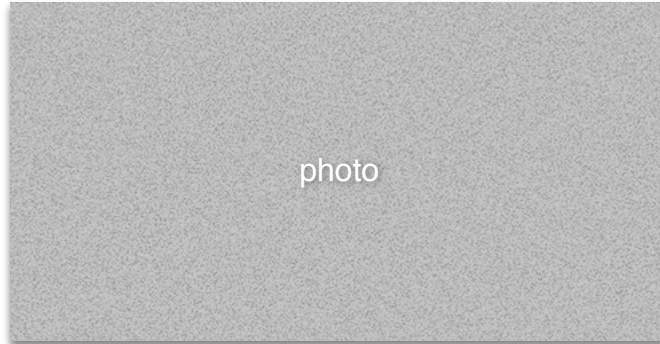




Semper Fi Reflects on True Meaning of Holiday



Tournament director Ray Leidich was presented with his portrait painted by Alvis Grant, who has painted all of the USHA Hall of Famers as well as many paintings in the Marine Corps Museum.

The true spirit of Memorial Day was celebrated at the Semper Fi banquet on Saturday night in San Diego when Nelson Paler read a quote and a poem on the meaning of Memorial Day.

Paler grabbed the attention of the audience with this quote from Thomas Campbell, "The Patriot's Blood is the Seed of Freedom's Tree."

Paler then recited a powerful poem by Robert G. Ingersoll that touched the audience.

These heroes are dead
They died for liberty -- they died for us.
They are at rest
They sleep in the land they made free.
Under the flag they rendered stainless,
Under the solemn pines, the sad hemlocks,
The tearful willows, and the embracing vines.
They sleep beneath the shadows of the clouds,
Careless alike of the sunshine or of storm,
Each in a windowless place of rest.
Earth may run red with other wars --
They are at peace.
In the midst of battle, in the roar of conflict,
They found serenity of death.
I have one sentiment for soldiers living and dead:
Cheers for living,
Tears for the dead.

Tournament director Ray Leidich was also presented with his portrait painted by Alvis Grant, who has painted all of the USHA Hall of Famers as well as many paintings in the Marine Corps Museum. USHA President Steele with Ray, Alvis and Vern Roberts.

The night ended with Monty Nereim leading the attendees in singing God Bless America and The Marine Corps Hymn.