

The Battalion Runner

2014 – No. 2 – October 2014

2nd Battalion 9th Marine Network

“Hell in a Helmet”

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www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org

2014 REUNION APPROACHING IN WASHINGTON DC ALL 2/9 MARINE VETERANS, FAMILY & FRIENDS ARE WELCOME

Our 2014 Reunion is rapidly approaching! November 8-12, 2014. The site for the reunion is the **Marriott Residence Inn in Arlington, VA, 1651 N Oak St, Arlington, VA 22209 Phone:(703) 812-8400** Click here to visit their website to view photos of the hotel: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-information/travel/wasrr-residence-inn-arlington-rosslyn/>

You can reserve either a studio suite or a one bedroom suite for \$109. WE HAVE A ROOM

SHORTAGE! You may not be able to book at the 2/9 special rate if you do not already have your reservation! Please email me if you cannot get a room! There is an additional fee of \$10 per day for parking if you have a car. Parking is in the basement and is managed by a concession. When checking in park top side, check in and get the parking pass to take down to the parking spaces. Reservations can be made through October 18, 2014. Please reference the **2/9 Marine DC Reunion**. Our contact person at the hotel is Janelle. Reservations can be made now and canceled without penalty later. Reservations can be canceled through October 6, 2014.

The Marriott Residence Inn is half a block from Clarendon Blvd and a block and a half from Wilson Blvd where there are many restaurants, a Safeway and a drugstore. Our 20 rooms may well be booked by this date (September), but the hotel will probably honor any reservation request under our booking title as long as rooms are available.

This hotel is very pleasant and everyone will enjoy

staying here. It is a 10-15 minute walk to the Marine Corps (Iwo Jima) Memorial but we expect to have a shuttle. Everything else is within easy walking distance. We are also working on the possibility of having an “official” group photo this year. More on that at the reunion. **This year we will be having a Birthday Dinner at the Ruby Tuesday restaurant less than a block from the hotel. The manager there is shutting down the entire restaurant to provide for the Marine Corps! Ooh-Rah!!! After dinner we will return to the hotel for our cake cutting ceremony, raffle, traditional Hot Damn toast and more. The Reunion staff requests that**



dress for the dinner be smart casual (slacks and collared shirts). Please, no jeans or t-shirts. More formal wear is welcomed! A sample of dinner menu items is posted at the end of this Battalion Runner. We will be taking reservations on the 9th and 10th at the Reunion. We need to know the numbers BEFORE arriving at Ruby Tuesday's.



LAST PATROL

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Richards has passed away. Tom was born in Madison, Wisconsin on Apr. 4, 1947, and departed on Jun. 18, 2014. He resided in Virginia Beach, VA.



In 1967, Tom joined the Marine Corps and found his life's passion. After completing recruit training he was selected to attend scout sniper school and Vietnamese Language School at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey. He was then assigned to Company H, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines in the Republic of Vietnam where he earned a meritorious combat promotion to the rank of sergeant, the Navy Cross Medal for valor in combat, and the Purple Heart Medal for his wounds. He spearheaded nationwide efforts to discover incidents of Stolen Valor and prepared a "Friend of the Court" brief for submission to the Supreme Court in support of a finding that the Stolen Valor Act of 2005 was constitutional. Tom attended many of our reunions and will be missed by all.

William A. Gay passed away at his farm in West Virginia on 04 August 2014. His wife Liz notified me of his passing, ultimately from serious wounds suffered in Vietnam on 30 November 1967.

Terry W. Brown, a member of Headquarters Company, passed away 21 August 2014. He served in 2/9 from 84-87 and then in the Arkansas National Guard with whom he served in Desert Storm. August 12, 1960 - August 21, 2014

Semper Fidelis Tom, William and Terry

APOLOGIES

After taking over this site from Gabe Coronado in April of this year I had some serious learning issues to overcome in maintaining the 2/9 Network. I managed to stumble through most, but one major issue plagued me all summer. That was the updating and addition of new members to the Members List. I finally got a little smarter and in the last several days have processed every update and new member who has registered on the site since last April. If anyone does NOT see their name on the member list or does not see an update to their information please email me ASAP at ditson35@verizon.net. I am now in the process of granting access to the forums on the Network website for all new members. That is a tedious task and each of you will be notified via email that it has been completed. I will include the User Name and Password you provided in your registration request in case you have forgotten what you sent me. Our Member List is now more than 2,400 strong and growing! My apologies for all the delays and pledge to be more responsive in the future.

