



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



ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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Board Member: Jim
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Web Sergeant
Brooks Wilson
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Newsletter Editor
Jim Rogers:
Jwr313@verizon.net

May 2015 *Sea Horse*

President's Scoop

With respect, thank you for the Honor. Throughout these past four years as your president, I have observed and listened to our evolving changes within our proud Magnificent Association and Marine Corps, a tradition like no other. The basic dynamics of our Marine heritage remain; men and women, privates-generals, aviators, personnel and supply clerks alike, are trained first to be rifleman. And, mostly of their own volition, Magnificent Corpsmen I have known would attest to the same basic training.

I have listened to and shared your courageous stories, some at reunions, which I will treasure always, and others on the phone late into the night. I have shared and celebrated the honor of our first "home coming", since Vietnam, of our Second Battalion, Fourth Marines from Afghanistan and the adoption by the city of San Clemente, California as our home all in one breath. Ooh-Rah! Collaboratively with the command leadership of the battalion we continue annual awards for those individual 2/4 Marines upon returning from serving most admirably on their respective MEUs. We have supported, contributed, and recruited at the 2/4 Ramadi reunions in California 2014. Today we continue our efforts with special assistance from "One Magnificent Bastard", B/Gen. Weise to solicit and fund the placement of bricks at the Marine Corps Museum on Semper Fidelis Park of each individual 2/4 Marine KIA throughout our prestigious history. Most importantly our reunions reunite the 'Salts', the beer, a cigar and emotions of Once Always. It is our celebration and memorial of those serving elsewhere as we "Remember Them".

Your board continues diligent administrative strides in rewrites of the By-laws and Operating Policies. Their conscientiousness and sincere efforts to "make it reflect" the changing times of our association is demonstrated through the clarity of the documents and re-writes the membership has voted to accept. I commend and thank them for their support. (Brooks Wilson VP, Manny Travasso Secretary, James Swann Treasurer, James Rogers and Scott Laidig Directors and Jack Petrowsky Immediate Past President) Fundamental to the operation of this association is the support firstly of its' membership and we thank you for your support through your attendance at reunions across the country. .

Significant to the overall association operation and individuals deserving of commendations are Becky and Frank Valdez. Becky serves in conjunction with Jim Rogers as the Seahorse editor. In addition she also quarterly distributes electronically to the membership each individual Seahorse. Frank is our Association Chaplin, which along with Bob Mercer, connect on behalf of the Association in time of need through the mailing of Association cards and faith communication. Membership is methodically and diligently updated because of John Hembrough. John communicates with those members enlisting, re-uniting, and needing an ear to discover the 2/4 home. Our Membership document now reflects what it should be through his efforts, along with support from Joyce his devoted bride.

Leadership disseminated to this President evolved from a variety of sources and admired individuals. Phyllis Ann, my wife, has been most supportive in many ways, attempting to comprehend the Marine jargon and the mid-night phone calls. B/Gen. Bill Weise is the Marine "guidon" whom I have tried to represent. As Association Historian he magnifies that which we are. With his continuing efforts to recognize each member of our historical history, from San Juan to present day, WW1, WW2, Korea, Vietnam (Starlite and the landing at Red Beach), Ramadi, and Afghanistan, he personifies us all. Other leaders from whom I listened and learned are Generals James Livingston, The Skipper, and Al Gray Commandant. Having returned to Vietnam with The Skipper I began to fully realize the magnitude of the Man aside from the Marine. Sitting with him amongst other Medal of Honor recipients put a point on the pencil. When you share dinner with the 29th Commandant how can you but not listen to the leadership that he exudes from every Marine pore of his body. He was wearing a camouflage dinner jacket presented to him by PX Kelley, 28th Commandant and Battalion CO of 2/4 for goodness sake. The Marine that put boots on the ground for me in a multitude of ways was, is Dave Jones. Aside from being a leader of Marines he was a past president of our association. I have said to him "if we were not blown up by the same round, there may have been three Medals of Honor on the battle field of Dai Do." He has been a "sounding board" and has become a friend. For me he is much more than "The Lieutenant". The innate quality which each of these men harbors is that they continue to work to help Marines. On behalf of the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association, Thank You Sirs! Thank you Phyllis Ann!

