

12 DECEMBER 2006

FRANK,

EVERYTIME I LOOK AT THAT MARVELOUS CRAFTED SHADOW BOX YOU MADE FOR ME, I AM REMINDED OF YOUR GENEROUSITY. I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR THE MARINES WHO PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE. MY CLOSE AND DEAR FRIEND, NOW SGTMAJOR TODD PARISI HAS SPOKEN VOLUMES OF YOU. I SALUTE YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS.

I WOULD BE REMIS NOT TO SEND YOU A CHRISTMAS GREETING AND AGAIN TO THANK YOU FOR THAT DISPLAY.

I HAVE ENCLOSED A COUPLE OF PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE RECENT USMC BIRTHDAY BALL HELD BY B-1-25 WHO JUST RETURNED FROM IRAQ. THEY HAD TWO KIA'S AND A NUMBER OF PURPLE HEARTS FOR WOUNDS SUFFERED.

THE UNIFORM I AM WEARING IS MY ORIGINAL 1943 ISSUE. WHEN I CAME OUT THE CORPS THE FIRST TIME AFTER FOURS YEARS OF SERVICE, I HELD THE RANK OF PLATOON SERGEANT. ONE HASH MARK. I WAS ACTIVATED FOR THE KOREAN WAR AND PICKED UP ANOTHER ROCKER, GUNNERY SERGEANT, AND WITH THE ACTIVE AND RESERVE TIME SINCE WORLD WAR II, WOUND UP WITH THREE HASH MARKS.

THE GENTLEMAN IN CIVILIAN DRESS IS GENERAL OLMSTEAD, A MUSTANG OFFICER FROM THE KOREAN WAR, ALSO SERVED IN VIETNAM. HE WAS GUEST SPEAKER. THE SECOND PHOTO IS A SOLO TAKEN AT HOME BEFORE WE SHOVED OFF THAT NIGHT.

I HAVE TALKED WITH TODD AND HE IS UP AND RUNNING AND LOOKING TO A DEPLOYMENT TO IRAQ AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. THIS WILL BE HIS SECOND TOUR. IF YOU KNOW HIM LIKE I DO, HE OPERATES ON ALL CYLINDERS, HIGHLY MOTIVATED AND DISIPLINED. A PIECE OF WORK.

JUST WANTED TO WISH YOU WELL AS THE YEAR IS WINDING DOWN TO THE HOLIDAY SEASON. BEEN BACK TO THE VA WITH MY LEFT EYE PROBLEM FROM THAT SHRAPNEL WOUND. SEEMS THAT THE AGING PROCESS AMPLIFIES AILMENTS YOU COLLECT IN YOUR EARLY DAYS. HOWEVER, OVERALL, FEELING PRETTY WELL.

MY VERY BEST WISHES TO YOU FRANK. EVERYTIME I GAZE ON THAT SHADOW BOX I WILL THINK OF YOU.

I SALUTE YOU WITH THE PHRASE WE MARINES SAY TO EACH OTHER.---SEMPER FI.

BEST WISHES,

