

# United States Postal Service recognizes four Marines

By Casey McCormick

The United States Marine Corps is a group where "a few good men" make a difference. The United States Postal Service is recognizing four of the most remarkable Marines in a new stamp collection.

Bird City Postmaster Sonja Weeden presented a framed replica of the Distinguished Marines stamps to the Bird City American Legion commander Charles Coleman.

"The Distinguished Marines commemorative postage stamps salute four heroic Marines who served with bravery, distinction and honor during the 20th Century," said Mrs. Weeden.

These legendary Marines include Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone, Sergeant Major Daniel J. Daly, Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune and Lieutenant General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller.

Each soldier has an amazing story behind his stamp.

The John Basilone stamp features a detail of a 1943 photograph of Basilone and the insignia of the 5th Marine Division. The recipient of the nation's highest military award, Basilone was recognized during World War II for holding 3,000 Japanese soldiers at bay for 72 hours during the Battle of Guadalcanal with only 15 men, 12 of whom died.

Following this act of heroism, Basilone was sent back to the states to promote war bonds. Shortly thereafter, he requested a return to this unit to, "be with my boys."

Basilone again distinguished himself by single-handedly destroying an enemy blockhouse and helped guide a friendly tank out of a minefield during the invasion of Iwo Jima.

During the fighting on Iwo Jima, Basilone was killed during a shelling attack on Feb. 19, 1945. He was 28. Basilone was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross and Purple Heart.

Sergeant Major Daniel J. Daly's stamp features a detail from a photograph of Daly taken around 1919 and the insignia of the 73rd Machine Gun Company, which is a variation on the Army's 2nd Infantry Division insignia. Daly served in both these groups during World War I.

Acclaimed by Maj. Gen John A. Lejeune as "the outstanding Marine of all time," Daly received the Medal of Honor twice for separate acts of heroism.

In 1900, during the Boxer Rebellion, the defense of the American Embassy in Peking, China was in



Distinguished Marine's stamps

the hands of a strong, but small, force of Marines. The embassy was under attack and the fortification had been breached.

A Marine captain asked for a volunteer to take up point and provide cover fire while repairs were made. Daly stepped forward and said, "I'm your man." Daly held his position alone, throughout the night. This act earned him his first Congressional Medal of Honor.

In 1915 Daly received his second when Marines were deployed to Haiti to protect American lives in the wake of an anti-government uprising.

He was part of a night reconnaissance mission with 35 enlisted Marines and three officers when 400 Haitian bandits fired on them from three sides. The detachment found a better position and fought them off throughout the night. At daybreak, the three squads of Marines advanced and surprised the enemy, scattering them in all directions.

Probably the most familiar name on the stamps, John A. Lejeune's stamp features a detail from a circa 1924 photograph of Lejeune. The stamp depicts the insignia of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, which Lejeune commanded during World War I.

Born in Pointe Coupee, LA, Lejeune (1867-1942) is best re-

membered as a wartime commander after being the first Marine General to command an Army division in combat during World War I.

He is also credited with saving the Marine Corps from budget cuts and consolidations following World War I and establishing Marine Corps institutions and traditions. The Marine base located near Jacksonville, NC bears his name.

The Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller stamp features a photograph of Puller at Koto-ri, Korea, in 1950, and the insignia of the 1st Marine Division.

Nicknamed for his barrel chest, Puller (1898-1971), born West Point, VA, was one of the most famous Marine commanders in Corps history. He was a battalion commander and regimental commander with the 1st Marine Division during World War II and the Korean War.

True to himself and the Corps, Puller never was one to mince words.

During the Korean War, when surrounded by more than 100,000 Chinese soldiers at the Chosin Reservoir, Puller is believed to have said, "They're on our right, they're on our left, they're in front of us, they're behind us; they can't get away from us this time."

## Significant dates in postal history

- 1775 - Benjamin Franklin appointed first Postmaster General by the Continental Congress
- 1847 - U. S. postage stamps issued
- 1855 - Prepayment of postage required
- 1860 - Pony Express began
- 1863 - Free city delivery began
- 1873 - U.S. Postal cards issued
- 1874 - General Postal Union (now Universal Postal Union) established
- 1893 - First commemorative stamps issued
- 1896 - Rural free delivery begins
- 1963 - ZIP Code inaugurated
- 1974 - Self-adhesive stamps introduced
- 1983 - ZIP+4® Code began



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**—The Dan Steerman home is all decked out as residents around town are busy putting lights up and decorating as the Dec. 11 deadline for the lighting contest draws near. Two prizes of \$50 in scrip will be given to the winners.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Beecher Island News

By Bessie Dent



Jeri Rose hosted the Beecher Island Helping Hand Club Thanksgiving meeting with a large crowd present. The next meeting will be with Marla Rock Dec. 14.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simmons, Tonya Gallegos and Quentin Simmons were among those helping Madisen Perila celebrate her third birthday Saturday with a Cinderella party at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Randy Perila. Robert and MerryLu spent the weekend with them.

Don Dye of Imperial visited Violet Brown Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Matzke were Friday night and Saturday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Shaver.

Boni Osmus met Sheila Bowman in Fort Morgan Thursday to bring Addi and Cody Bowman home with her until Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Mansfield plan to spend Thanksgiving with

Vickie and Bill Benson in Sterling.

Travis Allen and a friend from Colorado Springs came Thursday to do some pheasant hunting at the Harvey Allens. Joining them for supper were Perry Allen and Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hurlburt and family.

Riley Brown had supper with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dent Tuesday.

Andy Bowman came Saturday to

spend Thanksgiving with Mr. and Mrs. Pete Osmus.

Judy Shively celebrated her Nov. 18 birthday when she and Rowe and Beulah Soehner went to Saintry for dinner Thursday evening. She had lunch with Doris Whomble.

## Outdoors with Chuck

### Dietary Indiscretion

I learned a new phrase today! "Dietary Indiscretion."

One of our guests, a gentleman sportsman from Santa Fe, has a wonderful Lab named "Mocha." After a day with us she developed an ailment which caused her a great deal of discomfort, we took her to the vet in Benkleman, and he did his thing, prescribed a

bunch of stuff to fix her up.

When Mark asked what had caused the problem, the vet said "A dietary indiscretion." I think that might come in handy at Thanksgiving and Christmas, when we have to explain the growth in our waist sizes — "Dietary Indiscretion!" I like it!

From "Hunters," Chuck Kribs

St. Francis Music Club presents "Yuletide Festival" and Sweet Shoppe Sun., Dec. 4 • 2 p.m. St. Francis High School Auditorium

**45th Annual St. Francis Invitational Wrestling Tournament**  
Saturday, December 3

TEAMS PARTICIPATING: Colby • Goodland • Pine Creek, CO • Quinter • Rawlins Co. • Scott City • Sterling, CO • St. Francis • Wichita County • Wray, CO

- 1st Session beginning at 9:30 a.m.
- 2nd Session beginning at 1 p.m.
- Tournament will run straight through
- Finals start 15 min. after the second session ends, approximately 5:30 p.m.

**Admission:**  
Students - \$4.00  
Adults - \$6.00  
These prices are for all day.

After 1 p.m.  
Students - \$3.00  
Adults - \$4.00

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