



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



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Aug 2015 *Sea Horse*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, please allow me to say, "Thank you and well done!" to Steve Wilson, our Immediate Past President for his steadfastness in leading us these past three and one half years through some very difficult and significant changes. I am sure Phyllis assisted him as a sounding board on many instances as well, thus, "Thank you, Phyllis." We are lucky to have them both! Also, the same salutations go to departing Director Scott Laidig who provided an easy and calming manner during difficult times. He could always be counted upon to give a solid and thoughtful approach to the business at hand. Lastly, many heartfelt thanks to John Hembrough, our departing Membership Chairman. Thankfully, he agreed to stay a year longer than originally intended to provide us with a first rate membership roster. He, and his crew of Cindy Greer and our Secretary Manny Travassos, spent countless hours in tracking down lapsed and lost members, and sending out the annual billing notices. Thanks to John, Cindy and Manny, we have a solid, up-to-date roster. Newly elected Vice President Sean Schickel believes he has a solid replacement for John as Membership Chairman and we are working on the transition at this time.

On the same note, I offer my personal thanks to our 2015 Reunion Committee [BGen Bill Weise, Jim Rogers, Dale Robinson and Dave Jones] for a job well done. Colleen and I thoroughly enjoyed our time with everyone. I know everyone else did as well.

Secondly, I am very pleased with our new Board of Directors. I welcome to our ranks our new Vice President, Sean Schickel. Sean represents our younger Marine and Navy members and we look to you all as the future of our Association. I thank Manny Travassos, James Swann and Jim Rogers for staying aboard to help guide the Association in the future. Treasurer James Swann has especially kept us solvent and honest in our financial responsibilities. I must say here that he always lends a large dose of common sense to our discussions as well. Thank you all!

Lastly, allow me to say, "Thank you!" for your faith and trust in electing me as your next President. I am certainly honored and humbled. I know each President feels the same when they step into the president's shoes. These feelings are especially vivid in the fact that all of you are heroes in my opinion.

**Yes, we have past commandants, men of significant rank and prestige, and those who have received high honors throughout their Marine service. Yet, most of us are those who "did my job." We don't think of ourselves as anything special other than being able to say we are Marines or corpsmen. All of us had our specific duties to perform and we did them as well as we possible could. Having been a battery and company commander during my career [yes, I am a cannon cocker and logistics guy], I quickly realized that the Marines and corpsmen in my units were the main reason I was there. I was responsible for them. If I did that job well, they would take care of me. It takes everyone to make an outfit successful. We are all important, *and* I might add, our families are as well since they keep the home fires burning while we are away. I don't say anything new here. We all know what makes success. My point is that I pledge to you to do the best job I can to keep this Association active and vibrant. I know what has to be done and I ask for your support in accomplishing the mission.**

**Semper fidelis,**

**Brooks**

**Brooks Wilson**

**President**

## **NEWS FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDER AND SERGEANT MAJOR**

**Association Members,**

**2nd Battalion, 4th Marines has seen many exciting changes over the past few months not uncommon to an Infantry Battalion returning from deployment. We've said farewell to dozens of the world's best enlisted Marines and Officers, and began to welcome in the new team of Magnificent Bastards – raising the bar even higher. I'm continually impressed beyond measure by the young men who choose to fight for this amazing organization and serve this great country. It's truly an honor to lead these men.**

**MGySgt Jacinto and I want to thank the 2/4 Association for an OUTSTANDING reunion in July. We were so impressed with the turnout and family bond we all share. If any association member is visiting Camp Pendleton, please stop by and see us. I would love to introduce you to the Marines that are following in your footsteps. Thank you again for what you do for us. We appreciate each of you and the entire 2/4 association.**

