



Second Battalion, 4th Marines Association, Inc. The Magnificent Bastards



ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Brooks Wilson
brooks@adanceoflight.com

Vice President: Sean
Schickel
seanschickel@yahoo.com

Secretary: Manuel Travassos
mgtravassos@comcast.net

Treasurer: James (Jim)
Swann
smithandjones1@aol.com

Board Member: Jim Rogers
Jwr313@verizon.net

Board Member:
Frank Valdez
valcone@hotmail.com

Immediate Past President
Steve Wilson
stevejckdnls@charter.net

Staff

Sgt-At-Arms: Patrick Burns
emmalaioise@msn.com

Chaplin:
Frank Valdez
valcone@hotmail.com

Membership Chairman:
John Hembrough
JohnA24@aol.com

Battalion Historian:
Ret BGen William Weise
[wwaise2@gmail.com](mailto:wweise2@gmail.com)

Web Sergeant:
Brooks Wilson
brooks@adanceoflight.com

Newsletter Editor:
Becky Valdez
fxala@hotmail.com

Feb 2016 *Sea Horse*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I trust that everyone had memorable Christmas and New Year celebrations. Hopefully, all got through it without health or weight gain issues.

In this issue of the *Sea Horse*, I wanted to address the payment of dues and donations on our web site. We are starting to gain younger members which is wonderful. They, however, approach things differently than we older folks do. The electronic age makes new demands of us all, especially on how we present our web site. Two major things come to mind: the payment of dues and making donations to the memorial brick project online.

Membership Application - Three Step Process

We have had an online membership application form for about two years, but we have not had the ability to accept dues payments online. Recently, with the major contributions by Sean Schickel, our Vice President, and James Swann, our Treasurer, a link was established for the payment of dues using a payment program called Square. It was chosen by your Board as the cheapest way to do things.

Having had to get more involved with Square in recent weeks, I have found it also has its' drawbacks. Square is not as user friendly for online applications as I would prefer. It is mainly meant to be used by sliding a credit card through a reader attached to a phone, but it is possible to use online as well. It isn't as "clean" as PayPal, but it is cheaper, so we will see how things work out.

Applicants will be required to submit their application online as before [first step], but with the caveat that a confirmation e-mail will be sent to the applicant saying the application has been received by the Membership Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer [second step]. On that confirmation e-mail will be a link whereby the applicant will then be required to make their dues payment [third step].

There are a number of payment options which will be shown to the applicant during the payment process; i.e., annual and life memberships as explained in the membership application instructions. So, the applicant will need to be aware that there are three parts to the application process.

Again, this is explained in the web site membership application instructions.

Memorial Brick Project Donation - One Step Process

There is a banner at the top of the front page of the web site which directs the reader to information concerning making donations to our association's memorial brick project. The online process of making a donation is similar to that of making a membership application, but only a one step process. At the bottom of the information there is a place to click "Donate to the Brick Project." Click that and then look for the information concerning donation amounts under "Memorial Brick Donation." Click on the desired donation amount and complete the information required for payment.

For system brevity, we are using the same Square payment link for both dues and brick donations. When payments are being made, please check carefully for the item describing the action you desire. Note that a processing fee of 2.75% has been factored in for online payments. It is very reasonable, but I want everyone to be aware that doing business online costs a bit more.

Of course, to make payments for dues and donations offline, the applicant may still write a check as instructed on the web site and mail to the address shown therein.

Lastly, we are in need of a Membership Chairman. John Hembrough, having done a superb job over the past Three and one half years wants to move on. John would be most willing to help train his replacement. Perhaps there is a wife out there who would enjoy taking this position. Whomever gets the job will have help from both the Secretary and one or two others who have been helping to call prospective and present members. We have over 500 members. We meet once a year for our reunions. Our main sources of communicating are through our Sea Horse newsletter [thanks to Becky Valdez] and the web site. To ensure we get this information on a timely basis requires an accurate membership roster. Please consider stepping up to the plate and helping. The organization will be better served if more people participate. Thank you.

In closing, please keep Director Jim Rogers in your thoughts and prayers. He is going through a rough spot health wise right now.

