper fi Dan and God Bless