



# The Battalion Runner

2015 – No. 2 – June 2015

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marines



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## **SPECIAL NOTES**

**Ramon "Ray" Nieto** is being interred at Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday, 30 June. Services are at 1100 hours. Anyone wishing to attend the ceremonies should report to the Cemetery Admin Building not later than 1015-1030 hours.

If you are reading this Battalion Runner and you did NOT receive it from me via email there are only two possible reasons for that. I do not have a valid email address for you or you are not registered on the 2/9 Network website at [www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org](http://www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org). If you send me an email at [ditson35@verizon.net](mailto:ditson35@verizon.net) or, if not registered on the website, go there and click on the "Member Registration" button on the left side of the screen, fill out the information and submit it. I will get an email with your information and promptly register you and add you to our email distribution lists.

### **23rd ANNUAL REUNION IN ARLINGTON, VA. 8-12 November 2015**



**This photo is the best reason I can think of for attending, other than visiting our brothers on The Wall!!!**

## 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF 2/9'S DEPLOYMENT TO VIETNAM!

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

I would like to make it very clear in this issue that 2/9 Marines of ALL eras will be greeted with open arms at ANY reunion we hold for 2/9. There are literally thousands of Marines who have served with 2/9 since the Viet Nam war (and before), and as we age we need our younger brothers to begin taking an active role in carrying on the traditions established by Red Hill when he started looking for his buddies and created the 2/9 Network. Hopefully we'll see some of you this November in Alexandria!

Having said that, this year we are observing the 50<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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. It turns out our primary target for hosting our Birthday Dinner this year has closed. Henry Ostaszewski is working hard on finding us an appropriate spot. We should have final information on that in Battalion Runner 15-3, scheduled for release in September 2015.

## **Status of 2/9 Network Website**

As I have become more and more familiar with the workings of our website I have discovered a lengthy list of Registration requests dating back to 2007. Of more than 1,300 new membership requests for that time period through this month there were over 170 requests not processed over the years. I used the emails provided in those requests to ask those Marines if they were still interested in membership. As expected with so much old data, many of the email addresses were no longer valid. However, the emails I sent out did result in more than 70 new members of the 2/9 Network. We are now well over 2,500 strong. Tragically far too many of those 2,500 members are now in the Last Patrol, but we remain steadfast in maintaining an interesting and informative website.



Many of you have probably noticed several changes to the titles of pages on the Network, or the addition of new pages. I have added a page for the members of 2/9 Killed in Action in Iraq and Afghanistan. The "Contact Us" button is now called the "Contact us for Info and Updates". Hopefully that change will help avoid confusion among members seeking updates to their information and those new members seeking initial registration. The fields of data in the "Contact Us for Info and Updates" do NOT cover everything needed for initial registration.

A reunion notice is in the current issue of the VFW Magazine, will be in a future issue of the DAV Magazine, and is in the current issue of Leatherneck, where it will appear through November. I hope this draws in new Network members looking for those they served with and aids in increased reunion attendance. At least we are getting the word out there!!!

As always, if anyone has any suggestions, comments, complaints or other information involving the Network please do not hesitate to contact me at [ditson35@verizon.net](mailto:ditson35@verizon.net).

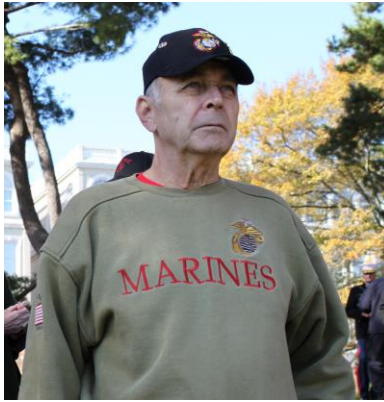
Semper Fi,  
Danny



## **LAST PATROL**

### **Ramon "Ray" Nieto**

It is my sad duty to report that a good friend has passed. Mary Nieto informed me that her husband Ray passed away early in the morning of the 10th of May. Ray died peacefully in his sleep and will be greatly missed. He was one of the original 2/9 Marine Network members and to my knowledge never missed a reunion in well over 20 years. The photo below is of Ray at the Birthday ceremonies at the Iwo Jima War Memorial last November on The Birthday.



### **Jesse Bowser**

I received the following sad news from Dave Bigler.

