



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



ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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brooks@adanceoflight.com

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seanschickel@yahoo.com

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fxala@hotmail.com

May 2017 *Sea Horse*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This time of the year is very important to our Association. We will be voting for a new slate of officers; i.e., President, Vice President, Secretary and one Director. Candidates are presented in this 2nd quarter issue of the Sea Horse newsletter. It appears by those presented that we will be significantly starting to turn over our Association to a younger, more energetic group of officers. I am very pleased by this as it is so important that the younger generations step up and continue what we have put in place for the Battalion that we love so dearly. I wish to remind all, however, that we older Marines and sailors still have an obligation for as long as we breathe to support our Association and Battalion fully in whatever way we may contribute. Please turn to and vote.

We have a wonderful reunion planned for the Association this year. Please see the details elsewhere in the last Sea Horse and on the web site under REUNIONS. I understand from Doc Swann, however, that, as of 22 April, we only have seven people signed up. I urge you to make your reservations as soon as possible! You will not want to miss this one!

I can't tell you how much I had been looking forward to attending this year's reunion in Charleston, SC. Last winter, however, my daughter announced to me that she would be getting married the same weekend as the reunion. So, while I am very happy for her, I am heartsick to be missing what may be one of the best reunions of all. Thus, I offer my apologies here to all of you who have supported me these past two years for my absence. I have asked Vice President Sean Schickel to stand in to run the meetings and Immediate Past President Steve Wilson to assist as necessary. So, our routine will continue and the torch passed to new leadership with your support.

I thank all of the officers and staff of my administration for their continued and unwavering support during my two year tenure. I thank all of you for supporting my staff and me as well. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve you. I will continue to do so in whatever small ways I am able.

Fair winds and following seas, Semper Fidelis and Anchors Aweigh,

President *Brooks Wilson*

NEWS FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDER

Lieutenant Colonel Warren C. Cook Jr.

2/4 Association Family,

Greetings from Camp San Mateo! We hope this update finds you and your families well. Your Magnificent Bastards have hit the ground running following our return from our deployment from Okinawa in November 2016. We are currently tasked with Duty Battalion of the Division, which entails support from 2/4 to many great training exercises and events across I MEF that we see as an opportunity to train and improve our combat readiness, which will prepare us for any clime and place.

The Battalion recently supported 3d Battalion, 5th Marines' Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation (MCCRE) prior to their deployment to Okinawa in support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. The 14 day event found your Bastards serving as role players, exercise control, and the opposing forces during throughout the entirety of Camp Pendleton. The MCCRE also enhanced the combat readiness of Weapons, Echo, and H&S Companies, allowing them to learn from a sister Battalion.

Golf Company has been in 29 Palms since the end of March, field testing the survivability upgrades to the Assault Amphibious Vehicle (AAV) with elements from HQ Marine Corps. While there, the company has been spearheading experimentation efforts and conducting unit training. The Company has been extremely busy in 29 Palms and will continue their experimentation training later on this month at Camp Del Mar in Camp Pendleton for the amphibious portion of the training.

Fox Company, 3d Platoon is currently training in the UK with Delta Company, 40 Commando. Officially known as Exercise WESSEX STORM, both units are conducting offensive and defensive force on force training and taking advantage of partnering with a close Allied Nation. Following the final evaluation exercise, the platoon will return in mid-May after the 4 week training evolution.

We have had two inspections over the last the last three months; the Field Service Maintenance Office (FSMAO) inspection and the Commanding General's Inspection Program (CGIP) inspection. The FSMAO inspection ensured proper documentation and maintenance/parts tracking were being conducted properly and that maintenance actions and documentation were being conducted by USMC Orders. This inspection mainly involved the Logistics, Communications, and Supply Sections, who performed extremely well during the inspection. The CGIP ensures units are adhering to USMC orders regarding policies, administration, USMC standards, and collateral duties. The Battalion will complete the CGIP by 5 May 2017

The Battalion continues to improve combat effectiveness and readiness in preparation for next year's Marine Rotational Forces-Darwin in Australia. Throughout the summer, the Battalion will conduct SUMMER FURY, a Battalion Helicopter Assault in Yuma, Arizona; receive new Officers and Enlisted personnel; finalize deployment rosters; and prepare for ITX and our MCCRE in the early winter/spring of 2017/2018.

