



# The Battalion Runner

2017 – Number 1 – April 2017

**2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marines**



Danny Schuster, 21 Moseley St., Billerica, MA 01821 Tel: 978-302-4126 Email: [ditson35@verizon.net](mailto:ditson35@verizon.net)

[www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org](http://www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org)

**NOTE: This edition of the Battalion Runner has been sent as a Microsoft Word document. There are several important links and many email addresses in this edition that most of you will be able to click on and go directly to that email address and/or link. In the PDF version I normally send that is not always the case. If you cannot read this please email me and I'll send you a PDF version. The website will have the PDF version since that is the only way to get the document on there.**

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## **Silver Anniversary Reunion, 8-13 November 2017**

**Marriott Residence Inn at Rosslyn  
1651 North Oak Street, Arlington, VA 22209**



It is hard to believe that this November 10<sup>th</sup> will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> year since Red Hill gathered a small group of men and women together to attend the Marine Corps Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Iwo Jima War Memorial in Arlington, VA. Here is the group photo from that 1<sup>st</sup> reunion in 1993:



Three of the men pictured, Henry Ostaszewski, Dave Bigler, and John Kasperian, have returned every year since. That's Red holding the 2/9 banner that is still our signature item today! Sadly, far too many of these men are now in our Last Patrol. Those of you who are considering attending might consider the fact that we are losing our brothers much more quickly with each passing year. As the member who has the sad duty to report men moving to our Last Patrol, "putting it off for one year" has proven to me to be a mistake. For our younger, post-Vietnam 2/9 members please read the section below carefully and consider joining us in November.

This year's reunion is special and we are doing everything possible to make it the best ever. We already have some excellent things in store and are working on some others. Details can be found in the following paragraphs, including reservation and dinner information, a rough agenda for the weekend, features we have confirmed, and more. Hope to see a huge turnout in November!!!

## Reunion Hotel



We once again have an outstanding contract and working relationship with the Residence Inn by Marriott at Rosslyn in Arlington, VA. Address is 1651 North Oak Street, Arlington, VA, about a 15 minute walk to the Iwo Jima War Memorial and within walking distance of a large number of shops and restaurants in Arlington. The Residence Inn has outdone themselves with a room rate for either Studio or One Bedroom suites of \$125 plus tax for our reunion covering 8-12 November. That compares to their normal rates of more than \$250 per night. We have also negotiated a parking rate reduction at the hotel to \$10 per night, compared to \$16 per night in past years. We will have their first floor conference room reserved exclusively for us all day as our hospitality room. The Network will provide free snacks, water, soft drinks and beer.



**Hospitality Room**

## **Hotel Reservations**

**Call:** The official title for our reunion, to be used when making reservations, is "2/9 Marine DC Reunion". You **MUST** use that title when making your reservations to get our special room rate. Call the hotel for reservations at 1-800-331-3131. Make sure you get a confirmation number **AND** that they have your name spelled correctly. Misspelled names have caused some issues in past years.

**Online** - Go to this website (URL): <http://cwp.marriott.com/wasrr/twoninemarines>  
Fill out all the necessary information on the left hand side of the screen and follow the on-screen instructions. Once completed make sure you record your confirmation number!

We have 75 rooms reserved and they will go very quickly, so make your reservations **RIGHT NOW!** The hotel has coordinated well with us in other years to expand the number of rooms if necessary (and I'm sure it will be), but there is **NO** guarantee there will be more open rooms available. If you attempt to make a reservation and they tell you there are none left contact me immediately via email – ditson35@verizon.net. We cannot get more rooms if we do not know the original 75 are sold out.

The sooner I know the better the chances of expanding our room number. Reservations must be made prior to 13 October. After that date remaining rooms will be released into general sale and there will be no guarantee you can get our special room rate. Your room rate also includes a buffet breakfast every morning. We will also be selling our raffle and 50/50 tickets in the room and offering 2/9 shirts/covers, etc. for sale to support reunion expenses. I'd also like to ask that folks consider donating raffle items for the reunion. The raffle is the primary fund-raiser at our reunions and really helps offset the costs. Reunion expenses run over \$10,000.