After trying to locate Jesse Bowser for a number of years I have learned that he passed away in 1997 after a battle with cancer due to Agent Orange. Jesse was a machine gunner with 3rd Platoon, Hotel Company, 69. His family would like to know any stories or see any pictures that anyone would like to share. Contact me and I'll make sure they get them [drbigler@comcast.net](mailto:drbigler@comcast.net)

### **Douglas P. Breland Jr.**

Doug Goodin noticed Doug's loss in the latest issue of Leatherneck Magazine and notified the Network just a couple of days ago.

Sgt. Douglas P. Breland Jr., 69, in Lehigh Acres, FL. Served from 1967 to 1970, and was with 2/9 in Vietnam 1968 - 1969.

### **Randy G. Conley**

From Ron Bowen: Received a message from Ann Conley asking me to pass along info of her husband Randy's passing on April 1, 2015. Anyone remembering Randy can reach her at [Ann\\_Conley@hotmail.com](mailto:Ann_Conley@hotmail.com).  
Semper Fi, Ron Bowen '68-'69.

### **PFC James Calvin Riles**

I received the following note from Robyn Stevenson about her cousin, PFC James Calvin Riles, KIA with Golf Company on 28 January 1968.

"I've just recently discovered that I had a cousin who served and died in Vietnam. James Calvin Riles. I've always respected and honored those who serve our country but was never told about my cousin. And now I wonder after all this time, why no one in my family said a word about him. He deserves to

be remembered even if I'm the only one in the family who does. If there is any info on him, besides what's on his DD-214. Thank you so much." If anyone knew PFC Riles and can provide any information about him or his tragic death Robyn can be reached at [kayla012@msn.com](mailto:kayla012@msn.com)

## **Semper Fi Marines and Rest in Peace!**

If anyone becomes aware of a passing of one of our 2/9 brothers please notify me at [diston35@verizon.net](mailto:diston35@verizon.net). I cannot give men the respect they deserve if I do not know they have passed and I'm sure others have gone to the other side without the Network having that knowledge.

### **NOTES FROM THE MAILBOX**

**There were very few notes received from the membership in the past three months, and all but one concerned the passing of those Marines listed in the Last Patrol above. I'll leave all of them on the website. If you want to see most recent updates go to the website and click on the "Recent Items" button on the left side of the home page.**

### **DONATIONS**

I am very happy to report that in the last few months there has been a relatively strong increase in donations received from members. We are now above water financially in maintenance for the Network Website and have a reserve for use in preparing for a great reunion. We are not, however, in a strong enough position to make major changes to the website or take steps to improve the reunion that are relatively expensive (primarily professional photography and a Birthday dinner where transportation is required).

To that end Henry O. and I have developed a "deal" for members who may be considering a contribution. If anyone donates an amount of \$100 or more between now and our November Reunion we will provide you with a free 2/9 Golf Shirt. This is a very nice shirt many of us have now that we wear on the Birthday at our reunions. The photo below shows the shirt and the stitching. The only change for each individual would be their name where mine appears and the sleeve would be changed to state "2/9 Patron" instead of "2/9 Reunion 2013". I can tell you this is an outstanding shirt. A short order form you will need to fill out is below the photo and you need to send that along with your donation. I have placed the Order Form on a separate page so you can print the page. As always, ANY amount is a most welcomed donation, but the \$100 minimum level to include the shirt is necessary to cover the costs of these shirts and shipping. Send any checks, made out to me, to 21 Moseley St., Billerica, MA 01821. I cannot cash checks made out to 2/9.





# Donation/T-Shirt Information Form

- Name to Appear on Shirt:

- \_\_\_\_\_

- Shipping Address:

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_



- Shirt Size (check one): S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_ XXXL \_\_\_ 4XL \_\_\_

- Note shirts cannot be provided for donations less than \$100.00.
- Wording cannot be changed on the shirts other than your name being added.
- Shipping will occur approximately 2-3 weeks after receipt of your order.

## **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to the following Marines for their generous donations:

Cliff "Doc" Appel Jr.  
Jim Tiner  
Earl Luce  
Ed Gorman  
Larry Noon  
David Wray  
Bob Driver  
Richard Centi  
William Ware  
Tom Fenerty  
Ron Taylor  
Myles Herring  
Robert Ramsey  
Ray Molina  
Mel Horowitz  
James Sadler  
Robert Mumper  
James Prothro  
Wayne "Willy" Willison  
Marvin Davis

I have great fear that I have forgotten someone. I hope not, but if I did please accept my apologies in advance. Keeping all the records straight is not easy for an old man like me!!!

