



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



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May. 2013

*SeaHorse*

### Presidents Letter

Attention on Deck! I am proud to announce General Al Gray as our guest speaker for our "25th Anniversary" reunion in Philadelphia. There will be an opportunity to purchase Scott Laidig's biography, "Al Gray, Marine, The Early Years, 1950-1967, Vol. 1", as well as a book signing during the cocktail hour prior to the reunion dinner on Saturday.

Your board continues to tweak the new by-laws/operating policies and present the best opportunity for membership. We will address these changes at the reunion. John Hembrough has diligently worked with many of you to update/re-locate and identify many of you. Please contact us with any changes of address and email addresses you may have changed in the last two years. Stay abreast of updates and the reunion by visiting the web site at: [2/4association.org](http://2/4association.org).

The following is a list of agenda items for our annual business meeting:

Financial Report	2014 Reunion
Web Site Status	Brick Placement
Association Address Change	Membership

If there are additional items that you want added please contact one of our board members by the end of May so that the board may properly address your concerns prior to the meeting.

I look forward to seeing all Magnificent Bastards in June.

Semper Fidelis,  
Steve Wilson

## **Business Meeting Minutes 6/16/2012**

The meeting began with a talk from Steve Wilson about team work. This year would be a team effort.

There were 31 Members and Associate Members Present at the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Steve Wilson, Brooks Wilson, Pat Burns and James Rodgers.

The meeting was called to order promptly at 9:00 am

The Period July 1, 2011 thru June 12, 2012 Financial Report was read a motion was made and seconded to adopt the financial report. The vote to accept the Financial Report was made and accepted. The Financial Report will be included in the minutes.

There was discussion on the ballot and voting on line. The Election Results were read. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Election results. A vote was taken to accept the Election Results. The results were accepted. The official results of the ballot will be included in the minutes.

There was a talk from Brigadier General Retired, William Weise, on the Monument Fund. There was a charge of \$330 per brick charged for memorial bricks around the foot of the 2/4 monument. Of that amount, \$40 per Memorial Brick was returned to the purchasers.

A dedication ceremony after of the completion of the 2/4 Monument was requested by Major General James Livingston.

Brooks Wilson discussed a new web site for the association. The new web site was estimated at \$1,500 to \$2,000 dollars. A motion was made and seconded with a unanimous vote.

A review of the by-laws needs to be done.

A Sea Horse editor is needed and, also a New Membership Roster needs to be completed.

A discussion about the next Reunion to be held in Philadelphia 2012-2013. Our (2/4) 25 year Reunion it will be held sometime between June and Labor Day. It will be hosted by Brigadier General Retired William Weise.

A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting and it was adopted.

**2ND BATTALION 4TH MARINES ASSOCIATION REUNION 26—30 JUNE 2013  
PHILADELPHIA/VALLEY FORGE (rev 1May2013)**

The 2013 2/4 Association Reunion will be held in the greater Philadelphia area June 26—30, 2013. Highlights include a guided tour of America's birthplace (Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Constitution Hall, the battleship USS New Jersey, Betsy Ross House, the spot believed to be the location of Tun Tavern—the birthplace of our Corps, and many other historic places). You will also have time on your own to explore Philadelphia's Art Museum, Revolutionary War battlefields, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolutionary War, and other places too numerous to mention. Our memorial service and will be held in historic Valley Forge where George Washington and his ragged band of Freedom Fighters froze and nearly starved to death in the dark days...."that tried men's souls" during our revolution. If you wish, you may shop for bargains at King of Prussia Mall or try your luck at a nearby Casino. You can pick and choose from many activities and events. Our Command Post will be the Sheraton Valley Forge Hotel, 480 North Gulph Road, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, 19406. We expect a large turnout so make your reservations now.

To reserve a room at the hotel call 1-484-238-1800 or 1-800-328-6242 and ask for reservations. Tell the clerk that you are a member of the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association and that you want a room for the 2/4 reunion, June 26—June 30, 2012. Say that you want the special rate which is \$129.00 plus a tax of 8%, UNTIL MAY 27, 2012.