## Reunion Dinner

For the third consecutive year our Birthday Dinner will be on November 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Marriott Key Bridge Hotel in Arlington, VA. One critical point I need to make before providing any more details is that the price of our dinner is all inclusive. That means we are paying for the ballroom (normal rental runs in the thousands of dollars), AV equipment, self-parking in the hotel garage, the dinner (salad, entrée, dessert, and non-alcoholic beverage), and all taxes and service charges for the price of the dinner, \$33.00 per person. We will have a cash bar set up for alcoholic beverages for those who choose to partake. We are currently scheduled in the Potomac Room but if their Capitol View Ballroom is not rented within seven days of our dinner we will be moved there. Both are exceptional ballrooms. Seating will be tables of 10. We cannot reserve seating for you so if you have a group of people who want to sit together get there early to claim a table. Unfortunately, there can be no substitutions to the menu we have contracted for. That is understandable considering the outstanding deal they have given us. Here is the menu for the evening:

**Salad** – Choice of Key Bridge Signature Salad (mixed field greens, cucumber, tomatoes, carrots, balsamic vinaigrette), or Key Bridge Ceasar Salad (romaine, parmesan, croutons, Ceasar dressing).

**Entrée** – Pan Roasted Breast of Chicken with chef's choice of starch and vegetable.

**Dessert** – Chef's choice of plated dessert (not to be cake)

**Beverages** – Assorted soft drinks, sparkling and still water, and coffee

**You must pay me for the dinner in advance. Make out a check or money order to me, Danny Schuster, and send it to me at 21 Moseley Street, Billerica, MA 01821. I MUST have your check/money order in hand at the latest by 01 November. I will be enroute to the reunion after that date and will have no record of receiving payment. Please, do NOT mail it on or after that date or you will not be able to attend the dinner. I must have it by the 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a simple reason for this requirement. Two years ago we depended upon people to pay for the dinner at the reunion. 22 people did not pay or show up for the dinner and we took a \$600 hit since the dinners must be paid in advance. We cannot afford that type of financial hit.**

We have the ballroom reserved from 1800-2300 on The Birthday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Besides the dinner we will have exceptional guest speakers, our unique "Hot Damn" toast (you have to experience it to believe it), our official Cake Cutting Ceremony, and our drawing for the raffle and 50/50 contest. We have confirmed with the Director of Outreach for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Mr. Tim Tetz, that we will have a speaker from their Outreach department speak to us on topics including their need for photos of men on The Wall, the Reading of the Names (see below), the need for and plans for their Education Center, and the In Memory Program to honor those NOT on The Wall but who passed from injuries or exposure to Agent Orange after their return from Vietnam. I am still working on a second guest speaker. If I am successful in my current efforts we will be honored with a VERY special guest. We'll have to wait and see on that. Shortly after dinner we will be making our annual pilgrimage to The Wall to honor and say hello to our brothers and lay a wreath in their memory. Details for that will be available in the hospitality room at the Residence Inn.

## **35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Memorial (The Wall)**

This year is the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Memorial. As occurs on every fifth year this year men and women will be reading all the names on The Wall. If anyone wants to participate in reading the names, including the possibility of timing it so you can read the names of men you served with, that is possible right now! Tim Tetz has provided the link to sign up to read names (most read around 25 names if I remember correctly). You can request a specific time frame and even a specific name to read, although there is no absolute guarantee. Go to this link: [www.vvmf.org/rotn](http://www.vvmf.org/rotn), fill out the form, and submit it. Tim has made it very clear that positions fill up very fast so get it done if you are interested. All communication for the Reading of the Names from the VVMF is done via email.

## **Marine Corps Birthday Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Iwo Jima War Memorial**

As 2/9 has done every year for 24 years we will be attending the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Iwo Jima Memorial the morning of 10 November. We leave the hotel between 0900-0945 for the ceremonies that begin at 1000. Seating for those that require it is usually available but many of us stand. We do this rain or shine, so make sure you check the weather forecast before heading to the reunion so you have outerwear as necessary.