**Looking ahead, we've developed an intense and extensive training plan beginning with annual rifle range qualifications and small unit leader fundamentals. Concurrently, we've had the pleasure of hosting Naval Academy Midshipmen, teaching them the doctrinal tactics, techniques, and procedures the Marine Corps has honed and mastered. We'll be supporting 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines in their Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation (MCCRE) as controllers and opposing force, preparing to send our Marines to Singapore for a bilateral training exercise, sending others to Twentynine Palms, CA to train with British Commandos, assuming responsibility for the San Mateo Area Guard Force, and stand the Alert Battalion Task Force mission.**

**Our goal this fall is to train our Marines to become better warfighters and men than when they first stepped on deck. We aim to be the best infantry Battalion in 1st Marine Division and to be ready at a moment's notice to deploy anywhere in the world – accomplishing any mission set forth.**

**We extend our deepest appreciation to the 2/4 Association for all the loyalty, support, and hard work you do in keeping the Esprit de Corps alive and thriving for Magnificent Bastards past, present, and future. Thank you.**

**Semper Fidelis,**

**Lieutenant Colonel Brian Greene (Battalion Commander)**

**Sergeant Major Michael L. Bolyard (Battalion SgtMaj)**

Follow us on **Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/2dBattalion4thMarines>**

**REUNION OF THE**  
**2nd BATTALION, 4th MARINES ASSOCIATION**  
**“THE MAGNIFICENT BASTARDS”**

**July 22 – 26, 2015**

There are so many to thank for the success of this year's reunion. The program that Fritz did at the Chapel was outstanding. Thanks to Frank for an outstanding memorial service and for continuing as our Chaplain. Also, to Becky for helping with the Newsletter. General Bill's idea about honoring and paying tribute to all the members of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines that were killed in action was outstanding. The work that Dale Robinson did in obtaining the list was far above one of the greatest accomplishments. And I have to thank Dave Jones for all the coordination he did and filling in for me when I was absent. Brooks and Steve made this a reunion not to be forgotten very soon. A special thanks to Ben Cascio for the auction of his historic picture of the Twin Towers. He drew a large amount of money for the Association. A special thanks to our guest speaker, Colonel James Glynn. His speech was inspiring and made me want to re-enlist. Special thanks to Colin and Anne Heaton for doing the cruise book. Thanks to Colonel Wortman and Sergeant Major Krause for the Color Guard. That Color Guard would have made you proud. Thanks to all the Battalion Commanders who attended the reunion. A special thanks to Colonel Rann. He is the oldest Battalion Commander at 92. Last and not the least, Pat Burns did an outstanding job for the reunion covering all the loose ends.

Lt Col (ret) Joe Como, and Lt Col (ret) Pete Winer, both field artillery officers, attended the reunion this year for the first time.

They set up display boards describing the artillery support provided to 2nd Bn, 4th Marines during the battle of Dai Do in early May 1968, and, to the Marine and Army Infantry Battalions participating in the 3rd Marines' counterattack during the remainder of May that drove the 320th NVA Division northward across the DMZ to safe havens.

Joe was CO of the 3rd Bn, 12th Marines, which, in direct support of the 3rd Marine Regiment, provided all of the close-in artillery fires for the 2/4 throughout the battle of Dai Do - fires that required careful and timely planning among the infantry commanders, artillery forward observers, and fire support coordination / fire direction centers.

Pete (then Capt.) was CO of Btry D, 2nd Bn, 12th Marines positioned to the west near Cam Lo at this time. Pete's battery, along with the rest of 2/12, was in direct support of the 9th Marine Regiment. But, when the Battle of Dai Do intensified, all of 2/12, plus two batteries of the 4th Battalion, 12th Marines, turned their guns eastward and reinforced the fires of 3/12 by attacking targets in the NVA rear areas with large volumes of ammunition - initially reducing the NVA's ability to sustain the attack against 2/4, and then weakening the NVA's resistance to the 3rd Marines' counterattack.