If you have not made your reservations for July 22-26 reunion, please make some headway and sign up ASAP. We anticipate this reunion will be a lifetime highlight. We anticipate at least three commandants in attendance along with Gold Star family members. I look forward to seeing you there.

Semper Fidelis,

Steve Wilson, President

NEWS FROM THE CO

Greetings Bastard Nation.

The Battalion Landing Team (BLT) is “feet dry” and back on shore in Okinawa. March has literally sailed right past us. We spent the entire month aboard three separate ships: The USS Bonhomme Richard, USS Ashland and USS Green Bay, and participating in the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit’s Certification Exercise and a brief Korean Marine Exchange Program where the entire BLT offloaded in the vicinity of Pohang, Korea. During our four day stint in Korea, Golf Company executed a fantastic bilateral amphibious demonstration where 14 Amphibious Assault Vehicles landed simultaneously with 14 Korean Amphibious Assault Vehicles, while fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft flew overhead. It was a pretty spectacular view. Fox Company and Light Armored Reconnaissance Platoon participated in Korean steep earth and assault climbing at the Korean Mountain Warfare Training Center, while Echo, Weapons, Fox Battery and the majority of Headquarters and Service Company participated in the bilateral live-fire exercise at the Korean Range Complex. Over the course of the four days, we really enjoyed working side-by-side with our Korean Marine brothers. The weather was perfect and the sun shined the entire time—until it was time to depart. As helicopters came into the landing zone, the clouds came rolling in and so did the horrible weather. The entire BLT was stuck at the range complex until the following day when buses delivered them to the Pohang Pier so the Marines/Sailors could be extracted by Landing Crafts back to their ships. Two days later, everyone made it back and you could see the sighs of reliefs as they enjoyed their hot showers and hot meals. Three days later, we made it back to Okinawa and we spent the entire week offloaded all of gear and returning it back to Camp Hansen.

Yesterday, we sent home our first advance party crew and we will say farewell to the rest by Friday—which means we are not far behind. The advance party will spend the next month preparing the facilities and gear for our arrival. The majority of the BLT is still on Okinawa where we will spend the remainder of our time on this island cleaning and preparing all of gear and facilities for our sister battalion; 2nd Battalion 5th Marines.

**LtCol Mike Wilonsky
Commanding Officer
2d Battalion 4th Marines
The Magnificent Bastards**

Lt. Col Mike Wilonsky and Sgt. Maj. Michael Bolyard give a message to the friends and family members back at home from the USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) April 7, 2015. Wilonsky is the battalion commander for Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Bolyard is the battalion sergeant major for BLT 2/4, 31st MEU.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/397823/message-battalion-commander-and-sgtmaj#.VTj ECFVikp>

NOTE~ The city of San Clemente will be hosting a “Welcome Home” Barbeque for the Magnificent Bastards on May 28th. Frank and Becky Valdez will be volunteering at the event.

Sacrifice Manufacturing creates the battalion apparel for special events, and their website has some cool customized new ladies' apparel for spouses and moms (and other 2/4 shirts and hoodies).

<http://www.sacrificemfg.com/search?q=2%2F4>

Holly Hammond-Wilonsky

Membership Chairman

To the Membership New, Life and Annual and former members. My time as your Membership Chairman will end during of our Reunion this year.

We have made great progress since we began in July 2012 and I say a special thank you to Manuel Travassos our Secretary who took over billing of Annual members, Becky Valdez who helps with the Newsletters, Cindy Greer who helps me with calling, verifying the Roster as I'm sure many of you have talked with her and James "Doc Swann, our Treasurer who manages many functions. Our Web Sgt Brooks Wilson who will take over as President, has been wonderful to work and communicate with. I also want to thank our Board of Directors, Scott Laidig, and Jim Rogers.

