



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



ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Scott Huesing
scott@echogroupconsulting.com

Vice President: Daniel Priest
dhpriest@gmail.com

Secretary: Manuel Travassos
mgravassos@comcast.net

Treasurer: David Capizzi
capizzida1@gmail.com

Board Member: Richard "Bam Bam" Rasmussen
richard.rasmussen@1999.usna.com

Board Member: Frank Valdez
valcone@hotmail.com

Immediate Past President Steve Wilson
stevejckdnl@charter.net

Staff

Sgt-At-Arms: Patrick Burns
emmalaoise@msn.com

Chaplain: Frank Valdez
valcone@hotmail.com

Battalion Historian: Ret BGen William Weise
[wwaise2@gmail.com](mailto:wweise2@gmail.com)

Web Sergeant: Brooks Wilson
brooks@adanceoflight.com

Newsletter Editor: Becky Valdez
fxala@hotmail.com

Aug 2019 *Sea Horse*

President's Message

Dear Magnificent Bastards,

Our Association is growing. I am pleased to announce that we have over 250 new members within our ranks over the past four months. This type of commitment, care, and interest in what we do is vital to the continued success of this great association. To all of our new members I want to say how grateful we are to have you and, "Welcome Aboard, and Welcome Home."

Please continue to spread the word about our upcoming reunion. I'm quite sure most are aware that all the work we do here is to benefit our members, active duty Marines, families, and those in need – and it is all done voluntarily. With that, we need your continued support to step up and volunteer. Giving generously and donating to the general fund is one way to support our organization, but giving of your time, resources, and experience can be equally helpful to keep us moving forward.

I ask that all members find a way that they can best support what we do by stepping up and volunteering in your special way that will enable us to grow. There are plenty of ways through local fundraising, calling Magnificent Bastard's to join and stay connected, or simply sharing our mission through email or on your social media.

I want to thank all the new members for joining and our current membership and dedicated staff for all the tireless work they do to make the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association the best of its kind. Keep up the fire!

Semper Fi,

Scott A. Huesing

President | 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association



Diane Layfield Gold Star Mom (GSM)

Hello My 2/4 Family,

I hope everyone is having a Lovely summer, staying cool, healthy, and safe.

I am so Blessed to be able to share some of my stories with all of you. Hope you'll like this one.

I am extremely Honored, to have met General Mattis (Mad Dog) about 15 yrs. ago. At a ceremony on Mt. Soledad, in L.A. to Honor and Remember our 2/4 Fallen Heroes. General Mattis was the guest speaker. During his speech he started telling a story about a young Marine, with a huge selfless heart who loved everyone he met. At school dances, would make sure every girl would dance, he didn't want anyone to be a wallflower. He was in some photos that his Mother has, with him dancing with several girls, and they were all having a great time. This young man was comfortable in his own skin.

I started crying, and told the Gold Star Mother's around me, that he was talking about my Travis. I said I must meet him.

After the ceremony, I waited patiently to meet General Mattis. Since that day, we have bonded, and become special friends. I so treasure this Blessing, he's in my life.

Through the yrs. I've been to many ceremonies, and events that General Mattis also attended. But the most recent was beyond a shock, and amazing Honor to get an invitation to. I'm still in awe of this invite. In May I received an invitation from Secretary George P. Shultz, from the Hoover Institution, to attend a WELCOME HOME reception, at his and his wife Charlotte's Home in Stanford, Ca. for General / Secretary of Defense J. Mattis on June 11th. I can't put into words, how elated and Honored to be included on such a prestigious guest list. Of course, I RSVP'd a YES!!! I Wouldn't miss it for anything.

I asked if I could bring a Marine escort, the response was absolutely.

I asked a very dear friend, I've watched grow up who recently Graduated boot camp, from Camp Pendleton, and has become one of the Best of the Best Marines!

