



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



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May 2019 *Sea Horse*

Presidents Message

Dear Magnificent Bastards,

The best part of our Association is the people – just as it is the foundation of our Marine Corps. This unique connection to each other has sustained our family of Magnificent Bastards for over 30 years. I was reminded of this bond this past March when I was privileged to attend BGen William "Wild Bill" Weise's 90th birthday celebration at the Army & Navy Club in Washington D.C. That day was a stark reminder of the type of leadership that the members of the 2/4 Association have witnessed and been fortunate to enjoy for over a half-century.

This year as we continue to grow, I am asking for all of our members to look to BGen Weise's unrelenting, lifelong leadership as an example of why we do what we do. We stay connected. We support our fellow Marines. We encourage each other to be the best – and we continue to love our family of Magnificent Bastards as our own.

To remain active and relevant we ask that each of our members continue to reach out within our networks and invite all Magnificent Bastards, of every era and generation, into our Association. One of the ways we are working toward this goal has been through the decision of our membership to eliminate dues to join. This step forward will help build our ranks with those who are willing to unite with the Association.

We have seen growth over the past two years in membership – moving forward we are pleased to announce that Joseph Latham (Echo, 2/4, Ramadi, Iraq) has volunteered and is now appointed as the new Director of Membership. Joseph and his team will be leading the effort to continue to bolster our ranks with as many Bastards who desire to join. The result, with your help, will be a continuation of the long, proud legacy that we have all enjoyed since joining.

I look forward to seeing everyone in San Antonio, TX for our annual reunion. Please remember to support your Association through your individual contributions online. I understand that everyone gives to other charities, but I ask that you give to your own first so we can continue to support our leadership award programs and open up additional opportunities in the future that distinguish us as those who truly take care of their own.



Semper Fi,

Major Scott A. Huesing | USMC (Ret)

President | 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association

Diane Layfield Gold Star Mom (GSM)

March first I was invited to a fundraiser, planned by a Gold Star Wife and a few Gold Star Mothers down in Temecula, Ca. The Fundraiser was to raise money for a Gold Star Family Memorial, to be placed at Riverside National Cemetery. These amazing Memorials were created and designed by Medal of Honor Recipient Hershhal "Woody" Williams.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=woody+williams&oq=woody+williams&aqs=chrome..69i57j0l5.7256j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

His goal is to have one erected in all 50 States in America. It turned out to be such a beautiful event at Europa Village Winery. Our very own Maj. (retired) Scott Huesing was the Special guest speaker. Scott is so motivating, and inspirational in every word he projects. The live auction was so exciting and fun, they had a great auctioneer. Scott added a few of his Echo in Ramadi books, with a few perks attached, and they raised quite a wonderful amount. Wonderful event, for a wonderful reason!

My friend Doutje and I were thankful to be invited to stay at Scott and his wife Kimberly's home for one night while we were there for the event. What a beautiful home, and amazing hosts they were.

April, well most of us HATE to see it coming around, especially April 6th when we are all reminded of that horrible tragic day in Ramadi.

It will forever keep our Gold Star Families wounds torn open, as to never heal. With FB being such a main vein to everyone who is on that part of the social media....shared photos, Memories, quotes, sentiments, tears, and Prayers for each other. You all have no idea how much this truly means to all of us. we so appreciate it all. Also, if any of you have a picture, or anything you would like to share with any of us, please do...Us Gold Star Families, certainly would love to have anything that includes our Sons in it, or about them. We want every piece of them we can get.

I myself was Blessed with many wonderful things. I'd like to share 2 that really touched me.

1. I got a picture from James Booker (Sgt Maj.) at the time...and a little message from him, that mentioned Travis being called the "Beast". I never knew this and had never heard it in all these yrs. I am so thankful for James sharing this with me. It means so much to me. Thank you!

2. I received an email from a Marine and his wife, He served with my Travis. He and his wife on their own like to do a care package to someone deployed, in Memory of a Fallen Hero. I was so elated that they reached out to me, and wanted to Honor Travis, this year. They asked me of some of Travis' favorite things, munchies, etc.