During the Saturday evening dinner, BGen Weise introduced LtCol Como to the audience by offering the ultimate compliment an infantryman can give an artilleryman.... i.e., words to the effect that "..... many of the Marines in the room tonight might not be here if it were not for the artillery fire Joe Como's Marines provided 2/4 at Dai Do."

**Jim Rogers**

## **Wall That Heals**

**You just never know when it's going to hit you at The Wall. You're standing there thinking about how hot it is, or wondering what that couple can possibly see in each other, or noting to yourself that woman absolutely should not be wearing that outfit, etc. when it just smacks you upside the head and you instantly remember what a remarkable, powerful place we work at.**

**Saturday, 25-July 2015. It was hot, but not completely miserable. The crowds were nice and the day was going along pretty quickly. I was standing around panel 5E. A Ranger was leading a walking tour with about 10 people. He had stopped at the apex of the Wall and gave his presentation. They were just moving out – heading up the eastern side toward the Washington Monument when a visitor – not with the group – stepped in and asked the Ranger – “May I say something?” Everyone stopped. The Ranger gave him the okay to address the tour. The man said “I’m Vietnamese. This is my first visit to this memorial. I want to tell you about a time at Easter in 1968. My village was right next to a U.S. base. Because the French had been in Vietnam for so long, most of the people in my village were Catholic. And Easter was a big day for us. No work was done that day...it was one of our biggest holidays of the year. I was about 14 years old that Easter. Another boy in the village had a guitar and a bunch of us joined him that evening and we were all singing. You know what we were singing? Beatles songs! We knew them all. And as we were singing we could hear some voices in the distance – they were singing along with us! It was the Americans at the base! They had heard us and joined right in. Several of my friends and I walked over to the base and we could see some soldiers up in one of the towers. I yelled up to him ‘what are you doing here? Why are you Americans in Vietnam?’ One of them yelled back ‘I have no idea!’. We all laughed...but at that moment it hit me. And it has stayed with me ever since. These young men had left everything they had...family, friends, jobs, school and were here not because they had anything to gain...but because their country had said ‘we need you to go’. The richest country in the world had sent men to help the poorest country in the world. We had nothing and you had everything, but you came. These guys were here for me. And I’ve never forgotten that. I always wanted to tell someone how much the Americans meant to me.” I guess he had waited his whole life for that moment at The Wall to tell that story. Magic.**

**“...and in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make....” Allen McCabe**

**NPS Volunteers at the Wall call this affectionately, "Wall Magic".**

**This occurred the day after our "pinning Ceremony". Blessings, Bill Shugarts**

## **Message from Master Gunny Sargent Jacinto**

**This weekend was one of the best experiences in my 22 year career. Being surrounded by so many "HEROS" and treated so well and with open arms. Although I just met everyone for the first time, I felt as if we have been lifelong friends. The brotherhood that this Association breeds is second to none. Without a doubt I will be sending in my application to join this fine organization.**

**Like I said over 100 time over the weekend when everyone was thanking myself and the Battalion Commander, this weekend was all about the Marines, Sailors and Spouses of the Association.... I thank you!!**

**MGySgt Jacinto J.E.**

**2d Battalion 4th Marines "The Magnificent Bastards" Operations Chief.**

**Pictured below (left) MGySgt Jorge Jacinto (right) SgtMaj Anthony Cruz**



**I received the following message from Terri Parks who attended the 2/4 reunion with her husband, Ev. Terri is the sister of 2ndLt. Anthony Gerreti, who was killed in action March 19, 1969. Lt Gerreti, G/2/4, was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.**

**"Hello again General Weise,**

**Ev and I wanted to thank you so very much for our two wonderful and very emotional days in Virginia. We were so thankful that we made the trip and I couldn't stop thinking of how proud my Dad would have been. He was always proud of my brother and although his heart was broken that he did not come home his Silver Star medal and citation made him feel like Tony's sacrifice was not in vain. He would have LOVED this dedication of bricks as we did! Everyone we met was so kind and warm and fun and friendly. So many stories to hear and learn about, what a beautiful group of Marines and their families!!**