A special thank you to Steve Wilson who has been our President since 2012. He was great to work with as well in all respects. I certainly thank you, the Membership for your help as well.

Joining or rejoining has never been easier than 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 out and mail the check to the address at the bottom of the form which is our Treasurer. I get notified electronically as well as the Treasurer. When he gets your check he notifies me I send out the Membership card. If taking a Life Membership you will also get a 2/4 coin while they last.

Members should receive their notices by the end of this month and are due by 30 June 2015.

We will be at the Reunion this year and the have ability to sign up new members or renew ones who pay annually and issue their cards there. They will be typed and for those taking a Life Membership their card will be laminated.

I also would like our Active Duty Marines and Corpsmen to be aware that the cost of joining for you is greatly reduced. E-1 through E-5 only \$5.00 per year SNCO and Officers are only \$10.00 per year.

We cleaned up the Roster recently. All names with a date of last contact 2009 and before have been removed as we have exhausted all efforts in trying to locate them and getting them to join back up. If you see this and want to renew please contact me and I will be very happy to take care of that. We presently have 69 former Members in this category.

We also have 42 that are 2010 and after that will stay on the Roster as we are working towards getting them renewed as well as we have incorrect information on some of them also. Please help us in getting updated and please get your dues in, just contact me for any help that I may be of to you.

I have enjoyed serving as your Membership Chairman.

Semper Fi and Anchors Aweigh,

John Hembrough

Membership Chairman

johna24@aol.com

Phone: 334-673-4959

P.S.

I would ask everyone to please look at the membership roster to verify your e-mail and phone number are current. We update as we find the information. This will insure your delivery of the newsletter and all communications via e-mail or by address, any changes please e-mail me or call me.

Letter from Rev. Ray W. Stubbe

Hello Ben Casio,

A few weeks ago, Mr. Steve Alpert wrote me, including a copy of your email. Yes! I very much recall the 1967 Christmas at Khe Sanh-the USAF planes overhead broadcasting Christmas carols, the resupply to the hills, and even taking an aluminum Christmas tree that had been sent to me to the newly arrived unit on Hill 950 via an H-34. (It was always a problem for 34s since the LZ was so very small, the hill so very high for air density, and sometimes choppers actually "fell" off the slope to gain rotor turns!) As I recall, there was a lot of resupply work going on; you guys were really busy! And it was Christmas Day! While I don't remember speaking you, I'm sure that we did since I was in the choppers daily, moving between the hills and various outposts and the main base, and I sometimes ate at the regimental mess with some of the pilots. As I recall, things were heating up at Khe Sanh by the end of December. Some of our recon teams were shot out and Marines were being killed. The NVA were moving in. We also had another whole battalion move into Khe Sanh in mid-December and another in mid-January and another one a couple days after the siege started. It's truly a miracle that any of us made it out alive! Although I went through those days of shelling, clothes rotting off, and losing so much weight (went from 175 when I got to Vietnam to about 150 at the beginning of the siege to 129 at the end of the siege), I've always felt-and told others as well-that those of you who flew the helicopters probably had a more fearful time because we, on the ground, became emotionally numb almost immediately, whereas you were constantly moving from a secure location (or, relatively secure!) at Quang Tri and Dona Ha and DaNang, and freshly exposed every day that you flew into Khe Sanh, totally aware of the dangers that we, on the ground, had pretty much adjusted to! Also, you in the helicopters brought us vital medical supplies, totally covered our hill outposts (obviously fixed wing couldn't do that!), took out our wounded and brought in our replacements, and did so much more. My personal gratitude to the Wing is deep and lasts forever! We had no roads for overland resupply and fixed wing was actually suspended for a while since Khe Sanh was regarded by the USAF, at least, as too dangerous to land following several C-130s being hit and burnt. So we totally depended on you of the Wing as our lifeline, like being in a burning building and having a hose connecting us to air, or being adrift in uncertain and dangerous seas and having a lifeline tossed to us in our desperation. It was a chopper that brought me out of Khe Sanh when I was transferred to a unit at Quang Tri on 01 March. I remember walking down a road there, just after arriving, and some Marine was standing nearby. It was just the two of us. I remember he looked at me and said "It must be Khe Sanh." The Marine was from the Wing, but I didn't stop to talk. I guess I was too stunned. He referred to me as "it" and I must have been quite a spectacle with gas mask and so filthy and gaunt-like a ghost from the battlefield! I remember staying overnight in a plywood hootch of pilots at Quang Tri, waiting for a flight to Khe Sanh. It was in early December 1967. I remember pilots grumbling-ever a "Colonel Gallantine," whoever he was. It's odd that I remember that-after all these years! Thanks for suggesting to Steve Alpert that he forward your email to me. I'm not on the internet, but the snail mail got to me. Right now, I'm 73. I go to a boxing gym every night and frequently spar five or so 3-minute rounds with guys who could be my grandsons. I've sort of given up competitive events-too many crowds, but still do my workouts. Perhaps being with Marines left that in me! The explosion of life in spring always lifts the spirit, and life is good.

