



## VALLEY FORGE MILITARY ACADEMY AND COLLEGE

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13 February 2004

Mr. Sean-Michael Green  
2204 Applewood Court  
Perkasie, PA 18944

Dear Mr. Green,

I just wanted to reiterate how much my wife, Mary Kay, and I enjoyed your presentation last month. Without question, as an academic and a Marine, I found your comments on target, your self-deprecating sense of humor an effective tool for communication and your passion for education inspirational.

Perhaps because both Mary Kay and I were formerly enlisted, we feel a more personal desire to assist those junior Marines and sailors who, like us at one time, know they desire an education, but simply may not know the best path to follow in pursuit of such a dream.

When I was an enlisted Navy hospital corpsman two decades ago a crusty gunnery sergeant told me, "Doc, you better get some knowledge or you'll regret it." I think my response was something profound and poetic. I think, I replied, "Aye, aye Gunny." No waster of words I. Well, the Gunny was right. Ironically, the more knowledge I "got" – the more I wanted. I started with community college evening adult courses and now have earned a second graduate degree. I'm not finished. I still want to "get more knowledge."

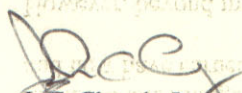
However, beyond my personal journey, I also strongly desired to assist others. As a junior officer, I served as a battalion Education Officer. I was responsible for ensuring Marines were aware of what programs were available to them as active duty service members and what would be viable for them as veterans. That responsibility was a great education. I learned our nation and our military place the education of its citizen-warriors at a premium. However, to learn where to go to learn or how to learn can be daunting.

All of the aforementioned brings me to your seminar. I only wish there were more former Marines (forgiven the heresy – I know there is no such thing as a "former" Marine according Leatherneck lore) like you in positions where they could influence others in such a positive manner.

Your presentation reflected a sincere desire to assist others. Your communication skills enable you to connect with your audience. Your examples hit home with those of us who know what its like to march through sheets of rain, sleep in beds of mud and shoulder the burden of protecting a Nation and keeping a its citizenry free.

I read once that newsman David Brinkley wrote years ago that the education of the World War II Generation, in large part via the G.I. Bill, was what made America the preeminent nation it is today. You have a key role in the education of future greatest generations. It is wonderful for them and our Nation that you appear to be so fully committed to that profession and so very passionate about it.

Most sincerely and respectfully yours,

  
J. C. Church, Jr.  
Assistant Professor  
Major USMCR