

Dedicated to the memory of Richard “Red” Hill



The Battalion Runner

2018 – Number 1 – 30 March 2018

2nd Battalion, 9th Marines



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www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org



As I was preparing to type up this edition of the Battalion Runner I received a terrible phone call from Henry Ostaszewski, my partner in crime in running the Battalion Reunion. Our leader, Red Hill, suffered a fatal heart attack on 22 March. While Red has not been to recent reunions his presence was felt by all of us who knew him. While I realize the very large majority of our membership consists of Vietnam veterans, Red Hill should be an inspiration for all of us. He began a quest to find those he served with in Vietnam in the early 1980s, going to The Wall with a 2/9 Banner (still used today), and hoping to find men from 2/9. You can all read that story on the home page of our website. Without Red 99% of us would not have been reunited with those we served with, would not know the men we now know through reunions, and for our post-Vietnam members, would not have the opportunity you do through a well established 2/9 Network to find your own buddies. I did not know Red as well as many of our members did, but I feel a deep personal loss at his passing. One of our members answered an email I sent informing people by making a very apt statement about Red – we have lost our Point Man. I will continue to attempt to emulate his devotion to 2/9 as long as possible but make no mistake, the 2/9 Network has lost its leader, its founder, and the heart and soul of the Network. All anyone else can do is attempt to carry on and build on what he began. Red's services were held on March 26th, and were attended by myself, Henry, James Joyce, and Bill Ackley and Jim Bragg, both of whom served in Vietnam with Red.

Semper Fidelis Red – see you on the other side!

Danny



SPECIAL NOTICE!

Here's a SNAFU if there ever was one! I won't bore you with too many details. As we were preparing to head south for the winter in late January I used Comma Separated Value (CSV), files to copy from my desktop computer and paste on my laptop in my email listings. There are 28 different groups for our email distribution (nearly 1,300 email addresses), so I don't violate Verizon daily email restrictions. When I sent Red's passing along to the Battalion men on the email distribution listing I found that 1 – the groups did not work. I had to copy and paste all the email addresses into the "To" line of the email. 2 – several of the group listings had been truncated when I created the CSV files. As a result nearly 300 email addresses did NOT make it to Alabama with me. Those 300 men will not receive this Battalion Runner. It will be on all three 2/9 Facebook pages and on the 2/9 Network website at www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org. I'll have to wait until I get home to fix things. Sorry. Danny

Reunion 2018 (ALL Eras) 08-12 November 2018

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



This year's reunion will be held in memory of the 2/9 Network founder and our "Point Man", Richard "Red" Hill. Since Red's loss is so recent we have not had the time to decide how to memorialize Red but I would like to make one request of

those of you who knew him best. If you have good photos of Red, either in Vietnam, at a past reunion, or anywhere, please send me an electronic copy. If I receive enough pictures I will create an audio/video file and have it prepared by the time of the reunion. I will provide more information on this aspect of the reunion in the next Battalion Runner. We will have a tribute to Red during our Birthday dinner.

Hotel Reservations

Room rates at the hotel are \$125.00 per night, plus applicable state and local taxes (currently around 13%). Parking is available at a special rate of \$12.00 per night. Note that if you have a very large vehicle you may not be able to enter the parking garage and there is not a backup location connected to our hotel. We have 75 rooms set aside for the reunion. If past reunions are a good indicator we will run out of rooms fairly quickly. Get your reservations made as soon as possible so you don't get involved in a waiting situation for a room, or be forced to pay a higher rate if more rooms are not available. In recent past years we've had more than 100 rooms booked, and we will increase our numbers with the hotel if they are available. Your room rate also includes a daily hot breakfast buffet.

Make your reservations by calling this number: 1-800-331-3131. Make sure you tell the reservations people you are with the "2/9 Marine DC Reunion Group", and GET A RESERVATION NUMBER. The cut-off date for room reservations is 13 October. After that date the hotel will release any available rooms under our contract and you'll have to pay the going rate, and that can be well over \$200/night. We are working with the hotel to have them establish a separate web page unique to reservations for 2/9 reunion rooms. That page has yet to be established. Once I have the link for it I will post it on the Reunion Page on the 2/9 Network website.

Once again we will have the hotel conference room on the 1st floor available as our hospitality room and the Network will be providing free beverages, including beer, and snacks. 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

For the fourth consecutive year our Birthday Dinner will be on November 10th, 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, \$34.00 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 Caesar Salad (romaine, parmesan, croutons, Caesar 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 1st. 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 10th. 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, a to-be-determined memorial to Red Hill, and our drawing for the raffle and 50/50 contest. I am still working on our guest speaker(s). I'm pretty sure the membership is going to be excited about one of our probable speakers. 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.