Hope all is well with you. Semper fi,

Ray



Two of the photos that were taken that day.



The attached is a sketch of the Operation Starlight Display being prepared at NMMC, where YN19 will go on display next year. This photo was posted under the list of Directors on the inside page of the latest Museum Heritage Magazine.

Robert Moore

Dear friends of the Corps,

I don't really know the proper way to do this but I wanted to get word to Bob's brothers in 2/4 that he completed his extensive and painful tour of duty here of this earth on March 8, 2015 in the Palliative Care Unit on the hospice hall in the V.A. Hospital in Durham, NC. He is now ready to fulfill his next duty pulling security at the Pearly Gates, just as the verse in the Marine Hymn says they do.

Good Bye, thou good and faithful servant; you have fought the good fight.....

Betsy Jean Moore

Wife of Robert Leo (Bob) Moore

Hotel Co., 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines

Helen Richards

Helen Richards made a positive contribution to all who knew her by her unselfish service and leadership in many ways. I first came to know her in 1991 when she organized and led a large group of Benld area citizens to Camp Lejune, North Carolina for the dedication of the Sergeant Major John M. "Big John" Malnar Building. "Big John" was killed in action while covering the withdrawal of wounded Marines and Sailors during the Battle of Dai Do, Vietnam on May 2, 1968. Helen also organized the reunion and hosting of the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines association in Benld in 1992. Those who knew Helen led better lives because of her positive influence. My life is richer because of her. God Bless her and may she rest in peace.

Bill Weise

Brigadier General (Retired)

U S Marine Corps



Ed Garr

Edward Garr, 82, of Ocala, Florida passed away Sunday, April 19, 2015 at Legacy House Ocala, Florida. He was born on October 17, 1932 in New York City, New York to Zachary and Anna (Litwin) Garr. Ed was a retired USMC Captain having served in Korea and 2 tours in Vietnam. He also retired from the City of Ocala as the Occupational License Inspector for 20 years, and a Deputy with the Marion County Sheriff's Department. When he retired he was a tour guide for Military Historical Tours (MHT) and became an expert on Vietnam: He led over 115 tours to Vietnam, Korea, and Iwo Jima for filmmakers, authors, veterans and their families.

Ed was driving the Miss Alaska car in President Eisenhower's inauguration and Ora Lee was marching as well (she was a Marine). They were married six months later.

Ed is survived by his wife of 62 years Ora Lee Garr of Ocala, daughters Kathy G Wood and Mary G Ponder, both of Ocala, three sons, Edward (Debbie) Garr, Jr., Thomas (Bryn) Garr, and John Garr, all of Ocala, 4 grandchildren; Jennifer (Shaun) Stuart, Katie (JP) Penn, Randal (Colee) Ponder, and Andrew (Meagan) Garr, 3 great grandchildren; Austin and Kinley Stuart, and Max Penn, brothers Robert and Zachary Garr, and sister Margaret Lavezzoli. Ed had many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son Michael David Garr.

