

## KOREAN WAR VETERAN ROBERT KEOGH

By Richard Long

Robert (Bob) Keogh, a high school graduate at the beginning of the Korean War thinking war wasn't the best use of time and decided on a college education and a temporary student draft deferment. In college, Bob joined the Marine Corp Reserves, was accepted into the "Platoon Leaders Class" with a pay grade ranking of Corporal. During the summers of 1952 and 1954, Bob served his active part of the reserve training requirements at Quantico, Virginia. By the time Bob had finished college, the Korean War had ended resulting in lots of excess personnel, both officers and enlisted marines.

The draft board, still in effect, wanted Bob to complete his remaining two year obligation. Still a Marine, Corporal Keogh returned to duty and completed the mandatory 13 week training at Paris Island (where he actually outranked one of his "drill instructors"). Then to Camp Lejeune for a month and finally back to Quantico for the remaining time.

Bob was one of a kind, literally. His job in Special Services was in the "education office", staffed by a part-time officer and Bob. Duty responsibilities were primarily helping excess Marine personnel complete their education. It may have been getting a GED if the individual hadn't completed high school or finishing some level of college. He located schooling options, completed paperwork, and did whatever was needed to help the veteran complete a higher level of education.

Sargent Keogh recalled a memory. Driving back to base from Washington DC with 3 other marines (one the then world record holder of the 200 Low Hurdles and an Olympic runner) they stopped at a cafe just off base for cake and coffee only to discover that Josh opted to stay in the car. Oops, Virginia was still a segregated state. Bob realized he still had lots to learn.

Sargent Keogh, we honor you and thank you for your service.