2nd Battalion, 9th Marines Plaque and Possible Dedication Ceremony at Semper Fidelis Memorial park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps

At our reunion in 2015 we presented the idea of a plaque being designed and installed at the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Four of our 2/9 fellow Marines have been working on this since then. John Klemm, Jim Tiner, Keith Fay, and Dick Kinney form the committee. At last year's reunion the membership present unanimously agreed that the 2/9 Network would provide some funding toward the cost associated with this effort. The amount will depend on how much money we have in the bank. Henry Ostaszewski and I informed reunion attendees during our business meeting at the Birthday Dinner, that we were doing well with donations and did not wish to just sit on the money. We need help with the reunion but as of now have the minimum we need to have a reunion and pay for the 2/9 Network website. We have already submitted a donation in the amount of \$3,000 to the VVMF toward their fundraising for the Education Center for The Wall, also approved by the membership last November. I know from experience that many of you that want to help out cannot afford the minimum of \$100 John asked for as a donation amount, but am sure John and the committee would be happy with any amount you might be able to send to support this ultimate preservation of 2/9's legacy covering all the wars they fought. Most of you should have by now received a letter from John soliciting donations. Minimum cost is \$10,000 and the committee has, largely out of their own pockets, committed nearly \$6,000 to the effort. The conclusion should be reached before our reunion. While we hope this happens, please be aware what I am about to say is very tentative. We are trying, through this committee, to schedule a dedication ceremony for the plaque installation on 9 November, during our reunion. Details at this point are sketchy at best and there are several complications involving weather, transportation, scheduling with the Marine Corps Museum and Marine Corps Heritage Society, etc., that, at this point, have not been addressed. Obviously weather is an unknown, but we are working with John's committee to address the rest of it. More information will develop on this as we move into the summer months and I will update everyone in the next Battalion Runner. You can go to this website to view photos of memorial plaques already installed in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park:

<https://www.marineheritage.org/semperfidelismemorialpark.html> That same Marine Heritage Foundation website has another link to the Commemorative Plaque program, similar to the Commemorative Brick program. If you check that out you will see what is involved and, hopefully, understand why the cost is not cheap.

Reunion Agenda (Tentative!)

8-12 November 2017

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

9 November: VERY tentative. Dedication ceremony for the 2/9 Memorial Plaque in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico. Time, method of transportation, etc., to be determined.

9 November: Free time for those not attending the dedication ceremony outlined above, if it is finalized. Hospitality room open as it is every day of the reunion.

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. Tribute to Red Hill, keynote speaker to be determined, short 2/9 Network Business Meeting, 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): Still to be determined. With President Trump having scheduled the Military Appreciation Parade on Veteran's Day we don't know if

there will be ceremonies at the Wall, what time if there are, and how veterans like us could be involved in the parade. More to come on this.

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)

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. Red Hill's sudden passing recently starkly reminded me of that fact. I guess I'm now officially an old man at 71 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. Recently on one of the 2/9 Facebook pages a Marine by the name of Brown has attacked Vietnam Vets as being "clubby" and referred to me as a "Bully". I've been called many things in my life but that is a first! Maybe Marine Brown has had an unfortunate encounter with some Vietnam Vets. I have had encounters with him on that Facebook page a couple of times in the last 2-3 years and each time have refused further discussion with him. His attitude is harmful to our effort to get post-Vietnam Marines involved with OUR 2/9 Network. I cannot say it more simply – you are wanted at reunions and would be welcomed with open arms.

Danny

From the Mailbox

Mailbox entries below extend back to Battalion Runner 17-2. All have been inserted here and removed from the 2/9 Network Website "Update" page. New mailbox entries received between this Battalion Runner and the next issue will be placed on the website until that issue is released.

Danny

Update 28 March: Received the below from Dennis Voge, HQHS 567-69:

Danny, I was in 2/9 from late December 1967 to January 1969 and am listed in the H&S Company membership list. I am a member of Detachment 1220 of the Marine Corps League here in Tupelo, MS. We along with members of the Vietnam Veterans of America and several other veterans organizations helped make possible a 60% exact replica of the Vietnam Wall at our Veterans Park here in the city and it was dedicated last November. Our MCL Detachment is hosting the State Department of MS League convention on April 26-28. As part of the planned activities we are having a ceremony at the replica wall on Saturday, April 28th at 0800 hours which will include the ringing of a bell for anyone who requests it in memory of those whose names are on it. I am the designated bell ringer and I've made a preliminary list of some I will remember. If anyone who reads the battalion runner wishes to have a name read aloud I will be happy to handle it. Any and all folks who are area are cordially invited to attend. Thought I'd pass along the word.