**We found Tony's brick on the walkway and felt very accomplished, we made a lot of turns and went over a bridge and followed our directions and saw and read so many other names along our path, all who deserve our prayers and thanks.**

**We went to the museum as well and we saw you and your picture and your men as we toured the Viet Nam exhibit. Thank you for your service as well!**

**We will never forget our time with you all this July and once again we thank you for including us and for honoring my brother Tony. He was a great, young, energetic, proud Marine, who truly believed in what he was fighting for, I think you would have liked to know him.**

**God Bless you!**

**Terri Giretti Parks**

**Pictured below:**

**1) BGen Weise, Gold Star family Kenneth and Teresa Condi**

**2) Col Vivian, Lt.Col Weiler, BGen Weise, Col Glenn, Col Wortman**

**3) BnCo. Lt.Col Greene, Lt. Col Weiler**





**If you have any pictures that you would like to share on the website please send them to Brooks Wilson at [brooks@adanceoflight.com](mailto:brooks@adanceoflight.com)**

**If you would like to order a cruise book from the reunion, please use the following form.**

## 2/4 REUNION CRUISE BOOK ORDER FORM

EACH BOOK COSTS \$16.00 AND PRICE INCLUDES TAX AND FIRST CLASS POSTAGE WITHIN THE USA

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. \_\_\_\_\_

NO. OF BOOKS \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

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### Save the Date

**2016 Reunion will be held July 27 - 31**

### Wisconsin Dells

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

Please check the website for updated information

### Another Update in the Ongoing Warfighting Seminar Series

Attached is an interesting & timely article about Operation Starlite in next month's VFW Magazine for the 50th anniversary of Operation Starlite. August 18, 1965, 2d Battalion 4th Marines (2/4) & 3d Battalion 3d Marines (3/3), supported by helicopters from HMM-261 & 361 landed to defeat a VC Regimental assault on the Chu Lai Airbase.

Operation Starlite will be the subject of a new display being constructed at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico VA within the next year, & the helicopter (YN-19) restored by Al Weiss & the 361

Restoration Assoc. ([www.362restoration.org](http://www.362restoration.org)), donated to the NMMC last year, actually flew w/HMM-361 during the Operation in 1965, & will be featured in the upcoming Starlite Display at the NMMC to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Operation.

The helicopter is currently being readied for display at the Old Larson's Gym, south of the Airfield & the new HMX Hangars. No date has been set for the completion of the display, but is expected to open sometime next year.

<https://bay180.mail.live.com/ol/#>

## **CONTRIBUTE TO THE 2/4 MEMORIAL BRICK FUND**

"Honor all Magnificent Bastards who paid the final price defending our Country. We plan to place a brick honoring every 2/4 Marine or Sailor Killed In Action or Died of Wound since 1911. Help complete this mission by contributing now. Each brick costs \$220.00, but any amount is welcome. Make your check payable to "2/4 Association Memorial Brick Fund and mail to 2d Bn 4th Marines Assn, PO Box 6511. Concord, NC 28027.

## **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, honors Hospital Corpsman Third Class John P. Hyland, killed in February 1968, in Vietnam. This reverse sequence will, in part, provide the association more time to research personnel records from the early part of the 20th century, which are harder to find.

"This project will not only honor 2/4's fallen, it will support the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation which built and supports the National Museum of the Marine Corps. "The Foundation is deeply honored that Semper Fidelis Memorial Park will be home to a personal tribute to every courageous member of 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines who lost their lives in service to our nation," said Lt. Gen. Robert R. Blackman Jr, USMC (Ret), President and CEO of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. "We are tremendously grateful to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines Association for making this generous and meaningful gift, which will both pay a deserved honor to these individuals and advance the Foundation's mission of ensuring that the Marine Corps Heritage Center tells the story of every person who has served in the U.S. Marine Corps."

