Life lessons from “a 1960's era Vietnam First Marines rifle company commander who was inspired daily by the extraordinary courage and devotion to duty of his young Marines he was privileged to serve with and command."

------------------------------

ALWAYS: DO YOUR DUTY. BE WATCHFUL, ALERT AND CAREFULLY CHOOSE, AND KNOW, YOUR SURROUNDINGS. PROTECT YOUR MIND, YOUR BODY AND (MOST IMPORTANTLY) YOUR SPIRIT. WATCH WHERE YOU STEP. GROUND YOUR MIND AND YOUR HEART IN THAT WHICH IS WISE AND DISCERNING. SELECT YOUR COMPANIONS WISELY. CARE MORE ABOUT YOUR COMRADES THAN YOURSELF. CONDUCT YOURSELVE AS A SERIOUS PERSON, NOT AS A FOOL. BE HUMBLE, SERVING OTHERS. WHEN YOU CONSIDER A COURSE OF ACTION, IF IT DOES NOT FEEL RIGHT, DO NOT DO IT (OR, SAID ANOTHER WAY, YOUR INSTINCTS ARE YOUR FRIEND). BE DECISIVE. BE HONORABLE ...ALWAYS... SO YOU CAN END YOUR DAYS KNOWING YOU TRIED YOUR BEST TO DO THAT WHICH WAS RIGHT. FOCUS INTENSELY ON THE MISSION THAT YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU. LIVE TODAY'S LIFE TODAY/ TOMORROW WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF. SEEK AND LISTEN TO THOSE AROUND YOU WHO ARE WISER THAN YOU, NOT THOSE WHO ARE FOOLISH AND CARELESS. UNDERESTIMATE OR OVERESTIMATE YOUR TASK (OR YOUR ENEMY) AT YOUR OWN PERIL. AN ADVERSARY IS ANOTHER HUMAN BEING (OPPOSITE SIDES/ SAME MISSION) TO BE NEITHER HATED NOR FEARED, JUST DEFEATED. THINK (AND WORRY) CONSTANTLY, FOR IT MAY SAVE YOU AND YOUR COMRADES. KEEP THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE (IN PROPORTION). WARFARE IS NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD, JUST NECESSARY AT TIMES. LEADERSHIP IS A VERY LONELY PLACE. NEVER LET FEAR CONTROL YOUR THOUGHTS OR YOUR DEEDS. BE AT PEACE WITH THE DAY YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU AND CONFIDENT OF THE OUTCOME. AND ... ALWAYS BE FAITHFUL AND DO YOUR DUTY.

I WILL ALWAYS BE THANKFUL FOR MY MARINE CORP LIFE'S LESSONS AND TO HAVE SERVED MY COUNTRY IN THE GREATEST MILITARY ORGANIZATION THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN. SEMPER FIDELIS!

LIFE IS A GIFT FROM GOD, EVERY SINGLE, SOLITARY DAY. SEEK THE GOOD THINGS HE HAS PLANNED FOR YOU. HAVE FUN. FIND JOY AND PEACE AND SEEK DILIGENTLY FOR THE REAL THINGS IN LIFE.