



2nd Battalion, 9th Marines

THE BATTALION RUNNER

30th Anniversary Reunion!!

Number 23-1 – May 2023



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www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org

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Opening Remarks

This Battalion Runner will, unfortunately, be short and sweet. I'm well behind on getting things done this year after incurring a serious problem in January. I was laid up for a while after open heart surgery with 5 bypasses and to be honest have had a difficult time getting myself motivated to do much of anything. I do have reunion information and am working on our Birthday dinner on November 10th. I'll provide that info in the next newsletter or in a separate email. We hope to again be able to provide that dinner at no expense to those wishing to attend.

Reunion Information

30th Anniversary Reunion

November 2023, Arlington, VA

When? 08-12 November 2023

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

It was thirty years ago this November that Red Hill rallied his fellow Vietnam Veterans to Arlington, VA, for the first 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment annual reunion. Since that time 2/9 has been deactivated, reactivated and again deactivated. In the interim, besides peacetime Marines, 2/9 members have served in Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan. At last year's reunion we unveiled our newest 2/9 banner, pictured below, always prevalent at the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima), on The Birthday, for the official USMC Wreath Laying Ceremonies. For our Vietnam Veterans, fear not. The original banner will still be standing proudly in our Hospitality Room at the hotel throughout the reunion. It has been at every reunion and will continue there every year. I urge all 2/9 Marines, from Vietnam, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and peacetime, to consider attending this year. It is special. That is all that can be said. Our few surviving members from WWII, including my good friend Larry Kirby, have not and will not be forgotten, but let us remember they are near or at the century mark! They may not be able to make it!



L-R: Dave Garner, John Kasparian, Danny Schuster



First 2/9 Network Reunion held November 1993, with original banner held by Red Hill

Special Notes

1. Our contract with the Marriott Residence has been finalized. Room rates will be \$139/night, plus taxes. The hotel has set up an exclusive internet reservation page for us at [Book Your Group/Corporate Rate | Marriott International](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1680024458050&key=GRP&app=resvlink). If clicking on that link does not work type this link into your internet browser to reach the page: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1680024458050&key=GRP&app=resvlink> You can book rooms a day or two earlier or later if you want to plan a D.C. area vacation around the reunion dates, and our rates still apply.

Note: The links should work directly from here in the PDF version of the newsletter.

2. Room reservation cutoff date is Friday, 13 October. If you do not make a room reservation by that date you may be forced to accept normal room rates at the hotel, and they are MUCH higher than our negotiated rates of \$139/night. Parking is normally \$25/night but our contract gets us half off, so the rate for parking will be \$12.50 for reunion folks.

3. Our annual Birthday dinner is still in the works but will be on 10 November with an expected cocktail hour beginning not later than 1800 hours.

Details

These details will be published on our website on the 2023 Reunion page that can be accessed from our Home Page at www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org

Synopsis of Reunion Agenda

08 November:

No set events. Hospitality room open with snacks and beverages.

09 November:

2/9 Jam Session, 1400-1700 at the hotel with the Gallatin Canyon Band. Light snacks and beverages included.

10 November:

USMC Wreath Laying Ceremony. Iwo Jima Memorial. 1000 hours. Transportation provided as needed.

USMC Birthday Dinner, 1800 hours to approximately 2200 hours. Venue to be determined. Transportation provided as needed.

11 November:

No set agenda, but Veteran's Day Ceremonies at "The Wall" around 1300 hours. National Museum of the Marine Corps is in Quantico about a 45 minute drive.

12 November: Say our goodbyes until next year.

Donations

I do not have a list of donors for this Battalion Runner since none have been received. Please consider helping out as our sole source of income is those donations and they help pay for the reunion and expenses to run our website.

Danny

Conclusion

We are losing our Vietnam Veteran brothers at an increasingly rapid pace. Please consider attending before it is too late. I learned earlier this year the value of having seen men I served with in Vietnam and becoming great friends with many other Marines, their families, and friends who have attended our reunions. For our younger Marine brothers, it is time. Please consider attendance if you can do it. If anyone is residing in the D.C. area and cannot afford to attend (everything is free except the rooms and travel expenses), or have other commitments that prevent them from attending the entire reunion, consider The Birthday Dinner on the 10th or just drop by our hotel any time to say hello. Free beer, soft drinks, water and snacks!!!

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

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DANNY SCHUSTER

2/9 NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR AND REUNION COORDINATOR

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