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From: "GERALD F MERNA" <gfmerna_usmc@msn.com>
To: <murphy15@optonline.net>
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2006 12:41 AM
Subject: St. Agnes Alumni 60th Anniversary Dedication



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**John A. Murphy, 16th District
 Rockland County NY Legislature**

John:

I want to *personally* thank you very much for joining your colleague Connie L. Coker on August 19th at the 60th Anniversary Reunion and Dedication of the St. Agnes Alumni Association.

It was good of you not only to give of your time (on a weekend) to personally attend, but to join with Ms. Coker is issuing a *Proclamation in Honor of the 39 St. Agnes Alumni who paid the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country*. I regret I did not get a chance to chat with you after the ceremony, but so much was going on at the time that when I looked for you I found you had already departed.

Our then oldest Brother, George Charles Merna, was one of the 39 men honored that day, and his name is on that plaque we dedicated on our *50th Anniversary* in 1996. I was the guest speaker for that event, and if you are interested, you can see a copy of those remarks on our St. Agnes Web Site by clicking on this URL: <http://www.stagnesalumni.org/StoriesStAAAGoldenJubileeV13Oct05.shtml>. It contains a lot of old pictures, sports teams, alumni, and since I noted you were also a Marine, you will note there is also mention of General Krulak and other Marines.

(As a Marine, you might also enjoy this story I wrote about the only Marine General killed in Vietnam, MajGen. Bruno A. Hochmuth: <http://www.stagnesalumni.org/StoriesGenHochmuth.pdf>).

I thought I'd attach several of the pictures of this all-important day to serve as a reminder of the major contribution you made on August 19th. Of special interest to me is the picture of David Kee and me. In 1950 my brother Jim and I, together with fellow St. Agnes Alumni David and Louis Kee (also brothers) and Francis Boyle were all at Camp Lejeune for Advanced Combat Training, recalled for the Korean War. We all served in Korea, but I never saw either of the Kee's or Boyle *until* David came up from Pensacola, FL for *this* reunion. He served in the Corps for 30 years! His brother David served for 20, and I put in 22. So this was a *56-year reunion!*

Semper Fidelis,

Jerry Merna

**Gerald F. Merna
 1stLt USMC (Retired)
 Mustang**



Alumni gather at start of ceremony. My bride of 56 years, Mrs. Merna, a former "Piermont Girl" and classmate, is center, 1st row



Piermont VFW and Auxiliary



Wreath placed at 3 Plaques that honor Coach Faulk (Col. USMC Ret); Nuns of St. Agnes, and the 39 Alumni who gave their lives.



Rockland Co. VA Affairs Counselor Jerry Donnellan, guest speaker, "thanks" the dead St. Agnes veterans for their service.



St. Agnes Alum Paul Fabrizzi adds brief remarks and sings God Bless America



Fr. Ray Masterson, also a St. Agnes Alum, blesses attendees and plaques



Plaque with names of 39 St. Agnes "House's Kids" who gave their lives for their country.



Rockland Co. Legislators John A. Murphy and Connie L. Coker present Proclamation to StAAA Pres. Art Kingsley



VFW Colors march off at end of ceremony.



David Kee (I.) and Jerry Merna meet after seeing each other at Camp Lejeune in 1950!

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