Thank you for your continued support of the Magnificent Bastards and for preserving the traditions, history and legacy of one of the Corps' finest Battalions. We are in the process of forming an "Alumni Committee" in order to have better communication with the 2/4 Association and their families. The committee will consist of all ranks to include junior Marines and Sailors and will assist the 2/4 Association as directed. The committee will also assist the Association in coordinating active duty 2/4 reunion participation, history preservation of the Unit, and assign personnel to assist Alumni during visits.

Last week I had the honor of accompanying Brigadier General Weise to the 2/4 memorial at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia. I was humbled to be in his presence and extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to speak with one of the greatest "Magnificent Bastards" of them all. The experience reinforced my dedication to preserving our history and fostering relationships with all Bastards and their families. I hope to see you all in the future either here or at the reunion. Semper Fi, Bastards.

LtCol Warren C. Cook (Bastard 6)

Brigadier General Christian Wortman



Marine Corps Col. Christian F. Wortman has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Wortman, former commanding officer of 2/4, is currently serving as the assistant chief of staff, G-3, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California.

Annual Election of Association Officers

2017-2019 BALLOT

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING:

Dear 2/4 Association Members,

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. Per the Bylaws, ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS AND VOTING, Section 1, Elections: “Elections shall be held every year in a staggered fashion. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and one Director will be voted upon during odd years, and the positions of Treasurer and the other Director will be voted upon during even years”. Please review the brief summary of each candidate and cast your vote for the candidate of your choice. As in all elections, a space has been provided for write-in candidates in the event you choose to vote for someone not presented by the Nominating Committee. Per the Bylaws, thirty (30) days’ notice must be given to the Membership prior to any vote. Therefore, this posting will fulfill the requirement. Once you have completed your review, please mark the ballot below for the appropriate candidates and return it via E-mail to:

Sergeant-at-Arms Pat Burns at emmalaoise@msn.com

Voting Rules:

- Voters must be in good standing and only one ballot per person is authorized.
- Each voter will be verified against the latest membership roster provided to the Sergeant-at-Arms by the Membership Chairman.
- The Sergeant-at-Arms will be responsible for collecting, counting and verifying ballots.

He will present the final count to the Board of Directors no later than five (5) days after the voting deadline. Ballots will then be sent to the Secretary for proper filing.

- If more than one ballot from an individual is submitted, the first one received will be considered the valid ballot.
- Ballots must be dated on or before the deadline date of 6 June 2017.
- A quorum will be the total ballots received per the deadline rule.

LIST OF CANDIDATES AND BIO'S

President:

Scott Huesing – Scott is a retired United States Marine Corps Infantry Major with 24 years of honorable service, both enlisted and as a commissioned officer. During his career spanning 10 overseas deployments, he has conducted operations in over 60 countries worldwide. Scott served as the Company Commander, Echo Company, 2d Battalion, 4th Marines in 2006 during the Second Battle of Ramadi and later as the BLT Operations Officer and Battalion Executive Officer. Throughout his numerous deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa, he planned, led, and conducted hundreds of combat missions under some of the most austere and challenging conditions. Now he writes, speaks and volunteers to serve our Veteran warriors through outreach and mentorship programs to keep our Veteran families strong and connected.

Vice President:

Daniel Priest - Daniel was commissioned from Texas A&M University and served as an Infantry Officer in the United States Marine Corps. He served on three deployments as a platoon commander and staff officer with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines and is an Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran. Daniel provides strong team identity, fosters initiative and prides himself on connecting to the Marines he leads - challenging them to confidently grow into the best version of themselves. Daniel works in the medical industry and is active with volunteer, church, and sports events. He currently lives in San Antonio, Texas.