A funeral mass was held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at Our Lady of the Springs church in Ocala. Burial followed at Highland Memorial Park in Ocala. Memorial donations can be made to Legacy Hospice House, 9505 SW 110th St., Ocala, FL 34476.

Online Condolences may be expressed at www.hiers-baxley.com. Cards may be sent to Ora Lee Garr 216 SE 44th Ave, Ocala, FL 34471-3248

REUNION OF THE 2nd BATTALION, 4th MARINES ASSOCIATION

“THE MAGNIFICENT BASTARDS”

July 22 – 26, 2015

Reunion Registration Form Quantico, Virginia

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Name of Spouse _____ Number Attending _____

Names of others attending with you _____

“NON- MEMBER FRIENDS OF THE 2/4 ASSOCIATION ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO REGISTER AS PAYING GUESTS FOR THIS REUNION”

(Note; Registration fee required for spouses and guests over 13

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Rank/Unit/Dates when assigned or attached to the 2nd BN 4th Mar:

Number of 2nd BN 4th Mar - shirts wanted: _____ (with pocket/ without pocket)

(Please note that the color of the shirts will be Maroon) (Circle Preference)

Sizes: XXX _____ XX _____ XL _____ L _____ M _____ S _____ (All 2/4 Shirts will be collared)

Color: Maroon _____ Gender's: Male _____ Female _____

Registration Fee \$35.00 X _____ =\$ _____

(Please note that children under the age of 13 are registered free.)

Banquet (Coat and Tie Recommended) \$50.00 X _____ =\$ _____

(Vegetarian Meals will be provided if requested)

Bus Transportation (All Events July 23, 24 and 25) \$50.00 X _____ =\$ _____

2nd BN 4th MAR Collared Shirt(s) (XXX \$35) (XX \$33) \$30.00 X _____ =\$ _____

Lunch at TBS \$ 5.00 X _____ =\$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make check(s) payable to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Association and send registration form and

Check to: 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Association, P.O. BOX 6511, Concord, North Carolina 28027

Please refer to the 2/4 website for full itinerary and details www.2-4association.org

There are still a few rooms left at the Wingate by Wyndam Hotel. Tel (540)659-3600 that will be held until the end of May. Tell the reservations clerk that you are with the 2nd Bn 4th Marines Reunion in order to receive the special \$71.00 per night (plus tax) rate.

"SIGN UP FOR REUNION CRUISE BOOK"

We plan to have a cruise book for the 2015 Reunion covering all the highlights and containing pictures of attendees and participants. The book will be a treasured keepsake. Colin Heaton and his wife, Anne-Marie, who co-authored General Livingston's book, Noble Warrior, will take the photos and prepare the book. Colin and Anne-Marie have authored a number of books. Anne-Marie is also a superb professional photographer.

To properly plan, we need to know how many of you would be interested in buying a book. NOTE YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ATTEND THE REUNION TO PURCHASE A BOOK. We plan to keep costs as low as possible. If you are considering purchasing a copy please let Dave Jones know, <jonesoystercove@gmail.com>, by June 1. Reunion attendees will also be afforded to have portraits taken prior to the banquet."

Thank you and Semper Fi,

Bill Weise

Notes of Interest

A link to view regarding Maj. Gen. Livingston:

<http://youtu.be/JrtchK3KFo>

Dan Wagoner Has made another video of our KIA in 1969

<https://youtu.be/YUIS8PhIxFw>

Ben Cascio looks back 40 years

<http://www.northjersey.com/news/vietnam-war-veterans-look-back-40-years-with-pride-heartbreak-1.1321586>

U.S. Marine Corps

This year will mark the 50th Anniversary of Operation Starlite, the first major offensive operation by a purely American Unit during the Vietnam War. We are looking for veterans of the operation to feature in an anniversary video. Did you serve, or do you know someone who served in Starlite? Please directly message your story to <http://marines.mil/>

The following photo was taken of Ben Shoemaker and his daughter Aurora at the 2012 2/4 Assn Reunion Welcome Home parade in San Clemente and recently won an award for outstanding photography.



