



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



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Feb. 2013

SeaHorse

Presidents Letter

January 2013

Greetings Magnificent Bastards! Over the course of the past months your board has asked and you have approved a complete set of by-laws that now dovetails nicely with other-like military organizations. We are proud to announce the up and running of our 2-4association.org, web site and the many links which highlight our courageous past, on-going events and contact information. (Please let us know any highlights and changes and/or "Scuttlebutt" our association should be aware of in your Marine life). Additionally, you will also make note of John Hembrough's efforts as membership chairman in this issue and the many contacts he has made for us all. On behalf of the Association, I would like to congratulate Colonel Vivian and Lieutenant Colonel Weiler on their respective promotions. Additionally, for those with internet, we are happy to publish a special edition for a special 2/4 China Marine, Casey Bazewick that has now "shipped-over" to the other side and duty at Heavens Gates.

The impact of congressional leadership on this country and our Marine Corps is causing change throughout the rank and file. We as an association and individuals must remain vigilant and introspective of these changes. Individually, I have written my congressman and senators about my concerns. Issues such as reduction of Marine Corps, "Fast and Furious", Benghazi, and Second Amendment rights should raise our ire.

God Bless America and God Bless our Marine Corps.

Steve Wilson

News from the CO

Happy New Year and Hello from Twenty-Nine Palms.

2/4 spent late November and most of December here for Exercise STEEL KNIGHT and we are back at it from January until mid-February conducting the first (ITX) Integrated Training Exercise for the Marine Corps' new training program. It is cold and windy but the Marines are enduring, facing the challenge, and becoming better war fighters....just like the Magnificent Bastards before us. We are scheduled to deploy with the 31st MEU in mid-May so after ITX we will begin another series of training events for the MEU. Our team is coming together. We had to say goodbye to some Marines who EASd, retired, or were promoted and received orders to follow-on assignments but in their place have arrived some fantastic Bastards, both young and old. They are doing well and these training opportunities only make us stronger.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol Rob Weiler

Bastard-6

A message from David Benkart Jr.

I am currently staying at Soldier On, a great place for our warriors returning from war and find themselves in some very challenging times. We are expanding to Florida, New York State & New Hampshire, and in high probability this outfit I call and have coined it "The Flagship for the VA" will be Coast to Coast. We help veterans go from homeless to home ownership and many many many many other types of assistance.

<http://www.wesoldieron.org/>

Contact David at: steradians4pi@gmail.com

Instructions for downloading pictures from the 2012 Reunion are as follows.

On your computer go to www.tinyurl.com/military-photos

Once you get to that site you will see a page open up with about 17 different galleries. Look for the one entitled 2012-06-14_2/4_Parade

Click on that photo and the gallery will open up which has about 141 photos in it.

If you want to keep some simply click and hold on a photo and move it to you desktop. From there you will be able to do whatever you wish. Place it into your photo software; send it to people via email. If you want to have a print made by the site there is a small charge. For a 4 X 6 print it is about .20 cents I believe.

*** MATERIAL FOR THE WEB SITE ***

We are always looking for interesting articles and facts to put on the web site. Is there anyone out there willing to step up and do some research on the following topics? www.2-4Association.org

For Vietnam related things which involve 2/4, this web site is a starting point:
<http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/virtualarchive/>

For 2/4 specific command chronologies, the link is:
<http://www.virtualarchive.vietnam.ttu.edu/starweb/virtual/vva/servlet.starweb>. It doesn't necessarily give a screen capture of what chronologies are available, but almost all the chronologies are there. Their search function is a little finicky until you get the hang of it. Research and pictures from "cruise books" in a scanned, .PDF format. Putting excerpts [or summaries] of all the big operations that 2/4 participated in on the website. There are summaries from Command Chronologies that are readily available. Not only honor our dead by their names in the In Memoriam list, but also (using the command chronologies) figure out what occurred to cause their deaths. Then add that info to the Virtual Vietnam War Website, ensuring that all 2/4 losses are explained there as well. Solicit inputs from the battalion to provide similar information for our operations/losses in Iraq and Afghanistan. Of course, pictures with explanations are always appropriate. When our Association presents awards to the top achievers of the active Battalion, pictures should be taken of the recipients. Historic pictures are also great. These and any ideas members may have are welcomed. Members are encouraged to participate and provide the pictures, articles and do the research to achieve accuracy. The Association is also looking for someone who, being well versed in the inner workings and hidden mechanisms of Facebook would be willing to oversee our Facebook link and make it operational. If there are questions, please call Brooks Wilson at [575] 209-0932 or e-mail him at Brooks@ADanceofLight.com.