Secretary:

Manuel Travassos [Incumbent] – Manuel is a Life member and has served as secretary for the past five (5) years. Manuel served in 2/4 with Echo Company, 2nd platoon in Vietnam in 1967 as a rifleman and a squad and platoon radio operator until he was wounded in August 1968. After six months in Portsmouth Naval Hospital, he served as Chief Clerk in Battalion S-1 of 3/2 at Camp Lejeune, NC for six months before being medically retired. After the Marine Corps, Manuel married, raised a family, worked for United Parcel Service for over thirty (30) years, retiring as the North Florida District Next Day Air Coordinator, served as a 1st Lieutenant with the Fort George Volunteer Fire Department, during this same period, and has actively served in his church as a teacher, choir member, soloist, Sunday School Superintendent, and Discipleship Training Director. Having served in his present position faithfully and honorably, he is honored to be asked to seek another term. He currently lives in Jacksonville, Florida.

Director:

Richard “Bam Bam” Rasmussen – Major Richard Rasmussen is a United States Naval Academy graduate and Naval Aviator. He piloted the CH-53E Super Stallion, UC-12W, and T-34C during his distinguished career spanning 7 overseas deployments. He served as the Echo Company, 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, Forward Air Controller (FAC) in 2006 during the Second Battle of Ramadi as part of the Surge Strategy during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His vast experience and knowledge has propelled him into numerous positions of responsibility throughout his career and has numerous personal and unit awards to his credit. He currently lives in Southern California.

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Please mark the appropriate box for the candidates of your choice. Please vote for only one candidate per office and return to Sergeant-At-Arms at emmaloise@msn.com

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2017-2019 BALLOT

Member's name: _____ Date: _____

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

President: Scott Huesing

Secretary: Manuel Travassos

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(Write-in)

Vice President: Daniel Priest

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(Write-in)

(Write-in)

Director: Richard "Bam Bam" Rasmussen

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[] _____

(Write-in)

“Save the Brave (STB) donation of \$5500.00 Puts the Memorial Brick Program Over the Top”

Scott Huesing, a Lifetime Member of the 2d battalion 4th Marine Association, served in 2/4 from 2006 to 2008. Scott served on active duty for more than two decades as both enlisted and officer, including tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Horn of Africa. He is the Founder and CEO of Echo Group Consulting.

Scott is an Author and Public Speaker his upcoming book, "Echo in Ramadi" tells the epic story of the Second Battle of Ramadi as he commanded Echo Company 2/4. Scott is a retired infantry Major and is the Executive Director of Save the Brave (STB), a non-profit organization that provides outreach to Veterans dealing with PTS. He recently advocated to the STB Board to donate to the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association Memorial Brick fund, which was voted forward unanimously.

This donation completes the funding for 1,026 bricks honoring all Marines and Sailors Killed in Action or who Died of Wounds. These bricks will be located along the trail section at the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park next to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia. Installation of the bricks is scheduled this fall. Upon completion, 2d Battalion, 4th Marines will be the first Marine Corps Battalion to honor all their fallen warriors who fought for America, including Santo Domingo, World War II, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Semper Fi,

BGen William "Wild Bill" Weise

Historian | 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Association

Dear Bastards,

Save the Brave (STB) is pleased to join efforts with the 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Association and support the continued memorial brick drive program this year, donating 25 bricks.

In addition to numerous veteran outreach programs for 2017, STB is also planning several charity fundraisers this year - one of which is the 1st Annual Simon R. Litke Magnificent Bastard Charity Golf Tournament, September 12, 2017 at the Marine Memorial Golf Course at Camp Pendleton. It is a full day of golf followed by a silent auction, food, live music, and fun for all attendees to honor one of our fallen brothers we lost to suicide from the gripping effects of PTS. All are welcome to attend. For more information about participating in this great event contact Maj Scott Huesing at scott@echogroupconsulting.com.

Save the Brave is also very excited to be connected to our Gold Star network. The 2018 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. President will be Mrs. Sue Pollard, and she is a vital link and vast resource to help all of our family members who need support. We have a great relationship and plan on continuing to build our network and supporting veterans and their families.