Respectfully yours & Semper fi / Anchors Aweigh,

Brooks

Brooks Wilson

President

NEWS FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDER

Marines, Sailors, Families, and Friends,

Our Marines and Sailors continue to do an amazing job. We currently have over 300 Marines and Sailors in specialty schools from cold weather training in northern California, to the infantry schools on the east coast. They are coming back to our battalion better trained, more capable, and confident. These niche capabilities will make us stronger as we prepare for our future deployment. We had the privilege of promoting over 30 Marines to higher ranks and awarding over 15 awards. I couldn't be prouder of serving next to these great Americans!

Since the holiday season, the battalion has executed and returned from a hard-earned holiday leave period. Marines and Sailors from 2/4 travelled across the country to visit with family and friends and have returned motivated and ready to continue training and are looking forward to our deployment. Immediately upon returning from leave, the battalion began training with the Expeditionary Operations Training Group (EOTG)

here in Camp Pendleton, as well as Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific (EWTGPAC) in Coronado, California. This training is focused on conducting offensive operations from the land, sea, and air. The Marines are doing a great job planning, communicating, and coordinating actions across the Marine Corps and Navy team.

Additionally, our Marines successfully completed our Marine Corps driven inspections. We had nearly 20 Marines or Sailors recommended for awards from their outstanding work and dedication. We have been deemed a great unit that is ready to deploy when our nation calls.

Thank you for your continued support for your Marines and Sailors. If you would like to see pictures of our training or updates on our battalion, please "like" us on

Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/2dBattalion4thMarines>.

Semper Fidelis,

Lieutenant Colonel Brian Greene (Battalion Commander)

Save the Date

2016 Reunion - July 27 - 31

Wisconsin Dells

<http://www.wisdells.com/wisconsin-dells.htm>

<http://www.travelwisconsin.com/casinos-gaming/ho-chunk-gaming-wisconsin-dells-203529>

The 2016 reunion will be held at the Ho-Chunk Nation Casino in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. Wisconsin Dells, a city in southern Wisconsin, lies on the Wisconsin River in a region of glacier-carved sandstone formations. Its' numerous theme parks and entertainment centers include Noah's Ark Water Park and Mt. Olympus Water and Theme Park. Mirror Lake State Park, a forested reserve surrounding the namesake lake, is known for nature trails and camping. For more detailed information, please see the Wisconsin Dells Chamber of Commerce web site: <http://dellschamber.com/>. Additionally, there is a Circus World Museum just south of Wisconsin Dells in Baraboo, WI.

Contractual work for the hotel is underway at present and the preparation of the reunion registration form is also being firmed up. There will be a special notification sent out when this information is ready for publication.

Please check the 2/4 website for updated information <http://www.2-4association.org>

To the Membership

To the Membership New, Life and Annual, and former members,

I want to make you all aware that in February Cynthia Greer will be calling everyone verifying your information once again so as we can keep our Roster current and you informed in the communications loop of your Association. We strongly encourage everyone to keep us updated when your information changes.

Dues for new members and renewals can still be paid by mail and I am pleased to say we can pay online electronically now. This is explained in this issue by our President Brooks Wilson, this is a great step going forward.

Early billing for our Annual members for the 2016-2017 year will be in April by e-mail and USPS for those that don't have a computer by our Secretary Manuel Travassos. When you are paid your new membership card will be mailed to you.

I certainly appreciate everyone's help with Membership and we ask you to encourage everyone that served with 2/4 to join if not already a member.

If I can be of any help please contact me, and I will more than happy to help.

Semper Fi and Anchors Aweigh,

John Hembrough

Membership Chairman

Phone 309-825-0314 or 334-673-4959

e-mail johna24@aol.com



National Museum of the Marine Corps

The Grand Design Moves into the Final Phase

By David H. Hugel

When the National Museum of the Marine Corps was dedicated on November 10, 2006, its major exhibit galleries focused on the Marine Corps' combat role during WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

In June 2010, the museum opened three new galleries to the public featuring exhibits depicting the years from the Marine Corps' founding in 1775 through the end of WWI. This did not happen by chance, but was a planned component of the museum's design that it would be expandable to showcase future periods of Marine Corps history.

Early in 2015 construction began to double the museum's size over the next several years, adding new exhibits covering Marine Corps deployments since the Vietnam War, as well as a Hall of Honor celebrating all Marine Medal of Honor recipients and an I-Max theater. The first phase of construction required removing 90,000 cubic feet of earth from the west side of the museum where these new faculties will be built.

