



The Battalion Runner Special Reunion Issue

2015 – No. 3 – August 2015

2nd Battalion, 9th Marines



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www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org

SPECIAL NOTES

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. If you send me an email at 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



WAR MEMORIAL
NOVEMBER 10, 1993

Row 1

Doc Woody Woodruff
Dave Bigler
Rafael C. Renteria
Marty Corona
Ken Elliott
Patrick A. Pearce
Peter M. McClaine
Ed Gorman
Okla C. Spence
Bill Ambrose
Ed Rogers
Kathy Upchurch
Frank Zimmario

Row 2

Don Truesdale
Michael "Mike" Neely
Barry Yeakle
Keith Johnson
Mike DuPas
Tim Blinn-Flag
Gus Ebbinger
Rich Centi
John Kasparian
David Garner
Bill Corbett
Ray Nieto
Bruce Dean
Roger Spurr
Richard (Red) Hill
Henry P. Ostaszewski

2ND BATTALION 9TH MARINES - VIET NAM - MARINE CORPS WAR MEMORIAL NOVEMBER 10, 1993

CAPITOL PHOTO
WASHINGTON, DC 20018
95094 K6 © 1993

THE FIRST REUNION!!!

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

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

Richard "Red" Hill

As we approach the 23rd Annual 2/9 Reunion I want to thank Red Hill for making this all possible. As far as I am concerned Red owns this website and is the "Father" of all 2/9 Reunions. Red started this and I consider myself nothing more than a caretaker of his previous work. THANK YOU RED!!!! I HOPE WE SEE YOU AT THE REUNION!!!!

REUNION DINNER PLANS ARE FINALIZED

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS VERY IMPORTANT. PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS REQUESTED BELOW TO INSURE YOU ARE NOT BLOCKED OUT OF THE DINNER!

Our dinner will be held at the Marriott Key Bridge Hotel, 1401 Lee Highway, Arlington. We have just finalized a contract with them to host 140 people. We must give the hotel a final count of attendees no later than 72 hours prior to November 10th, the date of the dinner. THAT MEANS WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT DINNER RESERVATIONS AT THE REUNION!!! Thanks to several generous donations from members we have been able to partially subsidize the dinner. The entire cost must be paid 72 hours in advance, and we MUST pay for at least 140 people. The total cost for each person will be \$25.00, and it is inclusive of all service charges (tips), and taxes! Beverages purchased at the hotel bar will be the responsibility of the individual. We negotiated with several venues and this price is outstanding. The dinner will be a choice of two items and those items are still being finalized. We have the function hall reserved from 1800 – 2300 hours (6:00 – 11:00 p.m. for civilians). That means we will have a cocktail hour (or half hour), dinner, and perform all annual after dinner functions at the hotel. The cake cutting ceremony, guest speakers, raffle, Hot Damn tribute, etc., will all take place in the function room. Parking at the hotel is FREE! After dinner events are expected to begin approximately 2000 hours.

I am trying to get a reservation listing from the hotel. Once I get that I will send as many of the people on that list an email as I can. However, that will NOT cover everyone, including those staying at other places, those who live locally, those who have not provided me a current email address, and those who have no internet connectivity. This Battalion Runner will be sent to our email distribution lists, posted

on both 2/9 Facebook pages, and on the Network website at www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org. Hopefully that will get this information to almost all who will be attending. I MUST know who is going to the dinner, and how many in your party will be attending! For this to work you have to do the following. **SEND ME AN EMAIL GIVING ME A COUNT of how many are going to the dinner!** My email address is ditson35@verizon.net. Make the "Subject" line "Reunion Dinner" so I can sort through the emails quickly and keep a record of the responses. We are going to rely on your integrity to pay for the meal at the reunion. Credit cards will NOT work, so please be prepared to pay by cash or check. We will worry about the menu items when that is finalized and if necessary I will send another note to all of you.

REUNION SITE

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/> Our reservations at the hotel are virtually booked solid, with 100 rooms reserved! This is going to



make it very difficult for those who have been tardy in making reservations and want to come to the reunion. If you call for a reservation and cannot get one please contact me via email or phone and I will try to help out. However, at this point it will be difficult. The Residence Inn has already gone well beyond the normal number of rooms they authorize for group activities. There is a possibility that we can get an additional, smaller, block of rooms at the nearby Marriott Courtyard Hotel, but that is not a certainty. There is a fee for parking at the hotel we cannot avoid. The lot is operated by an independent vendor, so plan on spending between \$15-20 per day for parking if you are driving. 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.

