



## 2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION, 9<sup>TH</sup> MARINES

# THE BATTALION RUNNER

Number 22-1 – April 2022



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## Thoughts on Our 2/9 Network

As contemplating what to include in this newsletter I had some thoughts I want to share with everyone. This will be my 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion Runner since assuming the responsibility as the Network Administrator and Reunion Coordinator in April 2014. As just about all of you know this newsletter is now totally electronic since printing and postal costs would be astronomical. Because of email provider limitations it takes two days for me to get it to the 1,200+ Network members who are on our email distribution listings. I post copies on the website and on three different 2/9 Facebook groups in existence today. There is not much more, if anything, I can do to reach as many of our 2/9 brothers, family and friends as possible. There are now more than 2,700 members on the website. Unfortunately far too many of those 2,700 men are now in the Last Patrol. There are literally thousands of other former 2/9 Marines out there from the Vietnam, Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan conflicts and more that are 2/9 Marines from peacetime. New memberships have dwindled to almost nothing in the past year. If you know anyone from 2/9 who has not joined the Network please pass the word about our website. There is a great deal of information there about our history, lineage, information to contact those you may have served with, photos, links to important veterans and other websites, and more. It costs no more than the time to send me an email to get membership, and it is free. I automatically add all new members to the distribution listings for the newsletter.

I have been communicating more with our Internet Provider (IP), about the website. I continue to remain a little unhappy with the service we are getting but am a little more confident it will improve. New people, at least those I communicate with, are now involved with our 2/9 Network website and have indicated a willingness to work with me more to improve their service. We lost the forums, automated new member registration, and contact us automated service because of massive spam submittals. I had to eliminate them and hope

Colony One, our IP, will be able to provide better security so they can be reinstated and make it possible to restore those three things in some form. I am also hoping to be able to get better access to background data for several of the web pages on our Network.

I'm getting very few items from our members and others looking for information, contact with 2/9 members, etc. Our "Updates" section has, as a result, not been very busy. I'll continue to post anything I consider of interest to our membership as I receive requests, queries, and short stories, so please do not hesitate to send something to me. My full contact information is at the bottom of the newsletter.

## **30<sup>th</sup> Reunion, November 2022, Arlington, VA**

**When? 08-12 November 2022**

**Where? Marriott Residence Inn Rosslyn, 1651 North Oak St.,  
Arlington, VA 22209**



**How Much Does It Cost?** You must pay to get there and back, for your room, and for hotel parking if you have a vehicle. Tentative plans are for everything else to be at no charge for anyone attending. That would include the 2/9 Jam Session on the afternoon of 09 November, with the Gallatin Canyon Band, our Birthday Dinner on the evening of 10 November, transportation back and forth to events for those needing it, free snacks, soft drinks, bottled water and beer every

day in our hospitality room at the hotel, and free finger food and beverages at the jam session. I say this is tentative because some of this “free” stuff depends on Network member donations. See more on that later in the newsletter.

## Room Reservations

Rooms are \$135/night plus tax (about 14% at the time of this newsletter). Hotel parking is normally \$25/night but we get a 50% discount so expect to pay \$12.50/night. Rate includes a daily breakfast buffet. The Residence Inn has created a unique reservation page for us. Use this direct link (may not work in the Word document but should if you open the PDF version of the newsletter):

[Book your group rate for 2/9 Marine Reunion](#)

If the above link does not work copy and paste the below link into your browser:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1647279408711&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

You may also call directly for a reservation at 1-800-331-3131. Make sure you tell them you are reserving your room under the “2/9 Reunion Room Block” and get a confirmation number from them.

If anyone experiences difficulties getting a room email me immediately ([twoninencoic@aol.com](mailto:twoninencoic@aol.com)).

## Tentative Agenda

**08 November:** No set events. Hospitality room open all day and well into the night.



**09 November:** 2/9 Jam Session with the Gallatin Canyon Band 1400-1700 (2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for you civilians). Free beverages and light (finger) food provided. Traditional reunion Hot Damn ceremony, sponsored by Barbara “Mama Barb” Stander, honoring those who have gone before.



