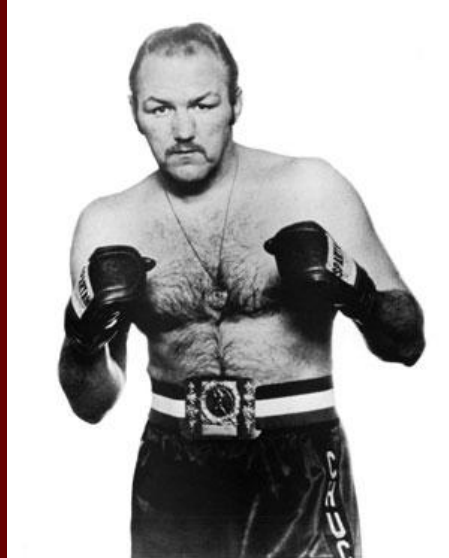
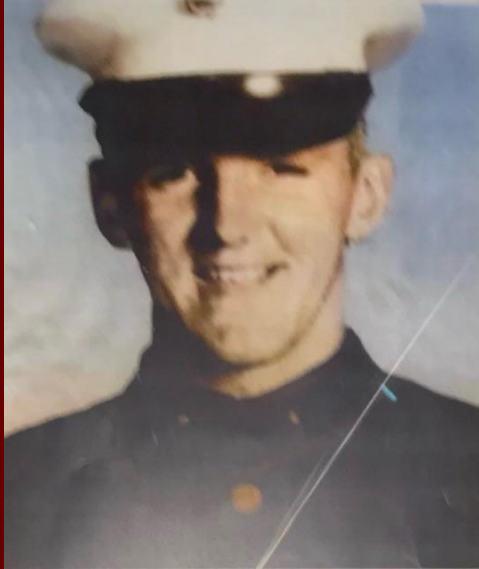


Chuck Wepner

Class of 1956



In 1956 at the age of 17, Wepner fulfilled his first dream when he became a United States Marine. Chuck proudly served in the capacity of Corporal E4, noncommissioned officer, until his discharge in 1959. Chuck's time in the Marines afforded him the opportunity to become a member of the boxing team. His time with the team led him to becoming a professional fighter and, in 1964, Chuck turned pro. Known around Bayonne as the Champ, Chuck would live out his dream as a professional boxer until 1978.

Among his many notable fights, Chuck fought champions Muhammad Ali, Sonny Liston, Randy Neumann, and Ernie Terrell, to name a few. And, as we all know, Chuck Wepner famously went 15 rounds with Muhammad Ali and knocked Ali to the canvas in the ninth round. As a result of his epic battle, Chuck's fame grew. He also became the inspiration for Sylvester Stallone's Academy award-winning film, Rocky, and forever will be known as the real-life Rocky.