

## *One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!*

### *# 9 “Yes Sir!” “No Sir!” “No Excuse, Sir!”*

The Air Corps was not a democracy. Our enlistments were for the duration of the war, so we learned patience. We were taught early on to respond to those above us in rank with a pattern of, **“Yes Sir!” “No Sir!” “No Excuse, Sir!”**

We slept in unison, marched in unison, ate in unison, showered in unison, wore uniform clothing, and learned to follow orders. Neatness and personal hygiene were not merely suggested but demanded. Obedience and commitment were mandatory knowing that one day our lives might depend on each of us doing what we had been trained to do and when we were told to do it. All this permanently marked my life.

Lessons learned and habits formed early in life leave an indelible impact. One lesson for me was to understand I needed to learn to follow, before I was equipped to lead my family or others. I needed to know what it was like to take orders, before I issued them to others.

There are times to walk alone. But I decided there are also times when we need to submit to the common discipline of our community. Not as mindless robots, but willingly, and only opting out when human orders violate those of God.

Different circumstances require different roles: Alone. As followers. Or, as leaders. A wise person knows the difference.

*From Grandpa With Love*

#### **A Note From the Writer 6/1/2016**

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2016 Marvin J. Martin