



2nd Battalion, 9th Marines

THE BATTALION RUNNER

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Danny Schuster, 21 Moseley St., Billerica, MA 01821 Tel: 978-302-4126

Email: twoninencoic@aol.com

www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org

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Opening Remarks

As the old saying goes “Time flies when you are having fun”. I’m not sure about the fun part, but I should have had this newsletter out last month. I apologize for that oversight and hope this newsletter finds you as well as can be expected. Not much has changed regarding our reunion in November but one pleasant surprise has surfaced since our last newsletter. The official USMC Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima), as relayed in the April newsletter, will be on 07 November this year. I hope the entire entourage of Marines (8th & 1st, Marine Band, Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, etc.), will be present on the 7th, including the Commandant. The surprise has been the number of people making room reservations thus far for the reunion who are coming in on 06 November. Far more than I thought are going to be there for the Wreath Laying on the 7th so we will travel over to the Iwo Jima as always with our ever present banner.

We are still trying to work something out to do on the 8th or 10th of November (the 10th prior to our dinner). I spoke to my partner in crime running the reunions, Henry Ostaszewski, and we’ve decided to wait until we are at the reunion before deciding what we can or cannot do in lieu of the usual 10 November Wreath Laying Ceremony. We’ll be canvassing folks to see what, if any, credible suggestions can help us make decisions. Weather conditions will surely impact what we might do so please think about recommendations. We’ll be glad to discuss them with you.

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

What you will read below is basically a repeat of the April Battalion Runner issue. There are a couple of important issues I'll address here but most of what was in the last newsletter still applies.

- 1. Please let me know how many in your party will be going to the Birthday Dinner on 10 November. This is especially important if you are not staying at our reunion hotel, the Residence Inn. If you live or are staying locally but not at the hotel the only way I can count you in to the dinner is if you tell me you are coming and with how many people. That also applies to those staying at the hotel but if necessary I can contact those folks and see who is coming to dinner and who is not.**

Dinner list so far:

Danny Schuster	2
Mike Hill	1
Henry Ostaszewski	2
Mike Netland	1
Dave Bigler	3

- 2. The one major change is we WILL be heading to the Wreath Laying Ceremony on the 7th as a group.**

- 3. Please use the PDF version of this newsletter to utilize the direct link to our exclusive web page to make hotel reservations with our special rate for both the rooms and parking.**

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.

Here is our reunion agenda as of this newsletter:

- 1. 07 November, 1000 hours: USMC Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Iwo Jima Memorial. Transportation provided.**

2. 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!
3. 8 or 10 November: Possible event, during the day, to replace the 10 November Wreath Laying Ceremony.
4. 10 November, 1800 hours: Birthday Dinner at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.marriot.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1743530098154&key=GRP&guestreslink2=true&app=resvlink>

FROM THE MAILBOX

Tim Doran, Golf, KIA, 21 July 1968:

Got the following request from Tony Dittmeier and Patrick Kernan:

We are high school classmates of Tim Doran. He served with Golf Company and was KIA on 21 July 1968. Is it possible to make contact with someone who served with him?

Contact info: tntditt72@gmail.com, ptkernan@verizon.net

William "Jack" McDowell 1stSgt USMC (Retired):

Jack sent me the following note along with his donation in April:

Many moons have gone past, but I was wondering if any of the guys from Golf 2/9 attending your festivities, and by some quirk of faith, remember me, Dan Hernandez, and Captain Mel Horowitz from our joint escapades in VN back in the 60s? There were so many guys coming and going that I personally could not remember anyone. I did not have a Company Gunny, so I was pulling double duty most of the time

running all over the place between hospital visits in Da Nang, back and forth between Dong Ha, Gio Linh, Cam Lo, Con Thien, DMZ, etc., etc.

I finally got the bright idea to start bringing a Company Clerk with me so he could make the rounds touching base with the young Marines to make sure we kept current on all things administrative. Only problem was the were kind of scared to death most of the time running around in bad neighborhoods “with that crazy First Sergeant”.

Jack lives in Long Beach, CA, and can be reached at 562-997-9264

Cpl James L. Johnson, Echo, Navy Cross, 17 February 1969

I received the following note from Audrey Johnson on 19 August.

I am looking for anyone who knew Corporal James L. Johnson. I am his daughter, Audrey. He did three tours in Vietnam and received many awards, including the Navy Cross. I copied his citation below. We lost him in 2020 from cancer caused by Agent Orange, a fate too many vets share. I am writing a book about him and his time in Vietnam, and am hoping to connect with others who knew him there. I appreciate any help you can give me.

<https://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient/recipient-4163/>

Audrey (Johnson) Wagner can be reached via email at audrey2755@live.com

PFC Roman Leicht, KIA, 30 March 1969, Fox

Received the following from retired MSgt Dennis Rautmann on 18 August:

I'm a retired MSgt. who attended high school in Sheboygan, WI, with PFC Roman Leicht, killed in action 30 March 1969. He was only in country 19 days. I would like to hear from anyone who served with him during his brief time in Vietnam. I served with the 3rd LVT

Battalion, Marble Mountain. Roman and I arrived in country one day apart. Thank you in advance.

MSgt Rautmann can be reached via email at drvbcoach32@gmail.com

Donations

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.

Donations since the April Battalion Runner:

**Jack McDowell
Karen Lanning
Glenn Siegler
E. J. Bunk
Tom Fenerty
Gary and Patti Griffis
Richard Mainville
Ed Gorman
Mary Minnis
Scott Whelan
Bob Slattery
Dave and Ann Wray
Malon Shelton**

Conclusion

The guys at our Internet Provider finally straightened out my access. As a result the photos of last years reunion are now available online. Click this link in the PDF version of the newsletter to access the photos:

<https://smg.photobucket.com/bucket/59e0aba1-1a8a-4b0f-bc9f-e7c7a7619186/album/73a649c1-a5ab-446d-94ca-1c95cac883a2>

Be aware there are hundreds of them so be patient as you flip through them. That's all for this newsletter. Get your behinds to our reunion before it's too late for many of you!!!

SEMPER FIDELIS

DANNY SCHUSTER

2/9 NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR AND REUNION COORDINATOR

978-302-4126
twoninencoic@aol.com