



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



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Nov 2015 *Sea Horse*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Vice President, Sean Schickel, Treasurer, James "Doc" Swann and I are still trying to get a link set up whereby members may pay their dues online along with submitting their membership applications and renewals in the same manner. This setup will also allow those wishing to make donations to the 2/4 Association Memorial Brick Fund online to do so as well. I apologize for the long delay, but there are mitigating circumstances about which I will not refer to here. Suffice it to say, it is my goal to get this up and running by Thanksgiving, if not sooner. Thank you for your patience!

That said, we are approaching the winter weather and holiday seasons. Colleen and I wish to say that we hope all of you will find joy in your families and friends with extra measure during this time. It must also must be said that we ask you to do so safely. You are all important to our band of brothers and their families. A holiday gathering should be approached with thought and foresight. Getting there a few minutes earlier isn't worth what might happen if you rush. So, plan ahead and give yourselves extra time to make your journeys.

I expect that we will start hearing about our next reunion shortly after the New Year is upon us. Please refer to the REUNIONS link on our web site for additional information. I am assured that Wisconsin is a beautiful state and it will certainly make a nice venue for our 2016 reunion.

Fair winds and following seas to all!

Respectfully,

Brooks

Brooks Wilson

President

NEWS FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDER AND SERGEANT MAJOR

Marines, Sailors, Families, and Friends

Over the next month, we'll be engaged in a wide array of Battalion training exercises both here on Camp Pendleton and abroad. We'll wrap up our annual rifle range requirement yielding some of the highest percentage of Expert shooters in recent history - thanks to the amazing job of the Combat Marksman Coaches. Then we'll transition to our first Battalion exercise with all four companies in the field conducting live fire basic skills training, supported by Headquarters and Service Company, and driven by a real-time scenario. The following week we'll support 1st Battalion, 5th Marines' Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation and Dawn Blitz, a multinational exercise including the US, Mexico, Japan, and New Zealand.

Moving into September, we'll deploy an element of our Boat Company to conduct bilateral training in Singapore and execute Amphibious Assault Vehicle training in Twentynine Palms, CA with the British, as well support the students of Infantry Officers Course with mortars, Scout Snipers, and an Opposing Force. We'll cap the end of September by conducting a Big 4 Crew Served Weapons package back at home and begin continue preparing the Battalion as the Alert Battalion Task Force to deploy anywhere in the world at a moment's notice.

Additionally, we've had the privilege of sending numerous Marines through a range of Professional Military Education Schools, Unit Leader Courses, and some of the most difficult MOS specific schools the military has to offer. The past month, we've had three Marines graduate Sergeant's Course and two from Corporal's Course. We'll have two Staff Non-Commissioned Officers graduating Infantry Unit Leaders Course in September and five more inbound immediately following. Two Marines will be graduating Infantry Small Unit Leaders Course at the end of this month and we'll be sending a Gunnery Sergeant to the SNCO Advanced Course in September. We've had a First Lieutenant graduate with honors from the Infantry Mortar Leaders Course in Fort Benning, GA, and just sent five of our highly trained Scout Snipers to the Basic Course in Quantico, VA, one of the highest attrition schools on record.

All of these accomplishments would be impossible to achieve without your loyalty, patience, and support. We extend our deepest appreciation to the spouses, family, and friends for enabling us to put in the time and work necessary to become an outstanding Marine Corps Infantry Battalion. Thank you.

Semper Fidelis,

Lieutenant Colonel Brian D. Greene (Battalion Commander)

Sergeant Major Michael L. Bolyard (Battalion SgtMaj)

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

2/4 REUNION CRUISE BOOK

The Reunion Cruise Books are now ready and have begun being mailed out.

If you would still like to order a book, please EMAIL: CDHEATONII@AOL.COM

Save the Date

2016 Reunion will be held July 27 - 31

Wisconsin Dells

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

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

Please check the 2/4 website for updated information

Frank "Doc" Morelli

You may have seen the following article in Sgt. Grit Magazine.

July 22-26 I had the honor along with two Marines, from Hotel 2/4 the "Magnificent Bastards".

(We reunited a few years back and invited to attend the Battalion Re-Union in Quantico Virginia. In addition our spouses wanted to attend. We were somewhat reluctant since this was our first re-union, not knowing what to expect. After contacting a board member via e-mail with two follow up e-mails by board members, we were welcomed and advised looking forward to meeting us & our wives.

The 2/4 Memorial is located in "Semper Fidelis" Park. A paved brick trail with Bricks engraved with names of those KIA. Various Memorials are displayed thru out the park which is at the Marine Corps Museum, located outside Quantico Marine Corps Base.

In Attendance were two hundred plus Association members, spouses, family members & friends.

Our Scheduled Itinerary was to meet & greet the first evening. The second day was to depart for the Chapel located at the top of the hill to the Park trail. Various high dignitaries Commandants , Generals, Brig Generals were speakers with the Singing of the National Anthem , The Marine Corps Hymn , Prayer and Dedication of the bricks located surrounding the Base of the 2/4 Memorial for the three Gold Star families in attendance . A quick tour of the Museum which is a must see.

