



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



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## Feb 2020 *Sea Horse*

### Presidents Message

Dear Magnificent Bastards,

I am grateful for all of the continued support to our great association in 2019 and we are looking forward to another great year of added members, donations, reunions, and sharing this amazing network that keeps us all connected.

I'm going to use this newsletter and my message as a CALL TO ACTION to our current members. In order to assist veterans in need, our Gold Star Families, and our active duty leadership awards program we need your financial support – I recently posted a video on the 2/4 Association Facebook page with a similar message. One Marine responded.

Over the past year, we have opened up over 750 memberships at no cost. We have assisted 6 families with financial assistance and provided condolence arrangements for the same. Our leadership awards will be presented next month at the 2/4 Battalion Headquarters. All of this takes financial resources. We lean on those numbers and our membership to make an impact and gauge our effectiveness as an organization and demonstrate our commitment to responsible spending of member donations.

We have a unique opportunity to see a measured and increased impact to change lives and add to our storied reputation – both as an Association and as Marines and sailors. This year my goal is to ask each member to go online and donate. Any amount makes a big difference. If each member made a recurring donation of just \$5.00 a month – the cost of a tank of gas, we would have the resources to see our vision come to fruition and grow and help those in need.

### Our 2020 Vision:

- Sponsor 2 Gold Star Families to attend our Annual Reunion at no cost
- Sponsor 3 Active Duty or Veterans to attend our Annual Reunion at no cost
- Establish an Academic Scholarship Fund in memoriam of Fritz Warren for deserving children of veterans of our battalion
- Provide welcome home packages for all returning 2/4 Marines and sailors returning from any deployment

We look back on 2019 on ways to improve and shape 2020. This past year was phenomenal, but we plan to top that success in the months and years to come with your help and support. If you know someone who would benefit from becoming a member of our Association, please get them involved and pass the word so they can be part of the team.

Semper Fi,

Scott A. Huesing

President | 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association

### **Message from Lt. Col Patrick Byrne, BN CO**

2/4 spent the latter half of October and most of November participating in Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 1-20 at Twentynine Palms. Of note, the MAGTF Warfighting Exercise (MWX) portion of ITX constituted the largest force-on-force undertaken by the Marine Corps in decades with over 10,000 personnel participating. During MWX, 2/4 participated as one of the Adversary Force (AdFor) battalions under the 7th Marine Regiment; the other AdFor units were 3/7, elements of 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, elements of 4th Tank Battalion, and 40 Commando of the British Royal Marines. The Exercise Force (ExFor) for MWX was comprised of multiple units under the command of 2d Marine Division, including the 2d Marine Regiment headquarters, 3d Marine Regiment headquarters, 10th Marine Regiment headquarters, 1/2, 1/6, 3/2, and 3/8.

Upon our return from ITX, the battalion transitioned to conducting training focused on preparing for our upcoming deployment as the Battalion Landing Team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. On 6 December, we celebrated the 244th birthday of the United States Marine Corps at the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, with Col Jerry Durrant (Commanding Officer of 2/4 from 1994-1997) as the Guest of Honor and the 2/4 Association represented by Ray and Teresa Del Rio and Frank and Becky Valdez.

With the start of the new year, we have continued our preparations for deployment with each of the rifle companies conducting training focused on their specific insert platform – helicopter/tilt-rotor aircraft for Echo Company, small boats for Fox Company, and AAVs for Golf Company. We were certified for deployment under the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation (MCCRE) program during ITX, with the exception of one event – the 20-mile hike – which we will conduct on 14 February.

At this point, the battalion is fully staffed for deployment. We've bid farewell to Marines who have EASed, retired, or received orders to other units, but in their place have arrived some new Magnificent Bastards, eager to build upon the legacy we've inherited by those who have come before us. Between now and when we deploy in May, we'll continue to train aboard Camp Pendleton to increase our combat readiness while also taking care of the numerous administrative requirements associated with deploying. Thank you for your continued support to the Marines and Sailors of the Magnificent Bastards – it is truly appreciated.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol Pat Byrne

Bastard 6

## **Association Membership update**

As of 24 January 2020, we have 369 new Life members. Sadly, during this Quarter, we, also, had to move 8 members to the "In Memoriam" list. The final tabulation added to the 1000 membership reported in the November Newsletter, now, brings the total membership to 1361 Life members. This time last year, we had 534 Life members. Thus, we have had an increase of a little over 150%. Overall, we have added a fairly good mix of Magnificent Bastards from each decade from the 1960's to the present. All members are encouraged to ask other 2/4 Magnificent Bastards to join. Please, don't forget to update addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses as soon as possible, if they should change. This can be done by clicking "Contact Us" on the home page of the Association website ([www.2-4association.org](http://www.2-4association.org)), emailing Becky Valdez at [fxala@hotmail.com](mailto:fxala@hotmail.com) or emailing Manuel Travassos at [mgtravassos@comcast.net](mailto:mgtravassos@comcast.net).

