



The Battalion Runner

2017 – Number 2 – September 2017

2nd Battalion, 9th Marines



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www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org

Reunion 2017 Update
08-12 November 2017

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

25th Annual
Reunion



Reunion Hotel

Hotel Reservations

Our 25th annual reunion is rapidly approaching. For FULL DETAILS go to www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org and click on either of two buttons on the left side of the home page – “25th Reunion 8-12 November 2017, Full Details” or “Battalion Runner 17-1, April 2017”. I am not going to repeat all the details in this newsletter so if you do not know all the details check either or both of those web pages. What follows is information pertaining to important steps you need to take if you are going or if you are considering going.

As of 17 September we have less than half a dozen rooms remaining under our contract with the hotel!!! We have already had to increase the number of rooms available under our contract twice. If you have not made a room reservation and are planning to attend DO IT NOW! Our contract contains a cutoff date of 13 October before the hotel releases all open rooms. You may not be able to get our discounted room or parking rate if you delay beyond that date. All pertinent contact information follows below. IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH A ROOM RESERVATION ATTEMPT EMAIL ME IMMEDIATELY AND I WILL TRY TO HELP!

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!

Your room rate includes a buffet breakfast every morning. We will be selling raffle and 50/50 raffle tickets in the 1st floor hospitality 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

Details for our Birthday Dinner at the Key Bridge Marriott are on the 2/9 Network webpage. Here is the current status of the dinner:

As of 12 September 2017, I have been paid for less than 90 dinners. We have over 90 room reservations. Considering averages of people per room from past reunions that means we have at least 130 people staying at the reunion hotel. That number does not include local 2/9 members and family who attend the reunion. We are on the hook for over \$5,000 worth of dinners. If you are going to the dinner YOU MUST PAY ME ASAP. 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 1st. If you are going to the reunion but choose to not attend the dinner that is okay but I would greatly appreciate it if you sent me an email saying that so I don't waste time chasing someone who is not going. Otherwise, please send me a check!

I just recently received further confirmation from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund that they will be present and be our keynote speaker(s).

35th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Memorial (The Wall)

Please go to our website to find complete details on the Reading of the Names and more involving the 35th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Memorial.

Veteran's Day, November 11th

I have final confirmation from the VVMF that we will have 100 reserved seats at the Veteran's Day Ceremonies at The Wall on Veteran's Day, November 11th. As of 14 September I have had 52 people request seating. This will NOT be a first come/first served seating arrangement. The first 100 people attending our reunion who ask for the reserved seats will get them. If there are more who want to go they will have to fend for themselves, so if you want to go to the Vet Day ceremonies and reserve a seat tell me how many seats you want ASAP via email. The first 100 are in. I will have the list of confirmed seating reservations at the reunion. If you have already asked me to reserve seats for you and have NOT heard back from me send me an email so I can confirm that with you. My memory is, unfortunately, not what it once was so I may have missed someone.

Reunion Agenda (Tentative!)

8-12 November 2017

8-9 November: Free Time. Marriott Residence Inn hospitality room open all day/night with free snacks and beverages (includes beer).

10 November: The Marine Corps Birthday:

0900-1000: Proceed to the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial), United States Marine Corps official Wreath Laying Ceremony commencing at 1000. Immediately following ceremonies gather in front of the Memorial for 2/9 group photo (weather permitting)

1130-1800 (time approximate): Free Time – Hospitality Room open for business.

1800-1900: Cocktail hour at the Marriott Key Bridge Hotel

1900-2300: Marine Corps Birthday Dinner at Marriott Key Bridge Hotel. Keynote Speaker – Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, United States Marine Corps Cake Cutting Ceremony, 2/9 Network Hot Damn Ceremony, 2/9 Network raffle and 50/50 raffle.

2330(time approximate): Trip to The Wall to visit our brothers. We will leave from the Marriott Residence Inn AFTER the conclusion of the Birthday Dinner.

11 November (Veterans Day):

1300 at The Wall: 35th Anniversary of The Vietnam Veterans Memorial. 2/9 Network reserved seating for 100 people. Reservations made in advance by members are posted in the hospitality room at the Marriott Residence Inn. All others who want to attend will be seated on a first come/first serve basis.

