



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marines **THE BATTALION RUNNER**

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EDITION**

Number 22-4 – December 2022



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## Opening Remarks

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all  
our 2/9 Marines, Families and Friends**

**Danny**

**Never Forget!**



**As Christmas 2022 and New Year 2023 approach I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your amazing support. Without that support**

the 2/9 Network would not be able to sustain operations, including running our website and reunions.

This will be a very brief newsletter. I wanted to get this out to wish everyone happy holidays and report on this year's recently completed reunion and our initial plans for next year's 30th anniversary reunion. The mailbox has been very quiet and only one item to report there.

Our most recent reunion, held 08-12 November in Arlington, VA, was attended by nearly 100 people. This despite the fact our Vietnam Veteran numbers are, very sadly, falling more and more rapidly as we all age. I continue to urge our younger Marines to consider attending our reunions, and those Vietnam Vets who keep saying "I'd like to attend but can't make it this year", you might want to reconsider. If you are serious about wanting to attend a reunion just do it. I'm getting too many darned notifications after each Battalion Runner Newsletter goes out from a wife, son, daughter or friends telling me their spouse or friend has passed and always intended to go to a reunion. Time is NOT on your side if you are a Vietnam Marine. As for our younger 2/9 Marines, my personal belief is, if not already happening, the day will come when you will wish to reunite with the Marines you served with. It took most of us Vietnam guys two to three decades to realize how important it was to us to once again share time with those with whom we served. We had another outstanding success this year at our Jam Session with the Gallatin Canyon Band on 09 November. Band leader Ben Hernandez has vowed to return for this every year to honor the memory of his Dad, Dan Hernandez, a 2/9 Vietnam Vet who passed this year. I must add that bearing the responsibility for our hospitality room each night is becoming more difficult each passing year. VERY late evenings take a toll on old men! 🍷 Try 0400 celebrating the life of our dear friend, Wayne Lanning, on The Birthday (or the morning after). Wayne would have loved it!!!



Photos from this year's reunion should be available shortly. Once I receive them they will be posted on our 2/9 Network website ([www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org](http://www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org)), in the "Photo Links...." section. Here are a couple I do have:



**Dave Garner, John Kasperian and Danny with our new 2/9 banner.**



**Barney Barnum, 2/9 Medal of Honor recipient, addresses Marines from 2/9 at the completion of the Marine Corps Birthday Wreath Laying ceremony on 10 November.**

# 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion

## 08-12 November 2023

It is hard to believe that it will have been 30 years next November when our 2/9 Network Founder, Red Hill, was finally convinced by men he had sought out and found since the mid-1980s to go to Arlington, VA, and conduct the first 2/9 Network Reunion. Check out the group photo below from the 1993 reunion. 29 people, and our original 2/9 banner included. The banner was later modified to include all 2/9 Marines. That small group ultimately resulted in today's 2/9 Network, with more than 2,700 members and more than 1,200 actively receiving our newsletters and other electronic communications.



WAR MEMORIAL  
NOVEMBER 10, 1993

Row 1  
Doc. Woody Woodruff  
Dave Bigler  
Rafael C. Rosetta  
Marty Coenen  
Ken Elliott  
Patrick A. Peana  
Prest M. McClaine  
Ed Coenen  
Olla C. Sprain  
Bill Anzures  
Ed Rugan  
Kathy Upchurch  
Frank Zemann

Row 2  
Don Truesdale  
Michael "Mike" Neely  
Barry Yeakle  
Keith Johnson  
Mike DaPao  
Tom Hiron-Flag  
Coo Ebbinger  
Rich Coen  
John Kamparian  
David Garner  
Bill Carter  
Ray Niess  
Bruce Dean  
Roger Spurr  
Richard (Rud) Hill  
Henry P. Ocasinski

Our plans for next year are still in their infancy, but there are some things already fairly certain.

