



# The Battalion Runner

2016 – Number 3 – August 2016

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



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## 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](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.

## REUNION 2016

The site of the reunion is once again the **Marriott Residence Inn in Arlington, VA, 1651 North Oak St, Arlington, VA, 22209**. Visit their website to view photos of the hotel:

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-information/travel/wasrr-residence-inn-arlington-rosslyn/>

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. Everything else is within easy walking distance. You can start to confirm lodging accommodations using the directions below. Reservations must be made on or before Friday, October 14, 2016 in order to receive the group rate:

The hotel has a special page for our reservations. As of 29 August we had more than 70 rooms already booked. With a little more than 2 months until the reunion I strongly urge anyone planning on attending to get their room reservations done as quickly as possible. We have 100 rooms in our contract so there are now less than 30 available at the special rate. Last year we booked the entire hotel and some members had to stay elsewhere, so get it done!

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

1. Visit the hotels website: <http://cwp.marriott.com/wasrr/twonineremarines>
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 Rate \$120.00 or TNNTNNC = One Bedroom Suite Rate \$120.00
5. Follow prompts until you receive a reservation confirmation number

NOTE: If you have difficulty with the online reservation system use the instructions below.

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 group code TNN

Our reunions are, primarily, social gatherings. Our only agenda occurs on The Birthday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. On that date we attend the Marine Corps Wreath Laying Ceremonies at the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial), at 1000 hours. The memorial is a 10-15 minute walk from the hotel but we will provide transportation for those in need of it. The Commandant and noted guest speakers are involved and both the Marine Corps Band and Drum and Bugle Corps perform, not to mention a couple hundred Marines performing in perfect unison!!! If we have good weather we will have a group photo taken in front of the Iwo Jima Memorial. Normally the Commandant joins us for the photo and most years we also have 2/9 Medal of Honor Recipient Harvey Barnum join us for the photo. After the Wreath Laying Ceremony there is free time until around 1800 hours. Our Birthday Dinner cocktail hour begins at that time (see below). After the dinner festivities many of us head for The Wall to visit our brothers and lay a wreath in their memory. Transportation will also be provided for those who want to join us to see our brothers. Other than that attendees are pretty much on their own. We have the conference room at the Residence Inn booked for the entire time, 8-12 November, and snacks, water, soft drinks, and beer are provided free of charge by the 2/9 Network. These are the times when all of us get together to meet old and new friends, tell war stories, and lies!!! We will have some 2/9 gear (covers, shirts, etc.) available in the conference room and will be selling raffle tickets to support reunion costs. Raffle items will be on display as well. We have no official tours or anything of the like scheduled, but many Marines, their friends, and family, get

together and schedule their own sojourns to places like the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, visit Veteran's Ceremonies on Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, visit Arlington National Cemetery, or any of the 100s of other attractions in the DC area.

### **REUNION DINNER**

We have our final contract for the Birthday Dinner on November 10<sup>th</sup> with the Marriott Key Bridge Hotel. This is a complete chicken dinner. The Network has contracted for 175 meals at \$33 each. Your cost will be \$25 since we will be able to offset the price thanks to donations. Anyone that attended last year knows that this is a fantastic deal and beautiful venue. We will once again be in the Capital View Ballroom with a cocktail hour beginning at 1800. Transportation will be provided and our contract includes free parking in their garage for those who drive from the Residence Inn (about a five minute drive). We



will have a keynote speaker, as yet undetermined, the cake cutting ceremony with youngest and oldest Marines, conduct our raffle and celebrate the memory of our lost brothers with our unique "Hot Damn" toast.

## **REUNION DINNER RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS**

Last year the Network depended on people to pay for their meals upon arrival at the reunion. We had more than 220 people scheduled for the dinner but only 200 showed up. As a result the Network suffered a \$600 loss due to no-shows. We simply cannot afford that type of money as our entire existence is based on donations from Network members and money is scarce. Thus, we must ask for payment in advance this year. As described above, we will be offsetting \$8.00 of the \$33.00 cost for dinner so the price per dinner per person will be \$25.00. This price, by the way, includes the dinner/dessert, room rental, and all taxes and gratuities. There will also be a cash bar available all evening. ANYONE would be hard pressed to find a better deal in the entire metro DC area. Marriott Key Bridge has shown us outstanding support.

To insure your dinner reservations send a check as follows:

1. Make it out to Danny Schuster (my bank will NOT cash checks made out to 2/9)
2. Send it to: 21 Moseley Street, Billerica, MA 01821
3. \$25 for each dinner.
4. When I receive your payment I will promptly email or call you to verify that receipt.

As of the end of August we have more than 70 rooms reserved for the reunion that represents well over 100 people, but I have received payment for only 40 dinners. The Network is paying for 175 meals in advance so please act promptly if you are planning on attending the dinner. There is a very real possibility that we will NOT be able to accommodate anyone who doesn't have dinner reservations by the time the reunion begins on 8 November. Anyone who has already sent payment should have received an email receipt from me by now. If not, please email or call me.

**SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER!!!**



Reunion 2015 in the conference room.

**The following explains why we have reunions more than I ever could. Thanks to Bob Driver for sending this.**

## **The Marines Reunion**

Autumn leaves rustling, together at the appointed place, the old warriors come.

Pilgrims, drifting across the land they fought to preserve.  
Where they meet is not important anymore. They meet and that's enough for now.

Greetings echo across the lobby. Hands reach out and arms draw buddies close. Embraces, that  
as young men they were too uncomfortable to give, too shy to accept so lovingly.

But deep within these Indian Summer days, they have reached a greater understanding  
of life and love.

The shells holding their souls are weaker now, but hearts and minds grow vigorous, remembering.

On a table someone spreads old photographs, a test of recollection. And friendly laughter echoes  
at shocks of hair gone grey or white, or merely gone.

The rugged slender bodies lost forever. Yet they no longer need to prove their strength. Some are  
now sustained by one of "medicines miracles," and even in this fact they manage to find humor.

The women, all those who waited, all those who loved them, have watched the changes take place.  
Now, they observe and listen, and smile at each other, as glad to be together as the men.

Talk turns to war and battles and foreign lands. Stories are told and told again, reweaving  
the threadbare fabric of the past.

Mending one more time the banner of their youth. They hear the guns, the snarl of shrapnel tearing  
through the air, the chatter of the machine guns and the hissing of the grenade. They can feel  
again the agony and pain of wounds that are now stripes and gouges across their limbs.

They can feel again the comradeship that comes with sharing the last few drops  
of water in a canteen.

Dead comrades, hearing their names spoken, wanting to share in this time, if only in spirit, move  
silently among them. Their presence is felt and smiles appear beneath misty eyes.  
Each in his own way may wonder who will be absent in another year.

The room grows quiet for a time. Suddenly an ember flames to life. Another memory burns. The  
talk may turn to other wars and other men, and of many remember when's.

So this is how it goes. The past is so much present. In the ceremonies, the allegiances, the  
speeches and the prayers, one cannot help but hear the deep eternal love of country and Corps  
they will share forever.

Finally, it is time to leave. Much too soon to set aside this little piece of yesterday,  
but the past cannot be held too long, for it is fragile.

They say "Farewells"... "See you another year, God willing."

And as always each keeps a little of the others with him forever.

Semper Fidelis  
(Adolf P. Sgambelluri)

## **FROM THE MAILBOX - received since Battalion Runner 16-2, May 2016**

22 AUGUST 2016 OPERATION KINGFISHER 29 JULY 1967 from Robert Widener, Veterans of Foreign Wars

*VFW Magazine is working on a book about the deadliest battles of the Vietnam War. I am trying to locate anyone in the 2/9 who was in the battle at Thon Cam Son during Operation Kingfisher. The battle that occurred on July 29, 1967 accounted for 31 KIAs. We need personal accounts and photos of the units prior to the action or just afterward. Please respond to Robert Widener, [rwidener@vfw.org](mailto:rwidener@vfw.org). Thank you.*

EMAIL: [rwidener@vfw.org](mailto:rwidener@vfw.org)

PHONE: 816-968-1173

20 JUNE 2016 from Tim Hermsen

*Tim is seeking contact with Lance Corporal Thomas Mosely, WIA on 19 April 1968, at Bridge 28. Tim can be reached via email at [htd040@aol.com](mailto:htd040@aol.com) or phone 509-539-3973.*

*Tim also sadly informed me of the loss of Herman Gallindo of Golf Company some time ago. Herman has been added to the Last Patrol for Golf. Semper Fi Herman!*

17 MAY 2016 Melvin R. Patterson

I received the following sad news from Marie Paterson:

*I am sorry to say, but my husband, Melvin Robert Patterson, passed away on Oct. 5, 2015. I miss him dearly!*

We all miss him Marie, and he'll always be with us as a member of our Last Patrol

Keep those emails coming folks! You can notify me of members passing away, special requests for contacting old friends, notices of special recognition of any of our members, and other information/actions you'd like to see published on the website. I try to update the "Recent Items" section as often as possible with that information. I will also try to publish photos you may like to see posted to the website. Each time I issue a Battalion Runner I will move all the recent items from the website to that Battalion Runner and remove them from the website. Old Battalion Runners are posted on the Network and the "Recent Items" section will be used to publish information received between those newsletters. You can email me directly at [ditson35@verzion.net](mailto:ditson35@verzion.net) or use the "Contact Us for Info and Updates" button on the Network website at [www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org](http://www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org). I will receive an email if you use that button. A special apology to all who wrote since the last Battalion Runner in May. I have been far too lax in posting many of the updates I receive. Things have been very busy here at home and I just have not had to time to post everything. I hope to do better in the coming months!