NEW BYLAWS

Our bylaws have been rewritten and approved by the Board and membership, and may be seen on the web site. If a member not having internet access desires a copy, they may contact Vice President Brooks Wilson at [575] 209-0932 or Secretary Manny Travassos at [904] 757-0783 and request a printed version. If you leave a message, please leave your mailing address.

*** MEMBERSHIP ROSTER ***

We presently have a roster of members on the web site under the MEMBERSHIP link. It gives the names of members and spouses, and the unit[s] with which the member served. We would like to include phone numbers and e-mail addresses for each member as well. We realize that not all want their contact information publicized. Therefore, we are asking all members to indicate whether or not it is OK to publish this information.

You can opt out of having either your phone number or e-mail address published or both. The easiest way for us to make this happen is for you to contact the Membership Chairman, John Hembrough, at JohnA24@aol.com or the Web Sergeant, Brooks Wilson, at Brooks@ADanceofLight.com no later than 30 April 2013. If we do not hear from you, we will observe that silence means consent.

To the Membership

Since starting this job in July I have had the opportunity to talk to many of you, I truly have appreciated your help in updating the roster, with new phone numbers, e-mail changes and mailing address changes. I strongly ask you all to continue to help. Please look at the missing section where in most cases we just have the name and nothing else to go on. Please also look at the roster and you will see your name and information I encourage you all to contact me if I haven't talked to you to confirm the information I have for you and to know you are okay as I enjoy your e-mails and calls and just want the best it can be. If you have any new updates please let me know at johna24@aol.com or phone 334-673-4959. We are coming right along with the membership, however I think we can do better, think of your friends in 2/4 and look to see if they are on the roster if not please contact them and see if we can get them signed up or renewed. I encourage everyone to visit your web site at www.2-4association.com) or .org as both will pull up your web site as there is an incredible amount of information The 2/4 Reunion is in Philadelphia June 26-29, 2013 please read up on this great info on the reunion and get your room reserved ASAP as you will need to mention you are with 2/4 Association for the discount or call or e-mail me and I will be happy to help with anything possible or refer you to the correct contact etc. Please note there is a set of blocked rooms for us so please don't delay. The dues continue to be the same for now, however consideration is in the works for our leadership to evaluate as they have stayed the same since 1989 and to be reviewed by the Officers and Board. The annual dues at this time are \$20 a year or if interested or in a Life Membership they are as follows: Ages 54 and under \$175 Ages 55-64 are \$125 Age 65 and over \$75 Active Duty Annual for E 1 thru E 5 are \$5 E 6 and above/ Officers are \$10 for annual Life Membership are as the same above less 10% discount for Active Duty Members. Associates members are the same as regular members. I encourage those who haven't renewed their dues to so now as we want to keep you on the roster. I have discovered in talking with you that some of you your Purple Heart or above aren't listed, this we can correct, please

contact me. Visit the Wall of Honor on the web site to view the listings (this would be under the membership section) It has been mentioned to me for the ones that can't make the reunion due to distance that a mini get together for you is possible as you just need a couple of people to put together for an informal get together in your areas, if you need to know those as an example a few States in the west coast or anywhere for that matter in the U.S. that are close together to have 2-3 state area and hook up for camaraderie. I can help identify those in your area if Philadelphia is too far for you, this is certainly an idea. Let me know if I can be of help. I also ask if you know of a member who is deceased and not listed on the Memoriam section please advise us, and we will add to the Memoriam section of the web site. It is an honor to help with this great association and I ask everyone to thank those serving today and in the past, The Global War on Terrorism has been tough and 2/4 has been through all of them starting with Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan. Semper Fidelis

John Hembrough Membership Chairman

Remembering LCpl Robert Brown at the 2012 Marine Corps Marathon

For the previous issue of the Sea Horse, I submitted the story of how one of my FOs died on Operation Texas on March 21, 1966. Echo 2/4 had been given the task of leading the attack on the hamlet of Phuong Dinh (2). The forward observer assigned to Echo was LCpl Robert Guy Brown.

When Echo attacked they encountered very heavy resistance from the Viet Cong dug in along the wood line at the edge of the hamlet. Echo's casualties were terrible and evacuation soon commenced. It was a mess and that's when I saw LCpl Brown, dead, being carried in a poncho to an awaiting helicopter.

It has been over 46 years since LCpl Brown died in combat. On Sunday, October 28, 2012, my daughter, Wendy, ran the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. She dedicated her run to the memory of LCpl Brown. During the race she wore a bib imprinted with a large photo of that young Marine.