To all members, thank you all for choosing to be a part of this great Association and together we can have a part in assisting fellow 2/4 Marines, our other Marine brothers and sisters, their families, and other worthwhile organizations. Together we can make a difference and build a lasting legacy.

Per Mare, Per Terram, and I remain, Semper Fidelis,

**Manuel Travassos, Secretary, 2-4 Association, Inc.**

## **Diane Layfield Gold Star Mom (GSM)**

I'd like to start out with a Huge HAPPY NEW YEAR Hug! Hope your 2020' will be Blessed with Great Health, wonderful friends, abundance of kindness, and more Love than you can hold.

On Veterans Day this yr. I went to visit Travis at the Golden Gate National Cemetery. I usually don't go there on Veterans Day as I'm usually in a Veterans Day parade. This yr. my very Dear Friend Army B. General was coming over from Washington DC to be the guest speaker for the ceremony. Garrett asked me if I would be there. Once I knew this, there is no way I wouldn't be there, to see him, and be with my Son.

I always have a Travis shirt, or jacket on because my Son is whom I'm representing whenever I go to any event.

A man tapped me on the back. I turned, he said Mama are you Travis' Mother? I said yes... He introduced himself, Chris McGuire. He asked if I remembered a Little League Medal that was put on Travis' headstone yrs. ago? I said yes of course, oh my God was that you? He said yes, I couldn't hold back the tears ...I said I have wondered all these yrs. what incredible little boy would give his very special medal to my Son.

You see the yr. Travis passed, a little league team in the area where Travis grew up and played Little League, they Honored Travis at their play-off games. This little boys' team won, and he asked his Dad to take him to visit Travis. He then paid his respects and gave his special Medal to my Son! I still have the medal it is in Travis Beautiful Memory Box. Chris the Dad asked me if I still had it, so a couple weeks later I took photo and sent it to him, and he shared it with his son. His son's name is Ian. I'm hoping one day soon to meet Ian, share a hug and a few more tears.

Wanted to also share this very special event I was able to be a part of this past Dec. called **Wreaths Across America**.

It begins months before, where donations for the wreaths are taken. Every cemetery raises enough money to place a beautiful wreath at every Veteran and Fallen Heroes grave.

Since my Travis is laid to rest in Golden Gate National Cemetery, in San Bruno, Ca. Along with a few other Marine Brothers. That is where I was, to Honor and Remember our Guys.

Before the ceremony started, a lady came up to me and said my name. It was Travis' 6th grade teacher, Ms. Tibbs. What a Beautiful surprise, so wonderful to see her. We shared a few of our memories of Travis when he was at that Elementary school. She said for all these yrs. she wanted to come to visit Travis, but just couldn't bring herself to. She had seen my post on FB about the Wreaths Across America. I invited everyone to come out and Honor our Veterans and Fallen Heroes. I'm so elated that she came out. So nice catching up, just like no time had passed at all.

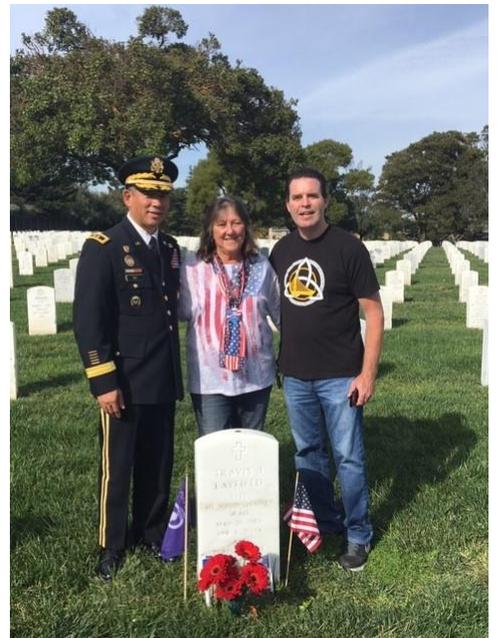
There was a Beautiful Ceremony, with wreaths laid to Honor every branch of Service.

There are over 100,000 laid to Rest there. Our goal is to one day have every gravesite remembered. This year people donated 8,500 wreaths. Every yr. we grow, and we are so thankful for the donations. Especially to all the amazing supporters, and volunteers that come out to be a part of such a special day.