PROPOSED 2015 BYLAWS CHANGE BALLOT

Dear 2/4 Association Members,

Your Board is proposing changes to Article IV – OFFICERS AND STAFF, Section 4 and 7 and ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS, Section 2 for the reasons stated in the attached copy of proposed changes. Therefore, these proposed amendments are being presented to you, the members, for a vote. Please review the proposed changes on the website

www.2-4association.org. Per the Bylaws, thirty (30) days’ notice must be given to the Membership prior to any vote on changes to the Bylaws. Therefore, this posting will fulfill this requirement. Once you have completed your review, please mark the ballot below and return it via U. S. Postal Service to:

Sgt. at Arms Pat Burns
2850 Avienda DeSoto
Navarre, FL. 32566

Ballots must be dated on or before the deadline date of 6 June 2015

<-----CUT-----CUT-----CUT----->

PROPOSED 2015 CHANGE TO THE BYLAWS BALLOT

Member’s name: _____ Date: _____

Member’s signature: _____ (if submitted by U. S. Postal Service)

___ I DO accept the new proposed changes to the bylaws.

___ I DO NOT accept the new proposed changes to the bylaw

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015-2017 BALLOT

Instructions and rules for voting can be found on the 2/4 website www.2-4association.org

This ballot contains the names of the candidates, submitted by the Nominating Committee, who are seeking your vote for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Director.

Ballots must be dated on or before the deadline date of 6 June 2015.

LIST OF CANDIDATES

President:

Brooks Wilson – Brooks has served faithfully for the past three (3) years as the Vice President of the Association. He is a Life member and has served the Association honorably and has worked diligently to promote the mission statement of the Association, as well as, supporting and actively assisting the Active Duty Battalion. He is, also, the Web Sergeant for the Association's web site and has devoted many hours to its development and content. He would be honored to serve as your President.

Vice President:

Sean Schickel - Sean recently retired a Major with the Active Duty Battalion and was the 3rd Plt. Commander, Golf Company, XO of H&S Company and XO and CO of Echo Company during his time with the Battalion. He was the organizer of the 10th anniversary of the Battle of Ramadi [Iraq] at Camp Pendleton 6 April 2014. He represents the 43 new members from that generation we signed on in April 2014. This presents an opportunity for the younger generation to become involved in their Association. Sean will be a great asset to the leadership team and to the membership of the 2/4 Association.

Secretary:

Manuel Travassos [Incumbent] – Manuel has served as secretary for the past three (3) years. He is a Life member and has attended many reunions. He has served in his present position faithfully and honorably. He is honored to be asked to seek another term.

Director:

Frank Valdez – Frank is a Life member who has served many years as Chaplain and is still serving in that position. He, also, along with his wife Becky, actively assists the Active Duty Battalion, as well as, the Socks For Heroes program headed by Jim and Carla Hogan in honor of their son, LCPL Donald Hogan, who was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for action in Nawa, Afghanistan, 8/26/2009. Frank has selflessly devoted himself to serving this Association, 2/4, and all Marines. He is a perfect candidate for Director.

Please mark the appropriate box for the candidates of your choice.

Please vote for only one candidate per office and return to:

Seargent at Arms Pat Burns

2850 Avienda DeSoto

Navarre, FL. 32566

Or via email emmalaoise@msn.com

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015-2017 BALLOT

Member's name: _____ Date: _____

Member's signature: _____ (if submitted by U. S. Postal Service)

President: Brooks Wilson

(Write-in)

Secretary: Manuel Travassos

(Write-in)

Vice President: Sean Schickel

(Write-in)

Director: Frank Valdez

(Write-in)