

Clayton Bollinger

Citizens of Ridgetop, TN,

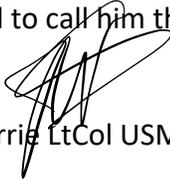
I met Clay Bollinger in summer of 1992 as we endeavored to survive ten arduous weeks at Marine Corps Officer Candidate School. Despite an attrition rate of well over 50%, we survived. Little did we know, things would get even tougher. Our careers as Marine officers remained in lock step over the next eleven years as we were assigned to the same schools, the same aircraft, and the same squadron. We remained close friends even as our careers took us to different duty stations, even in retirement following our service. Unto this day, Clay remains steadfast in the key characteristics making him one of the finest officers to ever wear the Marine uniform, and one of the closest friends a man could have. He will be one of the finest mayors to ever serve the citizens of Ridgetop, TN.

Peers, subordinates and superiors can always expect Clay's honest opinion. He has the moral courage to speak the truth even when it may be unwelcome, even at the risk of personal consequences. On numerous occasions, Clay displayed physical courage, commitment to his country and love of his comrades in the environment with the highest possible stakes, combat. Clay Bollinger doesn't run. He has the heart of a lion. He stands with those he serves, keeps a cool head and sees a fight through to the finish.

Clay is well known for speaking the unfettered truth. However, truth is more deeply rooted in Clay's character. In the Marine Corps, we call it integrity. He does what is right, truthful, and moral when no one is looking, when no one would find out otherwise. He refuses to compromise himself or dishonor those around him. He holds himself accountable to his maker. The citizens of Ridgetop will not find a man of greater personal integrity than Clay Bollinger.

I have admired much about Clay over the years. His tenacity, his refusal to quit in the face of adversity, his deep intellect, his commitment to every task he takes on, are all things I admire when I think of my friend and brother in arms. The characteristic I most admire about Clay, and something he is still well remembered for in the Marine Corps, is his servant leadership. Clay always served his Marines with competence, strength and empathy. He served his peers with a helping hand, words of wisdom and truth, and by unabashedly taking action when required. Clay served his superiors by going the extra mile in every endeavor, doing his job with elan and joy in his heart, ultimately ensuring the success of his superiors. Clay will serve the citizens of Ridgetop in the same manner, with the same sense of justice, the same humility and strength, and ultimately, the same level of success.

I am honored to have served with Clay Bollinger. I am immensely blessed to have him as my friend. The citizens of Ridgetop, TN will be fortunate indeed to call him their mayor.


John Currie LtCol USMC (Ret)