Travis just loved the movie "Top Gun"! Watched it a ton of times. They also added a beautiful letter about Travis. How special is this. I can't thank them enough, for such a special way to Remember and Honor LCpl Travis Layfield.

May is another month full of Memories, and Memorials. Mother's Day, which is always a tough day missing our Sons, for all of us mothers. How we all wish we could have just 5 more minutes.

May 26th is Travis Birthday, he would be 35, but forever will remain 19.

May 27th Memorial Day, which affects us all in so many ways. I have been asked to lay the Gold Star Families wreath at the ceremony, at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, in Honor of all our Gold Star Families, and All our Fallen Heroes. Feel free to join us.

I regret I will be unable to attend the reunion in September but know I will be there in spirit and sending my love to you all.

Love Mama Layfield



**James Booker
Remembering Ramadi**



Our BN 2/4 with attachments was about 1,000 approximately 255 received Purple Hearts here are a few.....



Message to 2/4 Assoc.

I was a Marine Tank Commander in Vietnam & 3rd Tanks 3rd Mar. Div. We operated with your outfit occasionally. I'm on a site where Phil Donahue has stated 2/4 his unit was operating in "I" Corp June '68 & a friend was wounded there. He thinks his name was Ellsworth & he's been trying to locate him. I know there were numerous battles going on at that time and he is sure it was near or close to Dong Ha. Please let me know if anyone might be of assistance in locating someone with a name like Ellsworth. Thank you, Glenn Hoopman Marine VTA
gghoopman@gmail.com

LtCol Howard V Lee MOH 2/4

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/medal-of-honor-recipient-howard-v-lee-passes-away-at-85-300820261.html>

Jack Hilgars attended the family reception, memorial service, and the interment. Throughout he was commended for being humble and caring for his Marines.

The interment was a beautiful ceremony at a local cemetery in Virginia Beach today. The Marine Corps provided a company sized honor guard with band and there was a fly-over by Marine Ospreys. The Lieutenant General Commanding Marine Forces Command participated and Colonel Harvey Barnum USMC (Ret) MOH attended.

Robert Maxwell MOH

Bob Maxwell, the nation's oldest recipient of the Medal of Honor, died this weekend at 98 in Bend, Ore., according to local newspaper The Bulletin.

Maxwell received the nation's highest military decoration for a 1944 incident during his service in World War II when he threw himself on a grenade that was thrown into the midst of his unit in Besancon, France, saving several lives. Maxwell had thrown a blanket over the grenade before jumping on it, which kept the blast from killing him, The Bulletin reported.

Maxwell, a Quaker who declined conscientious objector status, also received Silver Stars, two Purple Hearts, the French Croix de Guerre and a Bronze Star for his service.

"I was honored to call Bob Maxwell a friend," Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore.) said Monday. "Bob's legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone he interacted with and will forever be cherished in the country that he sacrificed so much to protect."

"I'm in awe of, and grateful for, his service to our nation," Oregon Gov. Kate Brown (D) said of Maxwell, calling him "a true hero."

At the time of his death of reportedly natural causes, Maxwell had moved into Partners in Care Hospice in Bend, according to the Bulletin. He will reportedly be buried next to his late wife Beatrice in Terrebonne Cemetery.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/robert-maxwell-medal-of-honor-recipient-who-fell-on-grenade-to-save-lives-dies-at-98/2019/05/14/7f40c290-75c8-11e9-b7ae-390de4259661_story.html?utm_term=.652ff986909c

The Untold Story of Robert Mueller's Time in the Vietnam War

| WIRED @MIUI | <https://www.wired.com/story/robert-mueller-vietnam/>

*** 2019 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION ***

At this time out of 562 ballots sent only 14% have been returned and the offices of Vice President and Director are a close race!

