



**2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marines**  
**THE BATTALION RUNNER**  
**SPECIAL ISSUE, FINANCES AND REUNION 2024**  
Number 24-2 – July 2024



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### **Opening Remarks and Finances**

**Since I issued Battalion Runner 24-1 this past May some very good and some not so good things have happened. The very best thing is donations that came in have basically eliminated our financial crisis for this year. Another good thing is I received donations from several members who had not, at least in my old and degrading memory, contributed before. Good thing number three is we have enough funding to fully support Reunion 2024, including paying for dinner and everything else. That means, as has been the case for several years, the only expense anyone coming to the reunion must incur is getting there and paying for your room and parking. All reunion agenda items, hospitality room food and beverages, our jam session, and transportation to events, are going to be provided at no charge. This includes anyone living locally who wants to participate in any of our events or stops by the hotel to shoot the breeze with other Marines in the hospitality room.**

**Now the not so good news. While donations have been good enough to temporarily resolve our financing issues, they will not cover expenses for future years. We certainly have enough to cover this year's reunion and costs for running the 2/9 Network website through 2024. Not so good news item two is, I've only received donations from 45 people and some of them donated multiple times or a sizeable amount. I am mentioning that since it carries serious meaning. I have consistently said over the years that any amount donated is a good donation, and that is still true. However, we cannot expect the same people to keep donating large amounts of money to pay for everyone else. I noted in the May newsletter that I have been receiving donations annually from around 70 people out of over 1,200 receiving the newsletter. With that number at 45 as of this newsletter so far this year the future could still be a major issue for the 2/9 Network. Please consider a donation of any amount to keep us going! I hope you all noted that I said these two items are "not so good" news. I did not say they are bad news, but it would be great to be able to say in the next newsletter that more have contributed to keep 2/9's legacy alive well into the future.**

**31st Annual Reunion  
07-12 November 2024  
Marriott Residence Inn Rosslyn,  
Arlington, VA**

Most of this will be a repeat of what was in the May newsletter, but there are some things that have to be reiterated. **There are important date changes to the events we conduct or attend.**

1. Our Jam Session at the hotel with the Galatin Canyon Band is normally held the afternoon of 09 November. This year, due to the Marine Corps holding the Wreath Laying Ceremony on 09 November, our Jam Session will take place the afternoon of 08 November, beginning at 1500 hours.
2. The official Marine Corps Wreath Laying Ceremony will be held on Saturday, 09 November, this year since the actual Birthday will be on a Sunday.
3. Our Birthday Dinner this year will still be held beginning at 1800 hours on Sunday, 10 November.
4. As always, we will travel to The Wall after our dinner to see our Vietnam buddies. That will happen somewhere around 2300 hours and we will leave from our reunion hotel at the Residence Inn.

Folks may want to come in a day earlier than usual to be sure not to miss these great events. Room reservation links are provided below.

We are always on the lookout for items to place in our reunion raffle.

## **Marine Corps Birthday Dinner**

As I stated in opening this newsletter we are fortunate enough to be able to provide our Birthday Dinner on the 10<sup>th</sup> at no charge. Importantly, I need to know who is going to the dinner. If you are going to the dinner please email me ASAP with the number of people in your party who will be attending. I must give the Sheraton Pentagon City a firm number of people going to dinner so they know how much they need to feed us! Email me at [twoninencoic@aol.com](mailto:twoninencoic@aol.com). I will send a return email acknowledging that I got your note. Bill

Carpenter, Hernan Gonzalez, Karen Lanning, and John Moseley have already notified me of their dinner plans.

## Room Reservation and Parking Information at the Residence Inn

**Room Reservations:** Our contract has rooms available from 06 through 12 November. The hotel has once again set up a unique reservation page for our members. [Book Your Group/Corporate Rate | Marriott International](#) You can also call them at 1-800-331-3131, but be sure to tell them you are making them under the 2/9 Reunion package.

Cut off date for reservations is close of business on 11 October 2024. If you don't have a room booked by then you will have to pay the going rate, and that is more than \$250 per night. If you have problems making a reservation email the Residence Inn sales office at [sales@rirva.com](mailto:sales@rirva.com) and explain your problem. The staff will be very glad to help. If that does not work email me at [twoninencoic@aol.com](mailto:twoninencoic@aol.com) and I'll try to help.

Not so good news is that as of one week ago there were only 10 rooms reserved for Marines going to the reunion. We usually have between 50-75 at least. Please get your reservations made. I received the reservation listings from the hotel 4-5 times up to the reunion so I know about how many people we'll have, and can get in contact with some who forget to tell me about their dinner plans.

