

**Speech by Dennis “Doc” Lee, HM2 USN, at the hill fights memorial,  
San Antonio, Texas, April 29, 2017**

Good afternoon.

I want to start by reading a passage that is called “Some Gave All”. It was written by Major Michael Davis O’Donnell and left at DAK To, Vietnam, 1 January, 1970.

*If you are able  
Save for them a place inside of you  
And save one backwards glance when you are leaving  
For the places they can no longer go  
Be not ashamed to say you loved them  
Though you may or may not have always  
Take what they have left  
And what they have taught you with their dying  
And keep it with your own  
And in that time  
When men decide and feel safe to call war insane  
Take one moment to embrace  
Those gentle heroes you left behind.*

We’re here today to honor and remember those men who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. It’s the first time that I’ve been to see this fitting memorial to their memories.

For myself and alot of others that are here, it’s personal. A number of us here have many vivid memories about this particular operation and it’s cost. Many of our friends were lost or wounded at Khe Sanh in “the hill fights”, as this battle has come to be known to history. Many times we only knew what was happening to our squads and platoons. Over the years, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Murphy and other various authors’ gathering of many personal accounts and other official records and information we now have a better and more complete picture and understanding of this event that happened to us.

This memorial will remind many other people overtime of the sacrifices that were made and the dedication and bravery of those who were involved in this action.

When I think of those who didn’t make it out of there, I choose to remember them all as vibrant, brave Marines and corpsmen who will be forever young in our memories. They were full of life, great aspirations, promise, and potential. We will never forget them.

For those of us who went through the experience and did make it home, we were the ones who were able to have the lives and futures that they were unable to experience.

We have these reunions for us and for them.

It’s been 50 years and we’ve lost many others through those years. These gatherings that we have help us to stay in touch and reminisce about the good times too, as well we should.

I want to close by reading a passage called “You May Be Lost”. I believe it was written sometime in the mid 1800’s but the author is unknown to me.

*You may be lost.....But you are not forgotten.  
Those who have journeyed far to fight in  
foreign lands know that the Marine’s  
greatest comfort is to have his friends  
close at hand.*

*In the heat of battle, it ceases to  
be an idea for which we fight....  
or a flag.  
Rather....we fight for the man  
on our left and we fight for the man  
on our right....*

*....And when the armies have scattered  
and when the empires fall away...  
All that remains is the  
Memory of those precious moments...  
We spent side by side.*

Brothers forever.  
Always remember.  
Semper Fi