Danny

Donations

Thanks to all those listed below for your donations. I hope I have not forgotten anyone!

**Jim Tiner, Agnes Conradt (in memory of Ed), Joe Henebury,
Lamar "Snuffy" Mackson, Bob Mumper, Marvin Davis**

The list is not long. As I'm sure all of you know by now the Network is run by several members on a voluntary basis. No member of the 2/9 Network is charged for anything! Donations have been just large enough to pay the quarterly bill for the network host. Donations are also used in costs associated with our reunion. The Battalion Runner is no longer printed, but will be available on the Network and will be posted in both 2/9 Network Facebook Groups. Emailing of the Battalion Runner has also been discontinued. With our Member Listing now over 2,400 Marines the cost of such a huge email distribution would far outstrip the donations being received. If anyone wants a copy of the Battalion Runner emailed to them please contact me at ditson35@verizon.net and I will email them on an individual basis. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Make checks payable to Danny Schuster, and mail them to me at 21 Moseley Street, Billerica, MA 01821.

NOTES FROM THE MAILBOX

Please note I cannot verify the veracity of any of the notices below. They are emails sent to me by various people seeking information. While I believe all of them to be legitimate be careful before you jump in with both feet on any of them.

Received a note from Matt Martinez. Matt is the son of Sgt. E. R. "Speedy" Martinez who did two tours between 1968 and 1969. He is attempting to find out more about his father and would appreciate any information. Matt can be reached via email at mattmartinez46@gmail.com.

Received a similar note from Craig Parker about his father, Wayne Parker, who was in Vietnam from September 1966-October 1967. Wayne's nickname was "Pops" or "Grandpa". Craig can be emailed at craigp01@yahoo.com.

The following note came from David Higgins of Columbus, OH. If anyone is interested they can contact David at david.r.higgins@yahoo.com. *Sir, I've been contracted with Osprey Publishing (London) to write a book that, in part, focuses on 2/9 Marines in Operation Kingfisher (the earlier part into the DMZ between 28 and 30 July 1967. As about 10% is to include excerpts from those who participated I was hoping to ask a few questions about any experiences to include in the book eg integration among infantry, armor, engineers; supply; training, etc. I would of course provide proper credit. If you have any questions please ask. Thank you, Dave Higgins Columbus, Ohio*

The following inquiry came from Anthony Norris of the Veterans Administration: *I am trying to assist a Vietnam Veteran complete his packet for a Silver Star, which he earned during Vietnam. He was with Fox company. I am hoping to make contact with 1st LT A. Pierce, 1st LT R. E. Hensel, Maj C. H. Johnson, and LT COL F. S. Knight. If you can assist with this matter it would much appreciated. thank you.* His email is anthony.norris2@va.gov. The name of the veteran was NOT included.

Here's an email I got after speaking to him for quite a while and from someone I think several members know well – Jay Jamison: *Hi, It was a great feeling to hear and talk to someone from our old RVN unit. I looked at the photos and I know a lot of the guys. I have forgotten their names, but I recognized a number of them from my platoon at Khe Sanh. They are a little older, but their facial features are recognizable. I have a number of photos from hill 861, 881N/S at the beginning in 66 & 67. There are a number of guys on the list that were in my platoon also. It would be great to see them. I will be planning to come to the reunion next year. I have already committed to the Khe Sanh Veterans in San Diego, Nov 7-11. Thanks again for your info and help. Semper Fi, Jay.*

The current Battalion Logistics Officer, Captain Richard Johnson, has extended an invitation to any 2/9 Marines who would like to attend the Battalion Deactivation Ceremonies currently planned for mid-April 2015. I will post more information in future Battalion Runners and on the website as dates are finalized for anyone interested. Captain Johnson is also actively engaged in researching more 2/9 history, including the original activation in World War I and updates to our Commanding Officer listing on the Network website.

Marvin Davis, H&HS, wants to know if anyone knows or recognizes the men in the photos below. He'd also like to make contact with anyone who served in Flames or H&HS Company. Marvin can be reached at marvin0347@att.net.



I received the following email with links from a Canadian with information about Echo Company from the September 1968 time frame. There is a link to a CBC video and some of you may see some familiar faces (if the links don't work directly copy and paste them into an internet search engine like Google):

My name is Byron Moore. I am the unofficial historian for C-1-4 Vietnam 1967-1969. My father-in-law, Harold Wilson, served with C-1-4 in 1968-1969.