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Here are all the new members of the Network added since the previous Battalion Runner was issued last fall (they are in the order received, not alphabetically. Sorry, but it took a great deal of work to get this list to where it is below):

Wood, Col. Walter "Walt"		Fox	68-69
Jackson, James "Jim"	Charlotte TN	HQHS	08-09
Hale, Clark	Noble OK	Echo	75-76
Torres, Oscar	Torance CA	Echo	67-68
Nelson, Fr. Martin L.	Beaumont TX	HQHS	85-88
Hendrix, Jason	Camp Lejeune NC	Fox	12-14
Rivera, Jean Paul	Jackson Heights NY	Echo	07-10

Whitten, John	North Las Vegas NV	Echo	65-66
Wilkins, Jeffrey L. "Wildman"	Zanesville OH	HQHS	78-79
Cantwell, John	Bloomington IN	Echo	68-69
Arnold, Dick "Buffalo"	Middleburg FL	Golf	70
May, J. "Joe or Bugs"	Elba AL	Fox	69
Perrine, Scott	Ashland KY	Wpns	78-81
Busby, Dave	Bland MO	Hotel	72-76
Secrest, Lee	Saint George UT	HQHS	90-91
Raue, Bill	Las Vegas NV	Echo	86-87
Cummins, Robert "Bob"	Branson West MO	HQHS	67-68
Sanders, Calvin L.	Robinson TX	HQHS	75-76
Lewis, Allan Desmond	Woodbridge VA	HQHS	65-67
Williams, Clarence D.	Salem SC	Golf	65
Alexander, Michael G.	Charlotte NC	Golf	67-68
Baker, Clark "Bigfoot"	Los Angeles CA	Echo	76-77
Horne, Justin "Judd"	Kings Mountain NC	Echo	67-69
Hogan, Michael F. "Mike"	Julietta ID	Hotel	67-68
Greer, Ronnie	Cincinnati OH	Hotel	UNK
Johns, Albert P. "Al"	Bristow OK	Fox	72-73
Provow, Jack A.	Coconut Creek FL	Fox	66-67
Rodriguez, Danny E. "Big Rig"	Brooklyn NY	Golf	09-13
Cole, Thom "Soul Doc"	Fort Gibson OK	HQHS	84-85
Stangle, Mark William	San Antonio TX	HQHS	68
Carver, Sgt.Maj. Darrell "D"	Holly Ridge NC	Btln	12-15
Hagerman, Noah	Atlanta GA	HQHS	07-11
Gorecki, Steven J.	Franklinville NY	Golf	83-87
Ceballos, Marcus Micaiah "Iceballs"	Orlando FL	Echo	07-11
Reeder, Ron "Doc"	Parker CO	Golf	78
Dale, Britt	Morgantown NC	HQHS	69-70
Alonzo, Juan	Raymore MO	Echo	77-78
Chavez, Eli T. "Stryker"	Highlands Ranch CO	HQHS	92-94
Gillette, Jamie	Davenport IA	Golf	85-91
Hall, James L. "Jim"	Agua Dulce CA	Fox	67-68
Killgo, Charles "Charlie"	Lufkin TX	Echo	81-85
Roberson, Woodie	Arcadia MI	Fox	64-65
Tyer, Danny	Sparkman AR	Echo	68-69
Olds, Mike	Hornell NY	HQHS	65-66
Altamirano, Alec	Modesto CA	Fox	08-10
Bulmer, Jeffrey Scott (Bone)	Boynton Beach FL	Golf	65-66
Fagan, Perry Andre	Piscataway NJ	HQHS	86-89
Packard, Robert "Bob"	Green Cove Springs FL	Fox	68
Cantrell, Henry C. "Longwolf"	Elkhorn KY	Golf	95-07
Hagadorn, Ron	Orangeburg SC	Hotel	69-70
Bennett, Levi E.	Lincoln NE	Golf	89-91

<b>Deaton, Daniel</b>	<b>San Marcos CA</b>	<b>HQHS</b>	<b>89-92</b>
<b>Barnes, William T. "Tim"</b>	<b>Cantonment FL</b>	<b>Fox</b>	<b>83-87</b>
<b>Read, Scott (Alan's Brother)</b>	<b>San Jose CA</b>	<b>Hotel</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>(Brother of Alan Read (KIA, H Co, 67))</b>			