LIST OF CANDIDATES AND BIO'S

President:

Scott Huesing [Incumbent] – 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:

Joseph "Pete" P. Gannon – Pete Enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1966 and signed up for Motor Transport Mechanic School. He arrived in Viet Nam in 1967 and was assigned to the 3rd Marine Motor Transport. In December 1967, he was assigned to 2/4 and was one of the two mechanic for all of 2/4's vehicles. While taking ammo and retrieving wounded and dead on an Otter during Dai Do, he was wounded and medevac'd on the last "Helo" along with Chaplain Habiby. After completing his enlistment in the Marine Corps, Pete joined the Fire Department of a small city outside of Ft. Lauderdale, FL and, working his way up to Battalion Chief, served the city for 25 years. During that time, he trained firefighters at the Fire Academy. As a firefighter, he learned to dive and was a member of Dive Rescue International which trains Fire, Police, and Public Safety personnel. He has been a member of Florida State Fire Instructors, holding the position of President for 8 years, is a 30-year member of the U S Coast Guard Auxiliary, currently, teaching boating safety classes, and is a Sr. Vice – Commandant of Tarmac Detachment 755 of the Marine Corps League. Additionally, Pete volunteers at the local VA meeting, greeting, and assisting Veterans. Pete believes that he has the background to carry on the high traditions of the 2nd Battalion 4th Marines Association. It would be his pleasure to serve.

William "Bill" H. Darrow – Bill enlisted in the Marine Corps in October of 1963 after graduating in June from high school. His first permanent duty station was with 2nd Battalion 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. He served as a Scout/ Raider with 2/4 when the Battalion was deployed to Viet Nam in 1965 until he was wounded and medevac'd back to the States after Operation Double Eagle in 1966. From 1967 to 1969, Bill served as a Marine Drill Instructor at Parris Island. In February 1969, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. and, later that year, returned to Viet Nam. Bill was chosen as the Company Commander of "B" Co., 3rd Recon Battalion in Okinawa for 18 months. In 1972, as a Captain of Marines, during a 3-year tour, he was assigned as the Operation's Officer/ Security Officer for Camp Grandy, the first Vietnamese Refugee Camp after the fall Of South Viet Nam. From 1974 to 1976, Bill was one of the first Marlboro men on TV and served as Technical Advisor on the movie, "High Velocity", also, working as a stunt double for, both, Ben Gazzara and Paul Winfield in the movie. Upon resigning his regular commission and being retained as a reserve Marine Captain, Bill became a police officer/ Detective in Jacksonville, NC from 1977 to 1985. In 1983, he was placed in charge of the Special Operations Division and, also, served as second in command of the Jacksonville SWAT team and was their sniper. In 1987 upon receiving his Honorable Discharge from the Marine Corps, Bill opened "Stem to Stern", a nautical gift shop in Swanboro, NC.

Bill has served as President of the Small Business Association and the Swanboro, NC Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of 3rd Reconnaissance Association, Marines Together We Served, Police Together We served, as well as, the 2/4 Association. Additionally, Bill received two BA degrees in History and International Studies from Campbell University, NC. Bill and his wife, Betty, Currently, live in Elizabeth, NC and have four children, four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Secretary:

Robert R. Piaro – Bob, a 100% disabled Vietnam veteran who served with 2/4 from January 1969 to June 1969 in Vietnam, suffered the loss of his left leg, was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star with Combat V, and various other Republic of Vietnam citations, is a nationally recognized leader in homeless veteran advocacy and is, currently, the President of Veterans Assistance Foundation and California Veterans Assistance Foundation. Since leaving the Marine Corps, Bob has overcome physical disability, combat stress, chemical dependency, family problems, and, in 1985, completed the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder treatment at the VA Medical Center in Tomah, WI. Bob has dedicated his life to helping the homeless veterans. Beginning in 1992, Bob has accomplished this by volunteering to work at the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a homeless veteran program in Wisconsin. Additionally, he spent three- and one-half months at the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Boston to collect information for the Veterans Assistance Program (VAP) and worked without salary as interim director of the Veterans Rehabilitation Program which was later known as VAP. In December 1994, Bob founded the Veterans Assistance Foundation, Inc., a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation. In April 1995, Bob established the Veterans Assistance Foundation – King, a 26-bed transitional housing program for homeless veterans in the Fox Valley in WI. In April 1996, he opened the Step-Up Program, a 7-bed transitional housing program for homeless veterans in Madison, WI. Bob has, subsequently, from 1996 – 2008, opened transitional housing programs on Ft McCoy, a military installation, a 60-bed transitional housing program on the grounds of the VAMC in Tomah, WI, a 32- bed program and established the Resource and Referral Center in Bakersfield, CA, and 9out of 12 transitional housing programs for homeless veterans in the Tomah/La Crosse, WI area. Bob's professional course include Grant Writing and Veterans Service representative. Bob's affiliations include Past President of the Wisconsin State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America, Past Board Member of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Past Chairman of the National Task Force on Homeless Veterans for VVA, Past Chair of the Veterans Organizations Homeless Council, and VA Accredited National Veterans Service Organization. Bob and his wife, Judy, live in Fredonia, WI.

