

From the Chaplain's Desk:

Knowing how very important our Curtiss Marine Reunions have been for me, several Christmass's ago, my eldest son gave me a coffee mug that has remained my favorite. It's in the Marine Corps' red and gold with the Marine Corps emblem on the one side. But it is the reverse side that I can read whenever I drink from this cup that is so important. It is a quote from former President Ronald Reagan:

**“Some people spend an
entire lifetime
wondering if they made
A difference.
The MARINES don't
have that problem.**

I can't help always thinking that this is especially true of us, The Curtiss Atomic Marines. At each Reunion we each receive certificates of accommodation and appreciation from Congressmen, Naval and Marine Officers and from The U.S Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office among others. And with the receipt of each we all stand a bit straighter and taller! We're Marines and we're Curtiss Marines. And our families acknowledge that and love us a bit more for that.

Which leads me to a little aside. “Once a Marine, always a Marine” is so obviously true. But it also seems that “One a Franciscan, always a Franciscan” is equally true. Everyone knows that I was a Franciscan for seven years before I enlisted in the Marine Corps, a member of the First Order of Friars Minor. Since moving to Manteca, I have rejoined the Franciscans as a member of the Third Order Secular. I have now made my Profession and can sign my name followed with “SFO”, for Secular Franciscan Order. You will note the following:

Semper Fi
Joe Stallings, SFO

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