**10 November:**

**10:00 HQMC Official Wreath Laying Ceremony.** Held at the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial), in Arlington, VA. The memorial is about a 15 minute walk from our hotel. Transportation provided for those that need it. Participants include the CMC, Marine Band, Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, 8<sup>th</sup> and I passing in review, and keynote speaker.

**18:00 (6:00 p.m.): Marine Corps Birthday Dinner.** We are still in the process of completing the contract for our Birthday dinner. Specifics will be included in our next newsletter. Includes dinner, keynote speaker (still working on this), Commandant’s Birthday message, youngest and oldest Marine ceremony, raffle and 50/50 raffle results, and more.



**Approximately 23:00 (11:00 p.m.): Vietnam Vets visit The Wall to say hello to our brothers. Any family, friends or post-Vietnam members encouraged and invited to attend. Transportation provided as required. We leave from our reunion hotel, the Residence Inn, after returning there upon completion of our Birthday Dinner.**

**11 November:** Veteran's Day. We have no official agenda item. This is a free day for everyone. Obviously great sightseeing in the D.C. area and the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, VA, (Quantico), is about a 45 minute drive. There is a great Veteran's Day Ceremony held every year at The Wall at 1300 hours (1:00 pm.).

**12 November:** Say our goodbyes until next year!

**Our hospitality room will be open every day and night, with free beer, soft drinks, bottled water and finger food and snacks.**

**I need to stress here that you do NOT have to attend the entire reunion and all the things on the agenda. Anyone within range of Arlington is welcome to attend**

the jam session on the 9<sup>th</sup> or the dinner on the 10<sup>th</sup>. When the next Battalion Runner comes out I'll have details on the Birthday Dinner. One thing I know is that we will have to give our host close to exact numbers of how many people will be at the dinner. I'll let you know about that in that edition of the newsletter. Again, we hope to be able to hold the dinner with no charge, but that is not a guarantee since it is based on donations (see below).

## **From the Mailbox**

Not a whole lot of activity for this edition of the newsletter, but some very interesting items, especially one concerning Hotel Company in January, 1968.

**I received an email from Del Candelaria, who was with 3/4 in Vietnam in 1968. He is seeking help locating some Hotel men who were there in January 1968.**

Please read on for details. I've reached out to a couple of Hotel men I know from that period but they could not help with this request.

I am a Vietnam Marine Veteran, a member of 3rd battalion, 4th Marines. **I am looking for information from Marines of Hotel 2/9 that were in a January 24, 1968 battle outside of Camp Carroll.** I am hoping that you can assist me. I took a gamble to see if you all had an association, and in fact, it appears you had a recent reunion in November 2021. For the past 5 years, I have been trying to find Marines from Hotel 2/9. On Jan 24, 1968, a convoy was ambushed as it neared Camp Carroll. My company (Mike) was ordered to come to its rescue, and we landed at Camp Carroll at 1745 hours, and proceeded down the mountain, in the dark, attempting to reach the convoy. Most of us (we were 18-19 years old and never questioned and followed orders) had no idea that 3 heroic reinforcement units came to the rescue of that convoy before we even set our boots at Camp Carroll. Approximately 5 years ago, I found out that the first reinforcement unit were Army Dusters, two tanks (3rd Tank Bn) and "14 Marines from Hotel 2/9". **I know 3 Marines from Hotel 2/9 gave the ultimate sacrifice ( PFC Ayala, PFC Holland, and CPL Neal).** Unfortunately, our unit lost 23 Marines in the next 3 days. I am attempting to turn a diary I kept in Vietnam into a book. I have spoken to a member of the Army Dusters and to a Silver Star recipient of the Tank unit and they both differ on where the 14 Hotel Marines were when they went down from Camp Carroll. One states all 14 Marines were on the lead tank, while the other states each tank had 2 Marines, and each Duster had 4 Marines. I would greatly appreciate it if you can find one of the Hotel Marines that was there that day. Also, I am interested in what happened that day before our unit got there.