If there are any who are interested I would appreciate being notified on my home email address which is dennisvoge@outlook.com.

Dennis W. Voge

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 7120

Tupelo, MS 38802-7120

Street Address: 105 South Front Street

Tupelo, MS 38804-7120

Voice: 662-842-3871, Fax: 662-842-8450

Updated 27 March: Received the following from Ms. Candace Jagers regarding 2/9 Hotel Company KIA James William Bell (Dewey Canyon):

I'm looking for a clear picture of James William Bell. Died in Vietnam young. This was his unit. 3rd Marine Division, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, H Company. Can you help? Candace can be reached via email at candacejagers@yahoo.com.

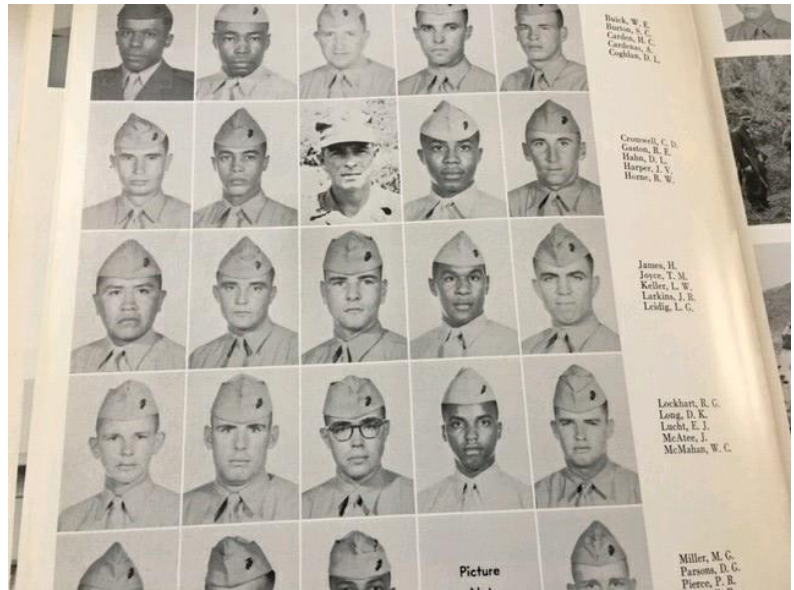
Update 26 March: I received the following sad news from Mr. Don Mosman, LtCol Jerome P. Trefy's son-in-law:

Dear Sirs - my name is Don Mosman. My father-in-law is Jerome P. Trehy. He recently passed away peacefully at the age of 86. He served 22 years in the USMC and was **the Battalion Commander of 2/9 in 1972**. His service is being held on Wednesday 2/28 at St. Joe's Catholic Church in Herndon. Also, a service will be held for he and his wife Carolyn at Quantico on Friday, 6/22, where they will be interned. He was a warrior and loved the Marine Corps to the end. Semper Fi - Don Mosman US Army, LTC Infantry (Ret)

Update 04 March: Received the following from Bob Cowles, good friends of the sister of **Thomas Joyce**, who was **KIA while with Golf Co., in October 1966**. Please read the following account of how personal effects were returned to his family. It would be great if this could be followed to fruition!

Tom's personal effects were returned to his family in another Marine's seabag. As you can see in the photo below someone went to great lengths to improve the appearance of that seabag. Tom's sister was at her Mother's house and found the seabag. She would like

to see it returned to it's rightful owner, or his family, if possible. The name on the seabag is LCPL H. James, and there is another photo below of some unit photos with Tom and H. James in the same middle row next to each other. I have tried to contact the co-administrators of the 3/1 website but they have not responded. I can find no record of an H. James in any of our 2/9 databases. **If there is anyone out there that can help solve this puzzle and get the seabag back to LCPL James or his family please contact me at ditson35@verizon.net or Bob Cowles at 217-652-7986 or email rkowles@gmail.com.**



Update 04 March: I received the following from **Kedric Busby, brother of Sam Busby, KIA on 2/27/69 (Golf Co.)**

I am trying to contact anyone who knew my brother, Sam Busby. He was KIA 2/27/69 in Vietnam. I was less than a year old when he died. Any information, memories, stories, etc., would be greatly appreciate.

Contact information is as follows: **Kedric Busby, phone 251-769-1734 or email buzzngin@yahoo.com** Kedric lives in Saint Stephens, Alabama.

Update 04 March: Received lthe following "Tex" a 2/9 Vietnam Marine:

I was in 2/9 just as the name was changed from "**Blood Bucket**" to the more politically correct "**Hell in a Helmet**". I recall having a wooden plaque for "Blood Bucket" (gawd knows what happened to it), and would like one. Even a photo would do, so I could have one made.

