



# Donald Jene Fulham

JUL 4, 1928 - FEB 28, 2019



Scan to Visit

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6



## Donald Jene Fulham

JUL 4, 1928 - FEB 28, 2019

**D**onald Jene Fulham 4 July 1928 – 28 February 2019 McMinnville, OR – San Diego, CA Integrity. His never faltered. Love. He loved deeply, God, Country, Corps, Family. Right out of High School, in 1946, he stood in the yellow footprints at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA. as a “boot”. Completing his two years of service, he was discharge and enrolled in Linfield College. When the Korean “Police Action” broke out, he joined the Marine Reserves and upon graduation returned to active duty as a Lieutenant and thus became a career Marine. He never looked back. Returning from Korea in 1954 he was assigned to two years of sea duty aboard the USS Intrepid. In 1955 he married Ann Gary. They subsequently had three children, Donna, Erin, and Gary. A variety of duty assignments followed. Montana, Camp Lejeune, N.C., Quantico, Va., El Toro, Ca. and three tours in Vietnam, where he commanded the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, also known as “the Walking Dead”, so named for the intense and continuing unrelenting attacks they endured in 1967. He never forgot the lives lost there. Returning from Vietnam, he was sent to Quantico, Va., Hqtrs Marine Corps, D.C. Naval War College, and back to Camp Lejeune where he was promoted to Brig. General. In 1984 he returned to Korea as a Maj. General to serve on the staff of the Commander in Chief. In 1986 he was offered command of MCRD, San Diego, Ca. He announced that he had started there and he would retire there. In 1988, he did just that. The ensuing years were happy and productive, being involved in several businesses and community projects. Years of back injuries, starting with High School and College football, not to forget 40 years as an infantry officer, would lead to disabling back pain in the past few years. He could no longer run in the hills that he so loved. He passed away holding Ann’s hand. Donna My father loved living, engaging in the who, what, when, where and why of everything and everyone he encountered. If applicable, he would love to explore and debate said topics through thoughtful discussion and/or lively civil discourse, sometimes playing the



## Obituary

**Donald Jene Fulham**

JUL 4, 1928 - FEB 28, 2019

devil's advocate to get different perspectives, provoke thought and stimulate conversation (with the exception of Jane Fonda – he had one only opinion). He was in awe of nature, he found great pleasure, healing and peace in the great outdoors. Whenever possible he preferred to be outside working, hiking, swimming, running, or just observing. In nature he touched base with his version of the Great Creator. He Loved family in all its myriad forms. The Marine Corps, country, community, friends and especially his own. Family gave him purpose as he strove to provide, protect, educate and love. As a father he encouraged us to question everything, test our limits (and often those of our parents) and to learn from our mistakes. He taught us to be accountable for our thoughts and actions. He cheered us in our successes and comforted us in our losses. He was a great advocate of learning through reading, education and travel. His love and admiration for my Mom was unequivocal and inspiring. We learned about unconditional love, partnership, responsibility, friendship and forgiveness through their example. My parents are my greatest heroes. They taught us to ask questions, to listen, to think for ourselves and to stand our ground when necessary. They inspired us to keep moving forward even when it was easier to withdraw, about sacrifice for the greater good. They taught us to find value in everything and everyone, and that we never stand alone. Although he was gone for great periods of time, his presence and influence was always with us and so remains. Erin Both my parents always told me I could do anything. My father actually did work an amazing amount of occupations of which we learned about from the many stories he shared with us. Often those stories left us laughing as he had a great sense of humor and loved a good joke. Farm hand, forest fire fighter in High School (remember, all the men were at WWII). He taught me to garden and drive a tractor. Intellectually curious, he loved to debate and encouraged us to express our opinions even those he didn't agree with. Loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, his joy in his family was evident in his warm smile which started in his heart and shone out through his eyes. It is that smile which told me he loved me and was proud of me that I shall miss the most of all. Gary My father lived a life of dedication to his family and friends as well as service to his country and Corps. A loving husband, father and mentor, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1946 at



## Obituary

**Donald Jene Fulham**

JUL 4, 1928 - FEB 28, 2019

---

MCRD, San Diego. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1952; served as the battalion commander of the 1st Battalion 9th Marines, the fabled Walking Dead, in Vietnam 1967 and ended his career when he began, retiring in 1988 as Commanding General of MCRD, San Diego. An inspirational leader and role model, he was the epitome of a Marine Officer, demonstrating strength of character and uncompromising integrity. He has an unmatched work ethic. He believed in the value of personal and professional accomplishment. He believed that winning was as much about personal achievement as it was about the final score. He taught his children important life lessons about the values of self-sacrifice, hard work, being true to yourself, and loyalty to family and friends. Success is as much about what we give as what we receive.



## Tribute Wall

**Donald Jene Fulham**

JUL 4, 1928 - FEB 28, 2019



**Ltcol Ken Zitz Usmc Ret** posted:

MajGen Fulham promoted me to LtColonel in 1983 when he was the Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune and I served under him as the Range Control Officer. Our (my wife and I) friendship continued with him and his wife, Ann, over the years. He was a great mentor, great friend and great Marine in every respect. My wife, Bonnie summed it up when she said "that General Fulham was down to earth and everyone loved him". Semper Fi General I was honored to serve with you and know for the past 36 years.

May 22 at 7:54 AM



**Rick Poggemeyer** posted:

A superb Marine, as well as a true gentleman! General Fulham was the finest general officer I worked for in my 20-year career.

March 17 at 9:54 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