On Memorial Day in May, Joshua was at The Golden Gate National Cemetery where my Travis is laid to Rest. It was a huge surprise to see Joshua all dressed in his Dress Blues and had been asked to escort me during the ceremony to lay the Gold Star Families wreath. I was so excited to see him, and then have such a handsome young Marine by my side and hold my hand thru the ceremony. I honestly felt as if it was my Travis there with me, I'm so thankful, and Blessed.

I asked Joshua if he would like to escort me to a reception for General Mattis. I can't even put into words the outstanding expression, and excitement this young Marine had.

On June 11th, we met at the Shultz's home, to greet James Mattis back home to Calif.

James Mattis has always told me to call him Jim. It felt disrespectful but he insisted. I call him Jim, so I do as I'm instructed.

Jim was so elated over this amazing reception, and all the wonderful guests who attended. Especially the small Marine Corps band that attended and played for all our entertainment.

It was truly a Beautiful evening, excellent food, drinks, guests, and wonderful to see Jim so relaxed, healthy, and happy once again.

Hope you'll enjoy these few photos I took to share. In the one photo from a few yrs. ago, with General Mattis, myself, is also Gold Star Mother Sandra Aceves " Doc Fernande's " Mother...

Warmly, Semper Fi

Always Diane "Mama" Layfield



Trip of a Lifetime

Lupe Moncebiaz has been selected to participate in the Honor Flight Austin and is number 92 on the list. Due to the demand for this completely free "Trip of a Lifetime" and factors that are considered such as age and health, Veterans are selected on a variety of criteria.

Sgt. Lupe Moncebiaz served with Hotel Co. June 1969-Dec 1969

2/4 Association Membership & Missing Life Members

The latest count of new Life members is 249, which includes 17 former Annual members, since 1 June 2019 when we began offering free Life memberships. This brings our active membership count to 808. We still have 16 Missing Life members. [See the missing members on our site here.](#)

New members will receive a permanent membership card as well as a 2/4 Association Challenge Coin. You can [join on the Assn website here](#) or emailing Manuel Travassos at mgtravassos@comcast.net

* 2019 ELECTION RESULTS*

The Results of the Election of Officers that concluded 7 June 2019

President: Scott Huesing was re-elected with 118 votes which was 99% of the vote

Vice President: Joseph "Pete" Gannon was elected with 77 votes which was 65% of the vote

Secretary: Robert Piaro was elected with 117 votes which was 99% of the vote. Unfortunately, he had to decline for personal reasons. Manuel Travassos will continue in this position.

Director: Richard "Bam Bam" Rasmussen was re-elected with 72 votes which was 61% of the vote

2/4 Association Coin

Cost \$5.00 plus shipping

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



MOH Jay Vargas

It is with sadness that the Congressional Medal of Honor Society notifies you of the death of Dottie Vargas, wife of Jay Vargas. Dottie passed into God's arms at 10:35AM on 25 July 2019.

The funeral service was a Mass at 10AM on 1 August 2019 at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church located at 11451 Blue Cypress Drive, San Diego, CA 92131.

The reception was held at "The Brigantine-Poway," 13445 Poway Road, Poway, CA

Cards can be sent to

Jay Vargas

C/O Frank Valdez

8221 E. Birch Tree Lane

Anaheim, CA 92808

Obituary for Dorothy Vargas

View details at https://www.meaningfulfunerals.net/obituary/dorothy-vargas?fh_id=15546



Floral Bouquet sent by 2/4 Association

I am pleased to report that both the Mass and Reception were conducted beautifully. One of several highlights during the Mass was that the CMC sent two Brigadier Generals and Captains to be pallbearers for Dottie's casket entrance & departure. Class act! General Berger, CMC was one of my officers when I commanded the 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Mar Div. Eighty friends attended both events who loved Dottie. On behalf of the Vargas family we thank all of you for your kindness, cards, calls and flowers. You wonderful people made my day easier.

To all the warriors of 2/4 the Vargas family thank all of you for the beautiful flowers and many cards of condolences. Semper Fi. "Go Dodgers"!

Jay Vargas

Medal of Honor

Allan Aslett

Former Marine and Vietnam Veteran Dennis Aslett (CAP 2-1-3, I Co. 3/1) is looking for friends of his cousin Allan Aslett who served with G 2/4 and was KIA on Sept 27th 69' at LZ Dixie Pete.

