

OUR MISSION

To deliver the best news and information, quickly and fairly, through integrity and experience.

Frontlines

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STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS FROM ALL OVER



Who is your hero?

Marine Corps Times is looking for heroes. Not the type who make headlines for combat exploits, but rather the everyday heroes whose dedication, professionalism and concern for their fellow Marines and community set a standard for us all.

They are unsung heroes who lead by example — giving their time, sharing their knowledge and inspiring others — without drawing attention to themselves.

Through April 17, we are accepting nominations for the eighth-annual award. The only way someone is nominated is by our readers.

The awards presentation will take place in July on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

To nominate someone, send:

- Your name, address, commercial phone number and e-mail address.

- The name, address and commercial phone number of the nominee and his/her unit commander.

- An explanation of why your nominee deserves this award in 300 words or less.

- Names and contact information for three people who can verify the nominee's achievements that took place in 2007.

Submit nominations:

- Online at <http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/marine>.

- By e-mail at marine@marinecorpstimes.com.

- By fax to Marine Corps Times' Marine of the Year Award at (703) 642-7325.

- By mail to Marine Corps Times' Marine of the Year Award, 6883 Commercial Dr., Springfield, VA 22159.

Creature from the Chosin Reservoir

Gill Man star dies at age 79

The amphibious monster in "Creature from the Black Lagoon" was a fearsome beast, a threat to enemies on land and water who survived multiple attempts on his life.



In other words, Gill Man, the scaly star of the 1954 cult classic, possessed some of the characteristics of a good Marine.

Perhaps it's fitting, then, that one of the men who portrayed the monster is Ben Chapman, a former Marine who was decorated for service in Korea.



Chapman as a young Marine, circa 1950. Top, in 1999.

Chapman, 79, died Feb. 21 of congestive heart failure at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, said his long-time partner, Merrilee Kazarian.

His death came 57 years after he survived the 1950 Battle of Chosin Reservoir, where as a private with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, he was one of about 40,000 leathernecks and soldiers who

fought off more than 100,000 Chinese troops in temperatures that dipped 30 degrees below zero.

Kazarian said Chapman spoke often of his time in the Corps, recalling with pride that he was able to regain use of his feet after they were so frost-bitten near Chosin that doctors considered amputating.

"He told them that if they chopped off his feet, he'd chop off their [testicles]," his son, Benjamin Chapman III, 29, said with a laugh.

In a 2005 interview with the Web site Icons of Fright, Chapman recalled the battle.

"The military said it was a bad situation and everyone should pull out — like a re-

treat," he said. "That's where there's a very famous quote coming from our commanding officer, General Oliver P. Smith ... : 'Retreat, Hell! The Marine Corps never retreats.'"

For his service in Korea, Chapman was decorated with a Silver Star, a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts, according to his son. He left the Corps in 1952 as a sergeant, the younger Chapman said.

— Dan Lamothe



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CHAPMAN FAMILY



EVAN AGOSTINI/AP

Singer-actress Jessica Simpson will participate in a concert for U.S. troops in Kuwait. The event, to be held March 10, will be broadcast live on the social networking site Myspace.com.

CONCERT FOR TROOPS

U.S. troops have been using social networking sites for years to keep up with family and friends half a world away.

Now, for the first time, one of those sites will host a live concert for troops online, featuring starlet Jessica Simpson, rock bands Disturbed and Filter, and comedian Carlos Mencia.

The event will be hosted by MySpace.com and broadcast live on its Web site March 10 from the USO in Kuwait.

"For years, troops stationed all over the world have utilized MySpace as a lifeline to communicate with their loved ones back home," MySpace co-founder Tom Anderson said in a message circulated on the Web site. "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to thank them in person and bring along the entire MySpace community."

Simpson, who has made several tours to the Middle East, said she was excited to participate in what is being dubbed "Operation MySpace."

"Through Operation MySpace, I get to serve my country by doing what I

thanks a million



to our men and women in uniform

att.com/military

The new at&t

Your world. Delivered.

THE MONTHS AHEAD Dates you need to know

ASTRONAUT SELECTION

Applications for the Astronaut Selection Program are due **March 14**. See MarAdmin message 100/08.

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Nominations for the Marine Corps Male and Female Athlete of the Year are due **March 15**. See MarAdmin message 032/08.

MARATHON EVENTS

Registration is open for the **March 29** Butler Relay, the first event in the Marine Corps Marathon Event Series. See <http://marine.marathon.com>

ADMINISTRATION AWARD

Nominations for the Department of Defense David O. Cooke Excellence in Public Administration Award are due **April 4**. See MarAdmin message 128/08.