I was researching some Canadian Vietnam info, and I found this.

This story aired October 2, 1968 on Canadian TV. The film was shot probably late September 1968. Of the 3 Canadians identified in this film, one, Richard Dextrase was later KIA on April 23, 1969 and received the Silver Star posthumously. In fact, his father was General Jacques Dextraze, aka JDEX, Chief of the Defence Staff for Canada, 1973-77.

<http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/13133/RICHARD-P-DEXTRAZE>

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=21337270>

<http://projects.militarytimes.com/citations-medals-awards/recipient.php?recipientid=40060>

Dextrase was a member of E-2-9 so I'm assuming that it is E-2-9 and or H&S-2-9 (81 mortars) in all the footage (but it may be others as well).

I see helicopters from HMM-262 and HMM-161 in here (is that VCB in the early days...LZ Stud?) and an OV-1 birddog from 220th "Catkillers" calling in airstrikes...

If the 2-9 guys already know about this film, I apologize for the repeat. I thought they might like seeing this..they may even recognize some faces!!!.

Here is a link to the film:

<http://www.cbc.ca/archives/categories/war-conflict/vietnam-war/canadas-secret-war-vietnam/profile-of-unit-containing-three-canadians.html>

thank you..

Here are all the new members of the Network added since the previous Battalion Runner was issued last spring:

Volkening	Vance
Freudig	Richard
Sanders	Robert
Albert	Ronald
Cummings	Don
Krohn	David L.
Frost	Tom
McKenzie	Michael
Mitchell	Hugh "Mitch"
Ramsey	Raymond L.
Roberts	John
Moore	Harold J.
Scott	Christopher
Wattenmaker	David
Sconyers	Paul
Edmonds	Wayman Kelly "Kelly"
Eastridge	Stephen
Archambault	George "Arch"
McDown	Barry (Cpl Mack)
Stamper	Robert J.
Champagne	Spencer
McCarter Jr.	O. Lee (Cpl)
Jackson	William N. "Nick"
Stockton	Daniel "Moe"
Armstrong	John "Scout"
Berger	Steven "Steve"
Beckwith	Robert "Beck"
White	Jesse O.
Smith	William
Locke	Norman "Norm"
MacCartee	Thomas Douglas (Lt)
Pearson	William "Bill"
Gagnon	Omer "Omes"

Gipson	Bruce A. "BG"
Gonzales	Johnny "Gonzo"
Lamb	Kent E.
Lear	Dorie "Lear"
Gipson	Terry L.
Christensen	Scott
Brungardt	Richard (Rick)
Wallace	Dennis (Sr.Squid)
Jamison	Jay
Ryan	Russell (Russ)
Miller	Gary
Anderson	John W. (Andy)
Childs	Bruce Douglas
Matlock	Keith

RUBY TUESDAY MENU FOR BIRTHDAY DINNER

Price range is \$17.00 or less plus 18% gratuity

SELECT DINNER MENU

• LARGE PARTIES & GROUPS •

All menu items are served with a beverage (coffee, tea, or soft drink), a salad, and made-from-scratch garlic cheese biscuits.

Triple Prime Burger*

Made from fresh, 100% USDA Prime beef. Handcrafted from the finest ingredients and served with fresh leaf lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, red onions, and Ruby's mayonnaise. Served with fries.

Louisiana Fried Shrimp

A generous portion of crisp, golden-brown shrimp with a bit of Cajun spice in the breading. Served with your choice of two sides.

Spaghetti Squash Marinara

Red pepper marinara tossed with roasted spaghetti squash and tender zucchini.

Chicken & Broccoli Pasta

Seasoned all-natural chicken and fresh broccoli served over penne pasta in Parmesan cream sauce.

Chicken Tender Dinner

Golden-fried chicken tenders with honey mustard dressing. Served with fries.

Herb-Crusted Tilapia

Tender, mild tilapia crusted with panko garlic bread crumbs and topped with lemon-butter sauce. Served with your choice of two sides.

Petite Sirloin*

A premium cut with big flavor. Served with your choice of two sides.

Classic Barbecue Baby-Back Ribs

Our half-rack slow-cooked for hours then covered with our tangy barbecue sauce. Served with your choice of two sides.