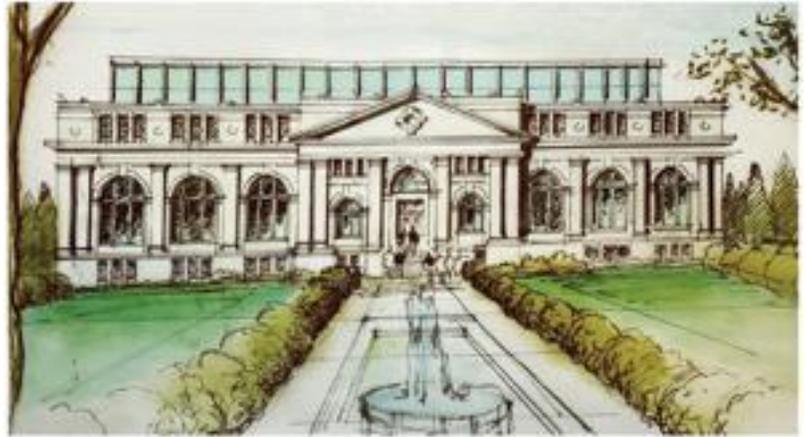
Please remember all who are suffering with illnesses, and other hardship issues. Lift them all up in your Prayers.

All My Love to my 2/4 Family

Warmly Mama Layfield



**Maj Gen. James E. Livingston**



One of the Lowcountry's most decorated veterans has just received another military commendation. Last month, Medal of Honor recipient Maj. Gen. James Livingston was appointed chairman emeritus of the National World War II (WWII) Museum

[https://www.moultrienews.com/news/livingston-appointed-chairman-emeritus-of-national-wwii-museum/article\\_65d7e890-2d8a-11ea-b33c-331971352630.html](https://www.moultrienews.com/news/livingston-appointed-chairman-emeritus-of-national-wwii-museum/article_65d7e890-2d8a-11ea-b33c-331971352630.html)

MajGen Livingston's episode of Hazard Ground, link below

<https://hazardground.com/episode/ep-149-majgen-r-james-livingston-marine/>

**Matt Pascarella**

**Producer - Hazard Ground**

**A Ross Tucker Media Podcast**

**Former Co of 2/4, BGen James F. Glynn, has been selected for promotion to Major General. He is current serving as Commanding General, Parris Island, SC.**



**Passing & Service for Gen Paul X. Kelley 28th Commandant of the Marine Corps**

**H&S - HQ S-3 Jan 68-July 68**

**The memorial service will be held on Thursday, 13 February at 0900**

Fort Myer Memorial Chapel located at 101 McNair Rd, Fort Myer, VA 22211.

Interment will follow in Arlington National Cemetery. Uniform for the service is Blue Dress B, (with ribbons and badges) or equivalent.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Barbara Kelley at 5901 MacArthur Boulevard Northwest, Apartment #316, Washington, D.C. 20016. In lieu of flowers, the Kelley family has asked that donations be made to Villanova University in memory of General P. X. Kelley (Ret.) Class of 1950 or the Semper Fi Fund.

Donations for Villanova University can be mailed to Villanova University

Office of Development, 800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, PA 19085. Donations for the Semper Fi Fund can be mailed to 825 College Boulevard, Suite 102, PMB 509, Oceanside, CA 92057.

**Additional passing of 2-4 Association members:**

**Phil Ciofalo**, 1st Sgt. (H&S Fox Dec 65-Jan67) USMC (Ret.), of New Berlinville, PA, passed away Friday, August 16, 2019

**Janet Brown**, wife of Jay (Doc) Brown 2/4 (67-68) of Williamstown, NJ passed away November 3, 2019

**Larry G. Owen**, 72, of Mattoon, Illinois passed away December 27, 2019

**Julie Doble**, of Lakeville, MN, wife of Tim Doble (Golf 2/4 April-Oct 69) former 2/4 Assn treasurer and reunion hosts in MN passed away January 14, 2020

**Dennis Patterson** HM2 Hotel (May 66- May 67) Jul 26 1942-Dec 23 2019 Contact Annette Patterson at [mardoc\\_h24@yahoo.com](mailto:mardoc_h24@yahoo.com) She would like anyone that knew him to please contact her with any memoires for her son's benefit.

**Requiem for A Warrior**

The official website is up and running: [www.requiemforawarrior.com](http://www.requiemforawarrior.com) where the music is available for your members to listen. The offer still holds: if any member would like a hard copy (CD), I will make it available – free of charge – for their use and enjoyment!

Semper Fidelis, David Rann

**Socks For Heros**

<http://www.scmmsg.org/sponsors/>

Please consider a donation for the active duty deployed- America's Troops are on the move!