Director:

Richard "Bam Bam" Rasmussen [Incumbent] – 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 have 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, recently retired from the Marine Corps, and will continue flying as an airline pilot for a major airline.

Joel S. Burgos – Joel, joined the United States Marine Corps in 1966. In November of 1967 he was given orders to Vietnam and was assigned to Hotel Company 2nd BN, 4th Marines. In December of 1968, Joel rotated back to the States and was discharged in 1969 as a Sergeant E-5. After returning home he went to school on the GI bill and his first job was City manager of Marion Arkansas. After 10 years, Joel started his own company, J.S. Burgos Co. Inc., a utility company operating water and sewer systems; later expanding to construction of federal highways and bridges for the Army Corps of engineers. Later, he invested in half ownership of Twin City Development Company, a commercial and residential developer owner of several properties. Joel, also, serves as Vice President of William L Johnson Company, a real estate management owner company. Joel has served on the advisory board for the Arkansas state Highway Department for twenty years. Joel and his wife, Janet, live in Marion, AR.

Dear 2-4 Association Member,

Please, carefully, read the attached Voting Instructions and Bios of the Candidates seeking your vote for the Offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Director. After reading each Bio, please, mark the appropriate boxes for the candidates of your choice. Please vote for only one candidate per office and return the completed ballot to the Secretary.

If you prefer to print the ballot and send it via USPS, address it to Manuel Travassos, Secretary, 2-4 Association, Inc., 2868 New Berlin Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32226. Thank you for your participation and Semper Fidelis.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2019-2021 BALLOT

Member's name: _____ Date: _____

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

President:

Secretary:

Scott Huesing [Incumbent]

Robert R. Piaro

(Write-in)

(Write-in)

Vice President:

Director:

Joseph "Pete" P. Gannon

Richard "Bam Bam" Rasmussen [Incumbent]

William "Bill" H. Darrow

Joel S. Burgos

(Write-in)

(Write-in)

2/4 Association Coin

Cost \$5.00 plus shipping

Contact Becky Valdez @ fxala@hotmail.com or (714) 306-2329



2nd Bn 4th Marines 2019 Annual Reunion

San Antonio, TX

4 Sept – 8 Sept

Host: Daniel Priest

Hotel: Holiday Inn Riverwalk

Telephone: 800-465-4329

Use Code: BAT

Or mention 2/4 Battalion Alumni Association

<https://vimeo.com/71497250>

Room Rate \$115 + tax

\$12 Full American breakfast buffet is available to you at the discounted price

\$15 overnight self-parking available

Complimentary Wi Fi in meeting space and sleeping rooms

Complimentary Business Center

****NOTE: There are only 50 rooms blocked at this price. Reserve ASAP**

Wed. 4th 5:00 check in and Registration

Thurs 5th Day activities SAMMC tour, VFW. Evening Riverwalk dinner/San Fernando Cathedral

Fri 6th Day activities (Alamo and Briscoe Museum) & free evening

Sat 7th Business meeting and Banquet

Banquet entertainment by David Bray <https://www.davebrayusa.com/>

Sunday 8th check out