



2nd Battalion, 9th Marines

THE BATTALION RUNNER

Number 25-1 – April 2025



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Opening Remarks

This is my second rewrite of my opening remarks since I started preparing this newsletter earlier in the month. I realized after my original remarks they were most likely too caustic toward HQMC so I rewrote them. When I proof read them a second time they were still to caustic. So, I am writing this introduction just to give you the facts as I know them in a concise manner.

- 1. The Commandant will not be at the Iwo Jima Memorial on the 250th Birthday of the Marine Corps. As near as I can ascertain he is going to Philadelphia for a black tie affair at the Bellevue Hotel and there will be no ceremony at the Iwo Jima on the 10th.**
- 2. The official USMC Wreath Laying Ceremony for the 250th Birthday will be held on Friday, 07 November. I expect, but cannot say for certain, that there will be a full ceremony on that day with the President's Own, the Commandant's Own, and 8th & I. Hopefully General Smith will also be there.**
- 3. Our contracts for the reunion with our hotel, the Marriott Residence Inn Rosslyn, and for our Birthday Dinner at the Sheraton Pentagon City, are finalized and cannot be reopened at this point. There will be more on this in the Reunion 2025 section below.**
- 4. This will be the first time in my 25 years of attending our reunions that we will almost certainly not be at the Wreath Laying Ceremony in force because of the date for the Wreath Laying**

being so much earlier than our actual Birthday. I'm not even sure if I can be there that much earlier so I don't miss it.

Despite the disappointing news I still am confident and hopeful that this will be one of our best reunions ever. See the reunion section below for a discussion on what our agenda includes for sure and other possibilities. Remember, everything at the reunion is free! You pay only for getting there and back, and your room and parking.

Danny

2025 Reunion
Our 33rd Annual Reunion
The 250th Birthday of our Marine Corps
The 50 year anniversary of the end of the war
in Vietnam

Mark your calendars folks, this will be a very special occasion, celebrating the 250th Birthday of our Marine Corps and the 50th anniversary of the end of the War in Vietnam. If you have ever considered attending a reunion but haven't made it do it this year. Those of us that are Vietnam Vets are not getting any younger and the saddest, and worst, thing I have to do every year is add more and more of our brothers to the Last Patrol on our website.

Our reunion hotel is again the Marriott Residence Inn Rosslyn on North Oak Street in Arlington. The management and staff at the Residence Inn have always treated us in an outstanding manner, and continue to do so. Reservation information and a unique web page to make your hotel reservations are included there. While our "official" reunion runs from 08 November until 12 November, our contract includes our special room and parking rates from 06 November through 13 November. A little advice is called for since the number of

rooms available on 06 and 07 November, according to our contract, are limited. If you try to make reservations earlier than an arrival date of 08 November and cannot, please contact me directly at twoninencoic@aol.com and do not call the hotel. I can communicate with our contacts there and expand our number of rooms if necessary.

While I may not be there by 06 November, my partners in crime in arranging all our reunion details, Henry Ostaszewski and Debbie Crist, should be there to handle any questions you might have.

I expect to be in town by 07 November at the latest. Once I get there I will confer with Henry and Debbie and see if we can set up something to replace the Wreath Laying Ceremony on our agenda on the 10th, since the Corps is not doing it then (trip to National Museum of the Marine Corps, etc.).

Here is our reunion agenda as of this newsletter:

1. 09 November, 1500- 1800 hours: Jam Session with Ben Hernandez and the Gallatin Canyon Band honoring the memory of Ben's Father, Dan Hernandez, a 2/9 Marine. This event has become an integral part of our reunion and is outstanding!



2. 10 November: Possible event, during the day, to replace the 10 November Wreath Laying Ceremony.
3. 10 November, 1800 hours: Birthday Dinner at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel.



4. 10 November, approximately 2300 hours: Our trip to the Wall to see our buddies and conduct our annual wreath laying for our lost brothers. We'll return to the Residence Inn after the dinner and leave from there.



5. 11 November, approximately 1300 hours: Veteran's Day Ceremony at The Wall. This is not an official reunion event but

normally there is a ceremony honoring all veterans. We'll have more information at the reunion.

6. 12 November: Say our goodbyes until next year!!

Transportation will be provided for both the dinner and trip to The Wall. If we do set up another event that requires travel transportation will also be provided for that event.

Our hospitality room will be open from at least 07 November to 12 November with free snacks, water, beer and soft drinks. If you live locally and cannot attend the entire reunion consider stopping in and saying hello and shoot the breeze with your brother Marines, or attend our Birthday Dinner on the 10th.

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS AND PARKING

Our special room rates have not changed since last year - \$145 per night plus taxes and fees. Parking is \$15 per night. The hotel does not benefit from the parking rates as that is a private contractor operation, but we do get our parking at half price - \$15. Good sized pickups should fit into the parking garage but there is a height restriction that prevents some vehicles from entering.

Here is the link to the unique room reservation page set up for us by the Residence Inn. If you are reading this in the Word version the link won't work. Open the PDF version where clicking on the link should take you directly where you need to go. Both Word and PDF versions of the newsletter are included in the email you got.

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1743530098154&key=GRP&guestreslink2=true&app=resvlink>

FROM THE MAILBOX

I got the following note from Mark McGown asking for information about his father, Truman Engler McGown, who passed on 01 December 2023. If anyone can help Mark with info about his Dad while with Hotel his contact info is mcgownmark@yahoo.com

My name is Mark Truman McGown. My father was Truman Engler McGown. He served in Vietnam with Hotel Company 2nd Battalion 9th Marines. I am sorry to report that my father passed away on December 1st 2023. I am trying to gain any and all information about my father's service in the Marines and in Vietnam. As we sorted through his personal belongings I have gathered many artifacts from his service such as paperwork, pictures, slides, uniforms, maps and his purple heart. It would be a great addition to those items if we were able to get any memories of those that served alongside him. I know he landed in Vietnam sometime early summer of 1966 was wounded and left May 26, 1967 in what I believe was operation Hickory somewhere in Quang Tri Province. I think he was in 1st platoon but I am not completely sure. I am still working on that. I have many pictures and slides that I would be glad to share with the group as I am able to scan to digital. My wish is that I can compile as much information as I can to pass down to my brothers and grandchildren. Thank you in advance for any contacts or information that may help me achieve this goal.

Thank you,
Mark McGown

Donations

Thanks to Ed Gorman for the recent donation. As I have said before any donation, for any amount, goes a long way to keeping us

financially stable in coming years. Please consider helping out. Send checks made out to me at 21 Moseley St., Billerica, MA 01821

Conclusion

Well, that wraps up this latest version of the Battalion Runner. I wish I could have included better news than the tell you there will be no 250th Birthday Celebration or Wreath Laying Ceremony on that day at the Iwo Jima Memorial. I personally believe that is the ONLY place the Commandant of the Marine Corps should be on 10 November, especially on the 250th. Enough said. A quick note, again, to our post-Vietnam 2/9 brothers. Please consider attending our reunion. We need you involved to keep the 2/9 Network alive and kicking through the next years.

SEMPER FIDELIS

DANNY SCHUSTER

2/9 NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR AND REUNION COORDINATOR

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