



The Battalion Runner

2015 – No. 1 – March 2015

2nd Battalion, 9th Marines



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www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org

23rd ANNUAL REUNION IN ARLINGTON, VA.

8-12 November 2015

50th ANNIVERSARY OF 2/9'S DEPLOYMENT TO VIETNAM!

ALL 2/9 MARINE VETERANS, FAMILY & FRIENDS ARE WELCOME

A special invitation is sent to our 2/9 brothers who served post-Vietnam. There are now hundreds of you in our member listings and this special reunion would be a great time to get together with your old friends, meet a bunch of old Marines with no hair and drinking too much beer, and see who can tell the biggest lies!!!!

This year we are observing the 50th anniversary of 2/9's deployment to Vietnam in 1965. We hope to make this the best one yet. We have more than tripled the number of rooms set aside over last year for you to make reservations but even that number may be too small if we have the turnout we expect. Make your reservations as early as possible and make sure you have a confirmation number from the hotel.

Our 2015 reunion is locked in with a new hotel contract. November 8-12, 2015. The site for the reunion is the **Marriott Residence Inn in Arlington, VA, 1651 N Oak St, Arlington, VA 22209** **Phone: 703-812-8400 or 800-331-3131.** 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 \$115 plus 13% state and local taxes.



We have 65 rooms reserved for our membership. There are a limited number of 1 and 2 bedroom suites available at this price. 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 02, 2014.

Directions for on-line Bookings for Residence Inn Arlington at Rosslyn.

1. Visit the hotels website: www.rosslynvahotel.com.
2. Look for the section titled "Check rates and availability".
3. Enter your arrival date and departure date.

4. Under Special Rates and Awards, enter your group code:
TNNTNNA - Studio Suite
TNNTNNC - One Bedroom Suite
5. Follow prompts until you receive a reservation confirmation number

Reservations using Toll-Free numbers for Residence Inn Arlington at Rosslyn

1. Dial 1-800-831-3131.
2. Give the agent the Hotel name, "Residence Inn Arlington/Rosslyn".
3. Give the arrival and departure dates.
4. Give the group code: TNN.

IN BOTH CASES, MAKE SURE YOU GET A CONFIRMATION NUMBER AND WRITE IT DOWN!!!

Our contact person at the hotel is Jan'nelle. Reservations can be made now and canceled without penalty later.

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 65 rooms may well be booked quickly, 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. Location is still to be determined. Ruby Tuesday was great last year but we are seeking a place where we can all dine together and hold our post-dinner events in the same place. More on that as it becomes available. The Reunion staff requests that dress for the dinner be smart casual (slacks and collared shirts). More formal wear is welcomed! We expect to be taking reservations on the 9th and 10th at the Reunion.**

Status of 2/9 Network Website

I have continued to make changes and updates to our website. We now have two new web pages that I hope have helped improve the website. There is a "Recent Items" page that I update often. This page contains requests and other information received from members. It allows anyone accessing the Network to see what is going on without having to wait for a new Battalion Runner. I will be inserting all the information from that page in the Battalion Runner as it is issued. Each time that happens I will start the "Recent Items" page again and drop the information that went in the previous Battalion Runner. Previous Battalion Runners (back to spring 2014), are also now available for viewing as linked PDF files on the website.

We now have a series of email lists to distribute important information (Battalion Runner, Reunion Information, etc.), to nearly 1,000 members of the 2/9 Network. Unfortunately there are more than 1,000 members who have no email address or had an invalid email address I had to delete during testing of the email listings. Let's hope this is a big step in us providing all of you with better communication. If anyone sees this note and has NOT received such an email please feel free to email me. I will promptly include your valid email address in our database and on one of the lists.

There is also a new photo page that provides links to many of our photos on Photobucket. There are a couple of reasons for the new page. One is storage space. The Network website charges are partially based on storage space, and our photos were taking up huge amounts of space. I have moved some to the new page already and plan to move more. I've also added a large number of new photos. The other reason is the advantage of linking the photos to Photobucket. I can insert all the comments for the photos provided by members when they were submitted. In the current environment on the Network Photo page none of that information is provided.

I have begun to periodically list new members who have joined the Network since the last update. That list can be found on the Home Page at the bottom of the page. It lists name, company, and dates served.

I have begun to grant access to the forums on the website to all new members as they register with the site. While we have over 2,400 members registered there are only 410 forum members. I'm hoping as this process goes on more and more of our Marines, friends and family will be better able to communicate by using those forums. If anyone reading this does NOT have forum access and wants it please email me at ditson35@verizon.net and let me know. Include a requested User Name and Password in your email and I'll set you up. User names must be at least five characters and passwords at least six.

As always, if anyone has any concerns, questions, or information they want to share contact me at the above email address.