1. We will be back at the Marriott Residence Inn Rosslyn, in Arlington, VA, from 08-12 November. I could never adequately explain to everyone how well we have been received and treated by the entire staff at the Residence Inn for 7 or 8 years now.
2. We will once again have our Jam Session. It will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual 2/9 Network Jam Session featuring the Gallatin Canyon Band on the afternoon of 09 November. More details as time progresses.
3. We will absolutely have our Marine Corps Birthday Dinner on 10 November. While I don't think you could legitimately call this a Birthday Ball, we have a great time, with great speakers, youngest and oldest Marines, and a lot more.
4. We WILL have something special this year to honor and celebrate 30 years of 2/9 reunions. What that will be is something to be determined but I intend to float some ideas with my partners in crime running this outfit. More on that later.
5. Don't just think about it, BE THERE!

I hope to have many more details for the next Battalion Runner Newsletter. I expect to have that out to everyone early next spring.

## FROM THE MAILBOX

By coincidence, just before mailing this out to our distribution listings, I received the following request from J. W. Southwick, looking for contacts who may have known his father, **Lloyd W. Southwick, who was with 2/9 in Okinawa in 1965**. There is some confusion on my part about whether or not his father actually served with 2/9 in Vietnam since it appears he was discharged prior to the battalion's landing in Da Nang. Despite that hopefully someone will have known Lloyd and will contact J.W. at the contact info provided below.

Danny

*I'm trying to track down any information I can related to my father's service in the USMC and on his DD214 his last duty assignment and major command is listed as 2/9, 3rd Marine Division (Rein)FMF. After doing some searching on Google, I came across the 2nd Battalion – 9th Marines website. Am I in the right location? My father's name was Lloyd W. Southwick. He passed away in 2016. I believe his discharge from active duty was 18 June '65.*

*I'd really love to find any connections who may have served with my father in Vietnam. A lot of his military items were, as I recall, lost in transit back to the states (or something to that affect). Any information you may have, or suggestions to locating resources, would be greatly appreciated.*

J.W. Southwick  
Photographer  
Southwick Images, LLC  
o: (678) 871-0147  
m: (704) 996-9030  
jw@southwickimages.com

## Donations

This is normally when I beg everyone for money for our 2/9 Network. Not this time. I would like to take an opportunity here to promote something most of you may already support – the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. There is not a lot of time left to participate but I urge anyone who is considering a donation to our Network to instead go out and buy a couple of toys for kids who might not have any at Christmas. It shouldn't be hard to find a local Toys for Tots drop off point for them. You can give money to us if you want but there are too many kids out there we can make happy. Please consider that.



**Donations to date since Battalion Runner 22-3 in October 2022:**

- Jim Riordan**
- Jim and Beverly Murphy**
- John Klemm**
- Tom and Jane Swiston**
- John Frostrom**
- Dave Bigler**
- Bill Ackley**
- Larry Oelrich**
- Glen Sigler**
- Dennis Cowan**
- Karen Lanning**
- Dave Garner**

**Dave and Ann Wray  
Doc Rich LoDolce  
Ken Rooker  
Jim Midkiff  
Roger and Barbara Fogus  
Javier "Taco" Salas**

**This list may not include many people who donated by cash or check at the reunion this year.**

**I'm sure I missed someone and apologize in advance!**

## **Conclusion**

**Issues continue to persist with our Website host. During the reunion I was notified many of our "Men on the Wall" have disappeared from the website. 176 names to be exact. They ARE there in the background programs but do not appear on the website. The good news is I have finally started to get help from the website host and they are working on that issue. I hope it will be corrected in the very near future. I also want to thank quite a few people for things they have done for the Network this year. I could try to name them but will not. My problem is I am really worried that if I start naming people I'll forget someone and hurt feelings. You know who you are and I think you know how much I appreciate all you do, have done, and continue to do for us. Please check the phone number and email address you have in order to contact me. Below is current information. If you have another email address or phone number please update them. Both the old ones still work but I have been trying to get all 2/9 business and correspondence in separate folders from the old ones that are used for everything both my wife and I do outside 2/9.**

**Again everyone, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays.**

**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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