



Newsletter of "The Ghost Battalion"

Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn 1st Marines

www.FirstMarines.org



Volume 15 Issue 2

June 2017

Officers & Trustees

November 7 - 13



Mid Year Meeting & 2017 Reunion

During the mid-year Trustees meeting, our attendees were Phil Leslie, Dale Williams, Ben Dixon, Jose Perez, Gary Gordon and Vin Burdziuk. We traveled to most of the places we have on our schedule. The Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Monument) is about a 15 minute walk up a slight incline. All of the sidewalks have handicap cuts so very walk-able. It is easier to transit the left side of the street as that's a little shorter distance but on the way back down the hill remember you have to cross over to N Fort Meyer Drive across several lanes of traffic. We are trying to find a handicapped van that can shuttle those that need it to and from the Memorial. Please call Tim Dunn, 303-887-9275, if you need that service so we know what size vehicle to contract.

The White House and Pentagon tours both start at the Metro Station a block from the hotel across North Fort Meyer Drive. The station is a 4 minute walk from the hotel. For the White House take either the Blue line toward Largo, or Orange toward New Carrollton, to the Federal Triangle stop (5th stop). The White House Visitor Center is about 2 ½ blocks along E Street. This stop is optional but the last bathroom before entering the White House grounds. From there proceed another ½ block to cross 15th Street and take a right. Go another ½ block and you will come to the Park Service entrance to the White House Tour. Allow at least an hour, more if you make the potty stop. Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the tour time and heed the warnings on the sign. **Ladies, NO PURSES!** The Ranger told us this was the biggest problem they have. Must have a picture ID. They will turn you away if you don't heed the rules.

For the Pentagon take only the Blue Line towards Franconia-Springfield and get off at the 2nd stop, The Pentagon. We need to enter as a group and it will take at least a half hour to get through security. If you are late you will be refused entry. Nancy Torres, Project Support Specialist (she calls herself the party planner for the Commandant) is our point of contact. She is working to make this happen as smoothly as possible. This is a walking tour, and you walk for an hour.

The Metro system offers a Senior (over 65) SmarTrip card for \$2. This cuts your fare in half. Our fare to the Pentagon was \$1.05 with the card. The card is available at the Commuter Store in the Metro station across from the hotel. Enter the station and go to the left past all of the turnstiles and fare machines and the store will be on your left. Each individual must appear in person with some kind of ID with a date of birth on it.

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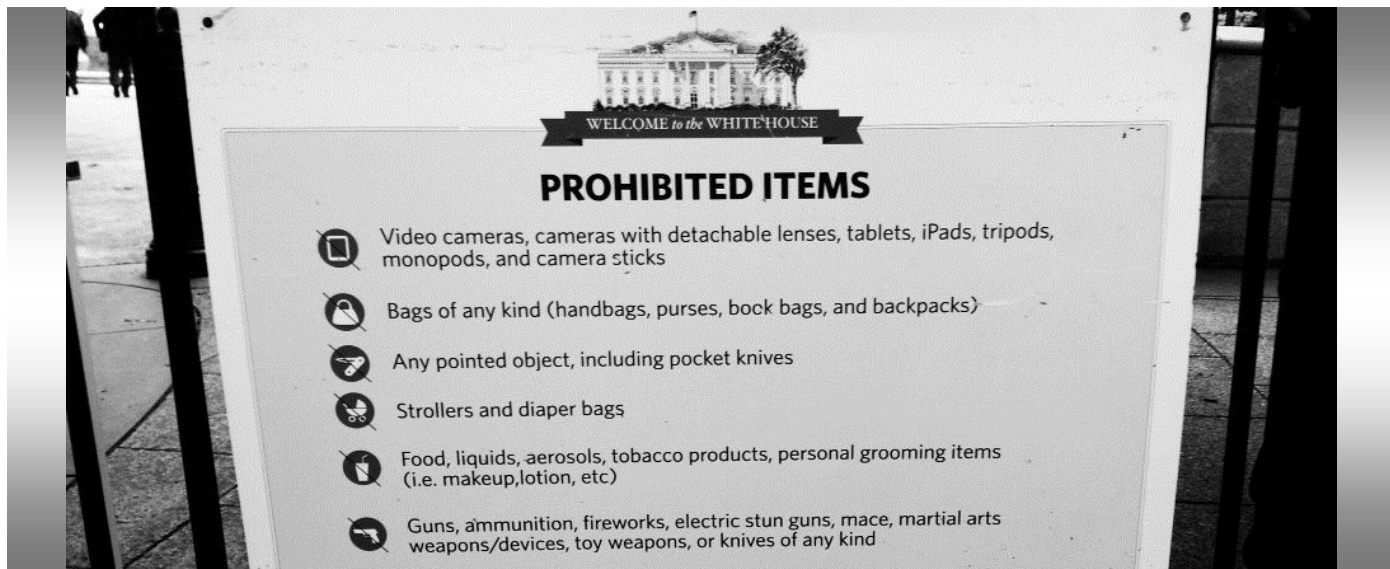
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617-840-6700

Mid Year Meeting & 2017 Reunion



Reunion Schedule

The Pentagon and White House tours are still in the planning stage. The Secret Service will assign us a day and time for the White House tour and the Pentagon Security Service will assign us a date and time for that tour. We have asked for Thursday morning for the White House and Wednesday afternoon for the Pentagon but those are only requests. We are calling these tours “unofficial” as transportation is not being arranged for them. We would like to thank Dan Kellum for honchoing the White House tour and Jim Jordan for suggesting and doing the sign-ups for the Pentagon.

The “OFFICIAL” part of the schedule is as follows:

Wednesday 8 Nov – Thursday 9 Nov - Check In; location Hospitality Suite 1st Floor Georgetown Room (this is a change from where we have been the last two times)

Friday 9 Nov – 1000 Marine Corps Birthday Wreath Laying Ceremony, Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Statue) Only handicapped transportation provided. 1900 Movie Night, Club Room 1st floor, Flags of Our Fathers.

Saturday 11 Nov – 0900 to 1600 Trip to National Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico, VA, bus transportation available. The organization is picking up the cost but we are open to donations. While there we will have a wreath laying at our monument at 1100. 1900 Movie Night Club Room 1st Floor, Letters From Iwo Jima (In Japanese with English subtitles)

Sunday 12 Nov – 1000 Annual business meeting, 2nd floor, Rosslyn Ballroom. 1730 Annual banquet 2nd Floor Rosslyn Ballroom.

Some side notes:

*During sign-up / check-in at the Reunion make sure you identify who you want to share a table with, the hotel is setting up for 10 at a table.

***We are asking everyone to pre-register for the bus trip and the banquet and pre-pay for the banquet.** The last few years we have gotten into too much of a guessing game. If you don't preregister there is no guarantee that we will be able to add you to either event during the reunion.

***We can't stress enough: if you are planning on going to the White House and/or the Pentagon, take a minimum of things.**

***Guest of Honor** for the banquet is **Gen Jim Jones, USMC Ret'd, 32d Commandant of the Marine Corps, Commander U.S. European Command and finally NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.**

Mid Year Meeting & 2017 Reunion**Planning Ideas**

During the mid-year meeting we attended the Evening Parade at Marine Barracks 8th & I, also known as Marine Barracks Washington, DC. Other than getting dumped on by a downpour about 20 minutes prior to the end of the program, it was a great evening. Phil said he hadn't been that wet since the monsoon season in Vietnam. We think all Marines should have an opportunity to see this event. In fact, there were three reunion groups there that night. With this in mind, we would like the membership to consider moving the dates of the next Washington reunion (2021) to August so that we can go as a group to the parade.

Other considerations for moving the date, not just for the next DC reunion but every now and then, would be so we have the ability to have reunions farther north as well as be home to participate in the Marine Corps Birthday and /or Veterans Day in your hometown.

A question is, are we leaving out some of our Brothers by not going to places in the north?

Maybe something like:

2018 New Orleans keep the same time frame (all ready in planning)

2019 San Diego keep the same time frame (all ready in planning)

2020 Chicago/Boston/Seattle move to September

2021 Washington, DC move to August to accommodate the Evening Parade

2022 Somewhere in Florida???, move back to November

We will be discussing this idea at the annual business meeting.

**Hand Crafted
from Wood
EGA**



**7 Inch
Diameter
\$30**

**You can pre-order yours today and pay for it at our reunion.
Contact DALE WILLIAMS at: dale1949@earthlink.net**

REGISTRATION FORM**VIETNAM VETERANS of 2ND Battalion, 1st Marines 2017 REUNION**

Tuesday November 7 thru Monday November 13

HOLIDAY INN ROSSLYN@KEYBRIDGE, 1900 N. Ft Myer Drive Arlington, VA 22209

Phone: (703) 807-2000 Free Parking, Breakfast, and Internet

*All rooms are \$103.00 + 13.25% Tax (\$116.64 per night)***NOTE: To GUARANTEE the ROOM RATE be SURE TO use ROOM BLOCK CODE "VET"**

Name: _____ Company _____ Year(s) in VN _____

Spouse/Guest Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Meal Choices:A **\$55.00** Deposit is Requested for Each Meal Ordered.

