



**John Thomas Hart**  
**Captain U.S. Marine Corps**  
**25 February 1955 – 1 September 1975**

John – 2008

John was born on 14 February 1937 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where he attended Lincoln Elementary School (1942 – 1949), Franklin Jr. High School (1950 – 1952), and Liberty High School (1953 – 1955). On 25 February 1955, during his senior year of high school, John enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve as a Private at the 1<sup>st</sup> 90 mm Anti-aircraft Gun Battalion in Freemansburg, Pennsylvania. On 12 September 1955, John was discharged from the Reserve to re-enlist and serve on active duty with the Regular Marine Corps. He then left for “Boot Camp” at Parris Island, South Carolina, where he was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Recruit Training (Trng) Battalion (Bn), Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD). After graduating from Boot Camp on 30 November 1955, he was sent to North Carolina, where he underwent further training with 2<sup>nd</sup> Individual Trng Regiment (Regt) at Camp Geiger until March 1956, and was then assigned to 8<sup>th</sup> Signal Maintenance Bn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Service Group, at nearby Camp LeJeune. While there, he attended the First Special Clerical Course and was classified as a Personnel and Administration Specialist, and in February 1957 was transferred to Headquarters 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, 1<sup>st</sup> Individual Trng Regt, at Camp Geiger for a year. He was then ordered to 68<sup>th</sup> Rifle Company, a Reserve unit in Camden, New Jersey, where he served on the Inspector & Instructor (I&I) Staff for three years. In January 1961, he returned to MCRD, Parris Island, where he was assigned to Headquarters & Service (H&S) Bn until March 1963, when he left for Camp Pendleton, California, for duty with Company (Co) “G”, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 1<sup>st</sup> Marines, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division (MarDiv). In May 1963, the battalion left port at San Diego, California, for Camp Hansen, Okinawa, where it remained for a year. In May 1964, while the battalion was returning to the States, John went on emergency leave from Hawaii, due to the death of his father. He reported to Co “C”, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines, 1<sup>st</sup> MarDiv at Camp Pendleton, and in May 1965, his battalion was reassigned to 3<sup>rd</sup> MarDiv and left for Vietnam via Okinawa, and landed at Chu Lai, Vietnam, in August 1965. While in Vietnam, John’s unit participated in Operation Starlight in an assault on the Viet Cong base near Van Tuong and Operations Piranha and Indiana, both on the Batangan Peninsula in Quang Ngai Province. In April 1966, John was selected for appointment to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant under the Temporary Officer Program. After returning to the States in June 1966, John reported to Camp Lejeune once again where he served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Marines, 2<sup>nd</sup> MarDiv. On 30 September 1966, he was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant (Temporary). On 30 December 1967, while still serving with the 10<sup>th</sup> Marines, John was advanced to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, performing duties as Battalion and Regimental Administrative Adjutant. In September 1968, he returned to Da Nang, Vietnam, where he was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines, at Camp Horn for a year. In October 1969, John returned to the States and was selected for permanent appointment to Warrant Officer. In November 1969, he reported to Marine Barracks at U.S. Naval Base, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in July 1972, he was transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Air Wing at Cherry Point, North Carolina, for a year. From July 1973 to August 1974, John was assigned to Okinawa with the 3<sup>rd</sup> MarDiv. He then returned to Camp Lejeune where he was assigned to Hq Co, 8<sup>th</sup> Communications Bn, Force Troops, where he served until retiring from active duty. On 1 September 1975, he was transferred to the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve with the permanent rank of Captain. John married **Patricia Jean Boyle** (born 18 July 1936) on 3 September 1960 in Morton, Pennsylvania, while he was serving on the I&I Staff in Camden. After his retirement from the Marine Corps, he and Patricia settled in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, moved to Jacksonville, North Carolina, in May 1992, then to Dover, Delaware, in 1999, and finally settled in Macungie, Pennsylvania, in 2010. John worked as a Repairman for Electrolux in Easton, Pennsylvania, for a year, and then as Parts Manager for Sears in Allentown, Pennsylvania, until he retired from there in 1992. John became a life member of the Marine Corps League in Jacksonville, and the American Legion in Dover. Presently, he is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Macungie. His hobby is woodworking. John and Patricia have five children: **Rosemary Minardo**, **Michael John Hart**, **Kathleen Elizabeth Ring**, **Eileen Danger Vesely Ph.D.**, and **Erin Marie Gallagher**. His son, Michael, served in the Navy from 1982 to 1988, including tours of duty in Beirut, Grenada, and Libya. John’s granddaughter **Tanya Marie Minardo** served in the Air Force from 2006 to 2011. John’s parents were **Robert Thomas Hart** (20 August 1910 – 27 May 1964) and **Marcella Irene Carr** (5 February 1910 – 25 December 1996).