



Fred Jones  
Class of 2014

Colonel Fred L. Jones, USMC Retired, graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1959. While at OHS, he earned 4 varsity football letters and played on the undefeated Sierra Foothill League Championship teams in 1957 and 1958. He was team co-captain as a senior and named to the Northern California High School All Star Team. For his efforts, he was awarded a football scholarship to Oregon State University. Fred rounded out his athletic career competing in basketball and baseball and being crowned school light heavyweight boxing champion. Academically, he graduated in the top half of his class!

Upon being awarded his OHS diploma, Fred entered Oregon State University (OSU) in Corvallis, OR where he earned 3 varsity football letters, was on the team that won the 1962 Liberty Bowl, and finished his BA degree in Psychology. In 1989, Fred completed his MA degree in Public Administration from University of Oklahoma.

Fred's distinguished 31 year military career as a commissioned officer in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) began in 1964. He was only the 43<sup>rd</sup> black officer to ever be commissioned into the USMC. He retired in 1995 as the Chief of Staff for the Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Virginia. He was the 1<sup>st</sup> black Marine Officer ever to be selected to attend the Industrial College of Armed Forces (ICAF) at the National War College.

Colonel Jones served one tour in Vietnam from 1967-68, but then returned to participate in the evacuation of Saigon, South Vietnam in 1975 as Commanding Officer, Logistic Support Unit (LSU), 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment onboard the USS Mobile.

From 1971-74, then Captain Jones, served as Marine Officer Instructor, Recruiter and Supply and Fiscal Officer, Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Unit, Savannah State College (SSC), Georgia. He was also a member of the varsity football coaching staff. For his 3 year SSC assignment, Fred was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal by the Secretary of the Navy.

Throughout his illustrious career, honors and awards were numerous. Among the many were 2 Legions of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy/Marine Corps-Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Army Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnam Service Medal, Gallantry Cross Medal (with Palm and Frame), Overseas Service Ribbon, and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, to name a few.

In the 2013 edition of "Pathbreakers", U.S. African American Officers in Their Own Words, this oral history anthology provided insight into the history of the African American officer experience in the USMC. Colonel Jones was one of 21 officers who wrote of his experiences of how he succeeded individually and also gained considerable historical perspective on the progress of integration in the USMC. He also authored an article in the Marine Corps Gazette 1982, "Is the AVF (all-volunteer force) Too Black?" In 1993 Fred was also published in the National War College annual publication of best essays.

Fred continues to be active in his retirement. He chaired a group that provided food baskets to needy families in Okinawa, Japan and Virginia. He was 4 times president of his church council, named Professor for a Day for contributions to the programs of the Clemson University Workshop for Minority Students, and cited for his outstanding support of the Tri-Command Martin Luther King, Jr. commemorative service held at the USMC Recruit Depot in Parris Island, South Carolina. Fred is an inactive Master Mason in the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge. Fred has also continued to devote his time to church activities and lecturing on behalf of the principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Black History Month.

In his letter of support for his OHS classmate and friend, Lt Col Jon D. Frank, USAF (Retired) wrote, "Colonel Jones' accomplishments speak for themselves, husband, father, soldier, scholar, athlete, coach, and mentor. He is an outstanding representative of the Oroville community and an exemplary role model for the youth of today."

Fred and his wife of 48 years, Shirley, raised 3 children, one a teacher, another a GS-14 government employee and one a retired officer in the United States Navy. They have 4 grandchildren and make their home in Dumfries, Virginia.