WW II, Korea and Vietnam Veteran, Former POW and Mustang Officer Sounds Off



"I don't know which will happen first, 1776 or 1929, but be prepared . . ."

Thirty years of pride.

When I see teen agers of today I wonder if that's what we were like.

At 16, I was a cockey recruit (knew it all, could walk on water), At 17 in the Naval Hospital of San Diego, I doubted I'd ever even walk at all again, and realized how stupid I was to have been in the wrong place at the wrong time. A place called Okinawa in 1945.

At 22, more stupidity, I spent most all of the Korean war in a prison camp up by the Yalu River in far northern Korea.

We were repeatedly told that we were not POWs, in that our own Congress was too cowardly to declare war. We were criminal invaders and had no rights what-so- ever under the Geneva Convention. We wondered what was in the Red Cross care packages that the goons enjoyed.

In the (another none-war) in Vietnam I was stupidly following too close and Ka-boom- - I got to wear a black eye patch for a while. The pirate of 3/5

What's 3/5? Just ask any Marine.

Well, what's a sailor doing repeatedly hanging out with a bunch of leather necks? By special invite only.

The Corps has no medical personnel of their own so whenever they need more medics in a war or nonewar, you better hope your name is not followed by the wrong MOS.

I printed up a very noticable sign and posted it on my front door. "I do solemnly swear that I will protect and defend......" an oath I have proudly taken many times.

I don't know which will happen first, 1776 or 1929, but be prepared, it'll happen and sooner than we think.

CYA my buddies. Keep your larder full and your powder dry.

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