If there are Magnificent Bastards that want to participate, support, donate, or simply volunteer for any projects or outreach programs please reach out to our board members at www.savethebrave.org for our contact information. STB is a certified 501(3)(c) non-profit supporting veterans with PTS. All proceeds go straight to the veterans - this is a charity founded and lead by 2/4 Marines for all veterans.

As the Executive Director of STB, I want to extend our thanks and continued appreciation on behalf of the entire Board of Directors to the 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Association and our entire Marine family that continues to surround us with such tremendous support.

Semper Fi,

Major Scott A. Huesing, USMC (Retired)

Executive Director | Save the Brave

www.savethebrave.org

Scott Huesing – Echo in Ramadi

Major Scott A. Huesing (USMC, Retired)

Author - Echo in Ramadi

For more information on the upcoming book or to contact me directly you can go to www.echoinramadi.com or visit us on Facebook at Echo in Ramadi

Annual Membership Renewal

Dear Annual Member or Former Member,

Your current membership will expire 30 June 2017. We encourage you to renew your membership before the end of June. If you are a former member, we encourage you to renew your Membership to a great Association of which you were, once, a member, also, before 30 June 2017. Renewal Notices are, currently, being sent to all Annual Members via email and via USPS, for those who do not email addresses. If you do not receive one by 8 May 2017, please, contact Manuel Travassos at the email or phone number listed at the bottom of this notice and he will see that you receive a copy to renew your membership.

Currently, Manuel Travassos is Acting Membership Chairman. John Hembrough, the past Membership Chairman, along with Cindy Greer, worked tirelessly to keep our roster updated with current contact information and profiles on current Annual and Life Members. Through their efforts the past five (5) years, our membership has grown from almost 300 members to over 500 members. Additionally, we have new members through referrals from members like you.

At this time, we are asking you to renew your Membership in the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines Association. Dues can still be paid at the annual reunion, which is in Charleston, SC, 2-6 August, this year, but they would be late. Please, act now so that there is no gap in your membership.

If interested in a Life Membership, information is included on the Renewal form. Life Membership for Regular and Active Duty can be paid in a lump sum or three [3] installments over a period not to exceed nine [9] consecutive months. If the life membership amount is not paid in full, as defined above, the amounts paid and received towards life membership will be converted and credited as annual membership dues.

For membership questions, please contact:

Manuel Travassos	Phone: 904-757-0783
2868 New Berlin Rd.	Cell: 904-537-4088
Jacksonville, FL 32226	
E-mail: mgtravassos@comcast.net	

We strongly encourage you to ask a friend that you know in 2/4 to join, if not already a member. Thanks so much!

Semper Fidelis & Fair Winds and Following Seas,

Manuel Travassos, Secretary; Membership Chairman (Acting)

2nd Battalion, 4th Marines Association, Inc.

SECOND BATTALION FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION 2017 REUNION

2 - 6 AUGUST 2017

Location: The 2/4 Association Reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn Charleston- Mount Pleasant, 250 Jonnie Dodds Blvd, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464. Aside from this Hotel being a great facility, it hosts many military reunions and it has programs, facilities and

experience in supporting reunions. It is centrally located very close to Historic Charleston and Patriots Point Naval and the Medal of Honor Museums.

Room Price: \$149.00 per night. This the going rate for this area; the closer to Historic Charleston, the higher the rate. Normally, the weekend rate jumps up to \$199.00 for Friday and Saturday nights. Our rate is fixed at \$149.00 for all four nights of the reunion. For those who decide to extend their stay at the hotel, this rate (\$149.00), will be in effect three days before and three days after the reunion dates.

Reservations: All are encouraged to make room reservations as soon as possible. Reservations can be made after 15 September 2016 by calling 877-355-7693. Event reservation identifier is "BAT". This is the individual's responsibility. The hotel will accept reservations at the 2/4 Association group rate until 2400 on 07/02/2017. The hotel will allow up to four people in a room, but it will charge \$10.00 extra per night for each extra (the third and the fourth) person.