If you can't get a room at the Sheraton

THE HYATT HOUSE HOTEL AT 240 MALL BOULEVARD, KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406, WILL PROVIDE ROOMS FOR 2/4 REUNION ATTENDEES, 26--29 JUNE, AT THE SPECIAL RATE OF \$139.00 PLUS 8 %TAX. FREE BREAKFAST INCLUDED. TO RECEIVE THIS SPECIAL RATE CALL 610-265-0300 AND ASK FOR RESERVATIONS. TELL CLERK YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE 2D BATTALION, 4TH MARINES ASSOCIATION. DON'T WAIT AS THESE ROOMS ARE ALSO LIMITED. FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.

**Operation Kingfisher Book**

Art Cuellar, a new association member who served in Golf Company and participated in the ambush/battle on 21 September 1967, is writing a book about that battle and Operation Kingfisher.

He would like to contact anyone who took part in or who has knowledge of the 21 September 1967 battle which took place northeast of Con Thien in an area known as "the market place".

Art may be called at 909 456 9868 or emailed at [arthur\\_cuellar\\_24@hotmail.com](mailto:arthur_cuellar_24@hotmail.com)

**\*REGISTRATION FORM\***

2nd Battalion, 4th Marines Association 2013 Reunion – Philadelphia/Valley Forge  
26-29 June 2013

Please complete this form and mail it with a check made payable to: "Second  
Battalion Fourth Marines Association Inc." Mail to: "2d Bn, 4th Marines Assn,  
455 Concord Parkway N #6511, Concord, North Carolina 28027"

Member's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ (Spouse/Child/ Friend)

Names as you wish them to appear on the name tag(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration before 31 May: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00= \_\_\_\_\_

- Children 12 and under free

Registration after 31 May: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00= \_\_\_\_\_

Bus to and from Philadelphia \_\_\_\_\_ Number req'd \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00= \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY (29 JUNE) BANQUET (coat and tie suggested/no host bar)  
\$45.00 X total dinners \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Reunion T-Shirts: All reunion T- Shirts are dark blue. On the left breast the  
Marine Corps Emblem and "2d Battalion, 4th Marines" will be printed.

"Philadelphia/Valley Forge Reunion 2013" will be printed on left sleeve.

Cost for the T-Shirts: Men's Size small – x-lrg. Nr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$18.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Lady's " " Nr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Men's Size 2xx – 3xxx Nr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Lady's " " Nr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$17.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Men's Size 4xxxx Nr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$21.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Reunion Polo Shirts: Reunion Polo Shirts will be burgundy or dark blue with  
pockets. On the left breast the Marine Corps Emblem and "2d Battalion, 4th  
Marines" will be embroidered. "Philadelphia/Valley Forge Reunion 2013" will be  
embroidered on left sleeve.

Burgundy Men's Med \_\_\_\_\_ Lg \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_ Nr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$34.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Lady's Med \_\_\_\_\_ Lg \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_ Nr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$29.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Men's XXXL----XXXXL \_\_\_\_\_ Nr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$38.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Men & Women Small \_\_\_\_\_ Nr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$28.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Dark Blue Men's Med \_\_\_\_\_ Lg \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_ Nr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$34.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Lady's Med \_\_\_\_\_ Lg \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_ Nr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$29.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Men's XXXL \_\_\_\_\_ XXXXL \_\_\_\_\_ Nr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$38.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Men & Women Small \_\_\_\_\_ Nr \_\_\_\_\_ x \$28.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Tour of local Historic Sites \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Number ordered \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS OR DIETARY RESTRICTIONS BELOW:

## **WEB SITE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER**

Effective 30 April or soon thereafter, the web site membership roster will publish each member's telephone number and e-mail address after their names, except for those having already indicated otherwise. If any member has neglected to inform Web Sergeant Brooks Wilson that they do NOT desire this information to be published, please do so at your earliest convenience. Silence means consent. Contact information for Brooks is on the web site.

## **ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK LINK**

Web Sergeant Brooks Wilson is still looking for a member to oversee the association's Facebook link. This entails keeping an eye on what is written online and encouraging the proper courtesy and propriety therein, as well as putting forth subjects of interest to 2/4 and 2/4 Association members for consideration and discussion. The Association Facebook connection is not intended to be used for personal purposes.

### **Casey Jones**

Erle Mutz, who was wounded at Bastards Bridge October 13-14 1967 and served in G/2/4 October 1967 through December 1967, is trying locate "Casey Jones", also a member of G/2/4 at that time.

If you know or knew "Casey Jones" (may have been a nickname), please contact Erle Mutz at <erlekath@optonline.net> or 1-631-560-3741.

### **Message from John Mongiove**

I am a Life Member of The 2/4 Association and just wanted to pass on to my brothers that the love of my life and wife, Sherry of 48 years as of the 15th of March, passed away on March 28 at 9:40 AM under the care of Hospice of Citrus County. Blessings and Semper Fi to all John Mongiove Fox 2/4 VN 66-67 0331

**Funeral for 1stSgt Casey T. Bazewick  
Shanghai, Corregidor, POW 4th Marines**

Everyone is most welcome to attend my father's funeral in Chicago and at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. I extend a special invitation to all Marines who may be in the area. I expect a large turnout.

My wife and I will bring my father's remains by train – just as the coffins of the war dead, after World War II, were transported by train when he was a commended War Dead Escort. We leave from Seattle (King St. Station) on Sunday, May 12, 4:40 pm, and arrive in Chicago (Union Station) on Tuesday, May 14, 3:55 pm (Amtrak is generally late, sometime by hours).

The funeral Mass is at St. John Cantius in Chicago on Thursday, May 16, 1 pm, 825 N. Carpenter St, Chicago, IL 60642. (This church sponsored his mother to come to the United States as an immigrant just days before the outbreak of the First World War, and it was there that his parents were married and he was baptized, sang in the choir, and attended school.)

The committal service is at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery on Friday, May 17, 12 noon, 20953 W. Hoff Rd, Elwood, IL 60421; (815) 423-9958. The large cemetery, which has a public information center, is an hour's drive (55 miles) south of Chicago and 11 miles south of Joliet.

Father Ron Neitzke, a Navy chaplain, will offer the blessing.

I am truly overwhelmed by the response from Marines – active-duty, reserve, and retired. I anticipate a full Marine Corps honor guard: seven riflemen firing three times, two flag folders, presenter, and bugler sounding Taps.

One Marine told me, "Your father is a hero to us." Another active-duty Marine said, "We take care of Marines. Once a Marine, always a Marine."

When I was a boy, my father often talked to me about esprit de corps and the meaning of "Semper Fidelis" – "Always Faithful." For Marines these are not idle words.

We look forward to seeing and welcoming you, as we take my father back home, to rest at last among the men and women who so valiantly served our nation.

If you haven't already done so, you may read my father's obituary and sign the guest book:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/skagitvalleyherald/obituary.aspx?pid=16184098>

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Semper Fidelis, Casey Bazewick, Jr.

After May 11, on the trip, my cell phone: 360-420-0830  
**General Al Gray Marine:**

The Potomac Institute Press is pleased to announce that a new book entitled **Al Gray, Marine: The Early Years, 1950-1967; Volume 1** is now available. You will recognize General Gray as the Chairman of the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, a position he had held for the past 15(?) years. From 1987 through 1991, General Gray served Presidents Reagan and Bush on the Joint Chiefs of Staff while he was the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

While General Gray's tenure as Commandant was widely acclaimed for the transformational nature of his leadership, and for his many innovations to his beloved Corps, much less is known about his early years as a Marine. In this volume, author Scott Laidig tells the story of a young enlisted Marine who was commissioned during the height of the Korean War, then served with distinction in that war and later in Vietnam. In between wars, then Captain and Major Gray became the father of modern Marine Corps cryptology, a fascinating tale of initiative and professionalism that will captivate readers of all ranks and grades, as well as civilians who might know much less about the military. The author also puts the war in Vietnam into a perspective not usually seen as a means of surrounding the context of General Gray's early years. Richly researched and extensively referenced, the book provides a starting points for those who may want to look again at the literature about the war, from the slanted reporting to the demagoguery of the press against the South Vietnamese military, from the errors of commission and omission made by politicians in Washington to the absence of an American military strategy in Saigon. Al Gray's service intersected with both ends of the military spectrum, from the top Marine Corps generals to the grunts who fought and bled on the ground, this volume is not a dry biography of an unknown military officer, but a rich tapestry of the professionalism apparent throughout General Gray's time as a Marine.

The Foreward by General Tony Zinni introduces the reader to General Gray's historical significance and his impact on the Marine Corps. In addition, the book is endorsed by Senator Jim Webb, who as Secretary of the Navy appointed General Gray to his final billet, as well as by Generals, and former Commandants, Jim Jones and Jim Conway.

The first formal review of the book, by Don DeNevi, in the February edition of *Leatherneck Magazine*, is quite positive and reads in part:

"Al Gray, Marine -- The Early Years, 1950-1967, Volume One" is a wise and winning introduction to a good man and soon to be great leader. ... By providing us with Gray's early higher echelon experiences, insights and understandings, coupled with the overall picture of the Vietnam War and America's role in it, the book is all the more captivating as well as a major contribution to serious military biography.

The author also received a personal note from Brigadier General Bill Weise, USMC (Ret) that reads,

**“Scott, I have been the recipient of General Gray's leadership and wisdom, and I fully concur with Don Nevi and Gen Zinni. You've done a terrific job and a great service to Corps and Country. You have captured the essence of a great leader and innovator-- General Al Gray. Semper Fi, Bill Weise**

**Both the Potomac Institute Press and the author have committed to donating their share of any proceeds to the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, which assists wounded and injured Marines and Sailors who served in Iraq or Afghanistan. More about this top-rated charity can be found here: [www.semperfund.org](http://www.semperfund.org). We hope you will investigate the book and see why supporting the Semper Fi Fund is such an important undertaking. The book is available in hardback at [www.algraymarine.org](http://www.algraymarine.org), and as an ebook at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Simply search for “Al Gray, Marine” on Amazon.**

**Editor’s Note: As most know Scott is a Director on the Board of the 2/4 Association. He served in the battalion as a platoon leader in 1966-67, duties that were interrupted briefly while he acted as the Bn S-2 for a month or so when Lt. Col. Gene Bench was the CO.**

### **Bonds of Loyalty and Love Forged in Combat By Matthew Bogdanos**

**Sunday, August 16, 2009**

**"Any man in combat who lacks comrades who will die for him, or for whom he is willing to die," William Manchester wrote of his time as a Marine in World War II, "is not a man at all. He is truly damned." A century earlier, Robert E. Lee famously remarked that it was good that war "is so terrible. We should grow too fond of it." Neither was glorifying war -- they hated its carnage. They were, rather, paying homage to the unique bonds forged in war, especially the one that enables so many to risk their lives, not only for friends but also for those they might have just met or have nothing in common with back home.**

**This extraordinary feature of combat is depicted in movies in bold, heroic colors, without depth or explanation. Most leaders in the military, however, spend a lifetime trying to understand its complexity. Our pursuit usually starts at Thermopylae, a mountain pass in northern Greece where, in 480 B.C., 300 Spartans faced the entire Persian army. Leonidas, the Spartan king, had a choice: retreat, and live to fight another day, or stand. When the Persian king offered, "We do not want your lives, only your arms," Leonidas answered, "Molon labe" -- come and get them. They held out for seven days, fighting until their weapons broke and then, Herodotus says, "with bare hands and teeth." Their spirit lives whenever wounded soldiers ask to return to their units rather than rotate home or**

sentries rest their chins on the point of a bayonet to stay awake so others sleep safely.

Before going into harm's way, we reflect on this remarkable aspect of combat. Using its history as a source of pride and inspiration, we make this bond part of our ethos. We are humbled to follow, yet hopeful to live up to, those who have gone before -- as at Belleau Wood in 1918. When his men were being cut to pieces by German machine guns, Marine 1st Sgt. Dan Daly, already the recipient of two Medals of Honor, charged the guns shouting, "Come on, you sons-o'-bitches! Do you want to live forever?" More than just history, this retelling to each new generation becomes a pledge: Although some will die, those who follow will keep the faith by keeping our memory -- a promise of immortality that asks, instead, "Don't you want to live forever?"

Post-deployment, we are also engaged. Despite countless other tasks after a combat tour and the need to begin preparing for the next mission, we pause to value what has occurred, trying -- not always successfully -- to reconcile the horrors of combat with the bond created during those horrors. Perhaps it is the dimly perceived recognition that together we are better than any one of us had ever been before -- better maybe than we ever would be again. Or the dawning awareness that if we store up enough memories, these might someday be a source of strength, comfort or even our salvation.

Take the simple act of goodbye, of wishing comrades in arms fair winds and following seas. Those who have seen action together are not morbid about it. Just serious. It is, after all, the nature of the profession of arms that goodbyes are frequent and often final. But there is also the recognition that each of us has our own life and family to go back to in the "world." And even if we do "keep in touch," it will never be with the same intensity, never again as pure as it was when I had your "six," (your six o'clock, your back) and you had mine.

We examine as well the many contradictions of life in a combat zone. Our eyesight and hearing are sharp, our other senses keen. The water always quenches our thirst. The sky is bluer than we thought possible. And we're with the best friends we'll ever have. The good gets better, but the bad gets worse. We always have some minor eye or ear infection, our feet hurt all the time, and sleep is sporadic at best. The heat is sweltering, the cold bone-chilling. We're constantly tense to the breaking point. And lonelier than we ever imagined.

Once you've experienced it, the memory never leaves -- even after those fair winds and following seas have taken you as far as they did Sen. Mike Mansfield. After serving two years in the Marines as a teenager, he spent 34 years in Congress (the longest-serving majority leader ever) and 11 years as ambassador to Japan. He died in 2001 at age 98. His tombstone in Arlington National Cemetery bears seven words: "Michael Joseph Mansfield, PVT, US Marine Corps."

Ultimately, because of the business we are in, expected to fight, suffer and die without complaint, we also cultivate this bond to call on when needed. At times, it means being ruthlessly hard, as at Balaclava in 1854. When the "thin red line" of the 93rd Highlanders were all that stood between the Russian onslaught and the British camp, Sir Colin Campbell commanded the regiment he loved, "there is no retreat from here, men -- you must die where you stand."

At times, it means having compassion, as on Tulagi Island in the South Pacific in 1942. After an all-night attack, Marine Pfc. Edward "Johnny" Ahrens lay quietly in his foxhole. He'd been shot twice in the chest, and blood welled slowly from three deep bayonet wounds. Thirteen dead Japanese soldiers lay nearby; two others were draped over his legs. Legendarily tough Lewis Walt -- later assistant commandant of the Marine Corps -- gently gathered the dying man in his arms. Ahrens whispered, "Captain, they tried to come over me last night, but I don't think they made it." Choking back tears, Walt replied softly, "They didn't, Johnny. They didn't."

Being effectively ruthless and genuinely caring are each manifestations of courage. The ability to affect their integration and foster the bond between leader and led can spell the difference between defeat and victory, because wars -- fought with weapons -- are won by people. Your sons and daughters, sisters and brothers, fathers and mothers. We are honored to lead them.

Matthew Bogdanos, a colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves who has served tours in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, is an assistant district attorney for New York City and the author of "Thieves of Baghdad."

<http://www.nationalcenter.org/MacArthurFarewell.html>

## **Socks for Hero's**

On April 7<sup>th</sup> Becky Valdez, wife of Frank Valdez Jr. Echo 2/4 VN 1967-70, hosted a Hair Cut A Thon at Kelton's Salon in Tustin, California.

Haircuts were given by professional stylist for half price. With the donations, bake sale and raffle, \$625.00 was raised to support the Socks for Hero's foundation.

If you would like to help with a financial donation, please go to <http://scmsg.org/sponsors> and make a donation today. Or you can send a check to SCMCSG, 2171 Via Teca, San Clemente, CA 92673

Send Comfort Across the Miles... Donate Online Now to Socks for Hero's, also find them on Facebook.