One person, I was hoping to get ahold of, that was in Vietnam 67-68, was an Ernest Sedillo, who happens to be from my hometown, Albuquerque, NM. He

had the longest email address that I have ever seen--but unfortunately, it must have been old as it came back undeliverable. I also wrote to a Lt. Loyal Todd, an Otis Turner, and a James Miller but no response yet. For years, at each of our 3/4 Reunions, the guys have been asking me to turn my diary into a book. But working as a physician allowed little time to spend on research, and hiking the Appalachian Trail over 6 years required training--well, you can guess the missed opportunities. I would appreciate if you could still place my request in the Battalion Runner Newsletter because my goal is to finish my book in June. A reply in April would not be too late. I mainly want to know how many Hotel Marines were on the first tank on Jan 24, 1968. It would be nice, of course, to hear someone also describe what they went through.

Danny, I apologize for this long email. I know this is a difficult request. If you want to confirm who I am, you can google my full name (Delfino Candelaria) and read a front page article called "They Were Heroes" that talks about my experience in Vietnam, and also that in 2020, I completed the 2,193-mile Appalachian Trail in honor of the 461 Marines that were killed in my unit. (You can also google "Appalachian Trail-Candelaria").

I sincerely thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide.

Take care, Del Candelaria, Jr.  
Semper Fi  
(Home phone 623-440-5987)  
(Cell phone 602-403-6175)  
(email: [dcandel823@msn.com](mailto:dcandel823@msn.com))

**I received the following note shortly before last Christmas from Bill Murphy, a 2/9 Vietnam Veteran.**

Brother: Though I haven't attended any 2/9 reunions I've enjoyed and appreciated reading your many posts and newsletters. Thank you for doing that on behalf of those of us who still care though we aren't real active. Over the decades I have been an active member of the Patriot Guard Riders, American Legion, and Vietnam Veterans of America, though I suppose mostly a 'background' participation. It's good that we have leaders like you. I've avoided mentioning a fact about a book about Vietnam that I wrote and was published early in 2021 because it might cross the line of commercialization, but I've recently written a book that includes my time with 2/9 in 1968 / 1969 (Operation Dewey Canyon, etc.) It's titled "Not For God and Country". No disrespect meant for either God or Country - but the fact is, we were there in the end for each other, for our brother grunts. It can be reviewed on Amazon (lots of very positive reviews and a 4.5-star rating) and many other online sites, or my website - [www.williammurphyauthor.com](http://www.williammurphyauthor.com)

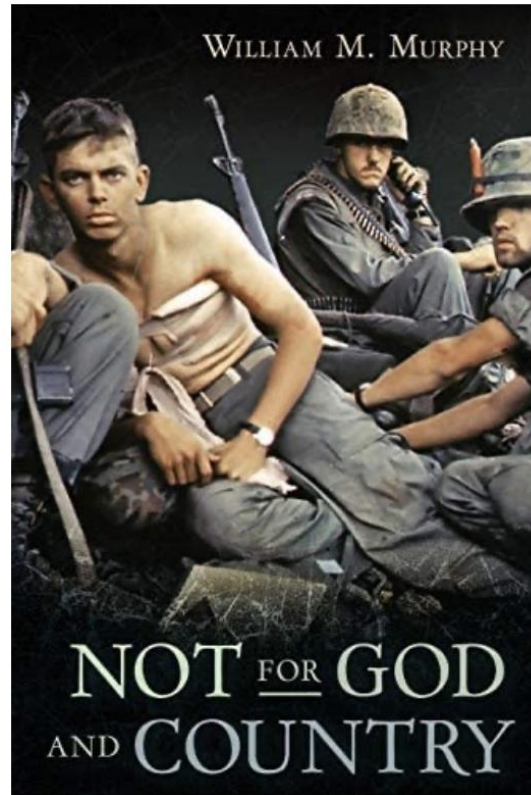


It received the third place Bronze Star award from the national Military Writers Society of America competition two months ago. I tried hard to tell the whole story of the war, from its earliest start at the Potsdam Conference during WW2 through basically today. It's written for and about Grunts - and all who answered their Nation's call during that difficult period. I thought I'd inform you of the book FYI.

Best Wishes and Merry Christmas to you and yours.