Directions to Holiday Inn Charleston:

For those with a GPS, the address of the Holiday Inn Charleston is located at 250 Jonnie Dodds Boulevard in Mount Pleasant, SC 29464. The hotel is located at the base of the Arthur Ravenel Bridge. Jonnie Dodds Blvd. is also US-17. There are two Mount Pleasant exits on Interstate I-26; Exit 212 and Exit 220. Do not take Exit 212.

From Interstate I-26 driving east, get off at Exit 220A. This will place you on the Ravenel Bridge. Once on the Bridge, get into the left lane. Stay in the left lane and when you see the first Traffic light at the end of the Bridge move into the left turn lane. Turn left on to McGrath Darby Blvd. then quickly make the first left into the Holiday Inn Charleston.

Coming north on US 17. Stay on US 17 and it will lead you on to I-26. Stay in the right lane. You will quickly come upon Exit 220B that will place on the Ravenel Bridge. Then follow the Bridge instructions above.

Driving south on US 17 in Mount Pleasant, when you go over the overpass, stay in the right lane. When you can see the Ravenel Bridge, you will begin to see overhead street signs. When you see the sign Houston Northcutt Blvd. you are one street away from the hotel. The next sign you will see is McGrath Darby Blvd. Turn right on McGrath Darby and quickly make the first left into the Holiday Inn Charleston.

Military Catering Package (MCP): As the outgrowth of experience hosting military reunions, the hotel has developed the MCP. This package includes four breakfasts (Thurs. Fri. Sat. Sun.) served in the Hospitality room, and the banquet meal served in the Grand Ballroom; Hospitality room coffee (one large vat each day); the fees for each of the common rooms (hospitality, meetings, grand ballroom); set up fees that we would normally pay separately. The MCP onetime cost person is \$152.00. This price also includes all of the taxes (10.5%) and service charges (21%) we would pay for the meals and activities. The fees and taxes are passed on to the attendees through higher registration and other fees and banquet prices. (The MCP does not include your hotel room.)

\$ Breakfast Menu (four days): Chilled orange juice, scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage, oatmeal, breakfast potatoes, assorted selection of breads, assorted selection of Charleston teas, freshly brewed coffee (regular and decaffeinated)

\$ Buffet Banquet: Seasonal mixed greens with two dressings and traditional caesar salad; London broil in a roasted garlic demi glaze; grilled salmon in a tomato dill sauce; served with warm dinner rolls and butter; chef's choice of accompaniments and dessert; fresh brewed regular and decaffeinated coffee and tea.

www.2-4association.org

REUNION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 2 August

1500 – 2000: Registration (Seabrook Room is the Hospitality Room).

1500 – 2000 Hospitality Room Open.

Thursday, 3 August

0700 -- 0900 Buffet Breakfast (Hospitality Room).

0900 – 0930 Movement to Patriots Point.

0930 – 1300 Tour Navy/Vietnam Support Base/ Medal of Honor Museums.

1300 – 1330 Lunch: On board Yorktown: Chief's Mess or Hanger Deck Snack Bar; or Pier Side Snack Bar.

1400 -- 1630 Symposium: 2nd Battalion 4th Marines in Vietnam: Battle of Chu Lai

(Operation Starlite) Battle of Dai Do; “Against the Odds”; Evacuation of Saigon (Operation Frequent Wind).

- 1630 – 1830** Dinner Cruisers, Free Time. Continue tour of museums.
- 1830 – 1900** Board ship for Dinner Cruise (pre-registration required). 2/4 Group may begin boarding at 1800.
- 1900 -- 2130** Charleston Harbor Dinner Cruise.
- 2130 – 2200** Board Transportation, Return to Holiday Inn.
- 1630 – 1700** Non-Cruisers Return to Holiday Inn.
- 1700 – 2200** Non-Cruisers Free Time. Dinner on your own. Hospitality Room Open.