## **Veteran's Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>**

Thanks to the efforts of our own Larry Noon and Mr. Tim Tetz, this year 2/9 will have reserved seating available at the Veteran's Day ceremonies held annually at the Vietnam Wall on the 11<sup>th</sup>. However, Tim must know how many seats will be required. If you are coming to the reunion you

must notify me that you want to attend the Veteran's Day ceremonies and tell me how many seats you will need. Tim has asked that we give him an initial estimate shortly after Memorial Day so they can properly plan in advance. Our numbers can be increased after that date, but if you want to attend the ceremonies and sit in the reserved seating section email me ([ditson35@verizon.net](mailto:ditson35@verizon.net)), not later than 20 June 2017 with the number of seats you need. I will be sending Tim a number on 6 June 2017. If I receive additional requests after that date I will forward them to Tim but there will be no guarantee seats will still be available. I do not know what the central theme for the ceremonies will be this year but can envision some emphasis on The Wall's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## **2016 Reunion Photo Albums**

I will not go into great detail here, but various SNAFUs have resulted in no one receiving the photo albums they ordered at last year's reunion. Henry Ostaszewski has been in contact with the photo outfit in the past 2-3 days and they have pledged to expedite delivery of the albums to all those who purchased one. I'm included in that group and apologize to everyone for the unacceptable delay. I'll be watching this closely in the coming days.

## **Transportation**

For those who will be in need of transportation here is some information. If anyone is coming in via plane or train and need a ride from the airport or train station let me know. I'll make necessary arrangements to have you picked up by someone and returned after the reunion is over. We will also be providing transportation via van for the following events on our agenda:

To and From the Marine Corps Birthday Wreath Laying Ceremony on 10 November  
To and From the Residence Inn to the Marriott Key Bridge for the Birthday Dinner on 10 November  
To and From The Wall when we travel there from the Residence Inn after the Birthday Dinner

At this time we do not have transportation available to The Wall for the Veteran's Day Ceremonies on the 11<sup>th</sup>, but in years past we have been able to use personal vehicles to shuttle people back and forth as required. We'll assess this situation at the reunion and do what it takes to get everyone to The Wall and back.

## **Reunion Recap, Actions Required**

1. Residence Inn Rosslyn, 1651 North Oak St., Arlington VA. Reservations \$125 plus tax. Call 1-800-331.3131 or go online to <http://cwp.marriott.com/wasrr/twoninemarines>. If you call give them the name 2/9 Marine DC Reunion group. Get a confirmation number and ensure spelling of your name is correct.



2. Marine Corps Birthday Dinner at the Marriott Key Bridge hotel. 1800 on 10 November. Send a check made out to Danny Schuster, 21 Moseley St., Billerica, MA 01821. \$33 for each dinner. Check must be RECEIVED by 01 November 2017.
3. Veteran's Day Ceremony reserved seating at The Wall (I think this begins at 1300). Email me ([ditson35@verizon.net](mailto:ditson35@verizon.net)), with how many seats you will need on 11 November by 05 June 2017.

## Reunion Agenda (Tentative!)

8-9 November: Free Time (hospitality room open after 1200 hours on 8 November)  
10 November: 1000 - Marine Corps Birthday War Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony  
1800-2300 – Marine Corps Birthday Dinner at Marriott Key Bridge  
2300 (approximate) 2/9 Wreath Laying at The Wall  
11 November: 1300 – Veteran's Day Ceremonies at The Wall (reserved seating)  
All other time is free time and the hospitality room will be open all day each day.  
Transportation provided for Iwo Jima ceremony, Birthday Dinner, and trip to The Wall

### **Note for Our "Young" 2/9 Marines (post Vietnam)**

Every year we Vietnam Vets of 2/9 receive the sad news that more of our brothers have passed on. I receive several notices every year from a son or daughter, wife, or brother/sister, that their family member has passed on and "always wanted to attend a reunion". They never made it because they kept putting it off. Please think seriously about attending this year's reunion. As you grow older you are going to realize more and more how much you want to see Marines you served with. Too many times people wait too long. Think about it and consider Arlington in November if you possibly can. I understand family and work responsibilities at a younger age but time waits for no one. I guess I'm now officially an old man at 70 and cannot continue with this job forever. If 2/9's legacy is going to continue into the future it isn't a hell of a lot longer that you men and women who served more recently get actively involved in OUR Network. You would be welcomed with open arms.

