

## RTR CHAPEL STAINED GLASS WINDOWS:

*This self-guided tour of the windows is laid out so that facing Blvd De France you will begin from the right.*

### 1<sup>st</sup>. Poster

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Window (4<sup>th</sup> MARDIV Assoc.):



This window illustrates the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division's engagements during World War II at Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima, and memorializes the Marines who gave their lives in these island assaults. One can see an angel lifting the spirit of a fallen Marine with the Latin words: *Requiescat in Pace* (Rest in Peace) draped across his loins. It is interesting to note that all 6 of the Marine Divisions activated in World War II are represented right here in the Recruit Chapel. This window was donated by the 4<sup>th</sup>. Marine Division Association on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1996.

#### "The Jaws of Hell" (5<sup>th</sup> MARDIV Assoc.):



This window graphically depicts Marines clawing their way up the volcanic ash of Iwo Jima led by a Marine armed with a flame thrower. The raised Mount Suribachi flag to the left is encircled as a parallel element to the Navy Corpsmen and Navy Chaplain seen to the right, caring for a wounded Marine. The name for this window, "The Jaws of Hell" was taken from a poem of Alfred Lord Tennyson entitled: *The Charge of the Light Brigade*:

*Storm'd at with shot and shell,  
While horse and hero fell,  
They that had fought so well,  
Came thro' the Jaws of Hell,*

Another interesting detail concerning this window is that the artist, Col. Avery Chenoweth, was himself a Marine serving in the First Combat Art Team during Korea and Vietnam. The window was commissioned by the 5<sup>th</sup>. Marine Division Association and dedicated

### 5<sup>th</sup>. Poster

#### The Chapel Bell



The bell at the front entrance to the Recruit Chapel is the original ship's bell from USS Suribachi, a Navy ammunition supply ship named in honor of the Marines and Sailors who fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima and raised the American flag atop Mount Suribachi during WWII. Following the ship's decommissioning, custody of the bell was transferred to U.S. Navy Museum at the Washington Navy Yard. CAPT James Fisher, former Command Chaplain at Parris Island, who served his first tour as a Navy Chaplain on board Suribachi coordinated the bell's transfer and installation to Parris Island. New Marines attending religious services in the chapel for their last time before graduation traditionally ring the bell as they exit.



USS Suribachi (AE 21)

on Memorial Day, 1994, as a fitting tribute to their deceased. It represents surviving comrades who went through the jaws of hell.

**“Job’s Faith Tested”** (*Located in the Sacristy/Donated by family of Mr. Sam Lipton*):



This window depicts the biblical figure, Job, whose faith was tested as he was allowed to suffer the loss of all his possessions and afflicted with pain and disease. God richly rewarded Job for his proven trust in Him throughout his period of suffering. The window is not intended to portray the trials of the Marine Corps Recruit, although some parallels could be easily drawn. The art was donated by the family of Mr. Sam Lipton, who died April 30, 1983.

**“Do Not Dishonor”** (6<sup>th</sup> MARDIV Assoc.):



The three Marines depicted in this window are facing a 48 star United States flag and have honored that ensign by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. This window was donated by the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Association, and dedicated June 13, 1986. The Command Chaplain at the time of the dedication was Father Charles J. McCoy. Chaplain McCoy served with the 29<sup>th</sup> Marines, 6 Division during World War II on Guam and Tsinatiao, China.

## 2<sup>nd</sup>. Poster

**“Marines as Indomitable Warriors”** (Tennessee Marine Corps League):



This window beautifully displays the immortal image of five Marines and one Navy Corpsmen raising the flag at Iwo Jima. Thanks to the familiar photograph taken by Joe Rosenthal, this image has etched in stone the Marine’s reputation as indomitable warriors. This reputation cannot be too far off the mark when considering that the battle of Iwo Jima was the largest all-Marine battle in history. The window is completed by the hands of God reaching down from the heavens. It was dedicated in November 1988, by the Tennessee Marine Corps League.

**“Marine at Sunrise”** (3<sup>rd</sup> MARDIV Assoc.):



This window, “Marine at Sunrise”, is dedicated in memory of General Graves B. Erskine, USMC, who founded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division. The window portrays a beautiful scene captured by the camera of GySgt Wojciechowski, February 4, 1964, at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Silhouetted by the glow of the rising sun, a Marine in combat gear is seen kneeling in prayer on a Hawaii beach. This window was presented March 1, 1985, by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division Association.

**“Take the Hill”** (2<sup>nd</sup> MARDIV Assoc.):



This window was given to the chapel by “The Follow Me Division”, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division Association, August 26, 1987. The window depicts a tank cresting a hill during the WWI Battle of Blanc Mont Ridge, a battle in which the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division played a key role. This battle resulted in a resounding victory as the German Army was completely expelled from Champagne, France. Beside the window is a plaque which reads, *“This window is dedicated to our former, present and past Marines of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division.”*

**“In the Air, On Land and Sea”** (1<sup>st</sup> MARDIV Assoc.):



This was the first window donated to the chapel and shows the Marine’s expertise in the air, on land and sea, as sung in the first verse of the Marine Corps hymn, and symbolized in the Eagle, Globe and Anchor emblem. The Marine at the center is the key element, ready with his weapon and skill to coordinate the battle. The window was contributed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division Association and installed in the chapel November 6, 1984.

