

Coconut Telegraph

November 2010
Volume 5 Issue #45

Prestige Publishing, Inc
101425 Overseas Highway
PMB #628
Key Largo, FL 33037

Phone 305-304-2837

Deadline

for the
Coconut Telegraph's
December issue is
Monday
November 22, 2010

Call Denise at
305-304-2837
TheCoconutTelegraph@yahoo.com

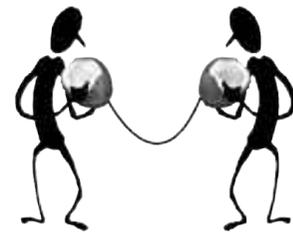
Cast of Characters:

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Denise Malefy

Advertising
Production

Sue Beal



Articles

Letter to the Editor.....3
Artist of the Month, Cheryl and Marjorie4
Handcrafted Driftwood Frames.....5
History: Facts About the 1500s.....6
Sharing the Full Story, Calling on Friends.....9
Sneak Peek of Chicago the Musical10
Party for the Pantry, Nov. 14.....11
Getting from Here to There- map page12
Happy Birthday, US Marine Corps14
Crime Stoppers of the Florida Keys15
Conch Characters.....17
Adopt a Key Largo Animal Shelter Pet.....18
Memory Loss.....19
Social Experiment19
More Coconut Conch Characters.....20
Business in the Keys21
Best True Lawyer Story22
Dear Anny Bannanny23

Letter to the Editor

Walter Kush looked through the Plexiglas at the once peaceful sky, now a hell filled with exploding anti-aircraft flak and swarming Nazi planes. Walt defended his Army Air Corp bomber against the fighters with his twin 50-caliber Browning machine guns. A bomber to his front exploded in a flaming mass of twisted aluminum and airmen, headed for the ground. Walt had a moment, an epiphany perhaps, he realized the Nazi's were trying to kill him. He never worried about anything after that day in the ball turret over Romania in WWII. To this day Walt laughs in the face of conflict and drama. Walt was a flight engineer. He did not have to ride the ball turret. There was a need and he did not hesitate to do his duty.

I was a light weapons infantry specialist serving in RVN with company D, 1/327th infantry (airborne). One morning in late 1970 we were in the field near FSB Bastogne. We heard and felt many heavy explosions close by. We saw a red star cluster rise up from the direction of the explosions. Alpha company had been heavily rocketed and was expecting a ground attack. They had heavy casualties so we had to rush to their aid.

When we arrived near A company we were told to run down the trail and set up defensive positions for the impending ground attack. We were not allowed to stop to render aid, we were in a rush. The soft moaning of men with reduced lung capacity and horrible screams filled the morning air. We ran to the defensive positions - past the mangled mass of men and equipment. Past the man softly moaning for his soon-to-be-fatherless children. Past the men crawling in the dirt faceless, limbs missing, dragging their own intestines behind them. We defended against a ground attack that never came. Our own artillery on FSB Bastogne had fired on and accurately hit our own men.

S-4 or someone else seated at a desk in the rear with the gear had decided that the men they detected with sensors or side ranging radar were hostile forces. They were in fact our own fathers and sons. It is hard to explain the unconditional respect and devotion most combat survivors share for one another. We stand together, shoulder to shoulder, against the drama perpetrated pretty much by one wife and her man(?), at the VFW in Key Largo.

Continued on page 8...

Editorial: One Bad Apple Spoils the Whole Bunch

The saying "one bad apple spoils the whole bunch" is true and unfortunately can also apply to certain people who are a part of our local organizations. While many of our local organizations stay on track, doing what is right and are honest - others can be thrown off course by rotten apples. To identify the "bad" apples it helps to be able to identify the categories the people involved fall into.

First you have the "paid help". These are the people who receive salaries for running the business operations of the organization or charity. They then report to the "Board of Directors." Directors are supposed to represent the interest of those they serve, however, one board I know of is a self-elected group that consists of more convicted felons than you can shake a pooper-scooper at. These apples can quickly spoil the group as a whole.

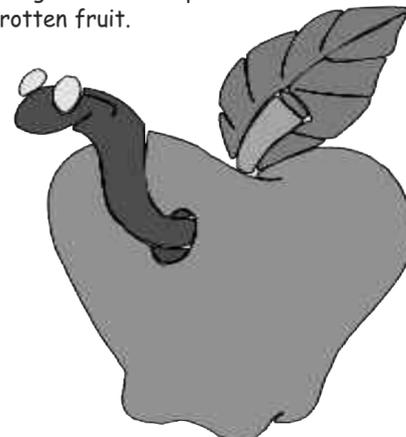
Next, you have the "morally bankrupt power hungry failures". These people are frustrated wannabes that infiltrate and try to take over a group for either money or the prominence they cannot achieve at work. When one organization kicks them out they go to another, and yet another. They will stop at nothing to manipulate their way to the top. Their only allies are thieves, murderers, drug dealers and morons. Beware of these bad apples!

Then, you have the "Donors". They are the ones that are the first to donate their money to the cause. Perhaps they buy everyone drinks or they notice that the floor needs tile and write a check. They expect nothing in return for their generosity. Good apples!

Last, but not least are the "Silent Workers". These people are the backbone of the group. They clean the kitchen, take out the garbage, do whatever is needed

and ask for nothing in return. When the morally bankrupt power hungry failures rid themselves of the honest "donors" and "workers" you have nothing left but a corrupt drinking organization.

We must be careful the bad apples do not spoil the bunch and leave us with nothing more than a pile of rotten fruit.



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