



Young Marines don't have a lot of role models these days, which is why your visit meant so much to me. When you showed up at the hospital, I was learning that the ways of coming home can be more terrifying than the war. I was trying to comprehend the new bullet-holes adorning my body. I felt a legitimate fear that nothing I could do would ever overshadow the magnitude and intensity of fighting in a city like Fallujah. My brief time there was so powerful I was concerned that at 19 the climax of my life was in the past. But in you I saw another Lance Corporal who used his service as a platform from which to reach higher than you could have without it. You gave me the courage (a term I don't use lightly) to face an academic environment where I felt in over my head, right up until the moment I graduated with honors.

Now I am standing at the precipice of another daunting academic endeavor. But I am confident I will find success in medical school. I do so with the aspiration of serving as a Naval Medical Officer. Perhaps in the future, I will stand as an example for the young Lance Corporals of the next generation, much like you were for us.



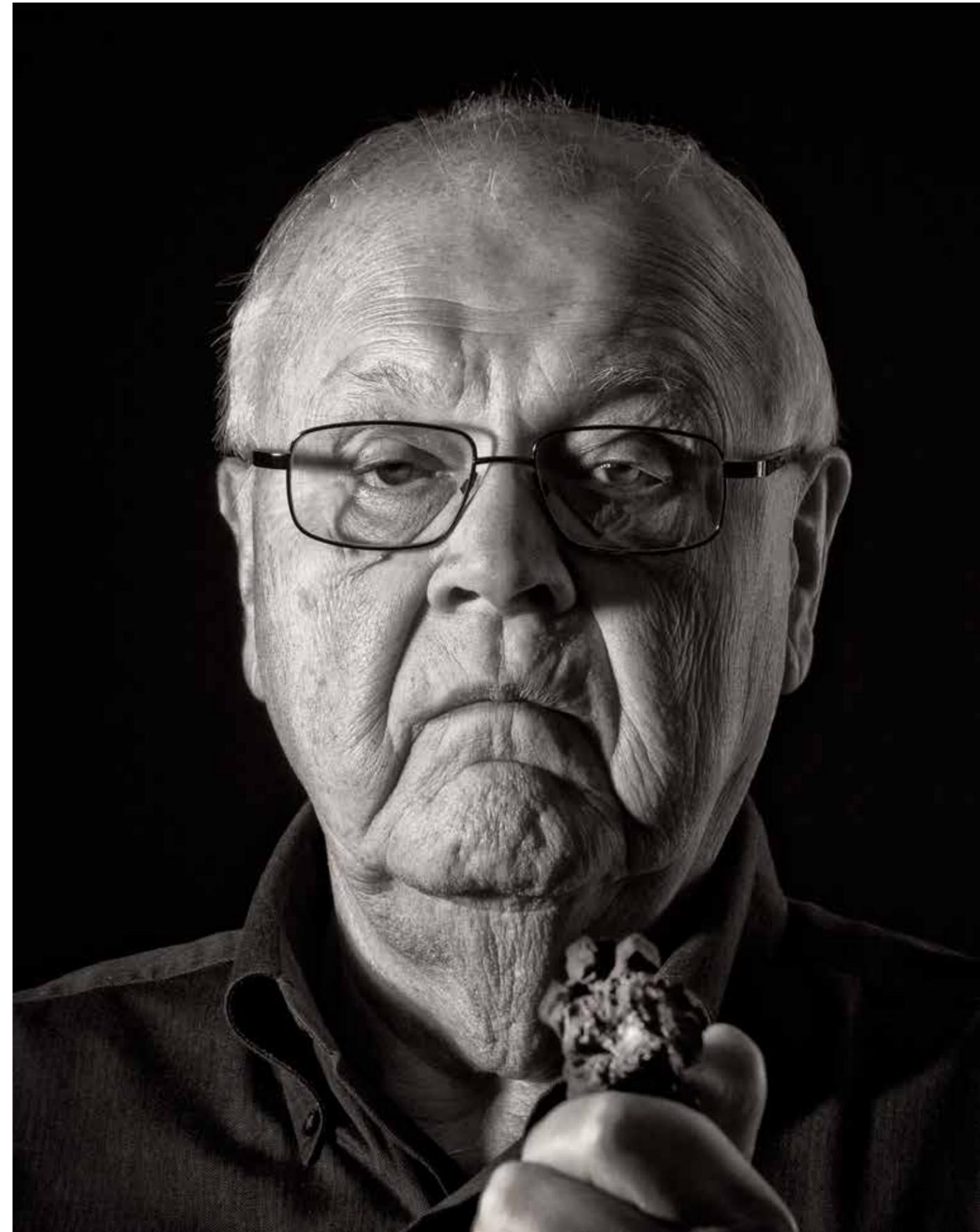
Samuel, Lance Corporal

Jim

The grandson of a miner and the son of a WWII veteran, Jim joined the Marine Corps right after graduation from high school. After three years of service, he enrolled in college. While he attended Wisconsin State University, Platteville, his work included a stint as a powderman in the mines of his hometown of Galena, Illinois. After he received his Ph.D. in American History from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1969, Jim joined the faculty of Dartmouth and served as a professor, dean of faculty, provost and, from 1998 to 2009, as the college's 16th president.

In 2005, the former Marine began a series of visits to U.S. military medical facilities in Washington, D.C. He met bedside with servicemen and women wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. Jim has had over thirty such visits encouraging them to continue their education. He worked with the American Council on Education to create an educational counseling program for wounded U.S. veterans. It has served several hundred injured veterans since 2007. He was also involved in developing the Yellow Ribbon Program that provided for private institutions to be included in the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. Twenty-three Iraq-Afghanistan veterans are currently enrolled as undergraduates at Dartmouth College. He has received many honors including ABC Television's "Person of the Week" and the "Commander-in-Chief's Gold Medal of Merit Award and Citation" from the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In 2014, Jim traveled to Vietnam to do research for his next book which focuses on the "human face" of the Vietnam war. He visited some areas where Dartmouth men died in the war. At each of these sites he left a small token, then covered it with dirt from the Dartmouth Green. Then he hiked up "Hamburger Hill," the site of a fierce 11-day battle in May 1969 where 71 Americans died. Before he left Hamburger Hill, Jim pulled out a piece of lead sulfide called galena that he had picked up while working in the mines. He kept these pieces on his desk for 50-plus years. He took one with him to Vietnam to bury on the hill. A young man Jim had known from his hometown, Michael Lyden, died on Hamburger Hill. Jim had worked for Michael's dad in the mines. While Michael never reached the top of this hill now a piece of his hometown was embedded there.



Jim - American Historian