Danny

## From the Mailbox

The mailbox has picked up in the past few months. There are some great items below, all received since Battalion Runner 16-4, issued late last year. Don't hesitate to submit something if you'd like to share stories, experiences, etc.

Danny

29 March 2017

I received an email from Tim Winger stating he did not serve but is trying to contact Marines who served with his uncle, Timothy Ray, in Quang Nam province in 1966. Tim can be contacted via email at [twinger@ivytech.edu](mailto:twinger@ivytech.edu) or at phone 765-481-0589.

I received communication from Cliff Stanich concerning a garment bag owned at one time by W. M. Bridges. Cliff purchased the garment bag at an auction in California. The back of the bag contains the following information: W. M. Bridges, the Marine Corps Eagle, Globe and Anchor about 8 inches high, U.S. Marines BLT 2/9, the last line states Hawaii, Japan, Okinawa, Philippines, Hong Kong, Vietnam. It is a green silk garment bag with lettering all in gold. Cliff wants to return the bag to Bridges if he is still alive. He is not on the 2/9 Network nor do I have anything concerning him in the Microsoft Access database of 2/9 members. He is not listed on The Wall either. If anyone knows or knew Bridges please contact me at [ditson35@verizon.net](mailto:ditson35@verizon.net) or Cliff Stanich directly at [stanich-cliff@yahoo.com](mailto:stanich-cliff@yahoo.com) or phone 530-812-6448. Cliff lives in Yuba City, CA.

27 January 2017

Received the following from Robert L. Smith inquiring about Paul John Speelman. Robert's contact information is included.

NAME: robert l. smith  
EMAIL: [rsmith2637@comcast.net](mailto:rsmith2637@comcast.net)  
PHONE: 717-343-4522

Does anyone remember Paul John Speelman from Harrisburg Pa.? I believe he was in H&S Co. in 1966 and was possibly on a 106 crew. He was subsequently killed in a car accident after returning home and being stationed at Pendleton in 1968. I was a high school friend and am a fellow Marine and Viet Nam vet having served with 1st MP's in Da Nang as a guard on the I Corps bridge.

27 January 2017

More on Cushman's Pocket during the Battle of Iwo Jima, from our own Echo Company member, Larry Kirby, who was there, and a letter from David R. Smith who has since passed but was also a 2/9 Member.

**From Larry Kirby to Chris Smith, David Smith's son:**

I am Larry Kirby, a 92 year-old former Marine who was on Iwo Jima and I heard about you via email from Danny Schuster.

I was a platoon sergeant attached to "E" company, 2nd Bn., 9th Marines. My MOS was 0321 and my designation was recon/scout sniper. Although not actually a member of the 9th I was permanently detached from the 2nd Scout Company to the 2/9 for Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima.

I never met your dad but probably saw him during training exercises when our home base was on Guam. He was Platoon Leader of 1st platoon, "E" Company.

Since very little scouting was involved on Iwo I was the platoon Sergeant for 2nd Platoon in "E" Company. I worked closely with Capt. Schmidt and went out front with him a few mornings locating landmarks to guide us on our next move.

The initial assault by the 4th and 5th Divisions occurred on February 19th. The 3rd Division was floating reserve and we landed later. The 21st Marines came in on D plus 2. The 9th landed on the 22nd and 23rd. (The Third Marines never landed and instead went back to Guam. This is another event in the war that is a scary story. Later perhaps.)

We took casualties every day all day and by March 6th our company, E, was reduced from 230 Marines to just 74 men. "F" Company also took casualties and now numbered about 72 to 75 men.

We were ordered to prepare for an early morning jump off on March 7th

As for Cushman's Pocket, the event began long before sunrise on the 7th when four companies moved out in a collaborative effort to take Hill 362C which was General Kurubiashi's observation post and in taking it the enemy defenders would be blinded. Taking 362C was the tipping point of the battle.