Friday, 4 August

- 0545 – 0615** Buffet Breakfast (Hospitality Room). Non-Travelers eat 0700-0900.
- 0615 – 0630** Board Transportation for MCRD.
- 0630 – 0845** Travel to MCRD Parris Island SC.
- 0900 – 1030** Memorial Service (MCRD Chapel).
- 1030 – 1045** Movement to DI School.
- 1045 –1200** DI School Briefing.
- 1200 – 1215** Movement to Staff Dining Facility.
- 1215 – 1300** Lunch.
- 1300 – 1400** Visit to Marine Corps Exchange.
- 1400 – 1430** Movement to MCAS Beaufort.
- 1430 – 1530** Briefing F-35 Aircraft.
- 1530 – 1800** Depart MCAS Return to Holiday Inn Charleston.
- 1800 -- 2200** Your Choice: Free Time; dinner on your own. Cookout/pool party at
Holiday Inn @ Mt. Pleasant (hamburgers, hotdogs, pizza and keg of beer. Cash Bar (Happy Hour Prices) for wine, hard liquor and mixed drinks.

Saturday, 5 August

- 0700 -- 0900** Buffet Breakfast (Hospitality Room).
- 0900 – 1030** Board of Directors Meeting (Grand Ballroom).
- 0900 – 1030** All others, free time. Hospitality Room Open.
- 1030 – 1200** General Business Meeting (Grand Ballroom).
- 1200 – 1700** Free Time. Hospitality Room Open.
- 1700 – 1800** Cocktail Hour; cash bar.
- 1800 – 2200** Annual Gala Banquet.

Sunday, 6 August

- 0700 -- 0930** Buffet Breakfast (Hospitality Room).
- 0930 – 1100** Checkout and fair wells.

*** REGISTRATION FORM ***

2ND BATTALION, 4TH MARINES ASSOCIATION 2017 REUNION

HOLIDAY INN CHARLESTON

250 Jonnie Dodds Blvd. [US Hwy 17]

Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Please complete this form with a check made out to the "2/4 Association" and mail it to the Association Treasurer, 2/4 Association, 455 Concord Parkway North #6511, Concord, North Carolina 28027, no later than 1 July 2017:

Member's name: _____ **Guest name:** _____

(Spouse, Child and/or Friend)

Member's Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone: E-mail:

Registration Number attending ____ **x \$10.00 =** _____

· Children 12 and under free

Military Catering Package Number attending ____ **x \$152.00 =** _____

Banquet meal choices (Indicate how many for each choice):

London broil ____

Grilled salmon ____

Charleston Harbor Dinner Cruise Number attending _____ **x \$45.00 =** _____

Round trip bus fare to MCRD, PI Number attending _____ **x \$25.00 =** _____

Noon meal Hdqtrs Bn Dining Facility Number attending ____ **x \$6.00 =** _____

Evening pool party / cook out Number attending _____ **x \$28.00 =** _____

NOTE: If you have special dietary requirements, please cite them here: _____

REUNION SHIRTS:

All shirts are the Port Authority brand and will have the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines with Eagle,

Globe and Anchor embroidered on the left breast and the words "Charleston, SC 2017" embroidered on the left sleeve.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Quantico Center

3901 Fettle Park Dr. Dumfries, VA. 22025

Guests must call the hotel direct at (703) 441-9001 to make reservations (use code MB2)

Payment method: Each guest is responsible for all room charges

Room rate \$119.00, plus tax. Buffet breakfast, for up to two persons per room included

Rooms can be booked 3 days prior and 3 days post at this rate

You are encouraged to arrive on the 30th of April and spend quality time at the Museum and visiting with each other.

Please bring your children, grandchildren and friends

Schedule of Events

Monday (30 April) 1700 onward, pizza, draft beer & sodas in the hospitality suite (next to the bar)

Tuesday (1 May) 1700

Lunch on your own

Dinner at The Globe & Laurel Restaurant

3987 Jefferson Davis Hwy.

Stafford, VA. 22554

Wednesday (2 May) 1000

Memorial Service at Semper Fidelis Memorial Chapel

18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy

Triangle, VA 22172

1730-1830-COCKTAILS

1830-GALA BEGINS

Gala Dinner at National Museum of the Marine Corps Leatherneck Gallery

GENERAL WILLIAM 'WILD BILL' WEISE GUEST SPEAKER AND GUEST OF HONOR

2/4 Reunion 50th Anniversary of The Battle of Dai Do

Quantico, VA.