## 2/4 Association Coin

Cost \$10.00 plus shipping

Contact Becky Valdez @ [fxala@hotmail.com](mailto:fxala@hotmail.com) or (714) 306-2329



## 2nd Bn 4<sup>th</sup> Marines 2019 Annual Reunion

Sept 2-6, 2020

Brooks Wilson and a crew of dedicated volunteers will host the reunion in conjunction with the Caledonian Club of San Francisco's 155th Annual Scottish Gathering & Games on Labor Day weekend in Pleasanton, CA [east side of San Francisco Bay]. Association members and honored guests will be honored at the Games during the evening grandstand shows both days and feted by the 1st Marine Division Band. If you have never attended a Scottish Games, please know that this particular event is the largest in the world and encompasses many activities such as sports and athletics [both professional and amateur], clan tents where you can start your family name research, performances by top Scottish rock bands and singers, Scottish animals, a children's glen, archery, Scottish and English foods, renaissance re-enactments, Scottish country dancing and just hanging with fun people. The reunion will also include some other fun activities and a banquet but leave adequate time to sit and visit with fellow Marines and sailors.

### \* SCHEDULE OF EVENTS \*

#### Wednesday (2 September)

1200 - 1800: Registration; hospitality room (Tri-Valley #2) open

#### Thursday (3 September)

0700 - 0900: Breakfast on own

0900 - 1200: Late registration; hospitality room open (Tri-Valley #2); free time

1200 - 1330: Lunch on own

1330 - 1830: Late registration; hospitality room (Tri-Valley #2) open; free time

1830 - 2000: Dinner on own

2000 - 2300: Scottish Pub Night at the Main Street Brewery, 830 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 in downtown Pleasanton (optional)

**Friday** (4 September)

0700 - 0900: Breakfast on own

0900 - 1030: Board of Directors meeting at San Ramon Marriott (Pleasanton-Danville Rooms)

1030 - 1200: General business meeting at San Ramon Marriott (back patio)

1200 - 1330: Lunch on your own

1330 - 1430: Memorial service at San Ramon Marriott (back patio)

1430 - 1600: Hospitality room (Tri-Valley #2) open; free time

1800 - 1830: No host cocktails at San Ramon Marriott (Salon 1)

1830 - 2000: Banquet at San Ramon Marriott (Salon 1)

2000 - 2130: Evening Concert in the main ballroom at the San Ramon Marriott featuring guest pipe band and 1st Marine Division Band. No host cocktail bars are available in the ballroom lobby.

**Saturday** (5 September)

0700 - 0900: Breakfast on own

0800 - 1800: Scottish Games at Alameda County Fairgrounds

1800 - 1900: Return to San Ramon Marriott

1900 - 2030: Dinner on own

**Sunday** (6 September)

0700 - 0900: Breakfast on own

0800 - 1800: If staying for the weekend: Scottish Games at Alameda County Fairgrounds

1800 - 1900: Return to San Ramon Marriott

1900 - 2000: Dinner on own

2000 - 2200: Free band party at San Ramon Marriott (optional for those loving pipe band and Marine Corps band music)

NOTE for Saturday and Sunday: There is a free shuttle available starting at 0630 and finishing at 1930 between the San Ramon Marriott, other hotels and the Scottish Games at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The trip takes 40 minutes to an hour. Parking is available at the fairgrounds for \$10 per day.

**Monday** (7 September)

0700 - 0900: Breakfast on own

Depart for home or other points of interest

### **PVT Ronald Keith Zundell**

Am seeking any available info or leads. 2/4 Marines, KIA on Okinawa 08JUN45. (Note: The MA state listing shows 09JUN45, either a difference in time-zones, reporting process, or just an error.) The 2/4 website also lists six other Marines as KIA on that date. Request any info or leads to photos, reports, decoration citations, or other available info on PVT Zundell.

PVT Zundell was Dad's best friend and 'battle-buddy' in football & hockey. Each was 17 years old in 1944 and volunteered for military service. Each promised his parents that he would finish school when he returned. 'Zundy' never returned, killed on Okinawa, likely on the Oroku Peninsula. Meanwhile, 'Hammy' was a Destroyer Escort sailor, patrolling offshore that same month. Dad never forgot Zundy, over all the years of advanced education, raising a family and pursuing a great career.

Dad passed away some years ago, at age 82 - and Zundy is still 19. So, the 75th anniversary of WWII, especially V-E/Memorial/V-J Day, seems an appropriate time to more thoughtfully remember and honor the ones who gave it all away.

Thanks for any help with this.

Bob Liebman, MAJ USAF, Ret [mach1crow@msn.com](mailto:mach1crow@msn.com)

### **2/4 Websites**

Like on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/2d-Battalion-4th-Marines/145793355436443](http://www.facebook.com/pages/2d-Battalion-4th-Marines/145793355436443)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MagBasFRO>

You Tube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_Eqc2EvDHzheG26sbPP5g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_Eqc2EvDHzheG26sbPP5g)

Official Website: [www.1stmardiv.marines.mil/Units/5THMARINEREGT/2ndBattalion4thMarines.aspx](http://www.1stmardiv.marines.mil/Units/5THMARINEREGT/2ndBattalion4thMarines.aspx)

2/4 Association: <http://www.2-4association.org/>