Early in the morning the four companies fell in stripped of all unnecessary equipment and completely silent moved out under cover of darkness. A company from the 21st Marines and a company from the 3/9 took off toward 362C. Both E and F of the 2/9 were sent in a different direction as a diversion to draw fire and to allow the other two companies to get a better shot at taking 362C. We, E and F, went directly to what turned out to be the most fortified Japanese position on the island. When the sun came up we were trapped in a slight defilade with enemy machine guns, mortars and small arms fire surrounding us. We were trapped in Cushman's Pocket!

I can only guess, but we were in there about 30 or 35 hours just struggling to stay alive. It was fire, move, fire, move - no time to stop, eat, urinate - just keep moving or die. The ordeal ended when the sun came up in the morning and some M4 Sherman tanks fought their way into our position and rescued the few survivors. A tank rode over our position, a track on either side, and opened a hatch in the bottom of the tank and took three or four men in at a time, brought them back to safe haven then went back and save a few more Marines.

Of our 74 men who jumped off on the 7th only 7 of us survived. Captain Schmidt was one of the seven. I don't know how many men from "F" company made it out but it was only a very few lucky

guys. I've heard the just 1st Lt. O'Bannon and four or five of his men survived. Others have said that there were eleven saved from "F" company.

The Division history book says four or five from "F" and seven from "E"

### **Letter from David Smith describing the battle of Cushman's Pocket:**

Jack Bradford mentioned George Todd, and as I was with him when he died in Cushman's Pocket on Iwo, I thought his friends might like to know about it. George didn't have to go, by the way. He had been hit in the chest by a hard line drive in a game of baseball that caused one of his breasts to swell up like a melon. He was in the divisional hospital and instructed to stay in bed, but he sneaked out, made the trek over the highest peak on Guam (per the Big E's orders -- the Big E was Graves B. Erskine, commanding general of the 3rd). George and I came ashore together out of that part of the 28th Replacement draft that had been attached to the 3rd Division, who by then were being held in reserve for Okinawa. We were met on the beach by Ray Folks, who was the exec, and, given orders to join the 2nd Bn, 9th Marines, Lt. Col. Robert L. Cushman commanding. Ray and George and I had all gone through Oxy V-12, the same boot camp, and, of course, SOCS. And George and I were from Glendale. We were assigned to Easy Co., given some replacements and a couple of days to get ready. Fully replaced, Easy Co. consisted of some 46 men and officers divided into two platoons each of which was made up of two rifle squads of two fire groups plus a miscellaneous squad, machine guns, etc. After two days of getting acquainted and bombarded (those lousy rockets), we were sent to the lines (Easy was on the extreme left flank of the 3rd Mar Div, touching the 3rd airfield). Col. Cushman then called George and me back to explain that the next morning early, two hours before the first light, we would attack up the hill which 3 or 4 previous assaults had failed to take. The idea was to surprise the enemy. The point was to get past the end of the third airfield. That way we could join up with the 5th Division, whose right flank touched the airfield. That way we could stop some of the infiltration that had been coming down the airstrip. We went right up the hill without a shot being fired, though of course, we traversed several hundred yards of sleeping or amazed Japanese (we were not known as night fighters) who later, it turned out, were determined not to let us back down the hill. Col. Cushman had warned us, rightly enough, that the men would want to bunch up and not stay out on a line and that they would drift to their right and away from that empty flank. The trip up the hill turned out to be an ongoing effort on George's and my part to push men back to the left, to keep them strung out and not bunched up. We were even partially successful which was amazing, given the handicap of near silence that we had to impose on ourselves. Once there, we had about an hour left to try and settle in, hard to do in the pitch dark. George and I were busy as heck stumbling around in the dark. At one point he and I started to climb up on a mound of dirt in order to get a look toward the flank, but the mound began to throb and then to move. They had nearly perfectly disguised one of their tanks, but when we started scraping around on it, we must have scared the hell out of them, a favor they returned. We found shell holes, trenches, cisterns, what have you, but because of the precipitous ground we couldn't prepare protection over the full 360 degrees. Because of the extreme pitch of the land, protection from the rear and the flanks was the hardest. And we paid the price, particularly as they were mostly behind us; and one son-of-a-bitch amongst them was a first-rate sharpshooter. Within minutes of the first light he had killed my favorite amongst the men, a kid of 18, my sergeant, and George, a bullet between the eyes. It was instantaneous. And he got

me in the solar plexus. The ironies abound, for if my rifleman was a kid of 18, George and I were kids of 22, though acting like men, and my sergeant was a kid of 25. The bullet that hit me turned out not to have gone through, though I didn't know it at the time as there was an exit wound on the rear quarter of my left side. It hit a button on my jacket, which broke it up and caused the core to go around my chest cage outside my chest cage outside the ribs but inside the skin.

