

# The Battalion Runner

2019 – Number 2 – September 2019

**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) or [twoninencoic@aol.com](mailto:twoninencoic@aol.com)

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

**This Battalion Runner will deal almost completely with our 2019 Reunion being held in Arlington, VA, and the accompanying USMC Birthday Dinner on 10 November, also in Arlington. Sadly, I am receiving almost no new information to post on the 2/9 Network website. Actually I'm not getting much of anything from anyone other than an occasional request to update email addresses. No new membership requests, very few address changes, very few notifications of brothers passing, etc. The Battalion Runner used to be loaded with that type of information but is now basically a Reunion/Birthday Dinner publication. I know well that among our Vietnam veteran membership we are losing brothers at an increasing pace as we age. It is sad that I cannot know if someone is gone unless people tell me. The only movement to company "Last Patrol" pages was one of our younger post-Vietnam brothers. If you have something to share don't hesitate to send me an email, and if we lose a brother please notify me so that Marine can be added to our Last Patrol and remembered. I will continue to publish Battalion Runner Newsletters but they will most likely be much more abbreviated than many of them have been the last 5 years.**

## **2/9 Network Issues**

As I posted a while ago on the website, the forums are gone. I have been trying to figure out a way to get another medium of communication established to replace them but no luck so far. I will continue to work that issue. New Member Registrations have also been replaced from an automated submittal after filling in blank fields to the requirement that any new member has to send me an email with the necessary information. The automated format was becoming increasingly bogged down with spam submittals. It was increasing almost weekly and got to the point where I was spending time every single day cleaning files. Our internet service provider (ISP), has told me they do not have a spam check type of automated submittal – one that would ferret out garbage. That is a little unusual for a website ISP but the website is dated from 2005 and it would be a great cost to change anything now. Even the "Contact Us" page is now primarily spam messages, although not nearly in the numbers that the new registration page was until I killed it. I'm leaving that alone for now since that is the one place where someone can communicate with me with an automated message. Please continue to use it for address, email, phone number, etc., changes and any requests or concerns you have about anything involving 2/9. You can also email directly with our 2/9 email address: [twoninencoic@aol.com](mailto:twoninencoic@aol.com).

# REUNION 2019

## 8-12 NOVEMBER

**Marriott Residence Inn Rosslyn, in Arlington, VA  
1651 N. Oak St., Arlington, VA 22209**



**Our 27<sup>th</sup> reunion is coming up more rapidly than people might think. In less than three months we'll be there! Detailed information is below, but in a nutshell our rooms will be \$129 per night (plus tax), and parking will be a special rate of \$12 per night. We will have their conference room available 24 hours a day as our hospitality room where you will find the normal snacks, beer, non-alcoholic beverages and more. There is also a free continental breakfast every morning. There is NO CHARGE for the reunion! The only thing you need to pay for is your room, parking, and, if attending, our Marine Corps Birthday Dinner (more below).**

# 27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REUNION

HQMC reiterated to me via email from the Scheduler for the Commandant that the official USMC Wreath Laying Ceremony is still scheduled for 10:00 hours on 08 November.

Please keep in mind if you are attending that the 08 November date, if it happens, means if you want to attend you'll have to be in town by 1000 hours on the 8<sup>th</sup> or you'll miss the ceremony. The Residence Inn has been accepting reservations beginning the evening of 07 November as part of our contract with the special room rates. For those of us that have been there when done right it is a truly impressive memorial service with the Commandant and a special guest speaking, performances by both the Marine Corps Band and Drum and Bugle Corps, performance by the Silent Drill Team from 8<sup>th</sup> & I, and them passing in review. Let's hope that is what we get this year.

## ROOM REGISTRATION DETAILS

**Online Reservations:** The Residence Inn has developed a unique web page for our members to obtain room registrations at our special rate of \$129.00 per night (plus 13% tax). Click on, or copy and paste, the following link to find that page:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1555697392418&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

**Phone Reservations:** If you want to reserve your room by phone call the Residence Inn: 1-800-331-3131 and tell them you want the group rate for the 2/9 Marine D.C. Reunion. That number usually works, but if you have trouble try calling the hotel directly at 1-703-812-8400. Please do not call that number first – only if you have difficulty with the 1-800 number.

No matter how you get your room reservation make sure you get a confirmation number and keep it! That's the only way to be certain your room is available.

If you are driving to the reunion be careful if you have a very large pickup truck. The parking garage is under the hotel and there is a height limit. Most trucks can make it but some monster pickups could have a problem and there is NO alternative parking area. Parking is at a special rate of \$12 per night (it's in our contract), so make sure you do not get overcharged for parking.

Our group contract makes rooms available at the above rates from the evenings of 07 through 11 November, with check-out on 12 November. Give them the dates you will be arriving and departing. Room reservations MUST be completed by 19 October, at which time the hotel will release any rooms not taken in our contract for public reservations. If you make your reservation after 19 October you may well have to pay the going rate for the room, currently over \$200 per night. **GET YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY.**

Here are current, but flexible, agenda items with dates:

1. Attend the official Wreath Laying Ceremony on 08 November.

2. 2/9 Marine Corps Birthday Dinner at the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel in Arlington. **Please read the very important information about the dinner below!**
3. Travel to The Wall to visit our brothers immediately following the Birthday Dinner.
4. We have no official item for the Veteran's Day Ceremonies at The Wall but members can attend as they see fit.
5. If interest is great enough and the weather cooperates we are considering a run down to the National Museum of the Marine Corps on 09 November. Among the great things to be seen there are the 2/9 Memorial and Red Hill Memorial plaques. If we do this we'll use the transportation vans we have for other events and private vehicles to make the run. The 9<sup>th</sup> is on Saturday so traffic should not be an issue coming or going.

