

Leftwich Trophy Recipients 1979-2012

(See [Book II, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs"](#) by 1stLt. Michael Dan Kellum for more information on Lt.Col. Bill Leftwich Jr.)

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The Leftwich Trophy for Outstanding Leadership is an award presented annually in memory of Lt.Col. William Groom Leftwich Jr., USMC, killed-in-action in the Republic of Vietnam on November 18, 1970. Eligible nominees are Marine captains in the ground combat arms serving on active duty as company or battery commanders with the ground forces of the Marine Corps operating forces at the time of the nomination. (The recipient of each year's award is for service performed in the previous year. The Commandant of the Marine Corps makes the annual presentation.)

For 33 years the Leftwich Trophy was provided to the Marine Corps through an endowment by the H. Ross Perot Foundation from 1979-2011. In recent years, the funding and casting was coordinated by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation for Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. Lt.Col. Leftwich and Mr. Perot were classmates at the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating with honors in 1953. The trophy itself was designed by Dr. Felix Wiehs de Weldon, designer of the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Monument) in Arlington, Virginia, near Arlington National Cemetery.

Beginning in 2012, the Leftwich Trophy was underwritten by an anonymous donor which is again coordinated by the MCA & Foundation for HQMC, according to Col. Walt Ford, USMC (Ret.), editor/publisher of *Leatherneck Magazine*. (Asterisks show the officers I know to have been promoted to general and are either active duty or retired as of August 2013. I do not have a complete listing of those officers promoted to major, lieutenant colonel or colonel therefore I did not include that designation.---MDK)

- 1979-Capt. Clyde S. Brinkley Jr., CO, Hotel Co., 2/2**
- 1980-Capt. Charles R. Sherrill, CO, Bravo Co., 2d Tank Bn.**
- 1981-Capt. John Caldwell, CO, Bravo Co., CO, Weapons Co., 1/6**
- 1982-Capt Dirk R. Ahle, Weapons Co., 2/1, 1stMarDiv**
- 1983-Capt. Ronald L. King, Battery I, 3/12, 3dMarDiv**
- 1984-Maj. Robert K. Dobson Jr., CO, Golf Co., 2/8, 2dMarDiv**
- *** R1985-Capt. Dennis J. Hejlik, BLT, 3/8, 22d MAU**
- 1986-Maj. David W. Mauldin, Echo Co., 2/8, 2dMarDiv**
- **R1987-Capt. Paul E. Lefebvre, 2/9 ground forces, FMF**
- **** R1988-Maj. John R. Allen, S-3, 3/4, (2nd Nomination)**
- **1989-Capt. James B. Laster, Inspector-Instructor Operations Officer, 25th Marines**
- *R1990-Capt. Ronald F. Baczowski, Kilo Co., 3/1 ground forces, FMF**
- 1991-Capt. Dennis M. Greene, 2d Light Armored Infantry Bn.**
- 1992-Capt. Michael L. Ettore, 1/8, 2dMarDiv ground forces, FMF**
- *1993-Capt. Robert F. Castellvi, BLT, 2/9, 15 MEU, 1st MEF**

1994-Maj. Steven M. Zotti, BLT, 1/6, 22d MEU, II MEF
1995-Maj. Jeffrey J. Sharrock, Recon, 3dMarDiv
1996-Capt. Jeffrey J. Kenney, 2/2, 2dMarDiv
1997-Maj. Julian Dale Alford, 3/8, 2dMarDiv
1998-Capt. Jason Q. Bohm, 2/1, 1stMarDiv
1999-Capt. Daniel M. Sullivan, CO, Weapons Co., 3/8, security operation,
Albania and Kosovo
2000-Capt. Jason L. Morris, Bravo Co., BLT, 1/5, 31st MEU
2001-Capt. Michael D. Grice, Co. E, 2/11, 31st MEU on East Timor
2002-Maj. Farrell Sullivan, CO, Lima Co., 3/8, 4th MEB in Kabul, Afghanistan
2003-Capt. Christeon C. Griffin, 3/1, 1stMarDiv, I MEF
2004-Capt. Christopher J. Bronzi, CO, Golf Co., 2/4, 1stMarDiv, 31st MEU,
Operation Iraqi Freedom, Ramadi, Iraq
2005-Capt. John W. Maloney, Charlie Co., 1/5, 2dMarDiv, II MEF, *Operation
Iraqi Freedom*, Ramadi, Iraq, (posthumously awarded, first time in 27
years)
2006-Capt. Matthew W. Tracy, CO, Echo Co., 2/3, 3rdMarDiv, III MEF,
MARFORPAC, Afghanistan
2007-Capt. Jonathan R. Smith, BLT 2/4, 31st MEU, III MEF
2008-Capt. Jonathan B. Hamilton, CO, Weapons Co., 1/9, 2dMarDiv, II MEF,
MARFORCOM, Ramadi, Iraq
2009-Capt. Christopher S. Conner, CO, Charlie Co., 2d Light Armored
Reconnaissance Bn., 2dMarDiv, II MEF, Afghanistan
2010-Capt. Timothy R. Sparks, (Silver Star), CO, Bravo Co., 1/6, 2d
Expeditionary Brigade, *Operation MOSHTARAK*, Afghanistan
2011-Capt. Casey M. Brock, CO, Charlie Co., 1/5, 1stMarDiv, I
MEF, MARFORPAC, Afghanistan
2012-Capt. Benjamin M. Middendorf, (Bronze Star w/Valor), CO, Golf Co., 2/5,
Regimental Combat Team 6, *Operation Enduring Freedom*, Helmand
Province, Afghanistan

*Active Duty, Brig.Gen. (as of August 2013)

*^RRetired, Brig.Gen. (as of August 2013)

**Active Duty, Maj.Gen. (as of August 2013)

**^RRetired, Maj.Gen. (as of August 2013)

***^RRetired, Lt.Gen. (as of August 2013)

****^RRetired, Gen. (4-star), (as of August 2013)