In late October, I joined a couple Marine pilot buddies, Ben Cascio and Rusty Sachs who both flew helicopters in Vietnam, for a personal hard hat and muddy boots tour of the construction site. What we saw was the museum's 2 feet thick outer wall being removed one panel at a time and the pouring of new interior walls that will separate exhibit galleries and I-Max Theater. In order minimize disruption of museum operations, a temporary wall has been built separating the museum's interior from the old exterior wall that looks like the marble surfaced wall that is being removed during the construction project. As construction continues the museum will need to be closed from early January through late March 2016.

When the museum reopens, the Sikorsky UH-34 Seahorse helicopter donated by members of the Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 Veterans Association will be displayed in the atrium known as Leatherneck Gallery. The helicopter, which saw extensive combat in Vietnam, replaces the HRS-1, Korean era helicopter that will be removed for much needed restoration work. The other addition to Leatherneck Gallery is a SBD Dauntless dive-bomber flown by Marines during WWII that will be suspended from the atrium.

Contributions to fund the continuing expansion of the National Museum of the Marine Corps can be made by sending a check to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, 3800 Fettle Park Drive, Suite 104, Dumfries, VA 22025.

JIM ROGERS SITREP

The following message is from Jim's son (also a Marine) Jan. 28, 2016

Here is an update on my father...

He is finally off the ventilator, has been for about 1 an half days and is breathing on his own. He is talking and asking questions, but the medication he was on has made woozy, dizzy, and drowsy, and having a hard time with conversation. As of now, the focus is on recovery and getting his strength back.

James W. Rogers Jr.

james.rogers@opm.gov

According to Gen. Weise, visited with Jim Rogers on 30 Jan. "He is doing much better. He's being moved from ICU to a regular room today. He's well enough to swap sea stories and flirt with the nurses so I guess he's on the mend. He appreciates your prayers.

Semper Fi,

Bill

CEO Lt. General Robert Blackman

Great interview of General Blackman and his description of our heritage museum and the history of the Marine Corps Birthday. Gen. Blackman was recently interview on Fox News talking about the Marine Corps birthday and the museum. During his short presentation, they showed pictures from in and around the museum. The very first picture was the 2/4 memorial! It made me very proud to be a Bastard.

Scott Laidig

<http://video.foxnews.com/v/4601971604001/marine-corps-to-celebrate-its-240th-birthday/?#sp=show-clips>

Jack Deichman

On 29 March 2016 Jack Deichman, LtCol (ret) is scheduled to be awarded the Bronze Star w/V for his actions on 30 March 1968 during Operation Kilo while serving as Executive Officer, Golf Co. The ceremony will be held at the VA Center in Coatsville, PA, as part of a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The public is invited to attend.

Major General Gregory A. Corliss - Ret

I interviewed with Bg. General Corliss in Jan 1981 for the job of Commanding Officer of the Station Operations & Engineering Squadron at MCAS Cherry Point. "And I got the job"! He was a Wonderful Man and Marine. We had 2 DC-9's, 3 T-39 Sabreliners and 3 H-46 helicopters.

I also transported my personal "Hero" Bg General "Bill Weise" from Orlando, Fl. back to MCAS Beaufort NC in a T-39 "VIP" Sabreliner in the early 80's.

Semper Fi, "Jdog" Judd Hilton

The Memorial Service for Major General Corliss was scheduled for 23 January 2016 at Trinity Episcopal Church, W. German St. Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Major General Gregory A. Corliss 1930-2016

General Corliss was born on April 14, 1930, in Bellefontaine, Ohio. He graduated from Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington, in 1952 with a B.A. degree in History. He also holds an M.A. degree in History from the University of Hawaii (1971), and an M.A. degree in Public Administration from Auburn University in Albany (1972).

Entering the Marine Corps in July 1952, he attended the Officers Candidate School, Quantico, Va., and was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in September 1952. After completing basic school, he was assigned to flight training and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1954. He was promoted to first lieutenant that same year. He was later assigned to VMA-333, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, flying the AD-5 Sky Raider.

Ordered to Korea in October 1955, he served with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing as a group operations officer and flight officer with VMA-251. He was promoted to captain in May 1956, while in Korea.

