

Jacobsen graduated high school in 2001, and the next day he went to boot camp. He graduated from boot camp on Aug. 24, 2001—less than a month before the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack.

"Pretty much my Marine Corps career was the start of Sept. 11," he said. "It was kind of a shock."

Many of the recruiters had told soldiers that were signing up that they would likely never see war. Jacobsen was in the field, training with other soldiers, when the attacks happened, and with no outside communication available to them, they heard only through their superiors. The news was hardly believable.

"Our sergeants told us what had happened, and we thought they were lying," he said. "We thought it was just a way to make us take our training more seriously. And then they caught on to that, so they let us listen to President Bush's address to the nation, and that's when we were pretty much all in shock. It was just silence. From there, I think we became more serious at that point, because we realized . . . since we were newly enlisted, at some point in time, every single one of us was going to see war."

Jacobsen became a field radio operator, joined the Waterloo Unit—Charlie Battery 114. He spent four years with the unit until being activated on June 12, 2005—a date that was memorable, because it was his daughter's first birthday.

After training in California, Jacobsen went to Iraq in September of 2005. He was an Operations Non-commissioned officer, with his job being to process Iraqi prisoners that were brought in. They worked with officials in the country to begin collecting information on prisoners—fingerprints, names and evidence involved.

Being in a position where he would have initial contact with the prisoners, many thought Jacobsen had the power to decide what happened. In their experience, they thought that Jacobsen would be the one pondering their fate—a jarring experience for the Marine.

"They thought that was it or I had the power to decide their fate, and they'd fall to the ground crying," he said. "Pleading for their life or trying to kiss me. I had a lot of empathy for them."

Working through an interpreter, Jacobsen helped process the prisoners—many of whom were "good guys," just in the wrong place at the wrong time, and were immediately released after processing. The prisoners, he said, were grateful to have the soldiers there.

"In the Iraqi government, they didn't feel like they had any future," Jacobsen said. "They could be killed at any time. If they were arrested, they were either imprisoned for the rest of their life or killed. There was no system of justice. And so, they were happy we were there."

Being in a position where the prisoners even had a thought that he might take their lives shook Jacobsen to his core.

"I found myself early on brought to tears for them several times," he said. "Take everything out of the equation. Take out way back when they said they had weapons of mass destruction, take out the reason of maybe there's a national interest in the future because they have oil, take out all the political stuff. Just for humanitarian reasons. Just so they can be treated like people . . . that was enough for me. And for every Marine in my unit there with me, that was enough. We felt like, everything aside, all the other political stuff aside, what we were doing and what we were seeing was good. We felt like we were doing good, and they felt like we were doing good, so that justified us."

Jacobsen worked a shift that helped his time in Iraq fly by. He would work 24 hours

straight, sleep for 20 hours, eat a meal and start the routine all over again. For this reason, a normal "day" for Jacobsen was in reality 48 hours. While this made time fly by, it also set him up for a jarring adjustment when he returned to the United States. He spent the remainder of his enlistment in the U.S. with a Des Moines infantry unit, ending his military service career as an E-5 . . . a sergeant.

Now living in Boone with his wife and three kids, looking back at his military career, Jacobsen misses many aspects of it.

"The camaraderie that you have with that group of Marines is probably the number one thing that I still miss to this day," he said. "You have that group of guys . . . we've been together already that four years I've been at the unit, we go through all this training together, we spend every single day together and we know we've got each other's backs. You know you can count on that other guy if something happens. And there's something about that that connects you."

Being back in the United States has been difficult for Jacobsen, as it is for many veterans. The feeling of having served overseas is nearly impossible to describe, he said. It wasn't until he joined the local VFW that he found he wasn't alone.

"It's weird . . . you never quite feel like you belong here anymore," he said. "You gain a different perspective, and nobody around you shares that perspective. It's different. Unless you've been there, you never quite understand it. I just joined the VFW. Went to my first meeting . . . and that was the first time I talked with people who understood that."

When asked what advice he might give a young man or woman looking to enlist, Jacobsen said the advice he would give them would make him a bad recruiter, but it's one that he considers necessary. It's based around a simple question: why are you enlisting?

"I want to know if they're enlisting for college purposes, or for national pride purposes. I'm a firm believer it's got to be this one . . . it can't be the college purpose," he said. "If it's 'I'm getting this benefit along with something I want to do just because I have pride in my country and I want to serve my country,' that's the perfect reason to enlist and I would tell them you'd do good at it."

As for the Marines Corps, Jacobsen said anybody can do it, despite your size or stature, as long as they have that pride and passion.

"It doesn't matter if you're a small guy or an overweight guy. They're going to fix you," he said. "They're going to fix that in boot camp and they're going to teach you how to exercise or teach you how to eat properly. They're going to give you those tools that you didn't have. The thing about the military is they're the best run organization on the planet. They're the oldest. The military has been around since the dawn of time, and so they've got a lot of history to go off of. Our country was founded by a war. Our first organization, our first business, was the military. Everything they do is for a reason. Everything's training in the Marines Corps . . . I know it's the same way with every branch."

Looking back on his career, the camaraderie he built with his friends, the insight he gained in speaking with Iraqis, and the work he did overseas, Jacobsen said if he could go back and do it all over again, very little would change. In fact, the only thing he would do differently, he said, is push himself more, give just a little bit more, work just a little bit harder, and make just a little bit more of a difference.

"I worked as hard as I could over there, but you always look back and think, 'I could

have done this much more in my time in the service,'" Jacobsen said. "Because it does end. I look back, and it's fond memories and you miss it, and you just wish you would have tried your hardest in everything you did."

That, better than Webster's could define it, is the definition of "service" as it applies to the military. And that is how it should be seen.

IN HONOR OF JANICE MARVEL

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute today to Janice Marvel, the incoming President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (LADVFA).

President Marvel has been a life-long member of the Roxana Fire Company Auxiliary. Like many other members of the Auxiliary and Fire Departments, President Marvel's involvement in the volunteer fire service has been a family affair—with history both in Maryland and Delaware. It has been said that being part of the fire service is like being part of a family, and in Janice Marvel's case, this rings particularly true.

Prior to being elected to this new post, President Marvel served as President of the Auxiliary at Roxana having joined the Department in 1978. She and her husband Todd, who is the President of Roxana have dedicated their lives to their community and the volunteer fire service. I believe her worthy of the honor of holding the presidential office.

The LADVFA serves such an important function in our community, and to be as effective as possible, they must have dedicated and organized leaders. I have every confidence that President Marvel will provide the LADVFA the leadership it requires and is known for. I wish her the very best in her new role.

NINETY YEARS YOUNG

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate and celebrate the tremendous accomplishments of a fellow Texan, Ed Lindsay. Ed Lindsay is a native Houstonian that will celebrate his 91st birthday next November. He served in World War II and Korea, and has practiced law for more than 50 years. He is the epitome of what I like to call a warrior lawyer.

In looking at Mr. Lindsay's past one can understand the work ethic and ambition that he embodies. As a boy growing up in Houston, at the age of five, he pushed his lawn mower down Pecore Street to North Hollywood Cemetery, where he mowed cemetery lots for neighbors.

Mr. Lindsay attended Texas A&M after high school. He worked his way through college by sweeping out a veterinarian amphitheater during his time there.