When the race was over, I asked Wendy to write a few paragraphs about her experience, and here is what she sent to me:

“When I registered for the 2012 Marine Corps Marathon, I knew it was a real stretch. I had never run farther than 13 miles, and had been running for only a year and a half. I registered for it anyway. I spent five months following my marathon training guide like it was the Bible...long runs stretching from 13 miles to 15, 16, 18.

“When I got to the 18 mile runs, my body just quit. I started seriously doubting my ability to run a marathon, and more importantly, to do it in a manner that would honor my father, and honor Lance Corporal Brown. I was diagnosed with exercise-induced asthma after one particularly bad long run, and was seeing a physical therapist up until the week before the race for tendonitis. I had not had one successful long run beyond 18 miles. The nail in the coffin was the predicted

arrival of Hurricane Sandy, which was scheduled to hit the D.C. area the day of the race! Clearly, this was just not meant to be.

“I was too nervous to eat for the three days leading up to the race, and unable to eat the morning of. However, as I lined up at the starting line, I felt incredibly READY. I started running, and the miles steadily passed. I can't describe the inspiration along the way...the American flags, the service men and women honoring fallen comrades...it was humbling and inspiring.

“At mile 13, I remember thinking that I felt too darn GOOD...this wasn't ME! I was not that seasoned a runner. My legs, my lungs...I was too happy and too full of energy! And although I had been running alone, I had not felt as though I was running alone at all. I remember thinking, I'm not running this race... this isn't me.

“It was truly at this point that I realized, with full clarity, that Robert Brown was not only with me, but he was carrying me along. I continued running, 18 miles, 19, 20, 21...farther than I had ever run before. And I felt great! I knew that every person I passed, who looked at the photo on my back, was bringing Robert Brown to life.

“I finished that marathon feeling energized and alive, and I can say with all certainty, that I did not do it alone. I know that Robert Brown was with me that day, every step of the way. I felt him there, as though he were holding my hand. And I believe he is with me now, as I write this. As long as we remember, he lives. And I will never forget him.

“So, Dad, that's how it went! YOU take whatever you would like from it. But I will tell you something: I know that Robert Brown is with me now, he was there that day, and I believe I have given him a place to be alive. I feel so strongly that he is with me, and has remained with me, and I feel great peace in that. I don't care if people think it's crazy. I know what I know, and I know he is here. :)”

I believe her. When she finished those 26.2 miles, she looked as refreshed as if she had taken a stroll around her back yard. Wendy not only ran a tremendous race, she brought the memory of Bobby Brown alive. It was a truly wonderful thing that she did, and I'm deeply indebted to her for it. I only wish that those of you who were there on Operation Texas could have been at the Marine Corps Marathon to witness it with me.

Semper Fi, Ken Symphon



**2ND BATTALION 4TH MARINES ASSOCIATION REUNION 26—30 JUNE
2013PHILADELPHIA/VALLEY FORGE**

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.

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, June 26. 1700, Registration begins in the Hospitality Room. Hospitality Room remains open until 11 pm for sea stories and camaraderie.

Thursday, June 27, 0900—1100 Hospitality Room open for Registration, sea stories and camaraderie. There will be free time all day. Optional morning tour of historic sites in vicinity of hotel (cost \$25.00; time to be given later). Optional afternoon trip to Casino available for \$10.00 which includes chips and other amenities (time to be given later).

Friday, June 28, 1000 –1800 Guided bus tour of historic center city. Registration continues.

Saturday June 29th 9 00am Memorial service at Valley Forge, followed by Business meeting.

1100—1800 Free time Late Registration

1800 No host cocktails and camaraderie.

1900 Banquet

Sunday, June 30 Hail and Farewell. Hotel checkout by 1200

RESERVE YOUR ROOM NOW. WE EXPECT A LARGE TURNOUT

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: 455 Concord Pkwy
N. #6511, Concord, North Carolina 28027

Member’s name: _____

Guest(s) name(s): _____ (Spouse/Child/ Friend)

Name(s) as wish it/them to appear on 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)

Chicken Dinner: Number required _____

Beef Dinner: Number required _____

Vegan Dinner: Number required _____

\$45.00 X total dinners _____ = _____

Reunion T-Shirts: All reunion T- Shirts are dark blue T-shirts. 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-large. 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 _____

Casino Trip \$10.00 per person. Number ordered _____ x \$10.00 _____

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

Grand Total \$ _____

PLEASE INDICATE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS OR DIETARY RESTRICTIONS BELOW: