



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



### ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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## May 2021 Sea Horse

### State of the Battalion



Lieutenant Colonel Jared Reddinger was born and raised in Chewelah, Washington.

In 2005, he graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marines Corps.

Following completion of The Basic School and Infantry Officer Course, he reported to 2d Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines (2/4) in Camp Pendleton California. From April 2006 - June 2009, he served as a Rifle Platoon Commander, Rifle Company Executive Officer, and Rifle Company Commander with 2/4. During this period, he deployed with the 15<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit to Okinawa, Japan in support of Operations Balikatan, Cobra Gold, and Caring Response.

In 2009, he executed orders to the School of Infantry (West). From June 2009 – May 2012.

LtCol Reddinger served with Marine Combat Training Battalion as a Company Executive Officer, Company Commander, and Battalion Operations Officer.

After completing resident PME, LtCol Reddinger was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marines in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. From May 2013 – May 2016, he served as the Company Commander of Company C, and the Battalion Operations Officer. During this period, he deployed to Helman Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and in Okinawa, Japan in support of the Unit Deployment Program.

From May 2016 – June 2019, LtCol Reddinger served as the Commanding Officer of Marine Recruiting Station San Diego, California. During this period, he ensured the fulfillment of all Marine enlisted and officer accession requirements for the greater San Diego area and the Pacific Ocean area of operations to include Hawaii, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Island, and Japan. Upon successfully completing his tour as a Recruiting Station Commanding Officer, LtCol Reddinger was assigned as the Assistant Operations Officer for the 12 Marine Corps Recruiting District in San Diego, California prior to attending resident PME as an exchange student in Australia.

LtCol Reddinger is a distinguished graduate of Expeditionary Warfare School and the Australian Command and Staff College where he earned a master's degree in Military and Defense Studies from the Australian National University. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat distinguishing device and two gold stars in lieu of third award, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with combat distinguishing device, and the Combat Action Ribbon with gold star in lieu of second award.

LtCol Reddinger is husband of the former Bethany Pinkerton and father to Violet, Carmen, Joy and Sylvia.

## **2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association Message from Lt. Col Jared Reddinger**

As the new Commanding Officer for the Magnificent Bastards, I'd first like to say how humbled I am to be a part of our organization. I started my career as 2d Platoon Commander in Golf Company, and I'm unbelievably proud to be rejoining this team. Know that I take ownership of our collective legacy, and that I will use every ounce of strength that I have to ensure the proper care of our Marines' name, reputation, and history.

During the past few months, the Bastards have been heavily engaged with training and the execution of service level exercises. In February, Fox Company spent a number of weeks in Bridgeport participating in Mountain Exercise. For those of you who have never been to the mountain, this is a grueling exercise designed to make our Marines proficient in operations in extremely cold temperatures and at high altitudes. I can assure you that Fox Company crushed it up there, and our battalion is now more lethal. As mountain operations are, like most things in the infantry, a small unit leader's fight, our NCOs ensured success. During the months of March and April, Echo Company, Weapons Company, and Golf Company played various roles in the execution of Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) Course 2-21. This involved the conduct of several air assaults designed to certify Marine aviators as planners and instructors. It is the premier course of the Marine aviation community, so it is well resourced and prioritized. As such, it's free training for our

battalion and was a ton of fun. The Marines, as always, performed extremely well and once again proved themselves to be professionals of the highest caliber. We're now in the process of moving the Marines back from Camp Horno up to Camp San Mateo as 3/5 departs for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and more space becomes available in the barracks. I can assure you that the Marines will be very happy to finally be home. We'll then look to continue training in preparation for Bastard Field Exercise 1 (Bastard FEX1) where we'll certify all of our rifle squads in the offense, defense, and patrolling.

From now on, the Marines will be focused on training for war. Though there is no anticipated future conflict, we will prepare ourselves for every contingency. History shows that those who succeed are the ones who are the most ready when war is least expected. My promise to you is that the Bastards will remain ready. Thank you for your continued support to the Marines and Sailors of the Magnificent Bastards – it is truly appreciated.

**Semper Fidelis,**

**LtCol Jared Reddinger Bastard 6**



**2/4 Change of Command 26 Feb. 2021**

**Left photo: SgtMaj Ruben Soto, Mark Sperling, Ray Del Rio, Joe Mueller, LtCol. Byrne, Scott Huesing, Frank Valdez, Rande King    Right Photo: Ray Del Rio, Jared Reddinger, Rande King, Frank Valdez**

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021-2023 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. Nominations will be presented to the membership by the Nominating Committee at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Therefore, this posting will fulfill the requirement. Once you have completed your review, please mark the ballot on Page 3 for the appropriate candidates and return it via U. S. Postal Service to:**

**Sergeant-at-Arms Pat Burns**

**2850 Avenida Desoto**

**Navarro, Florida 32566**

**Or via e-mail:**

**Sergeant-at-Arms Pat Burns**

**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 properly filed by the Secretary.

- . If more than one ballot from an individual is submitted, the first one received will be considered the valid ballot.
- . Ballots must be dated or postmarked on or before the deadline date of 7 June 2021.
- . A quorum will be the total ballots received per the deadline rule.

#### **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. Scott has worked tirelessly with our attorneys to get the Association's 501(c)(19) Not For Profit status re-established. He will be honored to serve another term as your President.**

##### **Vice President:**

**Joseph "Pete" P. Gannon [Incumbent] – 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 member of 30 years 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 where he meets, greets, and assists 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 continue to serve as your Vice President.

**Secretary:**

**Manuel G. Travassos [Incumbent]** – Manuel enlisted and entered Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, SC in August 1966. After completing Boot Camp, ITR and then, Staging in California, Manuel joined & served with Echo Company, 2nd Platoon of 2/4 from January 1967 to August 1967 in Vietnam as a rifleman, Squad RTO, and Platoon RTO before being wounded by an explosive device. He, then, spent 5 months in Portsmouth Naval Hospital where he was awarded the Purple Heart by Commanding Officer of the Third Marine Division, Major General Bruno A. Hochmuth. Upon being discharged from the Naval Hospital, Manuel was assigned to limited duty with 3/2 at Camp Lejeune, NC. While with 3/2, he was assigned the duties of Chief Clerk with the Battalion S-1 office. After six months, on 31 August 1968, he was medically retired from the Marine Corps due to left peroneal nerve palsy at the rank of Sgt. Manuel, then worked for Barnett Bank in Jacksonville, FL for 3 years before joining UPS as an Operations Clerk. Manuel, eventually, became a supervisor in the Feeder Department and served as a tractor trailer dispatcher, yard controller, North Florida Equipment Comptroller, District Feeder Scheduler, and, finally, Next Day Air Coordinator before retiring in 2002 after 30+ years of service. During those years at UPS, Manuel served as a 1st Lieutenant with the Fort George Volunteer Fire Department. He successfully completed the State of Florida Fire Fighter training and was CPR, EMT, and Hazard Material certified, Additionally, Manuel and his wife, Barbara, have been very active with their church. Manuel has served as Sunday School teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, Church Training Director, Children’s Church leader, and various other positions in the church. Manuel has served as Secretary for the 2-4 Association since 2012 and would deem it an honor to serve another term as your Association Secretary.

**Director:**

**Benjamin A. Turner** – Ben joined 2/4 fresh out of School of Infantry in August of 1992 and stayed with the battalion until April of 1994. Ben, then, transferred to 8th & I and eventually finished up with 3/8. He left active duty in 1998 at the rank of Sgt.

After leaving active duty, Ben has run a successful IT company for the last 15 years and sat on the BOD for his former Home Owner’s Association for nearly ten years before moving to a new location. Additionally, Ben has held various board member positions with other non-profit organizations. The most prominent has been with the American Heritage Girls chairing the Outdoor/Camping group for his daughter’s troop. He looks forward to serving the Association members as Director.

Please mark the appropriate box for the candidates of your choice on Page 3. Please vote for only one candidate per office and return to Sergeant-at-Arms Pat Burns' USPS address or via his email address listed on Page 1. The DEADLINE for receiving Ballots is 7 June 2021

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021-2023 BALLOT

Member's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

President:

Secretary:

Scott Huesing [Incumbent]

Manuel G. Travassos [Incumbent]

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Write-in)

(Write-in)

Vice President:

Director:

Joseph "Pete" P. Gannon [Incumbent]

Benjamin A. Turner

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Write-in)

(Write-in)



### **Vietnam Wall Facts**

**A little history most people will never know. Interesting Veterans Statistics of the Vietnam Memorial Wall.**

**There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.**

**The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 64 years since the first casualty.**

**The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956.**

**His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.**

**There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.**

**39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.**

**8,283 were just 19 years old.**

**The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.**

**12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.**

**5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.**

**One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.**

**997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam.**



**1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.**

**31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.**

**Thirty-one sets of parents lost two of their sons.**

**54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from one school.**

**8 Women are on the Wall, Nursing the wounded.**

**244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall**

**Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.**

**West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.**

**The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.**

**The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.**

**The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.**

**The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.**

**For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, Husbands, wives, sons, and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.**

## **Medal of Honor Day**

**This tribute to our nation's Medal of Honor recipients is tremendous.**

**<https://www.counton2.com/news/latest-news/service-and-sacrifice-lowcountry-celebrates-first-ever-medal-of-honor-day/>**

## **Ben Cascio**

**Bergen County Veteran of the Week:**

**[https://stevetanelli.com/2021/02/bergen-county-veteran-of-the-week-ben-cascio/?fbclid=IwAR3\\_SwcKgQzLMEuK6KXZ3S\\_IWGxyoYN\\_Bq2WFcA-IcTr4dplyA2TTRkAArI](https://stevetanelli.com/2021/02/bergen-county-veteran-of-the-week-ben-cascio/?fbclid=IwAR3_SwcKgQzLMEuK6KXZ3S_IWGxyoYN_Bq2WFcA-IcTr4dplyA2TTRkAArI)**