### **PURPOSE OF THE 2/4 MEMORIAL BRICKS:**

.....Honor every 2/4 member who was killed in action or died of wounds.

.....Provide a visible bond among Magnificent Bastards of all eras.

.....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.

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.

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### **The Few, The Proud, The Marines**

**(A Story of Creation) Shared By Jud Hilton**

**In the beginning was the word, and the word was God. In the beginning was God and all else was darkness and void, and without form, so God created the heavens and the earth. He created the sun and the moon, and the stars, so that light might pierce the darkness. The Earth, God divided between the land and the sea and these He filled with many assorted creatures.**

**And the dark, salty, slimy creatures that inhabited the murky depths of the oceans, God called sailors. And he dressed them accordingly. They had little trousers that looked like bells at the bottom. And their shirts had cute little flaps on them, and they wore funny looking hats. He gave them long sideburns and beards, nicknamed them "squids", and banished them to a lifetime at sea, so normal folks would not have to associate with them. To further identify these unloved creatures, He called them "petty" and "commodore" instead of titles worthy of red-blooded men.**

**And the flaky creatures of the land, God called soldiers. And with a twinkle in His eye, and a sense of humor only He can have, God made their trousers too short and their covers too large. He also made their pockets oversized, so that they may warm their hands. And to adorn their uniforms, God gave them badges in quantities only a dime store owner could appreciate. And he gave them emblems and crests and all sorts of shiny things that glittered, and devices that dangled. (When you are God you tend to get carried away.)**

**On the 6th day, God thought about creating some air creatures for which he designed a Greyhound bus driver's uniform. He discarded this idea during the first week, and it was not until years later that some apostles resurrected this theme and established what we now know as the "Wild Blue Yonder Wonders."**

**And on the 7th day, as you know, God rested. But on the 8th day, at 0530, God looked down upon Earth and was not happy. God was just not happy! So He thought about His labors, and in His divine wisdom, God created a divine creature. And this He called Marine. And the Marines, who God created in His own image, were to be of the air, and of the land, and of the sea. And these He gave many wonderful uniforms. Some were green, and some were blue with red trim. And in the early days, some were even a beautiful tan. He gave them practical fighting uniforms, so they could wage war against the forces of Satan and evil. He gave them service uniforms for their daily work and training. And He gave them evening and dress uniforms.....sharp and stylish, handsome things, so they may promenade with their ladies on Saturday night and impress the shit out of everybody. He also gave them swords, so that people who were not impressed could be dealt with accordingly.**

**And at the end of the 8th day, God looked down upon the Earth and saw that it was good. But was God happy? No! God was still not happy. Because in the course of his labors, He had forgotten one thing. He did not have a Marine uniform for himself. But He thought about it, and thought about it, and finally satisfied Himself in knowing that, well.....not everybody can be a MARINE!!!**

### **Membership Chairman**

**I am pleased to announce that Roy Thomas will become your new Membership Chairman,**

**I have begun communicating with him and very confident and proud to come to know him. He was wounded in Ramadi, Iraq in July 2004 along with many others in fierce fighting.**

**I have been working on this since returning from the Reunion and must say I am pleased to say we have added many more members.**

**I, along with others will be working with our younger Marines to transition the change to the new Membership Chairman and another Marine Chris Macintosh that he credits with saving his life and serving as at helping to recruit our younger Marines warriors.**

**Welcome aboard men!**

**This will not be a quick turnover as I will never quit and continue to help and work with the Association. There are there are a number of details to work out and this will be accomplished for the future of the 2/4 Association. I certainly look forward to working with these fine men and the transition that we will working through.**

**I am very excited to be working in this direction in moving forward as my previous President Steve Wilson spoke of in 2012 and that has been taking place all along I am also honored to be working with our new President Brooks Wilson throughout this and you all. I feel that since the summer of 2012 we have continually been making many improvements with our Membership in communications.**

**I apologize for short report as I am out of state at this time**

**Semper Fidelis and Anchors Aweigh,**

**John Hembrough 334-67'34**

**johna24@aol.com**

### **Yahya Kariem**

**My family and I had intended to attend the reunion this year, unfortunately, my wife had a heart attack in May while we were attending my son graduation in North Carolina. My wife is in need of a heart and kidneys transplant is unable to travel. I ask that you and the association keep us in your prayers. A pacemaker and defibrillator is a part of her daily uniform until a transplant is found. I love you old bastards and I miss all of you. God Bless and God willing, we will make it next year."**

### **Phil Cifalo**

**Phil missed the reunion this year due to medical issues. He will be having his pacemaker replaced and a defibrillator inserted Thursday 3 Sept. 2015. Please send Phil a get well message to [WomIcecream@aol.com](mailto:WomIcecream@aol.com)**

### **He would never leave a Marine behind**

**By John Vandiver / Stars and Stripes / June 11, 2015**

**The target was an expert bomb maker, suspected of killing numerous U.S. and NATO troops in western Afghanistan. As Staff Sgt. Andrew Seif and Sgt. Justin Hansen closed in on the enemy during a secret raid, the two Marines maneuvered to prevent the suspect's escape. That's when shots rang out on July 24, 2012, and Seif heard the calls for help.**

**Rather than wait for reinforcements, the critical skills operator with 2d Marine Special Operations Battalion moved toward his injured comrade Hansen and the enemy fire.**

**For his actions that day in Badghis province, Afghanistan, Seif was recognized with the Silver Star, the country's third-highest medal for valor. On March 6, he was honored during a ceremony at his Special Operations Command headquarters at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he was described as a humble Marine inclined to give credit to teammates rather than himself.**

**Less than a week later, he was dead.**

**Seif, 26, was among 11 Marines and National Guardsmen who died in a helicopter crash March 10 during exercises off the Florida coast.**

**For special operators, it was the kind of intensive training that was required to execute battlefield operations like the one Seif encountered in Afghanistan in 2012.**

**When Hansen was wounded, Seif rushed to treat the injuries while returning fire. He then moved across open ground, exposing himself to enemy fire, to enter the enemy's compound alone. There, he single-handedly cleared the building.**

**After securing the area, he returned to Hansen to continue rendering aid.**

**"The fact that (Seif) continued to fight through the objective to get Sgt. Hansen taken care of, putting himself in the line of fire, speaks volumes to who he is and demonstrates that he would never leave a Marine behind," Marine Special Operations Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph L. Osterman said during the Silver Star ceremony. "This is truly in the category of gallantry and valor for which these awards are set up."**

**Despite the challenges Seif faced, the mission was accomplished. The bomb maker was taken out. Hansen didn't survive his battlefield injuries, but while mortally wounded he still was a key part of the mission's success, Seif had said.**

**Seif, who was born in Alaska and grew up in Holland, Mich., joined the Marines after graduating high school. He deployed to Iraq in 2008 as a combat engineer and in 2010 he made the jump to the Corps' special operations command.**

**He won the USO's Marine of the Year award in 2013, commended by his commanding officer for the "vigor, tenacity and common sense" he brought to every endeavor.**

**Seif's wife was with him when he received the Silver Star. Recalling the events on the battlefield at the ceremony, he said extreme situations bring out the best in Marines.**

**"That day a lot of people showed their worth," he said.**

## **Last Man Standing, Ben Cascio**

**It was noted that at every event the same man always brought up the rear. Ever protecting and watching over these Marines. He was the last in line at every meal and chow hall. Waiting patiently in the sun, he was the last in line to receive his pin at the park. He was the last one on the busses checking to see that all were accounted for. He was well trained and continues to have his heart in the right place.**

**Seen below with the Golf Company CO and five of the Marines that he flew out of harm's way.**

