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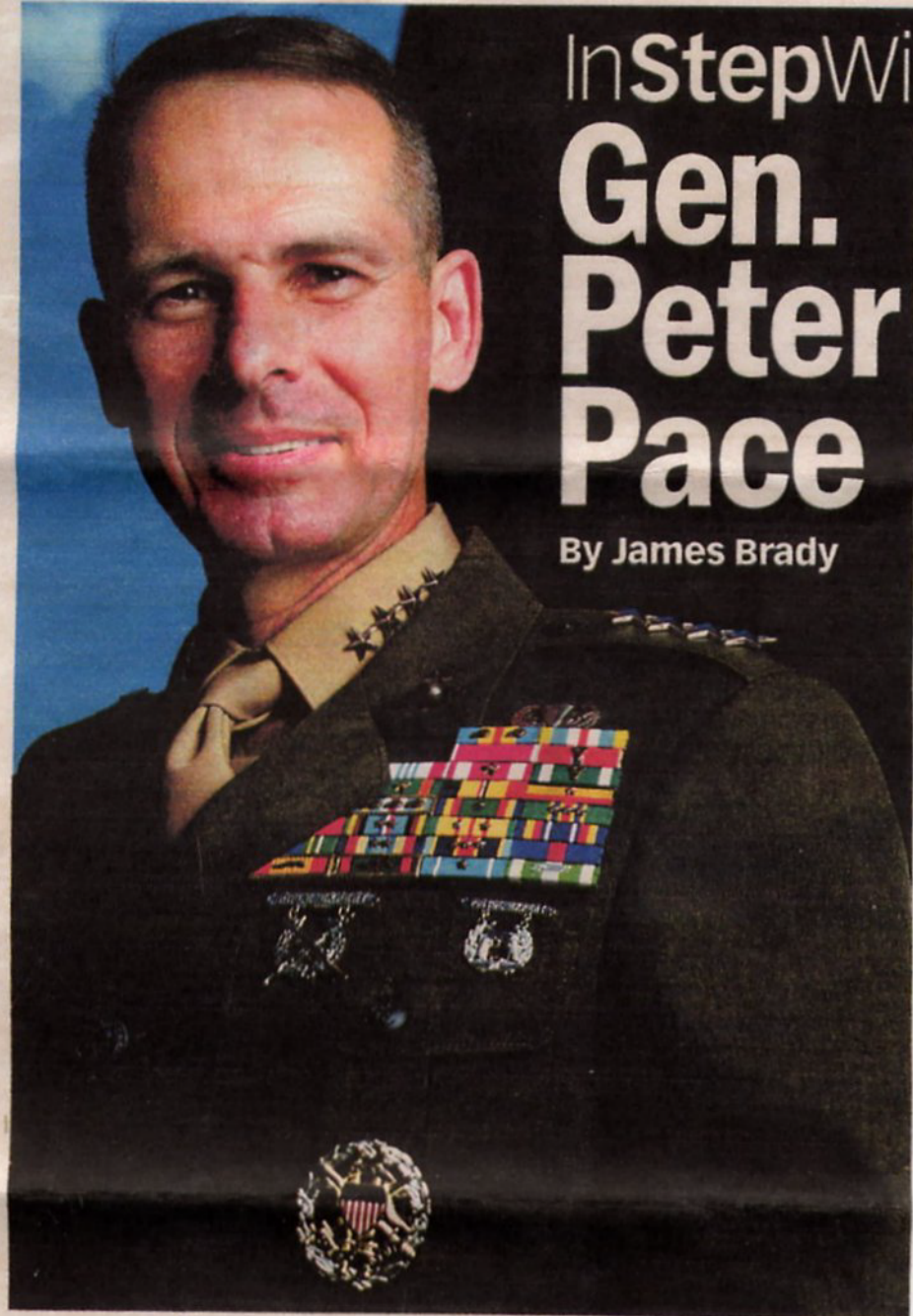
**Gen. Peter Pace**

**Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

By James Brady



Having been a Marine myself, I asked General Pace what made him "go Marine" rather than Navy. "I was a squad leader [at Annapolis] for new plebes coming in," Pace recalled. "I enjoyed that. I thought I would have more opportunities like that for hands-on leadership. And my older brother became a Marine. So, in my fourth year, I walked over to the Marine desk and signed on." Does he still think as a Marine, even in the rarefied realm of the Joint Chiefs? "You never stop being a Marine. Though, when the Chief says, 'OK, this is how we do it,' we all get on board." The general and his wife, Lynne, will soon be moving to larger quarters with a big dining room because, as chairman, he'll be entertaining distinguished guests. And Lynne is OK with that? "She's on the same page," Pace told me. "Ever since she met me as a midshipman, she knew what she was getting into."