**Parking at the hotel:** Normal parking rates at the hotel are \$29 per night. Our contract includes a clause that gets us a 50% discount on parking, so it will be \$14.50 per night. The garage accommodates almost all SUVs and pickup trucks, but there is a height limit. Be sure you know you can get through the garage door.

All of this information and more is available on our website at [www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org](http://www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org) under the 2024 Reunion button or the Battalion Runner button checking Battalion Runner 24-1.

# From the Mailbox

From Bob Slattery.

Bob sent me a note telling me his daughter, Heather, has volunteered to build and maintain a new website for us for free. Heather will be at our reunion when I plan on meeting with her to find out what has to happen to make that a reality. I am no technical wizard and need to talk face to face to try to understand what is involved. Let's hope that comes to fruition!

From Mike Griffin.

Mike is a friend of Robert (Robbie or Rob) Neal Howell's last remaining son (two have passed away), and is trying to get in touch with 2/9 Marines who may have known Robbie and/or served with him in 2/9. Robbie is a member of our Last Patrol and Mike has been in touch with both Ron Taylor and Les Stevenson. He's hoping this note will result in others contacting him. Robbie served with 2/9 with both Golf and Hotel from November 1966 to December 1967. He spent some time as a FAC and was an E-4 when he rotated home. Mike can be reached via email at [miandagrif@aol.com](mailto:miandagrif@aol.com).

From Malon Shelton. Accolades!!!

Malon recently was named the Henry County/Martinsville Veteran of the Year. Malon joined the Corps in 1966, graduating from Parris Island. He was with 3/8 with the 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet in the Mediterranean. Malon was with 2/9 in Golf Company as a Lance Corporal up to and including the Tet Offensive. He's a member of the Joseph Moses Chapter #510 Military Order of the Purple Heart where he served as Sergeant at Arms, VFW Post 10840 in Penhook and served as Commander for six years, a member of the Paul R. Shorter Chapter 52 DAV in Martinsville, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division Association. He is currently the Commander of the Edward W. Richardson Marine Corps Association. He's also a charter member of the Carolina Classic Chevy Club, the Callands Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, the Christian Tabernacle Church for 40 years (chairman of the board for three years and on the

board of trustees for over 40 years), and the Sunday School Superintendent, leading the services each Sunday morning.

**Congratulations Malon, and Semper Fi!**

**Note: I love getting information like that for Malon above. If you have similar accolades please do not hesitate to send something about them to me and I'll get them in the newsletter. However, please try to send something in electronic form so I do not have to transcribe things by hand. I am sure other 2/9 Marines would be very interested in hearing your stories. One word to the wise. I am the sole arbiter of what goes into the newsletter, so please be honest and sincere if you send something to me. Danny**

## **Donations**

**I have already said about all that I can about donations, but below is the list of those who have donated since our Battalion Runner 24-1 in May.**

**Dave Bigler  
Robert Blake  
Tom Callum  
Bill Carpenter  
Kenton Dean  
Tom Fenerty  
Timothy Forbes  
James Fullwood  
Dave Garner  
Hernan Gonzalez  
Ed Gorman  
Gary Griffis  
Allen Holmes  
Gerry Hornick  
Kevin Jewers  
Ken Kitchen  
John Klemm  
AJ Langford  
Karen Lanning  
Curtis Leslie  
Earl Luce  
Doc Jaye Lycan  
Mary Minnis**

**Richard Mainville  
Joe Mannino  
Wm. "Jack" McDowell  
John Moseley  
Lawrence Noon  
Robert Oliver  
Henry Ostazewski  
Anthony Perino  
William Pollock  
Javier Salas  
William Sanders  
Edward Scott  
Carsten Seyer  
Malon Shelton  
Glenn Siegler  
J. J. Stamper  
John Stapp  
Dennis Voge  
Danny Tyer  
Darryl Webb  
Scott Whelan  
Dave and Ann Wray**

# Conclusion

Remember, if you try to use the Word version of this newsletter and links don't work, try the PDF version that accompanied the Word version. PDF versions usually work for direct links.

Despite the “not very good news” parts of this newsletter, I am very grateful to all of you for your support and feel good about our Network as we go forward. I was very happy to issue this one!!!

Get your rooms for the reunion and get me numbers for your dinner reservations, please!

As always, if anyone has any questions, comments, or suggestions feel free to email me at [twoninencoic@aol.com](mailto:twoninencoic@aol.com).

**SEMPER FIDELIS**

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