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**3<sup>rd</sup>. Poster**

*These four windows were designed as part of the same series and crafted by Paul Conley, of Charles Towne Stained Glass Studios. They are intended to relate the attributes of FAITH, LOVE, HOPE & PEACE, to the life of a Marine.*

**“FAITH”** (North-East Marine Corps League):



This window depicts Abraham’s faithfulness to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, seen as a foreshadow in the Christian faith, of God sacrificing his only son, Jesus, for the sins of the world. Abraham’s willingness to trust God is a parallel to the willingness of so many parents to allow their sons and daughters to enlist in the United States Marine Corps, in willing sacrifice. This window was donated by the North-East Division of the Marine Corps League in memory of departed comrades in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. The stained glass art was dedicated October 1, 1988.

**“LOVE”** (Florida Marine Corps League):



This stained glass art represents the love which exists in the family unit. The family shown here embracing each other represents the strength and support found in their love for one another. Marines know the Corps to be a closely knit family, as expressed in the quote “Marines take care of their own.” The window was presented to the chapel by the Florida Marine Corps League and was dedicated September 13, 1990.

**“HOPE”** (Marine Raider Assoc.):



This window illustrates Moses parting the Red Sea as recorded in the book of Exodus and is a reminder that God is able to deliver his people today even as he delivered his people from Pharaoh’s army in Exodus 14. The plaque reads, “Lest We Forget, U. S. Marine Raiders 1942 – 1944.” The window is entitled “HOPE” and was dedicated by the United States Marine Raiders Association and dedicated April 7, 1989.

**“PEACE”** (Women Marines Assoc.):



this window is entitled “PEACE” and illustrates swords being fashioned into plowshares and spears being fashioned into pruning-hooks as prophesied in the Bible (Isaiah 2:4). MajGen J. D. Lynch, former Commanding General of Parris Island, presided over the dedication of this window and stated, “The window beautifully depicts the hope of all that someday the ancient dream will be fulfilled and not only will swords be beaten into plowshares, but all implements of war will be turned into instruments of peace. It will serve for years to come as a solemn reminder that the goal of the Corps is really peace.” The window was donated by the Women Marine’s Association and dedicated on October 13, 1988.

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**4<sup>th</sup>. Poster**

**Chaplain Corps Honored** (*Located in the Reconciliation Room/Tennessee Marine Corps League*):



This window is in honor of all Chaplains who have rendered service in the Marine Corps. The scenario portrayed in the picture shows Abraham returning from battle after pursuing and defeating the invading kings who took his nephew, Lot. In the stained glass art, Chaplains are symbolically represented by the Priest-king character Melchizedek, who is bringing offerings of bread and wine to minister to Abraham. Marines are represented by Abraham, seen laying down his sword after the battle. One can read the biblical account of this story in Genesis 14. The window was dedicated March 27, 1992 by the Tennessee Marine Corps League. November 28, 1775 is the Chaplain Corps birthday.

**“Gates of Heaven”** (Kentucky Detachment, Marine Corps League):



This window brilliantly depicts the last verse of the Marine Corps Hymn. One can see that the gates are guarded by Marines, while below it reads *“If the Army and the Navy ever look on heaven’s scenes, they will find the streets are guarded by United States Marines.”* Notice that service members of every branch are represented. At the front of the line is the SgtMaj of the Marine Corps, carrying a guidon. Flowing from the guidon are battle streamers listing the names of famous battles. A fascinating feature in the window is the image of Christ hovering over the

gates. As the light of day changes, the image of Christ transforms from the Crucifixion to the Resurrection. The window was dedicated in 1996, in memory of Col William Higgins, USMC, who died in captivity in Lebanon, July 6, 1990. Col Higgin's wife, LtCol Robin Higgins, was the keynote speaker at the dedication of this window and spoke of her husband's dedication to the values which are held strongly by all Marines, especially in times of trial.

**"We Will Never Forget"** (Maj Robert Throm, USMC Retired):



One will see in this window the image of tracks left by an Amphibious Tractor (AmTrac). At the end of the tracks is a wheel, and in the center of the wheel, one can see 13 fallen Marines resting in the hand of God. This stained glass was dedicated by the CO of those Marines, Maj Robert Throm, 1<sup>st</sup>. AmTrac Battalion, to honor their sacrifice. They were KIA on January 20, 1968, during Vietnam. Years after the bloody battle that claimed their lives, Maj Throm's daughter encouraged him to consider dedicating to them, knowing how much he struggled with their loss. Looking closely at the faces portrayed in the window one can see the actual likeness and facial features of those individual Marines. The dedication service for this window was held on January 22, 2000, with Maj Throm and his family in attendance, making it the last window installed in the Recruit Chapel. It is noteworthy that during the same action in which these 13 Marines were killed, Sgt Ron Kovic, portrayed by Tom Cruise in the movie, *Born on the Fourth of July*, was wounded.