Then came the mortars, which chewed up what was left of us. We finally were able, thanks to George's sergeant, Thomas Barrow, to withdraw to a small point that the ten of us who remained could defend. I nominated him for a medal, and he was awarded the Navy Cross. We wouldn't have made it without him. He took over when I was still out under morphine, and later, when he was wounded again, I could take over. We were obliged by what you might call circumstances to stay out there for nearly twenty four hours, there being no way that we could get out in daylight hours. Col. Cushman sent tanks up to evacuate us, but he ended losing them and the men in them at a rate that didn't calculate. I think that I have never heard a voice so forlorn as when he told us we were on our own. We finally made it out after several disastrous attempts -- at night, as we had come. We took a terrible pasting just trying to get out the Japanese strong point that we held, but we finally made it down to within proximity of our lines, where we met and killed a Japanese soldier (the only one we met once we had made it out of our little fortress) who might have done us a great deal of harm by setting off the alarm. We had all been wounded for nearly twenty-four hours and had lost a good deal of blood. We were tired and getting slow. I was able to crawl on my back (couldn't crawl on my gut) along those deep tracks the tanks left in the volcanic sand (which is where all the men were stashed), and that way I was able to get down to our lines unseen and in. The lieutenant in charge of the platoon that had taken up our places was Aime Hourcade, also of the SOCS. He was enormously helpful - got stretchers out immediately, covering riflemen, and got the seven others (all wounded, all that was left of the 46) in for me, I haven't seen Aime since. We were all in the same V-12, same boot camp platoon, and then SOCS. Does anybody know where he is?

I read somewhere, perhaps in the History of the Third Marine Division, that General H.M. Smith said that of all the battles of the Pacific, Iwo was the worst, and of all the engagements on Iwo, that at Cushman's Pocket was the worst. I don't want to take away from anyone else's, and "worst" is hard to measure anyway (as my surgeon said to me, major and minor surgery is determined by whether it's happening to me or to you); but it was grim. I should like to add that being an officer in the Marine Corps, serving under Col Robert L. Cushman, and, for that matter, serving in Cushman's Pocket have all been elements in a central core of pride that has governed my life these past forty five years.

18 January 2017

I received the following information from Chris Smith describing his actions to remember the heroes of Echo Company's actions during the Battle of Iwo Jima, particularly the action known as "Cushman's Pocket". I have already given Chris some contact information for one of our members, Larry Kirby, who is the sole surviving member of Echo from Iwo Jima actions, and Doug Goodin, our unofficial 2/9 Network historian. Hopefully they will both contact Chris to provide him information. Anyone else with knowledge of the information Chris has requested should feel free to contact him at the email or phone number shown below his note.

Danny

NAME: Chris Smith  
EMAIL: [annoyedman@me.com](mailto:annoyedman@me.com)  
PHONE: 682-999-1590  
STREET: 3522 Quail Crest St  
CITY: Grapevine  
STATE: TX  
ZIPCODE: 76051