1-2 May 2018

If you have ANY photos from Vietnam and Dai-Do please send them to Colin Heaton at cdheatonii@aol.com

There will be no transportation provided during any of these events

Dai Do Anniversary Magazine

Colin Heaton needs all of the photos sent for the 50th Dai Do Anniversary magazine to be emailed at a minimum of 600 dpi, or originals may sent to his address. He will scan and return them to you. Photos need to be captioned, with all parties ID'd with date/location if possible. Several people have emailed him pictures but they are of too low a quality for printing. Once he has all of the materials, he will know what the production cost is.

Thanks,

Colin and Anne

Heaton-Lewis Books, LLC

2326 Monroe Street

Wilmington, NC 28401

843-568-5434

www.heatonlewisbooks.com

General James Livingston has made a new educational video. http://patriotspointfoundation.org/Gen_Livingston_Book_Message.html

Fellow BLT 2-4 Marines

Brigadier General William "Wild Bill" Weise will be our Guest Speaker and Guest of Honor at the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Dai Do remembrance and reunion.

In recognition of his leadership during the Battle, and his friendship thereafter, we have arranged for the creation of a unique gift plaque commemorating the man and the occasion.

We are funding the gift from donations by Dai Do battle participants. The total cost is \$1400.00, of which \$1000.00 has already been received. If you would care to contribute, please send your check by June 1st, 2017 to:

Second Battalion, 4th Marines Association

455 Concord Parkway North # 6511

Concord, NC 28027

Make checks out to 2-4 Association and designate for "Dai Do" in the lower left space.

Additional Dai Do reunion information may be found at www.2-4association.org

Many Thanks and Warm Regards,

Semper Fidelis

Jim Livingston

The following is an open letter from 14 Medal of Honor recipients to Sen. Blumenthal over his hypocrisy on Gorsuch

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/an-open-letter-from-14-medal-of-honor-recipients-to-sen-blumenthal-over-his-hypocrisy-on-gorsuch/article/2615090#.WKb6sKJD5LE.facebook>

Stephen Sack

Today celebrating nineteen years of my gift of life. Steven Krauss, my Sgt. in Vietnam 2/4 1967, looked me up thirty years after we were in Vietnam together and donated a kidney to me. Another story of the bond Marines have for each other. Thanks much Sgt. Krause. Semper Fi, Pig

VA Says Veterans May Now Apply in Advance for Burial in a Veterans Cemetery

While most civilian cemeteries have long offered individuals the opportunity to buy a burial plot ahead of time, the VA has required that the families of veterans must wait to apply for burial until after the veteran has passed away. This policy has added to the stress family's face when a loved one dies, even if the death was anticipated.

Finally, last week the VA announced it has changed its policy and will now allow veterans to apply prior to their deaths for burial in a veteran's cemetery.

According to a VA press release, "Interested individuals may submit VA Form 40-10007, Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery, and supporting documentation, such as a DD Form 214, if readily available, to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office by: toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299 tel:(855)840-8299; email to Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov; or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

"VA will review applications and provide written notice of its determination of eligibility. VA will save determinations and supporting documentation in an electronic information system to expedite burial arrangements at the time of need. Because laws and personal circumstances change, upon receipt of a burial request, VA will validate all pre-need determinations in accordance with the laws in effect at that time."

It was noted that this does not allow veterans to choose a particular plot within the cemetery, but only the cemetery where they wish to be buried. In addition, this does not apply to Arlington National Cemetery, which is run by the Department of the Army, not the Department of Veterans Affairs.

As a reminder, eligible individuals are entitled to burial in any open VA national cemetery, opening/closing of the grave, a grave liner, perpetual care of the gravesite, and a government-furnished headstone or marker or niche cover, all at no cost to the family. Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

Veterans are also eligible for a burial flag and may be eligible for a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Information on VA burial benefits is available from local VA national cemetery offices, from the Internet at <http://www.cem.va.gov> or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000 tel:(800)827-1000 . To make burial arrangements at any open VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117 tel: 800)535-1117