Anyone with information, please contact Dennis at runwild65@gmail.com

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>

At this time there are 75 rooms reserved. **The cutoff date for booking with the block is August 4th**

We are expecting a great turnout including more of the younger generation. Please register by filling out the following form below.

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: [Please see the website for more details.](#)**

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

2nd Bn 4th Marines 2019 Annual Reunion

San Antonio, TX

4 Sept – 8 Sept 2019

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete form and mail with check to David Capizzi no later than: 1 August 2019

David Capizzi 6624 Fairweather Ct. Burke, VA 22015 Email: capizzida1@gmail.com (cell) 703-863-1202

ALL Guests First and Last Name's _____

Guests address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Registration fee: \$25.00 Number attending _____ x \$25 = _____

• Children 18 & under free

Alamo Tour _____ X \$20 = _____

Riverwalk Charter Boat _____ X \$12 = _____

Banquet Dinner: Buffett \$56.00 per person _____ X \$56 = _____

Reunion Shirt: Size: Small__ Med__ Lg__ XL_____ X \$15 = _____

XXL__ XXXL_____ X \$15 = _____

Notice: Shirts must be pre-ordered when you register and no later than 1 Aug 2019

NO SHIRTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE REUNION

Grand Total Cost: \$ _____

5th MARINE REGIMENT CHANGE OF COMMAND

Thursday 27, June 2019 Camp San Mateo Camp Pendleton, CA.

Colonel George C. Schreffler III transferred command to Colonel Robert S. Weiler



Colonel Rob Weiler enlisted in the Marine corps Reserve in 1992 obtaining the rank of corporal. He was commissioned a Marine Second Lieutenant in December of 1995 upon graduation from George Mason University in Virginia, his home state. Colonel Weiler completed The Basic School in September of 1995 and subsequently completed the Infantry Officer Course. He reported to 1st Battalion, 1st Marines and served as 1st Platoon Commander, Company A and deployed with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit and again with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit as the Executive Officer of Company A.

In April 2000, Colonel Weiler reported to Officer Candidates School and held the billets of Assistant Operations Officer, Platoon Commander, and Company Executive Officer. In January 2002, he reported to the United States Senate as a Military Legislative Fellow assisting with Foreign Policy, Veteran's Affairs, and Defense issues for Senator Ben Nelson of Nebraska. Upon completion of the fellowship, colonel Weiler attended the Advanced Armor Captain's Career Course in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

In June 2003, Colonel Weiler reported for duty with 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He assumed command of Weapons Company and transitioned it into the Mobile Assault Company and prepared them for combat operations in Iraq. Colonel Weiler led the Mobile Assault Company and prepared them for combat operations in Iraq. Colonel Weiler led the Mobile Assault Company in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II in Ar Ramadi, Iraq before being assigned as the Battalion Operations Officer in November 2005. As the BLT's Operations Officer he deployed with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

In January 2006 Colonel Weiler reported to Weapons Company, 2d Battalion, 24th Marines as the Inspector-Instructor where he later assumed command of the company and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In June of 2008 Colonel Weiler departed Iraq and reported to the Marine Corps Command and Staff College followed by the School of Advanced Warfighting. Upon completion of the School of Advanced Warfighting, he reported to 1st Marine Logistics Group where he deployed to Afghanistan twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as an operational planner.

Colonel Weiler took command of 2d Battalion, 4th Marines on 22 June 2012 and deployed with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Following command, he graduated from the Marine Corps War College in 2015 then served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Strategy and Force Development for three years. Colonel Weiler just completed a short tour as the Director of Inspections, Inspector General of the Marine Corps.

His personal awards include the Silver Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medals. Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medals with combat distinguishing device, Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Colonel Weiler is married to the former Nicole Wall of Vienna, VA. They have two children, Ms. Ashley Weiler and LCpl Joshua Weiler, USMC.

