Dr. Linda Canup Keaton-Lima Awarded USMCCCA's Denig Award

In the long and storied history of the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association its premier award has never been bestowed on the son or daughter of a combat correspondent (CC). This changed June 23 when Dr. Linda Canup Keaton-Lima, Tega Cay, SC and daughter of the late, long-time CC Claude "Red" Canup, and author of "War Is Not Just For Heroes" was named winner of the Association's 2012 Brig. Gen. Robert L. Denig Sr., Memorial Distinguished Performance Award.

Denig originated the Marine Corps combat correspondents program in early 1942, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Since that time Marine correspondents and photographers have told the Marine Corps story in each of this Nation's armed conflicts. Since 1968 the USMCCCA has periodically chosen a practitioner of mass communications for its most prestigious award. Previous winners include Tom Hanks, W.E.B. Griffin, William Manchester, David Douglas Duncan, James Brady, and PBS NewsHour's Jim Lehrer.

Dr. Keaton-Lima's book, a collection of 398 "dispatches" and personal letters sent by her dad from the Pacific, represents nearly 12 years of tenacity, stubbornness and perseverance. Marine historians are now calling this one of the most complete accounting of Marine aviation in World War II.

Dr. Charles Neimeyer, Director and Chief, USMC History Division says "the Marine Corps historical program owes a debt of gratitude to Linda Keaton-Lima for bringing to light an invaluable treasure trove of wartime material and commentary..."

Jim Lehrer, retired executive editor and anchor at PBS said "Red Canup was the real deal - a real Marine, a real reporter. That combination made him the premier chronicler of the real world of World War II combat for the Marine aviators who went into the skies over the Pacific. His daughter has collected and curated Red's individual Marine stories to tell the bigger story of what it was like for those brave men who attacked, defended, and died. This is a terrific book."

Capt. Jack Paxton, USMC (Ret.) Executive Director of the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association and himself a CC in both Korea and Vietnam, said Canup 's dispatches from the Pacific made him one of the most prolific combat correspondents in Marine history. "He personified the Marine combat reporting ethos of keeping the families at home aware of their sons' exploits. War Is Not Just For Heroes is not only a great read but a historical find!"