Semper Fidelis, Danny



LAST PATROL

BERNIE BICKELS

We lost Bernie Bickels late in January 2015. Bernie was evidently walking his two black labs near the South Platte River in Casper, WY. The best the sheriff's department can tell is at least one of his dogs fell through the ice. Bernie appears to have gone in after him and died in the rescue attempt.

RAYMOND TERHARR JR.

Retired Gunny Sergeant Raymond Terhaar, Jr., passed away in Jacksonville, NC, at 76. "Sgt T" passed away on 20 January 2015 at Onslow Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville. He was with the 3rd Platoon of Fox Company in 1968.

RUSSELL (DOC JAKE) JACOBSON

Hospital Corpsman Russell (Doc Jake) Jacobson passed away on 9 January from lymphoma brought on by exposure to Agent Orange. As a personal note Doc Jake was with us on Hill 861 on 16 March 1967 and suffered severe leg injuries. He endured more than 50 operations on his leg during his lifetime.

CLYDE BARNEY

Corporal Clyde Barney was lost in 2007 from pancreatic cancer. Clyde served with 2/9 in 1965-66. This info was provided by Cleve Broussard.

CALVIN L. CURTIS

Jay Roger notified via email that we lost Calvin and he is now with us in spirit only.

PETER ANDERSON

Peter's wife Tricia notified me that her husband Peter passed away on 1 April 2014 from cancer caused by Agent Orange exposure.

Semper Fi Marines and Rest in Peace!

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. While I believe all of them to be legitimate be careful before you jump in with both feet on any of them.

UPDATES 18 MARCH 2015

DANIEL J. HOFFMAN provided the following via email:

I am active in the Koh Tang/MAYAGUEZ Veteran's Organization. If I can assist you with contacts or names from our group please let me know. Thank you for your hard work and Semper Fi. Dan Hoffman 803-422-6842

TRICIA ANDERSON, whose husband Peter joined the Last Patrol in April 2014, emailed the following and is offering to help anyone whose spouse is suffering from Agent Orange involved illness:

Can you please keep me on your mailing list even though Peter Anderson passed away last year on April 1, 2014, (Agent Orange caused my husband's cancer)? I am a dedicated Marine wife who supports your efforts and I am here for any spouse who is going through any disease associated with Agent Orange and his/her service in Vietnam. I know and have a great deal of information on the subject and would like to be of help to my husband's fellow Marines. Semper Fi, Tricia Anderson. Tricia can be reached at 808-216-2374 or via email: ppanderson@hawaii.rr.com

UPDATE 03 MARCH 2015

Posted by Bill Taylor on the 2/9 Facebook Page:

REMINDER FOX 2/9

Reunion May 28,29,30 of 2015 In Flagstaff, Arizona At Little AMERICA...

Make your Reservations now! No money needed until you check in!

Plans are to take a train Ride to the Grand Canyon, and another day to Sedona, AZ.

800-352-4386 - is the Number to reserve your room. Make sure to tell them FOX 2/9 for special rates. Last year at PARRIS ISLAND was a blast

LITTLE AMERICA

800-352-4386

All of 2/9 are invited

It's my personal hope that Fox Marines that attend this reunion also consider attending are combined reunion in Arlington, VA, in November, where we will be observing the 50th Anniversary of 2/9s deployment to Vietnam. Danny

UPDATE 26 FEBRUARY 2015

Received the below note from Bruce Baker seeking members of 2/9 who had served with 1st Marine Brigade in 1966-67:

I was with Mike 3/3/3, but a lot of the guys I served with in Hawaii before Nam went to 2/9. We (Hawaiian Marines) are looking for anyone who was in First Marine Brigade in 1966 -67. Thanks and semper Fi. Bruce can be reached by phone at 334-705-0173 or email address bandtbaker@sbcglobal.net

UPDATE 12 FEBRUARY 2015

Retired LtCol Don Bonsper has recently published the first of two books about his time in Vietnam, 1967-1968. Don served as the 1st Platoon Leader of E, 2/9 from June - Oct of 1967, which is the time covered in his first book. The second book will cover his time as an advisor with the Marine Advisory Unit in Saigon until his return home in June 1968. Vietnam Memoirs: Part 1, My Experiences as a Marine Platoon Leader takes the reader on the day by day routine of working and living at the platoon level. It is not a glorified view of war but rather an honest, simple telling of the realities of combat in a small unit. If you read the book, Don asks that you write a review. The book is available at Amazon as a paperback at

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1507616066>

and as a Kindle e-book at

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/ebook/boot38hqo>

Don resides in Cachagua, CA, and can be contacted for more information at dbonsper@outlook.com

UPDATE 26 JANUARY 2015

Received the following from Army 2Lt Konner Wallace regarding his 2nd generation cousin - LCpl Larry Wessinger, Golf, KIA 24 February 1969:

Hello, I was doing a little bit of research about my 2nd generation cousin, LCpl Larry Wessinger, who served in Golf Company and was unfortunately KIA on February 24, 1969 in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. Through my family I was told that he was killed by a sniper while observing over a dike within a rice patty. The round struck him just below his helmet, in the temple. He died several days later. Through searching on the internet I found this website and just wanted to see if there is any other information I can receive about my cousin. As sad as his death is, it has been a compelling reason to serve myself. If there are any photos, permissible documents, or even fellow marine first-hand accounts I would love to

see/hear about them. I appreciate any help. If any more information is needed on my end I will gladly provide. Last but not least thank you for your service. The LT can be reached via email at konnerwallace@yahoo.com.

