

The Battalion Runner

2018 – Number 2 – July 2018

2nd Battalion, 9th Marines



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www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org

Dedicated to the memory of Richard “Red” Hill



SPECIAL NOTICE!

In the March Battalion Runner I spelled out the SNAFU with my email listings while we were down south for the winter. I finally finished with the more than 100 updates I had to do to those listings when I returned home. Those were new or changed email addresses I had to redo in the original files on my desktop here at home. If anyone sees something still screwed up please email me and let me know so I can correct things.

I am beginning to phase in a new email address that will make our 2/9 Network business a standalone item. I'll only get 2/9 business in this new email address but for now, to make sure the new email functions as I need it to, I'll continue using the old address at times. If you want to send me a note please send it to me at two9ncoic@gmail.com. I'll try the new one with this Battalion Runner for the first 2 or 3 listings and if it looks good I'll send everyone their electronic copy using the new email address.

Danny

Update for Reunion 2018 (ALL Eras) 08-12 November 2018

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



As I've reported previously this year's reunion will be devoted to the memory of Red Hill, our founder and point man. I was hoping to receive enough photos of Red to create an audio/video show for the reunion. That does not look like it's going to happen at this point. I've received a very small number of photos of Red and not nearly enough to make such a show. However, we will have a tribute to Red during our Birthday dinner. Henry Ostaszewski, Red's great friend and neighbor, will present the tribute. Red's family has confirmed with us that they WILL be at the reunion.

Hotel Reservations

Rather than repeat everything from Battalion Runner 18-1, published in March, I'll just point out here that ALL details for rooms can be found on our 2/9 Network website, www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org under either the Reunion or Battalion

Runner button on the left side of the home page. ROOMS are quickly becoming scarce. As of June 26th more than 2/3rd of our rooms under contract had been reserved. I know for certain as many as a dozen more have been reserved since that time. GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN NOW! We CAN get more rooms added if we have enough time to get that done but the longer you wait to get a room the less likely it is that the hotel will have any rooms left to offer under our contract rate.

Reunion Dinner

Most of this section is a repeat of Battalion Runner 18-1 information. See the Special Note at the end of the section for new information.

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 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 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.

Special NOTE:

1. Dinner checks have NOT been arriving! If you want to go to the dinner you have to get me your check. \$34.00 per person mailed to me at 21 Moseley St., Billerica, MA 01821.
2. Keynote speaker: Larry Kirby, the only surviving member of Echo from the Battle of Iwo Jima has committed to being our keynote speaker this year. I've known Larry for a few years now and he's an exceptional speaker. Larry has assured me he will be at the Reunion, if he's still alive (his words). He'll be 94 by the reunion. I'm not real concerned about his health since he looks younger than me!

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

The 2/9 Memorial Plaque is in final review and approval with the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. The committee expects the plaque to be approved, built and installed by September. The unveiling will be at the dedication ceremony. All I can tell everyone at this point is that it is a beautifully designed plaque and will honor 2/9 members from all eras. We still have the dedication ceremony scheduled for Noon on 09 November as part of our reunion agenda. The committee is working very hard to secure a very special keynote speaker for the dedication ceremony. No matter who speaks, it is going to be a very special day. Transportation to and from Quantico is still to be determined.

Reunion Agenda

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: Dedication ceremony at Noon for the 2/9 Memorial Plaque in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico. 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 Larry Kirby, Echo 2/9, Battle of Iwo Jima, 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): I have heard absolutely nothing about President Trump's tribute to Vets parade. We'll see what happens here as time goes on.

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.

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

28 May 2018 Received the following from Ian Ellington.

I am looking for anyone who might have known and could speak about William Allen Ellington. Contact info for Ian is 304-383-4521 or brazilianboy9@live.com

03 May 2018 Received the following note with information about Red Hill and the "early days" from an old friend – George Person:

I am sad to find out that Red has passed on. We knew him as Ric. I worked with him for 10+ years at the University of Florida's research farm "Green Acres." We picked tobacco by hand, which is nasty and dirty and stinks and it's 97 degrees and 90% humidity. But he always kept us laughing, from the early morning light until quitting time. He knew how to handle us punk kids and make it fun. Our Boss once gave Tom and me some BIG fancy cigars. We were smoking them when Ric walked up. He does a double-take at us . He says, "Is that You? Dam, with that cigar in your mouth, you look just like my dog trying to take a dump!" I will miss him. Another Good Man I Respect done gone on. Got a fairly good pic of him I'd like to post. Thank You All, Geo

26 February 2018 Received the following request/question from Tex Wood:

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 can have one made. Thank You. Tex Wood, 304-483-3412, texwood1@yahoo.com

19 February 2018 Received the following from Kedric Busby

I am trying to contact anyone who knew my brother, Sam Busby. He was killed 2/27/69 in Vietnam. I was less than a year old when he died. Any information, memories, stories, etc., would be greatly appreciated. Kedric Busby, 251-769-1734, buzzngin@yahoo.com

LAST PATROL



The mass mailing soliciting donations for the 2/9 Memorial Plaque discussed earlier in this Battalion Runner resulted in family members notifying the committee that their Marine had passed on. I sadly list all those not previously listed in the Last Patrol section of the website.

Name	Company and Years Served	Date of Passing
John Acheson	Echo 63-64	10/14
Ted Achuff Sr.	Fox 67-68	Unknown
Richard Akuna	Echo 65-66	7/14
Robert Alexander	HQHS 65-66	12/05
Robert Allinger	Fox 66-67	5/13
James Apps	Golf 76	9/00
1 st Sgt M.D. Arnold	Echo 67	9/05
Rodger Barker	Hotel 67-68	6/11
Max Bauer	HQHS 67	5/14
Mikel Beal	Echo 65-66	3/02
Rodney Becker	Echo 66-67	5/14
George Begich	Echo 73-74	6/03
Gerald Belcher	Golf Unknown	1/14
Jim Benton	Golf 68-70	9/07
Tim Blinn	Hotel 68-69	12/12
John Braak	HQHS 69	11/10
Hoyt Bradberry	Fox 67-68	5/14
Steven Bragg	Fox 66-67	7/11
William Brault	Echo 65	9/10
Conrad Bready	Fox Unknown	12/01

Larry Brinkman	Hotel 66-67	12/05
Jimmy Burney	HQHS 66-67	12/09
Pat Burns	HQHS 79-83	2/00
Terry Buss	HQHS 79-83	11/13
Christopher Carlile	HQHS 67-68	10/12
Claude Carlton	Hotel 68-69	8/05
Rick Carro	Echo 65-66	5/06
Melvin Chilton	HQHS Unknown	4/08
James W. Cline	Fox 68-69	3/11
Adrian Dalesandro	Golf 66-67	2008
Reuben Gentry	Bn 84-85	11/14
Tom Poole	Unknown 77-79	Unknown

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

Semper Fi Marines!!!
Danny

Other 2/9 Network Information

DONATIONS: 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: 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