# In Step With Gen. Peter Pace

By James Brady

**W**HEN PRESIDENT BUSH announced in April that he was nominating Gen. Peter Pace to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—the first Marine ever to hold that job—the President

gave the following introduction: "Gen. Pete Pace's life is the story of the 'American Dream,'" he said. "His father was an immigrant from Italy. Peter Pace was born in Brooklyn. It tells you something about Pete

Pace's devotion to his troops that under the glass on his desk at the Pentagon, he keeps a photo of Lance Corporal

## Personal

Born Nov. 5, 1945, in Brooklyn, N.Y. Married since 1971; two children.

## Education

Includes graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, 1967; The Basic School in Quantico, Va., 1968; master's degree in business administration from George Washington University, 1972; Marine Corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, 1980; graduate of the National War College in Washington, D.C., 1986.

## Career Highlights

Include rifle platoon leader in Vietnam, 1968; promoted to captain, 1971; promoted to major, 1977; promoted to lieutenant colonel, 1982; promoted to colonel, 1988; assigned duty as chief of staff, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C., 1991; promoted to brigadier general, 1992; president, Marine Corps University, 1992-94; promoted to major general, 1994; promoted to lieutenant general and assigned as director for operations, Joint Staff, Washington, D.C., 1996; commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic/Europe/South, 1997-2000; promoted to general, 2000; and served as commander in chief, U.S. Southern Command, 2000-01; appointed chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 2005.

to 40-mile bike rides. "I used to run," he said, "but biking is better for my back."

Guido Farinero, the first Marine he lost in combat in Vietnam."

I rode the train south last month to interview Pace, by now unanimously confirmed by the Senate to succeed Gen. Richard Myers as chairman. Pace was occupying temporary Pentagon E-Ring office space until the actual date when Myers would step down (Sept. 30). When I asked about that photo of a long-dead Marine, he showed me the snapshot. It was in the top drawer of his borrowed desk.

"Call me 'Pete,'" was just about the first words out of Pace's mouth as we began to talk. "Yes, sir, General, sir." I replied, which got a laugh out of Pace, whose sense of humor has been noted by many.

Pete is a trim and slim, very erect 6-footer who will be 60 on Nov. 5 and looks maybe 15 years younger. He's been a happily married man for 34 years. (He and wife Lynne met when Pace was at Annapolis, and they have two children.) He stays in shape by walking and doing 30-

I admitted to being a bit unclear about the job description of chairman of the Joint Chiefs. Does he work for the President or for Don Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense? Or both?

Said Pace, "The definition is that I am the principal military adviser to the President, to the Secretary of Defense and to the National Security Council. In a normal week, there are two or three NSC meetings that I go to with the Secretary of Defense. The Secretary and I also have private time with the President."

Pace takes over at an especially dicey time. The nation is at war in Iraq and still in Afghanistan; Osama bin Laden, full of hate, is still roaming free; and the resuscitation of New Orleans has just begun. "In prepping myself to take over, I find my ego getting huge," he told me. "But my brain is saying, 'Uh, oh!'"

With Hurricane Katrina still very much in the news, the general recently told an audience of U.S. and foreign military officers: "Our fellow citizens are right to expect our military will act during a disaster but to respect their civil rights at the same time. We must now absorb those lessons from Katrina."

During his Senate confirmation hearings in June, Pace was grilled about the "parallels" between Iraq and Vietnam. "Well," I asked, "are there parallels?"

"I use my experiences from Vietnam today," he told me. "They help focus me and help focus the people I'm talking to about how Iraq is going to play out on the ground. As a rifle platoon leader, as you and I both were in the Marines, we know that ground combat doesn't change that much. If we sat down with a rifle platoon leader from Fallujah, there would be shared experiences. But I remember the lessons of Vietnam."

"Do we have enough troops in Iraq? "I believe we have sufficient numbers now," he said. "We do need more security—not more American forces but more responsible Iraqi army and police forces. If we knew that two or three years from now we would still need these things, then that would impact my thinking on the level of sustainable active forces."

"But how will we know that the war in Iraq is over and the troops can come home?" I asked the general.

"There won't be a VE Day or a VJ Day," he said, referring to the World War II dates when the Germans and then the Japanese surrendered. "An end to the war in Iraq does not mean an end to the war on terror. It will be going on for a long time."

Pete Pace is obviously a bright guy, and I asked if he ever thought about getting out of the service and taking a big-bucks job in the private sector.

"Every Christmas I've sat down with a yellow pad and listed 'reasons to stay' and 'reasons to go,' discussing the lists with Lynne. But I always ended up with the same bottom line on the 'stay' list: 'You still owe more than you can pay.'"

Pace's son Peter is a Marine captain now in the Reserves and studying for an MBA at the University of Chicago. The Paces' daughter, Tiffany, is an accountant boning up for her CPA exams. In May, after the President announced his nomination, Pace took Lynne to Italy on vacation. "My dad was born in Noci," he said, "near Bari. I met relatives I'd never seen. One of them came up and used a phrase I will remember: 'All the sacrifices of your father and your grandfathers are being redeemed by you.'"

**"We do need more security in Iraq," says the general. "Not more American forces but more responsible Iraqi army and police."**

➤➤ For more on General Pace, visit [www.parade.com](http://www.parade.com) and click on "In Step With."