Received the following information from Billy Skinner, regarding LCpl Billy Wayne Wilson, Hotel, KIA 2 February 1968:

I am looking for any information I can find on Marine LCPL Billy Wayne Wilson. His last unit was 1967-1968, 0331, 9th Marine Regiment/2nd Bn, 9th Marine Regiment (2/9), Hotel Company. His Company was walking security on RTE 9 about 15 miles south of the DMZ close to Camp Carroll and they were ambushed. Billy was hit and killed by other explosive device on 2/2/1968. I have talked with Kevin Gilmartin who was with Billy at basic training and with Jim McGunnigle, who was with the patrol when they were attacked. Jim told me he was not in the country long and knew very little really about Billy. I am attempting to gather information for the family. Thanks for your service and your time here. Have a great day. Billy Skinner can be reached by email at bs1cs@hotmail.com.

UPDATE 08 JANUARY 2015

Received the following information from Tim DeWolf via email:

His daughter is a medical officer at MCAS Beaufort and his son-in-law a Company Commander at PI. With a few months notice he can put together a tour and some special treatment at PI on one of the graduation dates. See Beaufort, be close to Hilton Head and if done in the spring the weather is great! He is willing to look into this for a group of not more than 50 but needs notice. The cost at PI would be only the cost of a buffet dinner at The Traditions (on-base restaurant overlooking the bay). That would be \$9-15.00.

Contact Tim via email at hellinahelmet@yahoo.com or call him at 440-463-5400.

UPDATE 13 DECEMBER 2014

Received the following note from Peter McElynn about his brother Tom, KIA with Hotel on 30 November 1967:

I write seeking your guidance on how I might be able to reach any Marines who served with my brother L/Cpl Thomas McElynn from 26May67 until he was KIA on 30Nov67 in Gia Binh.

I appreciate any help you might be able to provide.

Peter's email address is pmcelynn@comcast.net

ADDITIONAL VIETNAM SERVICE STAR

Received a note from Doug Goodin, our unofficial Battalion Historian. Doug, thanks to background information supplied by Omer Gagnon and Ruben Garcia, has received the following notification from HQMC:

Thanks to information regarding 2/9s deployment to Vietnamese waters in 1972, I was able to find the necessary documentation to support 2/9s participation in Combat Operations and deployment (Afloat) dates in 1972, during the Cease-Fire Campaign Period. After verifying the information, Ms. Amerman (HQMC), agreed, and is mailing an official letter adding an eleventh campaign star to 2/9s Vietnam Service Streamer (now w/ Two Silver Stars and One Bronze Star) representing service during eleven campaign periods.

A grateful note of thanks to Doug here for all the hard work he's put in over the years to supply all the information on the Battalion's Honors page on the 2/9 Network. Without his research and actions we wouldn't have much of an Honor's Page. He is currently working on 2/9s most recent history in Iraq and Afghanistan and an update for the website.

UPDATE 22 NOVEMBER 2014:

Added a new page to the website for photo links. The Photo Gallery will remain in place, but to save storage space on the site all future photos will be placed online and link established of the "Photo Link" page of the website. Danny

UPDATE 14 NOVEMBER 2014:

Received the following from a good friend in Popasmoke, Larry Zok, who just found out PFC Darnell Payne, the Guidon in his Recruit Platoon, was KIA in Vietnam in 1969. He would like to know if anyone knew PFC Payne. Please email me at ditson35@verizon.net with any response to this request.

Darnell M. Payne

Date of death: 23 April 1969

Home of record: Falls Church Virginia

Status: KIA

AWARDS AND CITATIONS: Silver Star

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Private First Class Darnell M. Payne (MCSN: 2474947), United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as an Assistant Machine Gunner with Company E, Second Battalion, Ninth Marines, THIRD Marine Division (Rein.), FMF, in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. On 23 April 1969, as Private First Class Payne's squad was deploying to reinforce another squad that was heavily engaged with a hostile unit, the Marines came under a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire from an enemy force occupying well-fortified bunkers and, in the initial moments of the fierce fire fight, the machine gunner was seriously wounded. Observing the incident, Private First Class Payne unhesitatingly raced across the fire-swept terrain to the man's side and, although severely injured himself, seized his companion's weapon and delivered devastating fire upon the hostile emplacements. Ignoring his painful wound, he continued his determined efforts to gain fire superiority until he succumbed to his injury. By his courage, aggressive fighting spirit and unwavering devotion to duty, Private First Class Payne inspired all who observed him and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