## **2/4 ASSOCIATION REUNION 2021**

**<https://www.2-4association.org/reunion/reunion-2021/>**

**Log onto the 2/4 Association website to register and see all the details.**

**Yes, it is going to happen!**

**Where: Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

**B-Ocean Hotel on the Beach**

**When: August 5-8, 2021**

**This is going to be a FUN Reunion. Everything is planned and is within 1000 yards of the hotel. No need to rent a car.**

**Airport is 4.5 miles from hotel.**

**Beach and ocean 150 yards from hotel.**

**We have a paddle boat cruise with dinner on board.**

**Our Association Dinner will be in the Ocean View Room.**

**The Memorial will be at Sunset on the beach.**

There is a snorkeling trip, drift fishing trips, and for the adventurous, the 4-hour deep-sea fishing trip. There is also the famous Las Olas shopping and restaurant area with shuttles from the hotel.

### Spotlight on Bob Herndon and Spencer Hiebert



**Bob Herndon 19 May 1968 Vietnam 19 yrs. old**

**Bob & Jodie Herndon with Spencer**

#### **Sgt Maj. Bob Herndon**

The first unit I served with after bootcamp was 2/4. 24 Sep 1968 Pvt Herndon 0311 joined 2/4 at Con Thien. The first day in the field I was made an M-60 machine gunner. I was at the battle for Bastard Bridge on 14 Oct 1967 as well as numerous other battles. I was a M-60 machine gunner during the Dai Do battle. I was a LCpl section leader. Of course, everyone else had been evacuated. Only 2 of us were left after the battle. I was with Hotel 3<sup>rd</sup> Plt. Guns. I received a couple of minor wounds during my tour with 2/4.

I was medically evacuated after 1 year for malaria.

I had served with 23 units when I retired as a Sgt Maj. In 1995. My career spans 29 years. 2/4 was my most memorable unit.

I met Spencer Hiebert in church when he was just a small child.

I would bring my helmet and gas mask and dress him in it. He loved it. He had a warrior's spirit even then. That is what attracted him to me. I knew he would be a Marine someday.

Semper fi,

Bob



### **PVT Spencer Hiebert**

Born on October 9th, 2001 and raised in Dallas, Oregon

In 2012, at the age of 10, he attended his first graduation at MCRD for his cousin Trevor Mackey. Through that experience he realized he wanted to be a Marine.

Spencer was later able to attend another MCRD graduation for his cousin Brett Mackey in 2014.

In November of 2018 Spencer attended the 2/4 reunion with SgtMaj Bob Herndon. While at the reunion he met the Battalion Commander and Battalion SgtMaj. Spencer also met Colonel Jay Vargas, a Medal of Honor recipient, who gave Spencer one of his Medal of Honor Coins and told Spencer about what it meant to be a Marine.

Each of these events helped further Spencer's conviction that he was meant to be a Marine.

In high school, he was a thrill seeker and excelled in sports. He lettered in football, track, and was always very athletic. He was self-taught guitarist, enjoys auto racing, sports, and the outdoors.

He graduated from Dallas High School in June 2020.

Spencer left to begin his quarantine period for basic training on November 30th, 2020.

He began training with Golf company weeks later and was squad leader of his platoon.

Spencer graduated from MCRD on April 9th, 2021 and is now in his first week of training at SOI at Camp Pendleton.

He is working towards MOS 0311 and hoping to join 2/4 after SOI graduation.



Nancy Schassen asked me to let all our 2/4 family know that our friend John passed away March 23, 2021. She said, "He fought a good fight but now He is at peace with the Lord." John was in hospice the past six months. Ruth and I had a nice visit with them in January. He was in good spirits and he proudly displayed his Marine Corp memorabilia. I told him he was walking point on this one, but he has buddies waiting for him. He laughed and said he will be waiting for the rest of us to catch up. John's saluting St. Peter now as he says, " One more Marine reporting sir, I've served my time in hell."

It has been an honor to serve with him as with all of you.

Semper Fi!

Red Mike Demaio

Cards can be sent to:

Nancy Schassen, 94120 Strahan St. #34

Gold Beach Or 97444

It is with a sad heart that I send the date of the death of **Jerry L. Harding**, DOD 03/03/2021

Jerry served with the 2/4 (H&S) in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive.

He died of Parkinson's Disease and Parkinson's Dementia, due to Agent Orange

Looking for anyone who served with my Brother **Bobby G. Simpson** Fox Company 2/4 1st Platoon 2nd Battalion 4th Marines He was KIA on Mutters Ridge on the 11th of December 1968 Any information would be very helpful. Is it possible that the Marines he served with have gone to guard the gates of Heaven like him? I am very sure that where they were was saturated with A.O. Thank You, Bill Simpson I was never sure of where (if I could) find any info on him. Everything that was sent home of his, has long been lost with the passing of our Mother and Father. I was never told where his items were.

William Simpson

Email: [slickwilly1967@yahoo.com](mailto:slickwilly1967@yahoo.com)

**It's ok, to not be ok. Reach out for help. One conversation can change a life.**

**Veterans Crisis Line: Text 838255**

**Suicide Prevention Line: (800) 273-TALK (8255)**