We then departed for the Basic School for lunch. Followed by a briefing of today's training for future Officers, ending with a demo of the required "Martial Arts" training.

The following day was the highlight of the event. At the Vietnam Memorial all Vietnam Veterans Received a Commemorative 50 Year Anniversary of the Vietnam War pin in a special ceremony. From there I was able to direct my Marine Buddies now numbered 5 from our Company included to our Platoon Sgt. to Panel 17E. I scrolled thru the nine Men's names of our buddies from the First Platoon who on March 30 '67 paid the Ultimate Sacrifice. Upon Departure we said a silent prayer then went on to the Iwo Jima Memorial. A short break then to dinner at the Reagan Building.

With now renewed acquaintances and new found friends, we awaited the "high light" of the evening, the "8th & I "performance by the Marine Corps Barracks Band & Drill team. Needless to say this was "Awesome & Outstanding"! The Finale at The Marine Corps Museum was the Banquet Dinner. We enjoyed the speakers & conversation with new found friends, former Buddies from 45 to 48 Years ago. I encourage any former or Active members to join the 2/4 Association or units you served with. I also encourage you to visit the Marine Corps Museum in Triangle Quantico, VA. I am personally proud to have served with the Marines & attend the Re-Union with my buddies & our Spouses.

Semper Fidelis

Hospital Corpsman

Petty Officer 3rd Class

2nd Batt 4th Mar

"Doc "Morelli franknmarn@aol.com

BACKGROUND OF THE 2/4 MEMORIAL BRICK PROJECT

"The 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines Association is sponsoring an initiative through the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation that will provide a lasting tribute for every fallen member of its Battalion. A commemorative brick will be laid in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park, adjacent to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., for each Battalion member who was killed in action, or died as a result of wounds since the Battalion's formation in 1911. The first 376 bricks of an estimated 1063 bricks have already been placed along a special section of the trail between the World War II and Tank Battalion Monuments These bricks are installed together in reverse chronological order, beginning with the fallen of Afghanistan. The first brick honors Sgt. William Stacy, who was killed in January 2012 in Afghanistan. The 376th brick, representing the earliest fallen member of this first donation, honor

....Support the National Museum of the Marine Corps and the many other historical projects of the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

.....To encourage other organizations to honor their hallowed dead in this unique manner.

Records of combat deaths came from the National Archives and contain various data structures, which will undoubtedly include errors and omissions. Every effort was made to ensure accuracy, but errors are likely to arise in the future. It would be greatly appreciated if anyone discovering such errors would notify 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines Association so that bricks may be replaced as needed.

Although research is not yet complete, the association expects the bricks to total more than 1,000 by the project's completion. Once the final brick is laid, the 2/4 Association will be the first battalion to honor all its fallen.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE 2/4 MEMORIAL BRICK FUND by making your check payable to "2/4 Association Memorial Brick Fund and mail to 2d Bn. 4th Marines Assn, PO Box 6511. Concord, NC 28027

To the Membership

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter Roy Thomas is our new Membership Chairman. We are working together with our computer systems to get them matched for a smooth transition. This is needed to be able to send the Roster as well as many other items to the Officers, Board of Directors, Newsletter Editor and Web Sgt. for the web site that we all enjoy.

Roy joined the Marines Corp in 2001, just a few hours after Graduation in High School and left for boot camp. He graduated boot camp on August 31 2001 and reported to SOI (ITR) in many of our members and on Sept 11th 2001 and was stationed with 2/4 right out of SOI. He did his entire time in service with Echo 2/4 and went to Iraq in 2004. He was injured on the morning of April 6th 2004 by a hand grenade and was medically discharged and retired in May of 2005. He is married and has two children.

Chris McIntosh who served with Roy will be assisting Roy in the membership recruiting and calling on the Membership as well.

In looking over the Roster all 463 members and former members that are Annual or Life Members. The results at this time are 362 are Life, 30 annuals paid, 71 Annuals not paid. I ask all Annual members to check Membership on the website and check the paid thru column. If your date is not 06/30/16 you are not a paid up member, we would really like for you to reinstate and I will get your new card to you. If your information is incorrect please let me know so I can send the most accurate roster to Roy. Your help is greatly appreciate.

Joining or renewing is very easy now. Just go to the Web Site www.2-4association.org and click on Membership. On the left side is a Membership application. Simply click on it and enter your information, print and mail the check to the address at the bottom of the form which is our Treasurer. The Treasurer and I will be notified electronically. When he gets your check, he will notify me and I will send your Membership card.

I certainly wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

Semper Fi and Anchors Aweigh!