Tex can be contacted by **phone at 304-483-3412 or email texwood1@yahoo.com**, and lives in Stuart, VA.

Update 22 January: Con Thien, Operation Buffalo and painter Douglas Rosa in 1967

Retired Marine LtCol JD Murray is seeking information about a painter who was involved in Operation Buffalo in 1967. Douglas Rosa was painting Marines in combat. Please see the information below describing the action and the note from LtCol Murray and his contact information if you have knowledge of this individual.

From our website history of the Battalion in Vietnam during 1967: *"In April, the regiment moved to Dong Ha, where elements of the regiment became involved in some of the bitterest fighting of the war, in areas near Khe Sanh, Gio Linh and Con Thien. In one such operation near Con Thien, 9th Marine Leathernecks killed 991 enemy soldiers during Operation Buffalo while being almost constantly bombarded by enemy artillery and rockets. Later in September of that year, the outpost at Con Thien near the DMZ came under one of the heaviest artillery poundings of the war, lasting for 12 straight days. Elements of the regiment who manned the outpost during the siege turned back several NVA assaults inflicting heavy casualties on the attackers. With the aid of air and artillery support the 9th Marines turned the enemy attack into an enemy disaster".*

LtCol Murray's note: I am a retired USMC LtCol who as an O3 and spent 19 months with M, 3/5, in Vietnam. I am trying to locate anyone who remembers an **artist named Douglas Rosa** painting Marines at Con Thien in 1967. I understand he was **commissioned by the Marine Corps to do combat painting** and he was at Con Thien in 1967. I also understand other Bns were there when their turn in-the-barrel arrived. Semper Fi JD

LtCol Murray's contact information: **Phone:757-220-2114. Email: rugman21@aol.com**

Danny

Update 16 January 2018: SSgt Eric G. Smith

Rich Smith is looking for contact with anyone who served with SSgt. Eric G. Smith in the Phillipines in 1990 and 1991 during the "longest deployment". Rich can be contacted via email a jenlarmich1@yahoo.com.

Update 28 December 2017: New member seeking contact who those he served with in 1965:

New member Richard Troy Hamilton (**Doc Hamilton**), is seeking contact with those he served with in 1965. Doc Hamilton was on **Operation Harvest Moon** and served with Echo in 1965-66. Doc lives in Taylor, SC, and his contact information is **hamiltonnathan@bellsouth.net**.

Danny

Update 28 December 2017: 25th Annual Reunion Photos

I received notes from some members that when using the link to the 2017 reunion photos in Battalion Runner 17-3 earlier this month that the Photobucket page was littered with spam and advertisements. I took the liberty of upgrading my personal account with Photobucket to eliminate ads. Please try this link if you are reading this and hopefully the photos will be much more easy to access and view. I do not know if my personal upgrade will apply to others accessing my photo albums (there are years of 2/9 Reunion photo albums out there), but hope so. Feedback from anyone using this link would be greatly appreciated. <https://smg.photobucket.com/user/fasst1/library/2-9%2025th%20Reunion%202017?sort=2&page=1>

Danny

Update 28 December 2017: Received the following remark from retired Colonel Ron Losee as a portion of the note he sent me after receiving this month's Battalion Runner #17-3:

"My two tours with 2/9 (60-61 and 67-68), were memorable and I consider those battalions were the very best of the eight in which I served as an infantry officer during my career. No doubt about it." Ron Losee, Colonel, Retired, USMC. A fine testament to the men of 2/9!

Danny

Update 25 October 2017: I received the following notice and request from Tim Pilcher regarding his Dad. Tim's contact information is below.

My Dad, **Michael W. Pilcher**, was a Ground Pounder in the 2/9 during Vietnam & I found your page while in pursuit of information related to his service there. My Dad **passed a couple years ago** and never really told me anything - not that I blamed him at all. I'm lucky enough to be in possession of all his letters home, as well as all of the reel to reel audio tape he sent my Mom and Grandparents. Is there anywhere I might be able to obtain more information about him and his time in country? Maybe someone associated to this site remembers him? Anything would mean the world to me.

Admin Note: Michael served with HQHS Company in 1966-67.

TIM PILCHER
EMAIL: HEYPILCH@EARTHLINK.NET
PHONE: 626 437 6834

Other 2/9 Network Information

Regarding the 2/9 Network website 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.

DONATIONS: Donations would be greatly appreciated. I hope as many members as possible support the effort to create the 2/9 Memorial Plaque described earlier in the Runner, but please try not to forget the Network. We are in good shape but still need your support. Donations are how the Network survives. The only thing we EVER charge anyone for is the Birthday Dinner. 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!!!!

Email Addresses (this may not apply to many with the SNAFU I described above for this issue): 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