Free transportation will be provided back and forth to all the events listed above.

## **2/9 Reunion Marine Corps Birthday Dinner**

**Marriott Key Bridge Hotel  
1800 Hours, 10 November 2019**

Simply put, the response to attend our annual Marine Corps Birthday Dinner at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington has been very disappointing. In past years I'd have at least 100 dinners paid by this time of year. So far this summer I have received payment for only 26 dinners. We're chipping in \$15 a person for the dinner so the entire cost for attendance is \$20 per dinner. We have over 60 rooms booked for the reunion at the Residence Inn, and while that number is down also it still indicates we should have decent attendance at the Birthday Dinner. We cannot afford to foot a \$5,000 plus bill if people are not going to attend (donations are also down). I have another month or so before I must decide on another option so PLEASE get me a dinner check if you are planning on going. Send \$20 per dinner to me at 21 Moseley Street, Billerica, MA 01821. Remember the check must be made out in my name and **dinners must be paid for in advance of the reunion.**

One thing I have to make clear. **Attending our Birthday Dinner is NOT contingent upon attending the reunion.** While the dinner has always been a highlight of our reunion ANY 2/9 member is invited to attend the dinner. This year we have another exceptional keynote speaker. Lieutenant General Brian Beaudreault, currently the Commanding General of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune will be speaking. General Beaudreault was the Company Commander of Golf 2/9 during the Somalia operation in 1992-93 and is a fierce advocate for 2/9. He was also Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations at HQMC under General Neller. If you are a 2/9 Marine living within

driving distance of Arlington this would be an excellent opportunity to hear what is happening in today's Marine Corps from one who knows! This is also something I would sincerely hope would draw the attention of our post-Vietnam members.

#### Details for the Dinner

1. Cocktail hour commencing at 1800 hours.
2. Dinner served around 1900 hours.
3. Short 2/9 Network business meeting.
4. Keynote Speaker.
5. Hot Damn Ceremony (for new attendees wait until you experience this!)
6. Marine Corps Birthday Ceremony, including reading of Commandant's messages and youngest and oldest Marine cake cutting.
7. Raffle and 50/50 Raffle winners.
8. Break up approximately 2200-2230 hours and return to the Marriott Residence Inn where we will gather together for our trip to see our brothers on The Wall.



1<sup>st</sup> time – 2018

# BAD EMAIL ADDRESSES

When I sent out Battalion Runner 19-1 in May I had a very large number of rejected emails. In fact, the numbers were the highest, by far, since I began the email distribution listings way back in the spring of 2014. Nearly 60 emails rejected, nearly all of them yahoo.com email accounts. I tried sending those Marines emails from three different accounts with their own distribution listing in case some were being rejected as SPAM. They all rejected three times. I've compiled a list of the names of the Marines involved from the Network databases and listed them below. If you see your name or recognize the name of a fellow Marine please notify me at [twoninencoic@aol.com](mailto:twoninencoic@aol.com). I'll take appropriate action to update or correct any information.

Robert Barcroft, Harry Bernard, Bob Bossart,

Larry Branson, Terry Brown, Joseph Castro,

Alfred "Skip" Causey, Phil Chaney, Jerry Clairday,

Gary Cobb, Enrique Cordero, Jesse De Los Santos.

Louis Deshane, Kenneth Eckert, Joseph Escobedo, Roger French,

Al Gagnon, Omer Gagnon, Ron "Doc" Harris, G. G. Haworth,

Donna Hendrix, Robert Howe, William Jackson, Robert Kennison,

Harry Knickerbocker, Frank LeMay, Michael Lennon,

Ken Lewis, Andrew "Lou" Lucero, Robert Mann, Freddie Marks,

Chet Mattern, Brian Mayer, Robert McDowell, Jeff Mesmer,

Carl Odom, Randy "Oz" Osborne, William Overby,

Modock Owen, Bernard "Doc" Paquette, Joe Poole,

Tom Porter, Scott Power, Timothy Prest, Jack Provow,

Michael Rose, William "Tony" Rouse, Rick Rusch, Russ Sawyer,

Paul "Papi" St. Pierre, David "Doc" Stachovak, Robert Stockton,

James Taylor, Carl Tracy, Robert White, Jimbo Yancey

# **NOTE TO POST-VIETNAM 2/9 MARINES**

I have been trying for 5 years now to get you guys to attend our reunion. Please consider it. You will find a willing reception and I'm sure you guys can tell war stories and bullshit just as well as any Vietnam Vet!!! With General Beaudreault as our keynote speaker this year one of your own is the highlight of the reunion/dinner. Please consider attending. We need your support if the 2/9 Network is to survive in coming years!

## **DONATIONS**

1. Not much change here except to note that donations are down this year. This organization exists solely on the support of our members through donations. We're in fair shape due to past generosity of members. What we can and cannot do is a simple mathematical issue. If we have money we can do things. If we don't we can't. If you want to help out send me a donation. Every dollar helps. Make checks payable to Danny Schuster, and send them to me at 21 Moseley Street, Billerica, MA 01821.
2. As always, if you have questions or issues please do not hesitate to contact me at [twoninencoic@aol.com](mailto:twoninencoic@aol.com) or call me at 978-667-4762.

**SEMPER FIDELIS**

**DANNY SCHUSTER**

**2/9 NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR AND REUNION COORDINATOR**

978-667-4762, [twoninencoic@aol.com](mailto:twoninencoic@aol.com) or [ditson35@verizon.net](mailto:ditson35@verizon.net)