

The Battalion Runner

2018 – Number 3 – September 2018

2nd Battalion, 9th Marines



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Please note the new email address from the last Battalion Runner has been changed to twoninencoic@aol.com. The gmail address was not sufficient for sending large mass mailings and I will be deleting it.

Dedicated to the memory of Richard “Red” Hill



This is a somewhat abbreviated newsletter issued primarily to update members on the status of our reunion and 2/9 memorial plaque dedication ceremony in November. Black Boot Marines may want to pay particular attention.

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

1. Labor Day has come and gone and our reunion agenda is shaping up. Listed below are the only "official" agenda items.

a. 2/9 Memorial Plaque Dedication Ceremony at Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Scheduled for 1200 hours on 09 November 2018. Dedication speaker tentatively confirmed as Lieutenant General Brian D. Beaudreault, current Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations at HQMC. Lt.Gen. Beaudreault is the former Company Commander of Golf Company during Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. 2/9 Marines, including those under his command, earned the nickname "Black Boots" from the Somalians. **Black Boot Marines of 2/9 might want to seriously consider attending to see their old Golf Company Commander. I use the word tentative since HQMC has made it clear Deputy Commandants often are called upon to do their job at a moment's notice, given the situation in today's world.**

b. Attendance at the official USMC Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial), in Arlington, VA. The memorial is about a 15 minute walk from our reunion hotel - the Marriott Residence Inn Rosslyn, on North Oak St., in Arlington. Ceremonies begin at 1000 hours. Transportation will be available beginning around 0900 hours from the hotel.

c. Upon completion of the ceremonies at the Iwo Jima Memorial the battalion reunion attendees will meet at the steps leading to the memorial for a group photo. This is tentative only because of weather conditions. If

conditions are not good we will make alternative arrangements for the photo.

d. Cocktail hour begins for The Birthday Dinner at 1800 hours at the Key Bridge Marriott hotel with dinner being served at 1900 hours. Transportation will be provided beginning at approximately 1700 hours. Our contract with the hotel allows for free parking in their parking garage. Attendees with their own vehicles may want to drive over and return to the Residence Inn at their own leisure.

e. Two speakers this year:

(1) Larry Kirby, Echo 2/9 during the Battle of Iwo Jima, and two other Pacific campaigns, will be our keynote speaker. I have the privilege of having met Larry several times. He is without doubt an impressive person and Marine.

(2) Henry Ostaszewski will present a tribute to Red Hill, our founder and leader who passed last spring. Henry was Red's good friend and was his neighbor going on 8 years before Red's passing. Red's wife and family (Darnell, Rickie, and Beau), will be in attendance. We would not have a 2/9 Network were it not for Red's initial decision to seek out a few of his fellow Marines he served with in Vietnam back in the 1980s. Those "few" Marines now number more than 2,700 members of the 2/9 Network!

f. We'll hold our raffle and 50/50 drawing following the speakers.

g. Following our dinner we will reconvene at the Marriott Residence Inn and depart for our annual visit and wreath laying ceremony at The Wall, saying hello to lost brothers. Transportation will be provided, departing from the Residence Inn.

2. Given the cancellation of plans for a Veterans, or Military, parade on Veteran's Day, the Network has no agenda for Veteran's Day, the 11th. However, VVMF Veteran's Day ceremonies will be held at The Wall and we will have transportation available for those wishing to attend.

3. REUNION ROOM SITUATION. Last minute information: As I was preparing to send this out I got an email from Ron Bowen, Golf Company. He called the 800 number for a room reservation yesterday (4 September), and was told there were no rooms available at our reduced rate. As this goes out to all I have a request in to the hotel to increase our room numbers. Please tell me via email ASAP if you cannot get a room. As of 27 August, we have 81 rooms booked at the Residence Inn. That is 6 over our contract number of 75 rooms. The hotel has been outstanding in supporting our reunions for several years now and most likely will expand our room numbers if necessary. However, if you are planning on attending the reunion GET YOUR ROOM BOOKED NOW. If you have problems making a reservation notify me ASAP so I can talk to the hotel and expand our room numbers! Everything you need to know to make a reservation is on our website at www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org on the reunion page. There is more information in the Battalion Runners posted on the website.

4. Birthday Dinner. Cost to attend our Birthday Dinner is \$34. That price includes EVERYTHING, including ballroom rental, meal, taxes and tips. Normally the cost of the ballroom alone is over \$10,000. The Network will be covering the cost to include a cash bar, but dinner includes non-alcoholic beverages and water. There is, however, bad news here. As of today I have received only 44 payments for meals. Historically we have roughly 1 1/2 people for every room rented at the Residence Inn, plus at least a dozen other people who live locally. We are bound by contract to pay \$5,750 to the Marriott Key Bridge for about 167 dinners. Based on past history of holding Birthday Dinners at the Key Bridge Marriott I should have over 100 MORE payments. PLEASE SEND ME A CHECK FOR THE DINNER. Send checks made out to me at 21 Moseley Street, Billerica, MA 01821. I don't think this is one you want to miss. It is also my hope everyone remembers everything Red did for us and, if for no other reason, attends to pay their respects to his memory and Darnell. NOTE: If you have already paid for your meal(s) you should have received a recent email from me acknowledging that payment. If you have paid and have not heard from me please contact me ASAP.

5. We hope to have one or two other pleasant surprises for our Marines, but that will have to wait until November.

LAST PATROL



I have received no notification of lost members since the last Battalion Runner.

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.

Other 2/9 Network Information

DONATIONS: Donations are down nearly 50% from the same time last year, most likely for a good cause. I know many of you supported the effort to create the 2/9 Memorial Plaque. Your donations are how the Network survives. The only thing we EVER charge anyone for is the Birthday Dinner at the reunion. If you can help out checks must be made out in my name, Danny Schuster, and sent to 21 Moseley Street, Billerica, MA 01821. As always, 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.

My attempt since the last Battalion Runner to incorporate a new email address into 2/9 electronic communications has mostly been a failure. The old email address continues on for the time being. I am initiating another new email address that I believe will be successful for our electronic communications and will be using it to send this Battalion Runner. That new email address is twoninencoic@aol.com. Anyone is invited to email me at that address 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