COMMENTS: Hello, I don't know if you can help me or not. My father, David R. Smith, was a 2nd Lt who went ashore at Iwo Jima on D-Day +2 or +3 (the records conflict a bit on that detail). He was assigned command of 1st Platoon, E/2/9, Cpt. Maynard Schmidt was E company commander, and Lt Col Robert E. Cushman in Btn command. Dad was one of the 10 survivors of Cushman's Pocket - the better part of 1st and 2nd platoons of E Co, and two platoons from F Co having been KIA in the Pocket. Anyway, I started a website to commemorate the men who served in Cushman's Pocket, and the domain is [cushmanspocket.com](http://cushmanspocket.com). If you look at it, you will see that the logo contains a 3rd Div shoulder patch, and what I HOPE is the period correct shoulder patch for 2/9. I have my father's actual 3rd Div shoulder patch, so I know that image to be the correct one, but I have had a fair amount of difficulty trying to determine what the period correct patch for 2/9 would look like for early 1945, at the time of the assault on Iwo Jima. If you could either let me know where I can download a copy of the period correct image, or better yet, could send me a digital copy of that image, I would be very grateful for it. If you are unable to do either of those, I would also be grateful if you could at least point me in the right direction to try and find a copy. Very best regards, and thank you for everything you do. Chris Smith Grapevine, Texas

21 December 2016

Added LCPL Raymond Blanchette to the list of names on the "Our Men on The Wall" page for Golf. In several email conversations with Barry Yeakle it became apparent that Ray Blanchette was a new member of Golf Company and must have rotated in from 2/7 just before being KIA on 4 March 1966.

I'm not going to screw around with any official USMC stuff here and made the decision to add Ray to our list of Marines remembered.

## DONATIONS

Unfortunately, donations are down quite a bit since last year. We are still "in the black", but running well behind last year's pace. I have tried hard to keep the website up to date and all of us involved have spent a considerable amount of time readying for this year's Silver Anniversary Reunion. Anything you might contribute would be appreciated. As always, thank you to those who have contributed. A little can go a long way. Checks must be made out in my name, Danny Schuster, and sent to 21 Moseley Street, Billerica, MA 01821.

PS If anyone ever wants to know exactly how and why we are spending our money feel free to email me and ask. I do not have a detailed itemized list of expenditures but can give you a pretty good feel of why I keep begging!!!!

Danny

### NEW MEMBERS SINCE BATTALION RUNNER 16-3, August 2016

(I have made a change in how I enter personal information on the website. More and more often I hear from 2/9 Marines who have no internet connection. From this point forward when a new member is registered if you see a phone number in the email address block of the company rosters it means that person does NOT have internet access and the phone number is their mode of contact.)

2/9 Network – New Members appear in the order in which they joined with the newest members listed first.

Smale, Mark	Marysville, WA 98271	Fox 74-75	<a href="mailto:marko36@frontier.com">marko36@frontier.com</a>	360-654-1534
Shirley, Tom	Saint George, UT 84770	Hotel 67	<a href="mailto:tsdj@hotmail.com">tsdj@hotmail.com</a>	435-272-4304
Chapman, David	St. Louis, MO 63129	Echo 65-66	<a href="mailto:davidfrankchapman@gmail.com">davidfrankchapman@gmail.com</a>	314-845-6523
Campbell, David	Ocklocknee, GA 31773	Fox 67-68	<a href="mailto:triglide12@yahoo.com">triglide12@yahoo.com</a>	229-200-3058
Ball, Frank	Warrenton, VA 20187	Golf 72-73	<a href="mailto:frankball3@aol.com">frankball3@aol.com</a>	703-615-1310
Kozlowski, Rick	Bellmore, NY 11710	HQHS 08-12	<a href="mailto:rjkozlowskijr@gmail.com">rjkozlowskijr@gmail.com</a>	516-491-1345
Hadsall (Omer's son), Troy	Mannasas, VA 20112		<a href="mailto:troyhadsall@gmail.com">troyhadsall@gmail.com</a>	252-665-1053
Kerrigan, Mike	Norridge, IL 60706	Fox 68	<a href="mailto:makltd@comcast.net">makltd@comcast.net</a>	708-457-1300
Daniels, Taylor	Gainesville, GA 30506	Echo 09-14	<a href="mailto:taylor.daniels1030@gmail.com">taylor.daniels1030@gmail.com</a>	770-685-3496
Langan, David W.	Yaphank, NY 11980	Wpns 81-84	<a href="mailto:dwl073163@aol.com">dwl073163@aol.com</a>	631-317-5313
Quick, William	Dawsonville, GA 30534	Golf 69	<a href="mailto:waq1454@gmail.com">waq1454@gmail.com</a>	706-344-9087
Moran, Alan	West Babylon, NY 11704	HQHS 67	<a href="mailto:amoran48@optonline.net">amoran48@optonline.net</a>	631-321-8427