Poultry (Chicken Masala) _____ Beef (Prime Rib) _____ Special Diet _____

Children Menu will be available for \$35.00

Total for MEALS _____**Mail To: MARIO SAGASTUME, Treasurer**
778 Silverado Estates Ct., Chico, CA 95973**Bus Trip to Marine Corp Museum:** No charge for the bus, donations will be accepted. Please let us know how many people will be riding the bus in your party so we might plan accordingly.**Number for the bus:** _____**Reunion schedule:**

November 7, Tuesday	Early Arrival and Set-up, Check-in for Pentagon and White House Tours
November 8, Wednesday	Pentagon Tour (Date and Time yet to be determined) See Jim Jordan for details
November 9, Thursday	Whitehouse Tour (Date and times to be determined) See Dan Kellum for details
November 10, Friday	Wreath Laying Ceremony at Marine Corps Memorable, Arlington Cemetery
November 11, Saturday	Day Trip to Marine Corp Museum with Ceremony at our VN 2/1 Monument
November 12, Sunday	0930 VN 2/1 Annual Meeting 1700 to 2100 Banquet Cash Bar will be Available
November 13, Monday	Departure

2017 Reunion

Visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps and our 2/1 Monument



White House Visit - Contact Person
Dan Kellum kdkellum@aol.com
If already preregistered



Pentagon Visit - Contact Person
Jim Jordan jjmj232@aol.com



Attend The
Marine Corps Birthday
Wreath Laying Ceremony
Marine Corps War Memorial
(Iwo Jima Statue)

Memorial Bricks Make a Long Lasting Gift



Its never too late to late to purchase your Memorial Bricks.

They will be placed with our Monument at the Marine Corps Heritage Center Museum.

For a donation of \$300, your name, or that of someone you wish to honor or remember, will be engraved on a brick lining our Monument in the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park overlooking the Museum's awesome structure.





Memorial Bricks - Enclose 1 Form for Each Brick Ordered

ENGRAVED MEMORIAL BRICKS

A double row of Engraved Memorial Bricks line the pathways of the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park, National Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico, VA. Additionally, approximately 450 bricks were placed around our monument and are available for engraving. To date 176 of these had been sold. Each engraved brick honors the donor or another person. Each brick costs \$300 and you may order as many as you like.

Vietnam Veterans of 2d Bn. 1st Marines will continue to sell bricks as long as there is space to place them at our monument. The museum installs bricks several times a year. We will submit brick orders to the museum in groups to coincide with their ordering and installation pattern.

Bricks must be paid for at the time of the order. Make check or money order payable to V V 2/1.

Engraving is limited to 3 lines of 20 characters each. A character includes all letters, punctuations and spaces. Each line must end with a full word or name (words and names will not be hyphenated and continued on the next line.)

Memorial Brick Inscription (1 form for each brick ordered.)

Order placed by:

Name: [LAST] _____ [FIRST] _____ [Middle Initial] _____.

Address[1]: _____.

Address[2]: _____.

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____.

Phone: _____

Email _____

Signature _____

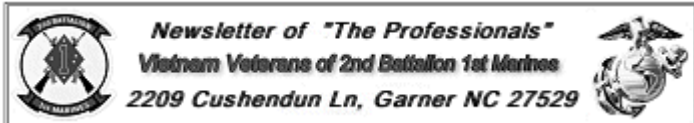
PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Date: _____ Amount Paid: _____

Authorized by: _____ Date _____

Send this form along with payment made out to Vietnam Veterans of 2d Bn 1st Mar to:

Dale Williams 225 Hein Dr. Clayton, NC 27527-5270



Reunion 2017 Washington D.C.

Tuesday Nov-07 thru Monday Nov-13
Banquet Sunday November 12

Holiday Inn Rosslyn @ Key Bridge
1900 N Fort Myer Drive
Arlington, VA 22209

<> Phone # 703-807-2000 <>

Free Parking, Internet, and Breakfast

****To guarantee the room rate be sure to identify yourself as part of the group
Vietnam Veterans of 2d Battalion 1st Marines and
that our "ROOM BLOCK CODE is "VET"***

All rooms \$103 + 13.25% tax (\$116.64 / night)

Vietnam Veterans of 2d Bn 1st Marines is Tax Exempt under IRS 501(c)3 Non-Profit