Company E, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division (Rein.), FMF

UPDATES 26 OCTOBER 2014:

Received the following from Emmett Smith on 25 October:

I am searching for George E. Gray, who received a Navy Cross while in Vietnam in 1968 as a member of Company E. I have an award from the Louisiana Military Hall of Fame to give him. The LA HOF gave it to my VFW because they were unable to locate him or family and I am not having much luck either. Hoping you can help. Emmett's email address is emmettsmith191@gmail.com. 30 OCTOBER: Done deal. Emmett found him.

Received the following email from Charles Allen regarding Brendan Turner:

In June 1968, both myself, and Brendan Turner enlisted right out of high school. We had been good buddies throughout junior high, and high school. Brendan enlisted in the Marines, and I enlisted in the Air Force. Right before I left for Vietnam in 1969, I was informed that Brendan had been KIA on June 5th 1969. He was assigned to: H Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. I am asking if anyone knew him, and served with him while he was in Nam. He was a Pfc. He was a short guy, about 5' 4" tall. If anyone has any information about his last days, I would greatly appreciate it. We both attended Uniondale High School, on Long Island in New York. I have been thinking of him for over 45 years. Thank you guys for your great service. I was a Forward Air Controller while their in Xuan Loc, and Bien Hoa. I was a flying crewchief on O-1A Birdog FAC aircraft. Thank you again. Charlie. Charlie's email address is elcamman50@yahoo.com

Received the following email from Shawn Ramirez about his Dad, Doc Acton:

Hey Rich! Remember me? My dad was Doc Acton. I just wanted to take a minute to thank you for all your help finding the guys that served with my dad when he was killed in July of 67. I get a Christmas card from Martin Carolina. Ya know for some reason every year I think this year will be easier but it never is. Thanks for doing what you do. Would love to talk to you about being reunited with a couple of the guys and them sharing there experiences with my Dad. 419-206-2577. Shawn's email address is shawnramirez52@gmail.com

Received the following email from George Gilles:

I was wondering if any Marines remember 2 Marines being burnt in April of 1968. Thomas Cole was one and I was the other. If anyone has any details of what happened, I sure would like to find out. I have no memory of that day other than waking up in a medic tent. I was with 81mm mortars from Nov. '67 to Nov. '68. Anyone who knows anything would be grateful if you could contact me. Thank You! SEMPER FI. George's email address is ggilles@new.rr.com

Donations

Simply put, I HATE asking people for money – BUT: 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. One person, who has asked to remain anonymous, is responsible for nearly half the donations I receive in the mail. Please consider a small donation. Any amount is not considered too small. The Battalion Runner is no longer printed, but will be available on the Network and will be posted on 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 printing and mailing the Battalion Runner or 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. Note: I cannot cash checks made out to 2/9 or the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines. If you want to include the battalion in your check please add : "c/o Danny Schuster" on the "Pay To The Order Of" line so I can cash the check.

NOTE: If you have 2/9 contacts that you think may not see the Battalion Runner on the website or the Facebook pages please do not hesitate to tell them where they can find it. Danny

NEW MEMBERS

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

Howell	Brian R. "Boogie Brian"	HQHS	75-76
Eifler	Allen (IFE, Big Al)	ECHO	81-84
Wagers	George "Puddin"	HQHS	75-76
Flores	Jesus M.	HOTEL	68-69
Gray	John "Gray Ghost"	HOTEL	65-66
Parker	Billy L.	FOX	65-66
Blaszka	Anthony R.	HOTEL	74-76

Simon	Michael H.	HOTEL	66-67
Sousa	Paul "Corporal Hook"	FOX	87-89
Dotzauer	Ron "Doc"	ECHO	69-70
Hardiesty	Matthew	FOX	08-11
Rodriguez	Lionel A. "Rod"	HOTEL	68-69
Long	Rostam	WPNS	86-89
Bruch	Kenneth	HOTEL	68-69
Watkins	James M. "Jim"	HQHS	65
Harris	Alfred	GOLF	66-67
Grimes	Bobby "Bob"	HQHS	65-68 (Active Duty)
Gallegos	Richard "Buz"	ECHO	74-75
Graves	Keith	HQHS	63-67
Franz	Mike	HOTEL	69
Carter	Richard	HQHS	67
Long	Kent "Miles"	WPNS	85-89
VanderMolen	Robert "Mo"	HQHS	74-76
Hicks	Tony "Hicks"	FOX	86-90
Duncan	Kenneth "Ken"	WPNS	66
Johnston	George	HOTEL	66-67