John Hembrough Chairman

Steve Wilson

Dear All,

Phyllis and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your prayers over the course of these past 16 days. I returned home yesterday from 4 days of Patricia Neal Rehab Center here in Knoxville. And for those that have not been kept up to speed, we are recovering from temporal arteritis, a stroke, and a heart attack. Currently, we are hopeful that the medications provided by the cardiologist team, the rheumatologist, and neurologist are making it possible to avoid the heart surgeon's table. We feel that we are more than blessed to have come this far.

We both would like to thank you for the individual cards, emails, and texts which have been heart warming and uplifting in our time of need. This is, without a doubt, the hardest thing I have ever encountered. They

say that I should, with time, recover; however, vision, balance, and thought processing have been affected. We have a long fight ahead and not without our medical team and our spiritual team.

We just felt you deserved the latest information on our setback, as you have been more than supportive.

Last night's sleeping in one's own bed was a new beginning. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Steve and Phyllis

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National Museum of the Marine Corps

1 JAN 16 - 31 MAR 16 SPECIAL NOTICE — MUSEUM CLOSED

Construction has begun on the Final Phase of the National Museum of the Marine Corps. This final phase will open in phases over a 5-year period with the first part opening in 2017. In the much closer future the Museum will be closed January - March 2016 to hang an SBD Dauntless airplane in Leatherneck Gallery and replace the gallery's Korean War Sikorsky HRS-2 helicopter exhibit with a Vietnam helicopter exhibit. To learn more about the Final Phase please visit http://www.usmcmuseum.com/Museum_Expansion.asp

BEIRUT MEMORIAL CEREMONY BERGEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Oct 23, 2015

When I was asked to be a speaker at this Beirut Memorial Ceremony, my initial reaction was hesitation, since I was not personally involved in this conflict. Being retired from the Marine Corps, I had seen combat in Vietnam, & although I watched my Marines from afar, my only connection was through my Marines who were there.

The Beirut Barracks Bombings occurred during the Lebanese Civil War when two truck bombs struck separate buildings housing United States and French military forces—members of the Multinational Force (MNF) in Lebanon—killing 299 American and French servicemen. An obscure group calling itself 'Islamic Jihad' claimed responsibility for the bombings.

In the attack on the building serving as a barracks for the 1st Battalion 8th Marines (Battalion Landing Team - BLT 1/8), the death toll was 241 American servicemen: 220 Marines, 18 sailors, and three soldiers, making this incident the deadliest single-day death toll for the United States Marine Corps since World War II's Battle of Iwo Jima; the deadliest single-day death toll for the United States military since the first day of the Vietnam War's Tet Offensive; and the deadliest single attack on Americans overseas since World War II. Another 128 Americans were wounded in the blast. Thirteen later died of their injuries, and are numbered among the total number who died.

Although I was involved in heavy combat during the Tet Offensive of 1968, at Khe Sanh, Hue City and along the DMZ, experiencing extensive casualties in all those battles, myself included, the loss of fellow Marines on another battlefield, in another time and place, rekindles and solidifies the bond of brotherhood - we are all Marines who have served our country and continue to carry on the tradition of serving others. That's what we do.

As Shakespeare's King Henry V said so eloquently at the Battle of Agincourt: "We few, we happy few, we Band of Brothers... For he who sheds his blood for me this day, shall ever be my Brother."

Like Viet Nam and Beirut, no two wars, battles, actions or conflicts are alike. Regardless of the mission and its goals, whether it's heavy combat or preserving the peace, the fact is you still get killed just as dead...

As Marines we are trained to fight and expect casualties on the field of battle, yet it is always difficult to come to terms with situations such as this, where so many died or were injured as a result of two bombers.

Our purpose today is not to revisit the brutalities of war....but to honor the memory of our fallen brothers and the civilians whose lives were tragically lost.

As my good friend Mike Norman so eloquently wrote in the introduction to his extraordinary book, "These Good Men",

I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate.

But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. I cannot say where we are headed. Ours are not perfect friendships; those are the province of legend and myth.

A few of my comrade's drift far from me now, sending back only occasional word. I know that one day even these could fall to silence. Some of the men will stay close, a couple, perhaps, always at hand.

As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades ...such good men...

So, my message to you today, is not to mourn our brother's and sister's deaths, they would not have wanted that, but to celebrate their lives, & the life they have given us. This is a wonderful country because of the sacrifices they have made for us protecting the values and freedoms we hold so dear. We do them honor by remembering that.

Those who died are not buried in the ground, but in our very being; As long as we live, they live in us.

We do them honor by not allowing what they have died for to be denigrated in the name of expediency; & we do them honor by merely remembering them, and passing on their memory to our children. As Yeats expressively wrote:

Think where man's glory

Most begins & ends

And say my glory was

I had such friends

And to all veterans gathered here today, thank you and "Welcome home". God Bless You & God Bless America.



Capt. Ben R. Cascio (Ret)

Joe Dwyer

We received word today of the passing of Capt. Joseph Dwyer. Joe was the Golf CO May 68-69.

His wife Carol can be sent condolence cards at 8617 Jackson Ave.

Manassas, VA 22110-4727