Returning to Quantico in December 1956, he served in a variety of staff billets at the Marine Corps Air Station, there, and was also a member of the bombing demonstration team, Aircraft Engineering Squadron-

12, flying AD-6s until August 1959. Assigned to the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, S.C., he joined VMA-331, the Marine Corps' first A-4 squadron. In 1961 to 1962, he attended the Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico. He was next assigned to Camp Pendleton, Calif., as air liaison officer with the 3d Battalion, 5th Marines. During this assignment, he saw deployment in connection with the Cuban Crisis in 1962 and a subsequent battalion trans placement tour in Westpac. He was promoted to major in July 1963.

In January 1964, he transitioned into helicopters at Marine Corps Air Station, New River, N.C., and deployed to the Mediterranean in May as the Commanding Officer of a nine-aircraft UH-34 detachment in support of BLT 2/6. Returning to New River, he served as Executive Officer, and later, Commanding Officer of the Marine Corps' first CH-46 squadron, HMM-265, which he commanded on a Caribbean cruise in the spring of 1965.

He was next assigned as the Assistant S-4 of Marine Aircraft Group 26. As Executive Officer of HMM-262, he deployed to Vietnam in December 1966, and became Commanding Officer of the squadron the following May. While in Vietnam, he participated in more than 36 operations against communist insurgents.

In January 1963, he joined the staff of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, in Hawaii as G-3 Air Operations Officer. A highlight of the Hawaii tour was the opportunity to fly in the filming of TORA, TORA, TORA.

From June 1971 to July 1972, he was a student at the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Al. Ordered overseas in August 1972, he joined the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at Iwakuni, Japan, as Assistant G-4. He returned to Headquarters, Marine Corps Washington, D.C., in September 1973 and was initially assigned as Head of the Joint Aviation Matters Branch in the Division of Aviation, and later became the Aviation Colonels' Monitor in the Manpower Division. He was promoted to colonel in July 1974.

Transferred to Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif., in July 1976, he assumed duties as Commanding Officer of Marine Aircraft Group 16, and later Chief of Staff of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing in August 1977. While serving in this capacity, he was selected in February 1978 for promotion to brigadier general. He was advanced to that rank on May 2, 1978 and assumed duty as Assistant Wing Commander, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing at Cherry Point, in June 1978.

From Oct. 19, 1978 until Oct. 22, 1979. General Corliss was assigned additional duty as Commanding General, 4th Marine Amphibious Brigade. In January 1980, he was assigned duty as Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases, Eastern Area/Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Station and Cherry Point. He was advanced to major general on March 30, 1981, and was assigned as Commanding General, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, New Orleans, La., on June 4, 1981. On June 8, 1983, he was assigned duty as the Director of Plans Division/Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Policies and Operations, Headquarters Marine Corps. He served in this capacity until his retirement on July 1, 1985.

General Corliss' medals and decorations include the Silver Star Medal, Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, 27 Air Medals and the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", Presidential Unit Citation, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star.

Bill Sellers

I am with the USMC Vietnam Tankers Association. I am doing research on an event that took place on August 16, 1967 that involved several tanks and a tank retriever and men from E/2/4. As I understand it E Co. or part of it was riding on the tanks (or trucks?) going east into the sand dunes 9 clicks northeast of Camp Evans. I am looking for people who witnessed a tank that hit an enormous mine that threw the turret 100 feet away from the hull. One E/2/4 grunt (0351) was severely wounded and died the next day (PFC John Mullan) from the explosion. If anyone recalls this incident please contact me. We finally got the names of the tank crew after all these years. They were all instantly killed and not much found afterwards. We are trying

to honor them and tell their story. Incident took place at grid coord: 544406 if that helps. I only have info for Bill Sellers.

kingfisher.sellers@gmail.com

Gunny Percy Eugene Brandon



Longtime McMinnville resident Percy Eugene “Gunny” Brandon, who was a fixture at many Grand Ronde Memorial Day celebrations, passed away on Friday, Jan. 8, at the Lebanon veterans’ care home after a long, arduous journey with cancer in the form of multiple myeloma. He was 80 years old.

Family members surrounded him the days before he passed peacefully.

Gunny was born on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota on June 29, 1935, to Howard and Bertha Brandon. His family moved to Oregon in 1942 and lived in Salem, Grand Ronde and McMinnville.