### **Personal Note for Post-Vietnam 2/9 Members**

We now have more than 450 post-Vietnam members in the 2/9 Network. Unfortunately we see very few, if any, at our reunions. While I understand family, work, and finances can prevent younger people from taking off and traveling for 4-5 days I also urge those that can to think about contacting

some of your fellow Marines and heading to Arlington. I cannot tell you how many Vietnam members of our Network have told me they didn't realize how important it was going to be to them to meet up with the Marines they served with until it was too late. I imagine it took most of us quite a while before we finally woke up and wondered whatever happened to all the good Marines we served with. We also wondered why the hell we didn't act sooner. Tragically, far too many of them were gone before we acted. I suspect exactly the same thing is going to happen with many of our younger members. The difference is you are reading this and we can tell you with no doubt that the day will come when you will wonder why too. Think about it, it does not have to be that way. You will be welcomed with open arms and become our friends. When Red Hill started looking for his fellow Marine warriors more than 20 years ago over 20 years had passed since they served together in Vietnam. His success in finding just over a dozen or so of his friends was the beginning of what is now a 2/9 Network more than 2,600 strong! Sadly, more than 400 of those members are now in our Last Patrol.

Danny

## DONATIONS

As I've said before I hate this section, but it is a necessary evil. Donations from members are our entire life line. We cannot exist without your generosity. Thank you in advance for anything you might be able to contribute. Checks must be made out to Danny Schuster and sent to 21 Moseley Street, Billerica, MA 01821. Enough said.

### NEW MEMBERS SINCE BATTALION RUNNER 16-2, MAY 2016

(I have made a change in how I enter personal information on the website. More and more often I hear from 2/9 Marines who have no internet connection. From this point forward when a new member is registered if you see a phone number in the email address block of the company rosters it means that person does NOT have internet access and the phone number is their mode of contact.)

McGee, Paul F.	4342 Soda Spring Drive	Las Cruces, NM	67-68	Echo
Nielsen, Jason	1141 Cooper Road	Scotch Plains, NJ	08-09	Golf
Stapleton, James	Pony Trail	Boonsboro, MD	70-71	Echo
Bissel, Charles W. "Chuck"	12622 Dover Drive	Apple Valley, MN	64-65	Echo
Valentin, Santiago	5359 W. Drummond	Chicago, IL	88-92	Echo
Bowman, David L.	3478 Steeplechase Way	Grayslake, IL	57-58	Unknown
Phillips, Arthur "Buz"	1400 Park Drive	Zwolle, LA	65-66	HQHS
Ward, Tom	19 Bedford Circle	Mechanicville, NY	69	Hotel
Van Meter, John "Doc"	P.O.Box 40612	Eugene, OR	67-68	Echo
Meyer, Mike	3236 Carol Court	High Ridge, MO	79-82	Wpns
Rodriguez, Ruben V. "Rod"	11006 Woodwind Shadows Dr.	Cypress, TX	67-68	Fox
Lockman, Paul W.	1311 Nikkel Way	Ripon, CA	66	Echo



Rodriguez, Gilbert	P.O.Box 548	Marion, TX	65-66	Hotel	
Larson, Chester H. "Chuck"	1401 Maryland St.	Fairfield, CA	62-63	HQHS	
Morris, Randy	997 William Switch Rd.	Ripley, TN	69	Hotel	
Lopez, Ernest	18 1/2 Veenstra St.	Houston, TX	77	HQHS	
Cooker, Donald	129 Truman Drive	Bricktown, NJ	67-68	Echo	
Brown, Donald	1117 270th Street	Mount Pleasant, IA	86-91	HQHS	
Clifford, John	55 Aberdeen Ave.	Cambridge, MA	66-68	Echo	
Hoffman	John	16356 Palomino Path	Manhattan, IL	83-87	Fox
Goss	John	36 Copeland Place	Buffalo, NY	65-66	Hotel
Michalik	Ron	10507 S. Troy St.	Chicago, IL	66-67	Hotel
Hedlund	Bruce	1927 Loganberry Lane	Crown, IN	65-66	HQHS

### ***The Last Patrol (since May 2016)***

***Michael J. Voorhies – Hotel***

***Herrman Gallindo – Golf***

***Melvin Patterson – Echo***

**Guarding the Gates of Heaven. Semper Fi Marines!**

As always, anyone is invited to email me at [ditson35@verizon.net](mailto:ditson35@verizon.net) with comments, questions, current items affecting our members, or recommendations. I cannot honor those men we lose if someone does not email me and tell me of their passing so I can place them in the “Last Patrol” section of our company rosters. You can also use the “Contact Us for Info and Updates” button on the 2/9 Network website to contact me. I will receive an email with your information.

**SEMPER FIDELIS,  
Danny Schuster  
2/9 Network Administrator and Reunion Coordinator  
Echo, 1967**