On line bookings at the hotel have not worked for some time, so those instructions have been removed. If you are attempting to make a reservation please call the number cited below and follow those directions.

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.

IF YOU GET A RESERVATION MAKE SURE YOU GET A CONFIRMATION NUMBER AND WRITE IT DOWN!!!

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. It is a 10-15 minute walk to the Marine Corps (Iwo Jima) Memorial but we expect to have a shuttle. We will do everything possible to get you a decent room rate elsewhere if you cannot get into the Residence Inn, but you must let me know as described above! Everything else is within easy walking distance. We have the conference room at the hotel booked for the entire reunion, so gathering in small groups, telling war stories, lies and other fantasies is encouraged. The 2/9 Network will provide beer and snacks throughout the reunion.

Henry Ostaszewski is still working hard to organize a group photo this year. If we do have an official photographer the group photo will be taken at the Marine Corps War Memorial following the Wreath Laying ceremony the morning of the Birthday. More on that at the reunion.

Reunion notices have been in the latest VFW and DAV Magazines and several new members have joined as a result. The reunion will also continue to be announced in Leatherneck magazine through October. There are a fair number of men coming to this reunion for their first time. They have all voiced hopes that they will meet men they served with. It is my intention to publicly acknowledge them so "veteran" reunion attendees can help them out through what can be an emotional experience, as I'm sure they remember.

RAFFLE

As always we will be conducting a raffle at the reunion. We have some nice items to raffle off but are always in need of more items. The better the selection the more tickets we sell and the more money we have in the pot for the Network. Please consider a donated item. If you are attending the reunion just bring the item with you. If you are not attending you can still donate items by mailing them to me at the following address: 21 Moseley Street, Billerica, MA 01821. Nancy and I are driving down so can bring them to Arlington with us. In addition to the raffle we will have a 50/50 drawing that has always been very popular with our members at the reunion.

VOLUNTEERS

Simply put, we need help at the reunion. We need volunteers to man the table selling raffle tickets and 50/50 tickets. We also will have our usual array of 2/9 gear, like covers and shirts that we will be selling and we need help there also. We'll be moving all these items to the Marriott Key Bridge for the evening of the Birthday Dinner and will need help transporting the items. One of the other things we need to do is sort all the raffle items so we have a "proper" package for every winner. If you are going to the reunion and want to help out just approach either Henry O. or myself at the reunion and let us know.

BIRTHDAY WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT THE WAR MEMORIAL AND BIRTHDAY DINNER TRANSPORTATION

We will be making arrangements for transportation to and from the Iwo Jima War Memorial the morning of the Birthday for those who need it. We will also be shuttling people back and forth to the Marriott Key Bridge for those who need that. The War Memorial is about a 10-15 walk from the Residence Inn and the Marriott Key Bridge is farther. We'll get people back and forth one way or another. Remember that parking for the Birthday Dinner is free.

VISITING OUR BROTHERS ON THE WALL

As we do every year we will be traveling to The Wall to visit our brothers and lay a wreath in their memory. This visit will be shortly after completion of the Birthday Dinner activities. Transportation will be arranged so that anyone who wishes to join us will be able to do so. The Wall is a special place, but to many of us it is even more special later in the evening. The peace and quiet of the evening seems to make our visit more special.

DONATIONS

In the last Battalion Runner we made our members a special offer. Around 18 members have taken advantage of the offer to date. We will continue this offer until 19 October 2015 to donors who give at least \$100. Basically anyone who donates an amount of \$100 or more between now and that date will be eligible to receive 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.



Danny Schuster

Distinguished Member
2nd. Bn. 9th Marines
HELL IN A HELMET

US Reunion-2018

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.

It is my sincere hope that this year we will be experiencing our best reunion ever. We have done a great deal of work to make this happen. I want to personally thank Henry Ostaszewski and Debbie Crist for all the time and effort they have put in to get us to this point. None of this would have happened without their efforts! I am also sure there are things we can or could do better. If you have any ideas, complaints, recommendations or anything to say do not hesitate to email me at ditson35@verizon.net. I am happy to hear from people and will do what I can to address anything discussed.

Semper Fidelis,
Danny