Relief and Appointment Ceremony 12 July 2019

Outgoing Sergeant Major Jose H. Molina, Incoming Sergeant Major Ruben Soto Jr.



After graduating from Steinmetz High School, Class of '96 in Chicago, Illinois Ruben Soto Jr. enlisted into the Marine Corps on 23 Sep 1996 and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. Upon completion of recruit training and MCT, Private Soto reported to Motor Transport School Marine Corps Detachment (MARCORPSDET), Fort Leonardwood, Mo.

Upon completion of his MOS school, Private First-Class Soto reported for duty at 8th Motor Transport Battalion, 2d Force Service Support Group (2d FSSG), Camp Lejeune North Carolina in April of 1997. There he served as a motor transport operator and

participated in several deployments with the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). During his time with the 22d MEU he was promoted to the rank of Corporal and Sergeant and assisted in operations in Egypt, Israel and Jordan.

In March of 2001 Sergeant Soto received orders as an Instructor at MARCORPSEDET Fort Leonardwood Mo. During his tenure as Transportation Battalion (2d TSB) 2d FSSG, Camp Lejeune North Carolina.

In August of 2002, Sergeant Soto was transferred to 2d TSB, 2d FSSG, Camp Lejeune North Carolina, where he served as Alpha Company 1st Platoon Sergeant. As a Platoon Sergeant, Sergeant Soto would participate and deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

In August of 2004 Sergeant Soto was transferred to Headquarters and Service Battalion (H&SBN), 2d Marine Logistics Group (2dMLG). During his time in H&SBN he deployed as a Platoon Sergeant in Support of OIF-IV. He returned from Iraq in May of 2006 and received orders to Drill Instructor School, Paris Island, South Carolina.

In October of 2006 Sergeant Soto was promoted to Staff Sergeant and would report to Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion to serve as a Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, Series Gunnery Sergeant and Battalion S-3 Chief.

In August of 2009 Staff Sergeant Soto was transferred to I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group Camp Pendleton, California where he served as the Motor transport Operations Chief. In January of 2010 Staff Sergeant Soto deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) 11.1 and 11.2 where he served as the Motor transport Operations Chief and Company Gunnery Sergeant. Staff Sergeant Soto returned from combat operations in March of 2011 and would execute orders to 11th Marine Regiment 1st Marine Division Camp Pendleton, California.

In September 2011 Staff Sergeant Soto was selected to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant and would serve as the Regimental Motor transport Operations Chief for 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

In October of 2012 Gunnery Sergeant Soto received orders to Marine Air Support Squadron 3 (MASS-3), Marine Air Control Group 38 (MACG-38), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (3rd MAW) to serve as the Squadron Motor transport Operations Chief and Headquarters Company First Sergeant. While at (MASS-3), he deployed in Support of OEFF 14.1 and was selected to the rank of First Sergeant and Frocked in April of 2015 and transferred to 2d Combat Engineer Battalion where he served as the Company First Sergeant for Charlie and Mobility Assault Company 2d Combat Engineer Battalion.

In April 2015m First Sergeant Soto served as the Company First Sergeant for Weapons Company 1st Battalion 6th Marines, where he deployed in support of the Black Sea Rotational Force Europe 18.1.

His personal decorations include: Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Four gold stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one gold star.

First Sergeant Soto is married to the former Gunnery Sergeant Michelle Rodriguez who is currently serving at MAG-16. They have one daughter, Mia Soto 16 months of age.

William Simpson

Email: slickwilly1967@yahoo.com

Message to 2/4 Assoc.

I am trying to find any Marine who served with my Brother Bobby Gene Simpson. He was with Fox Company 2/4 1st Platoon 2nd Battalion 4th Marines. He was KIA on December 11, 1968 on Mutter's Ridge. I have been trying but in vain to reach anyone/someone who was with him on the day he was KIA. I understand that 1st Lt. Robert Mueller also fought on the same ridge at the same time. If anyone could be of help, I would greatly be thankful. I am the last living relative he has. We were both in the Marine Corp at the same time, same platoon 2031 in San Diego. Thank you for your help.