



2nd Battalion, 9th Marines

The Battalion Runner

2020 – Number 2– September 2020



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Colonel William A. Coti

The 2/9 Network lost another of our stalwart members in July this year when Colonel Bill Coti had a massive stroke and did not survive, passing on 24 July. Bill was one of the Chosin Frozen and an Echo Company CO in 1965-66. The photo below is of Colonel Coti, the oldest Marine, and our youngest Marine at the 2013 Reunion. Bill served as the “oldest” Marine at several of our reunions. On 12 January 2021, Bill will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. If any members wish to attend and pay their respects to a great Marine the chapel ceremonies begin at 1130 and burial ceremony at 1230 on 12 January.



Bill performs the cake cutting with our youngest Marine on the Marine Corps Birthday at our last reunion held at the Virginian Suites hotel several years ago.

REUNION 2020 8-12 NOVEMBER

THE FIRST REUNION, NOVEMBER 10TH, 1993



28th Annual Reunion, 07-12 November 2020

I'll get straight to the point. Our scheduled reunion is on. I have received notes from some highly respected members of our 2/9 Network urging us to cancel and a couple of others have emailed me indicating they will not be coming to this year's reunion. Their point is obviously the danger presented by this Covid-19 virus. I share some concerns and Henry Ostaszewski, my partner in crime in running the reunions, and I have had a couple of lengthy conversations about this. We have both had conversations with other 2/9 Network members from Vietnam who are just as convinced we should carry on with the reunion. Their concern is they do not know if they will make it to the next reunion. They want to see the men they served with, they want to visit their friends on The Wall, they want the reunion to go forward. Henry and I agreed to watch things very closely between now and the beginning of October. At that time we'll make a final decision, but right now are planning on having the reunion.

Attendance is something folks will have to make an individual choice about.

I've communicated a few times with our reunion hotel, the Marriott Residence Inn Rosslyn, in Arlington. Current restrictions in place in the hotel include a requirement to wear a mask while moving anywhere around the hotel – in corridors, on elevators, in the main lobby, etc. The conference room that we use as a hospitality room is open for us but we'll have to limit the number of people in there at one time. Breakfast is part of our contract and they are

serving breakfast in a grab-n-go style where you pick up your breakfast and go back to your room. The Marine Corps still has the Birthday Wreath Laying Ceremony on the calendar for 10 November at 1000 hours. Today the National Museum of the Marine Corps announced the museum will be reopening effective 08 September with certain restrictions. The Key Bridge Marriott Hotel has hosted our Marine Corps Birthday Dinner on 10 November for several years now. They are still closed while undergoing major renovations. It does not appear likely we will be having our dinner there this year. It is also going to be very difficult to find someplace else that would be able to host our dinner. Henry and I decided that even if we have to go back to the “old days” of reunions when we had pizza parties at the Virginian Suites Hotel we are going to do everything possible to have a Birthday Dinner of some type. See the note below my message to our post-Vietnam members about Birthday Dinner possibilities and how we’ll get information out to everyone.

As of yesterday, 01 September, we had 33 rooms booked at the Residence Inn. Normally at this time we are pushing 70 or more reservations. We’ll have a smaller crowd. Below is the link to our own reservation web page at the Residence Inn if you want to book a room. Remember, you can cancel your room up to just a few days before the actual reunion.

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1591639176537&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

If the link does NOT work please go to our website at www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org and click on the same link on our “Reunion 2020” page.

Questions or comments about our decision are welcomed and I’ll try to respond to any notes I receive.

NOTE TO POST-VIETNAM 2/9 MARINES

We have not forgotten you men. With the crap going on with this virus my comments in the reunion section up above this were directed primarily at Vietnam members. That’s because we are aging rapidly and too many of us are experiencing health issues even beyond those brought on by things like Agent Orange and PTSD. Those Marines are the reason we have decided to go forward and conduct the reunion. You are very much invited to attend. Without a formal Birthday Dinner whatever we do on the evening of the 10th will likely occur at the Residence Inn, our reunion hotel. If you live in the D.C. area consider dropping in to see us. Book a room and stay for a while if you’re outside the area and would like to attend. See the following note about what info will be available between now and the reunion concerning the Birthday on the 10th.

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

As I stated above it does not appear likely that we’ll be able to conduct a formal Marine Corps Birthday Dinner this year. Henry and I have just discussed what we can do on the evening of the 10th to recognize all those who have gone before us in some manner.

Whatever we do will probably be at the Residence Inn. As we move along toward November we’ll try our best to finalize some plan for dinner and will get the word out to you in either another Battalion Runner or with an email to the entire 2/9 Network membership. Whatever we do the 2/9 Network will cover the cost so there will be no charge to people attending. This might make a serious dent in our financial situation

but this type of “emergency” is exactly why I have been trying to build a slush fund from donations.

DONATIONS

Please help if you can. Every dollar helps. Make checks payable to Danny Schuster, and send them to me at 21 Moseley Street, Billerica, MA 01821. Checks must be made out to me because we cannot afford the time or money to incorporate as an official non-profit. The paperwork alone for that action would be a nightmare. I know times are especially tough now but if you can help out it would be more than appreciated.

ATTENTION VIETNAM VETS!

I still have free Vietnam logo decals available. All you need to do is send me a self-addressed stamped envelope and I'll ship one to you. This is thanks to retired Master Sergeant Ken Rooker and his son-in-law Brian McGuire. Brian is a graphic artist by profession and created the decals at no charge.



Apologies for the abbreviated newsletter and I'll try to do better with the next one.

As always, if you have questions or issues please do not hesitate to contact me at twoninencoic@aol.com or call me at 978-667-4762.

SEMPER FIDELIS

DANNY SCHUSTER

2/9 NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR AND REUNION COORDINATOR

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