Allen, Jackie "Chris" Nitro, WV 25143 Echo 86-89 [jcallen1967@gmail.com](mailto:jcallen1967@gmail.com) 681-319-5421

Weems, Jr., James S. Randallstown, MD 21133 Golf 84-87 [jamesw23@verizon.net](mailto:jamesw23@verizon.net) 443-294-4198

## ***The Last Patrol (since December 2016)***

20 March 2017

GySgt Kevin Sly reported the tragic death of **LCpl Joseph B. Gamboa** on 03 March 2017. LCpl Gamboa was a member of Fox 2/9 from 88-90.

12 March 2017

Passing of **Matthew Febbi**, HQMS Comm Section and Golf Radioman, passed away last night, March 11th. Matt was a patient in a VA extended care facility in NJ for several years. Matt has moved to the Last Patrol. Thanks to Tim DeWolf, HQMS, 67-68, for the notification. Semper Fi Matthew!

05 March 2017

I received an email from Jack Lowe's daughter Jessie. Her dad, "**Big Jack**" **Lowe**, passed in April 2015 of a heart attack. At his request there was no funeral service nor a formal announcement of his passing. Jessie is hoping to hear from anyone who may have memories or stories to tell about her Dad. She can be reached at Jack's email address [jlowex@yahoo.com](mailto:jlowex@yahoo.com).

13 January 2017

I received the sad word on 9 January from J. Aaron Mattia that his Dad, 2/9 Marine **Michael A. Mattia**, Locust, North Carolina, passed away on that day. Mike was a radioman with HQHS in 1969-70. Mike is now with our Last Patrol. Semper Fi, Mike.

09 January 2017

I received word from Gerald Clemmer via email that Fox Company member **Craig A. Slaughter** passed away on 23 December 2016. Semper Fi, Craig!!

## **Guarding the Gates of Heaven. Semper Fi Marines!**

**Regarding the Last Patrol Section:** I cannot honor those men we lose if someone does not email me and tell me of their passing so I can place them in the "Last Patrol" section of our company rosters on the website. You can also use the "Contact Us for Info and Updates" button on the 2/9 Network website to contact me. I will receive an email with your information.



## **SPECIAL NOTES**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marines Memorial Plaque.** John Klemm, Jim Tiner, and Keith Fay are working hard toward completing a project they began over two years ago to have a plaque designed, built and installed at the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico. The total cost will run close to \$10,000 when all expenses are totaled. John has been keeping me informed of progress and once they have a final plan I will post all the information in our Battalion Runner newsletters. While I personally am in favor of the project, since it will perpetuate 2/9's memory, I simply do not have the time to be personally involved and the 2/9 Network cannot afford to take this project on ourselves. John will be setting up a bank account for donations and I'll post details once I receive them.

If you are reading this Battalion Runner and you did NOT receive it from me via email there are only two possible reasons for that. I do not have a valid email address for you or you are not registered on the 2/9 Network website at [www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org](http://www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org). If you send me an email at [ditson35@verizon.net](mailto:ditson35@verizon.net) or, if not registered on the website, go there and click on the "Member Registration" button on the left side of the screen, fill out the information and submit it. I will get an email with your information and promptly register you and add you to our email distribution lists.

Some shitbird out there is constantly submitting bogus registration requests. Fortunately it takes about 5 seconds to delete the request, but if that someone is reading this I'd ask that you grow up and stop showcasing your immaturity.

As always, anyone is invited to email me at [ditson35@verizon.net](mailto:ditson35@verizon.net) with comments, questions, current items affecting our members, or recommendations. Stories are excellent ideas for inclusion in future Runners. One word of caution. I am the sole arbiter of what becomes published and what does not. If you are going to send me something you'd like to see posted make sure it is relevant to our brotherhood of Marines and in good taste.

**SEMPER FIDELIS,**  
**Danny Schuster**  
**2/9 Network Administrator and Reunion Coordinator**  
**Echo, 1967**