12 November: Fairwell and free time.

NOTES: Transportation provided to Wreath Laying Ceremony, Birthday Dinner, and trip to The Wall. Free parking for the dinner will be provided for those with private vehicles at the Marriott Key Bridge Hotel. Iwo Jima Memorial is about a 10-15 minute walk from the Residence Inn. Hospitality room is open throughout the reunion with snacks and beverages provided at no charge. 2/9 apparel on sale there as well as 50/50 and regular raffle tickets. Raffle items will be on display. If anyone wants to volunteer to help out please see Danny Schuster or Henry Ostaszewski when you arrive.

Note for Our “Young” 2/9 Marines (post Vietnam)

This is a repeat of the note I put in the last Battalion Runner. I consider it important and have left it in this issue intentionally.

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

I apologize for not updating the 2/9 Network Website as often as I should have this summer. It has been an exceptionally busy few months and I did not update the site as much as I should have. That doesn’t mean the mailbox has been empty. I’ve saved information and notes I’ve received since April and they are included below.

Danny

Received 29 March 2017 from Timothy Winger:

I did not serve but am trying to contact Marines who may have served with my uncle Timothy Ray in 1966 in Quang Nam province.

Tim can be contacted as follows: Timothy Winger, 201 Nottingham Lane, Lebanon, IN 46052

PHONE: 765-481-0589

EMAIL: twinger@ivytech.edu

Received 18 July 2017 from David Hamilton:

I would like to find a way to inform my fellow Marines of the 1st Plt, Echo Co, 2nd Bat, 9th Marines who served TAD to MABS-16, MAG-16 at the Royal Thai Army Air Base at Udorn, Thailand, during March thru October of 1962. You are entitled to file claims for disability and compensation for Herbicide and Pesticide contamination related health issues. I personally know of one Marine that served there and has been awarded compensation and a pension for his illnesses. I have info that will help file. Also, we Marines that served there are entitled to the Vietnam Service Medal or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, your choice. After being denied twice in 1975 HQMC finally agreed and sent me mine

David can be contacted as follows: David Hamilton, 32468 Sunny Parke Dr., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

EMAIL: hamco04@att.net

PHONE: 904-261-8709

Received 09 August 2017 from Stanley H. Self Sr.:

I would like to communicate with vets that know about my being wounded by the accidental discharge of a green boot replacement's rifle as we were on the working party as we were being re-supplied while we were on a relief operation north of Dong Ha, 16 September 1966. My Friend Jeff Vaughn was KIA the following day on that operation. History and records of those dates are totally fouled up and my personal records were lost. I am now hoping to get some of them straightened out. I was a L/Cpl machinegunner. In the outfit about 6 or so weeks.

If you can help contact Stan as follows: Stanley H. Self Sr., 3807 W. Chicago St., Rapid City, SD, 57702

EMAIL: shself1@vastbb.net

PHONE: (540)849-9510

Received 11 August 2017, from Alan Napier:

I was not a Marine in Vietnam. I was in the Army. I am searching for men who might have served with a friend of mine, **Thomas Michael Joyce, who died Oct '66**. He was in Golf, 2nd BN, 9th Marines

Alan's contact information: Alan Napier, 2500 Yellow Rock, De Soto, Missouri 63020

PHONE: 720-935-0074

EMAIL: clydealan@fastmail.net

The following article appeared in the Boston Globe on 13 September 2017 in the column of Kevin Cullen. It references Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's epic documentary, "The Vietnam War":

As one of the veterans featured in Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's epic documentary, "The Vietnam War," **Roger Harris** is about to become famous.

He shrugs at this. He's just a guy from Roxbury who spent a lot of time outrunning bigotry and death.

As a light-skinned African-American, he grew up getting whacked on all sides. Black kids called him half-breed and jumped him. White kids called him the n-word and jumped him. He learned to fight and excelled in football.

With the draft on, he wasn't going to leave it to chance.

"I wanted to go with the tough guys," he said. "I joined the Marine Corps."

He wasn't afraid of going to war.

"I drank the Kool-Aid: 'If you don't stop communism over there, the next thing you know it's in California.' I was willing to die. I thought it was a win-win. If I died, my mother would get the \$10,000 insurance policy and buy a new house. If I lived, I'd have the respect, get a good job."

