



**GENERAL SMEDLEY D. BUTLER DETACHMENT #741
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
P. O. BOX 184, NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA 19073-0184**

To my fellow members and others,

Much has been said over the last four months concerning my military decorations; I would like to clarify some things. I have been mostly quiet over all this, but I now feel it is time to address the issue. Let me make one thing clear, I opted for a fast hearing, pleading guilty to three counts of wearing, altering, and making false statements concerning my awards.

I did all of the above in paper only. I will not back away from saying I did not earn the awards of the Purple Heart, Silver Star, or the Bronze Star. In the eighties, my service officer called me into his office to receive my military DD214, DD215 In it was the three awards. How he came by these papers will never be known, also in paperwork I found it shows a medical statement signed by my doctor, stating my condition, my medications and my awards. When I could not obtain any more copies from him, (He retired, later passing away) I altered what copies I had, which was wrong. In my heart, I thought I deserved them, but I had my doubts. By doing this, I had no choice but to plead guilty, which I was. There is so much that was going on behind the seen from members belonging to this Detachment, going to the papers, receiving more attention that if I committed murder! This is still going on

This was unnecessary, and not stopping there, I did not deserve this, 'nor did my family or our detachment. My wife and stepson have waited for years to obtain their citizenship, but this to is on hold. Copies of court papers and the news article sent to other Detachments, Veterans organizations and the like. My punishment did not fit the crime, with my lawyer saying this was a mistake and a misunderstanding, thus the light sentence having a \$600.00 fine, with six months non-reportable probation. As a Veterans Service Officer I have come by many discharge papers missing some information. I too had many schools, promotions, rifle qualifications, and sea service time, among other things. We ask for copies of our DD 214, but we fail to request a FULL copy of our SRB, which I will do. When the prosecutor asked the Judge for community time for me, the Judge replied he could not because after reading numerous letters, awards etc. He stated my whole life has been community service.

When a member stood up to read from a letter saying I took the credit for everything that had been done over the last two years was way out of line. I may have had ideas, but the success of them would not have been without you the members carrying them out. It takes a TEAM to succeed, which we have done. We received the "Best of the Best, 2nd place for our Newsletter from National, 1st place from Department over the last two years. Did I do that? No, it was you! When every Commandant comes into office, he has his ideas, weather they be good or bad it is up to the staff and membership to act upon them. I cannot say enough on how great we have done over this period. If you look, at most of the newsletters over the last two years you will see that in my reports it was never about me, I always tried to praise whenever the opportunity presented itself.

I am and always will be committed to the League. It was my life, having no job because of my disability; I took this position very seriously. I have sent for my complete SRB, and then I will file a DD149, seeking an investigation on what I have earned and I

thought I have earned. What was done to me was not fair, and it seems people went far and beyond to discredit me. My lawyer shares the option. I want to thank so many on the supporting e-mails, letters, and phone calls. I do not know who contacted the Court on my behalf, but I thank you. In taking a quote from Mother Teresa which says, "If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends, and some genuine enemies, Succeed anyway' Apparently this has happen to me. I ask you all for forgiveness. It is important that we move on and continue the success we are accustomed. If any of you would like to call, visit to see some of my paperwork, please feel free to do so. I have nothing to hide. Since I came to this detachment, I have worked very hard as JR.Vice, SR.Vice and as Commandant. Please keep in mind I needed to get this Court out of the way, I could not go through a long waiting process for a trial to come, and keep all in limbo. I found this to be the right thing to do. I do not have the money to withstand a long wait, then trial. My God tells me to forgive, and in being human, I find this very hard, but something I must do. However, I will continue to serve Veterans in whatever way I can. There are those among you I have helped, and this means more to me than any award I can ever receive.

God Bless and Semper FI

Jim Alleva