Bill Murphy

[billmurphyg29@gmail.com](mailto:billmurphyg29@gmail.com)



Received the following from Clark Ridgaway.

My uncle, **George David Brandon** was in **Echo Co.** 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, I believe in 67. I was just looking for anyone who might have known him. If anyone remembers him I can be reached at this email: [vol58fan@icloud.com](mailto:vol58fan@icloud.com).

## Donations

As with every one of these newsletters I again have to beg for donations. I don't like doing it but it is the only way this network has survived ever since Red Hill started it two or three decades ago. Donations are our ONLY source of income and if we don't get them I cannot do very much for the membership, especially regarding our reunions and the website. Anything anyone can spare would be much appreciated. Thanks go out to those who have donated since our last newsletter. I'd like to list your names but have been down south since January and all my records are at home up north. I'll be sure to acknowledge your contributions in the next newsletter. **Checks can be sent, made out to me, Danny Schuster, 21 Moseley Street, Billerica, MA 01821.** I ask that you wait until the 1<sup>st</sup> of May before sending me anything in the mail since forwarding of mail from my northern home address to here in Alabama is not very efficient. Mail forwarding will stop for us around 26 April.

## Conclusion

As I wrap this up once again I feel a need to discuss our younger, post-Vietnam Marines and their involvement in our 2/9 Network. I know some, maybe most, of you may be tired of hearing this but I am going to keep trying. There are, literally, thousands of post-Vietnam 2/9 Marines out there, with fewer than 400 having joined the Network. Since the war in Vietnam ended officially in 1975 2/9 has been deactivated, reactivated, and deactivated again on 01 April 2015. During that time frame 2/9 has been involved in relative peacetime activity, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan. As the guy who has been running the show since 2014 it has been awfully painful to see what the ravages of time have done to our Vietnam Veteran membership. We are losing more and more men at a more rapid pace. Sadly, that pace will just be picking up in coming years. We, together, have built a network for the Battalion that few can rival. Our reunions have been among the best you'll find anywhere among military outfits. I have always felt that the key to that success has been our ability to get things done without having to charge a price for much of anything or overdoing activities. Donations received from members are a huge part of our success story. There hasn't been a Commandant since 2000 who doesn't KNOW that 2/9 is going to be there for the Wreath Laying Ceremony. Reunion companies have been after me for years to let them run our reunions. Lately I've had to cut off one of the largest of them since they were harassing the crap out of me to let them run our reunions. I've had members who have attended other organizational reunions tell me they cannot compare to ours. One is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division reunions. I'm told ours is larger than theirs! The point I'm trying to make is with the increasing loss of our Vietnam brothers if we want this Network to persist and

survive into the future you younger Marines need to step up and start getting more involved. It makes little to no difference if you are a combat vet from Iraq or Afghanistan, served in Somalia, or were a member of 2/9 during peacetime. The day is coming, and for some probably already has, when you want to see the men you served with. Reunions are the best way to do that. I've had communications recently with some of our current most senior members. They share my concern about the future of the Network and realize it may well not survive without our post-Vietnam member's involvement. I've had suggestions we form committees to seek you out, to reach out to SNCOs and/or Officers to help us reach more of you, and more. I have unfortunately turned them down. I'm 75 years old now, run the website, reunion and another event for an outstanding charitable organization for military families called the Folds of Honor Foundation. I simply have a combination of not enough time and a desire to slow down a bit and enjoy the time I have left with less stress in it. I will continue my work for the 2/9 Network as long as I can, and I will continue to pursue you guys as much as I can through Battalion Runners, group emails I send, three different 2/9 Facebook groups of which I am a member, and on the website. However, it is really up to you to decide if you want to be more a part of this Network. I urge you to seriously consider it. I know some already have your smaller reunions and that is great, but I think if you attended one of our more comprehensive get-togethers you'll be surprised how much we all have in common. Think about it, and if you have any ideas or comments I'm all ears to hear what you have to say.

As always, if you have questions or issues please do not hesitate to contact me.

**SEMPER FIDELIS**

**DANNY SCHUSTER**

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

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