He volunteered for combat, **a gung-ho member of the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division**. But something changed by the time he got to Nam. His high school sweetheart gave birth to his daughter, and his old football buddy Freddie Summers became quarterback at Wake Forest.

Freddie wrote him a letter and sitting there in the jungle, Roger Harris wasn't so sanguine about dying in battle.

"I wanted to go home and see my baby girl and play college football," he said.

That seemed a long shot, as his unit was getting slaughtered. In firefights, several guys right next to him got torn to shreds by shrapnel that somehow missed him.

He called his mother, telling her, "You'll never see me again. I'm going to die."

"God has a plan for you," his mother replied, and he didn't believe her because all moms say that.

He had the words "Boston" and "Roxbury" on his helmet and one day another Marine started talking to him in an unmistakable accent. His name was Jack Joyce and he was from South Boston. The white Marine from Southie and the black Marine from Roxbury became fast friends.

"With all the racial turmoil back home, the enemy made no distinction between me and Jack. They wanted to kill us both," Harris said.

Joyce made it through his tour and got home, and Harris was counting the days until he could follow.

The chopper that would take him out of Dong Ha came under intense fire. He threw body bags carrying the remains of fellow Marines onto the chopper and jumped in. He thought Death was following him. He was convinced of it after the base in previously calm Da Nang was shelled as he arrived there. The Tet Offensive chased him all the way out of Vietnam.

After a long trip home, he was standing at the curb at Logan Airport in his uniform, medals and ribbons on his chest, waiting for a taxi back home to Roxbury. Six taxis drove right past him. A state trooper realized what was going on and jumped in front of the next taxi, ordering the driver to take Harris.

Harris was gutted. His sacrifice, those medals, those ribbons, had changed nothing.

He went to college, played some football, and became a teacher. The desegregation of Boston's public schools was greeted with violence and Harris was right in the mix. He had just started teaching at Hyde Park High School, where students were being bused in, when a riot broke out on the front steps.

As he, other teachers, and police officers tried to break up the fights, Harris bumped into a cop. It was Jack Joyce. They hadn't seen each other since Vietnam.

As the punches flew around them, Roger Harris and Jack Joyce did what brothers do when they haven't seen each other for a while. They embraced.

Roger Harris went on to become a great, innovative educator, eventually realizing his mother was right. God had a plan.

Kevin Cullen, Boston Globe

NEW MEMBERS SINCE BATTALION RUNNER 17-1, April 2017

If you see a phone number where the email address is normally listed it is because that person does not have internet access.