Gunny attended Grand Ronde Grade School and Willamina High School, where he played on the 1950 all-star basketball team. However, he did not graduate because he joined the U.S Marine Corps in 1953 at the age of 17. He was inspired to enlist after his older brother was killed on Iwo Jima during World War II.

Gunnery Sgt. Brandon retired in 1973 after deployments in Japan, Korea and Vietnam, where he served two tours of duty and received four Purple Hearts, which are awarded in the name of the President to servicemen and women who are wounded or killed while serving their country. He also received a Navy Commendation and Cross of Valor.

In Vietnam, he served with Fox Company of the 2nd Battalion 4th Marines, known as the “Magnificent Bastards,” in the battle of Dai Do. During the battle, which occurred in spring 1968, about 400 Marines faced more than 3,000 North Vietnamese Army regulars. Ninety-four Marines were killed and most of the rest were wounded, including Brandon.

Despite his injuries, Brandon returned to the front lines only to be more seriously injured a few weeks later. He spent almost three years in the hospital, recuperating and learning to walk again. He still carried shrapnel from his wounds and continued to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Gunny returned to McMinnville to recover completely from injuries suffered in Vietnam. He worked for Triangle Motors, Home Laundry, Rowell Wickersham and the News-Register newspaper. He also owned and

operated four businesses: St. Paul Rodeo Inn, Vets Club American Legion Post 21, Northwest Asphalt and Gunny's Gym with his wife, Shirlie.

He was a true patriot. After his retirement, he moonlighted, installing and donating U.S. flagpoles. He also had a passion for community service, sponsoring girls' softball and Little League teams and Hood-to-Coast relay teams.

Gunny participated in local festivals, parades and ran for election as a Yamhill County commissioner. His involvement with Native American organizations and community found him dressed as Santa Claus, a gorilla and in traditional Native American regalia. He was a noted lecturer and forum panelist on combat and Marine Corps life, as well as post-traumatic stress disorder.

Gunny completed his GED in 1964, but also was awarded an honorary high school diploma from Willamina High School after 50 years in 2004. In 1993, under the supervision of a veteran's counselor, he began to write the contents of a book "Gunny, A Story About a Marine Gunnery Sergeant" that would later be published and now is in its third edition. He conducted a book signing in the Tribal Governance Center in November 2007.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirlie; three brothers, Howard (Stubby) Brandon, John Brandon and Gary Brandon; sisters, Joyce Brandon, Mary (Bitsey) White, Leona (Toni) Stoneman and Geraldine Anderson; and his parents, Howard and Bertha Brandon.

Gunny is survived by his brother, Bill (Pam) Brandon of Sisters, Ore.; three children, Jan Hulke and Rita Van Dyke of McMinnville and Russell (Lynne) Brandon of Sitka, Alaska; eight grandchildren, Darrick (Jacque) Bruns of Corvallis, Ore., Kayle (Kelly) Clayton of Creswell, Ore., Crissandra Van Dyke of McMinnville, Tanner (Krystal) Brandon of Chattanooga, Tenn., Tyne Brandon of Cleveland, Ohio, Ocia Hartley, Abra Cook and Kayb Joseph; and four great-grandchildren, Henry and Avery Bruns, Eero Brandon and Harper Clayton.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Jan. 20, at Evergreen Chapel, 500 N.E. Captain Michael King Smith Way, McMinnville. Interment was at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland.

The family suggests donations in Gunny's behalf be made to the Semper Fi Fund at www.semperfund.org.

- See more at: <http://www.grandronde.org/news/smoke-signals/2016/01/12/gunny-brandon-walks-on-at-age-80/#sthash.vnCtFIhv.Eof3LQWI.dpuf>

<https://www.facebook.com/klycradio/videos/529747360527437/?theater>

"Nobel Warrior" E-Book rank

Amazon Best Sellers Rank: #36,608 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store)

#1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Military & Wars > Branches > Marines

#6 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Military & Wars > Vietnam War

#10 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military > Vietnam War

Steve Wilson

Steve continues to improve since his stroke and will be having further testing at Vanderbilt Medical Center. Steve has managed to get in a couple of rounds of golf in between his doctor's appointments.

The cards, phone calls and emails have helped to improve his spirits.