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

Neilson	John K.	Nisswa	MN	HQHS	anniesgotyourgun@outlook.com	952-797-3345	62-63
DeGuire	Thomas "Tom"	St. Louis	MO	HQHS	tomtopper3@msn.com	314-845-5818	60-61
Foster	Brent E.	Peoria	IL	Fox	befoster55@gmail.com	309-363-5040	75-76
Hyson	Richard "Dick"	Ocean Pines	MD	Echo	rhmh613@google.com	410-208-3540	56-58
Harrison	David C.	Albuquerque	NM	Fox	dchalb@sprynet.com	505-328-9771	68-69
Pressley	David	Oakland	TN	Fox	pressleyv1192@aol.com	901-301-3406	91-95
Self Sr.	Stanley H. "Huck"	Rapid City	SD	Fox	shself1@vastbb.net	540-849-9510	66
Pietrzak	Michael J. "Mike"	Taylor	MI	Hotel	di4u0315@aol.com	586-634-7428	67-68
Cook	Tom	Sicklerville	NJ	Fox	kg5ajp@gmail.com	479-650-0210	67-69
Fermin	Jason	Metuchen	NJ	HQHS	jfermin10@aol.com	973-592-9222	06-08
Monnell	Daniel Anthony	Galveston	TX	Fox	xoscout@gmail.com	253-266-9772	91-92
Polston	Carl	New Palestine	IN	Wpns	cpolston@sbcglobal.net	317-508-6111	83-87
Prentice	William M. "Bill"	Guilford	CT	HQHS	wopowog3@aol.com	860-895-7772	65
Teboe	Zane	Sheboygan	WI	Wpns	zaneteboe@gmail.com	920-458-3826	76-77
Washington	Leroy	Sarasota	FL	Fox	leroyjwashington@hotmail.com	941-812-7711	90-91
Summers	Michael H.	Olney	IL	HQHS	inlandmarineservice@yahoo.com	970-370-4851	66-67
Tomasko	Frank	Sandy Hook	CT	Fox	franktomasko@gmail.com	203-482-1550	63-64
Aldrich	Earl	Deary	ID	Golf	marcgalb@yahoo.com	208-877-1380	67-68
Cahalan	Kevin "Mike"	Flemington	NJ	Hotel	jkc.moph700@gmail.com	908-788-9163	69
Moore	James "Jamie"	Byron Center	MI	Golf	jamie-moore@comcast.net	616-813-7099	68
Gabbard	John	Warsaw	IN	Echo	john.m.gabbard@gmail.com	574-377-8187	09-11
Skees	Logan	Orlando	FL	Golf	loganskeesllc@gmail.com	321-278-1419	11-14
Wehrle	Robert "Andy"	Stafford	VA	Fox	andy.wehrle@gmail.com	540-226-4092	73-74
Fitzgerald	Michael	Los Angeles	CA	Wpns	mikefitzgerald.md@gmail.com	323-506-9162	81-82
Dosker Jr.	Joseph Howard "Jay"	Louisville	KY	Echo	josephdosker@yahoo.com	503-314-9128	08-13
Kelley	John	Quantico	VA	Fox	sarahdagostino3@gmail.com	904-535-2596	09-15
Weiss	Jason	Fuquay-Varina	NC	Fox	jasonweiss66@gmail.com	631-681-5885	07-10
Sosabaez	Amin Abel "Sosa"	Nashville	TN	Golf	aminabelsosa@gmail.com	863-949-2726	07-11
Zaelke	Justin	Woodbridge	VA	Golf	jzaelke@gmail.com	703-991-9621	08-11
Wemitt	Jerome "Preacher"	Tyler	TX	Golf	were2cutetogther@yahoo.com	903-360-0863	74-75
Williamson	Brent	Woodlawn	TN	Fox	brentwilliamson@ymail.com	931-472-4816	07-10
Sanders III	Charles N. "Trey"	Moody	AL	Golf	prozac4twenty@gmail.com	205-534-3287	07-11
Jones	Will	Richlands	NC	Fox	will.jones0311@gmail.com	910-478-8800	08-13
Jones	Todd	Oklahoma City	OK	Fox	tjones0369@gmail.com	405-863-3923	09-13
Hagen	Anthony	Bonne Terre	MO	HQHS	tonyhag2002@yahoo.com	314-497-1212	07-10
Powell	Braxton	Winter Park	FL	Golf	braxton.powell@yahoo.com	954-461-4384	08-11
Galentine	Ronald L.	Moundsville	WV	Golf	galentine89@gmail.com	304-650-0791	11-13
Holliday	Thomas D.	Dublin	OH	Wpns	thomaswchs@gmail.com	614-286-0033	07-11
Manuel	James "Luke"	East Bernstadt	KY	Golf	l.manuel@rhrc.org	606-308-3976	05-08
Towne	Benjamin "Town-E"	Lee	MA	Wpns	bbtowne@gmail.com	413-822-8987	07-10
Vietti	Nicholas "Yetti Monster"	Reno	NV	Golf	viettimarine@hotmail.com	775-203-1409	04-08

The Last Patrol (since APRIL 2017)

16 July 2017

David Hamilton reported the loss of **Philip George Babic**, Echo Company on 24 June 2016.

05 August 2017

Ron Bowen reported the loss of Retired Brigadier General Michael E. Rich, former S-4 and Golf Company Commander on 14 July 2017 in Northern Virginia. General Rich obtained a law degree after his service and was the Assistant U. S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

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

DONATIONS

Donations would be greatly appreciated. They are how the Network survives. 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 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!!!!

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. If you send me an email at 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.

As always, anyone is invited to email me at ditson35@verizon.net with comments, questions, current items affecting our members, or recommendations. Stories are excellent ideas for inclusion in future Runners. Unfortunately 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**