

USMC



Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn 1st Marines



Message from the President

Brothers, Families & Friends of 2/1

Wow!! What a reunion!! I'm going to keep this message short because I think most will be more interested in looking at all the pictures from DC than reading my ramblings.

All in all it was by far one of our best, if not the best, reunions we have ever had. This years reunion was dedicated to our Combat Corpsman. Our banquet was filled to capacity, the hotel had to add 18 additional place settings and bring in additional chairs for the overflow. Our speaker was Capt Mark Oleson, MD, HQMC, Deputy Director of the Office of the Medical Officer of the Marine Corps. With the playing of the CD of the new march CORPSMAN UP written and played by the United Sates Marine Corps Drum & Bugle Corps. All Corpsman (seventeen in all) were called up to the stage and thanked for being the Brothers we could not live without. Oooh Raah!!

The annual business meeting was full and we had over a hundred 2/1 Brothers sign in. This year our 2/1 brotherhood in attendance covered just about every rank, from Private to Lieutenant General, thanks all for making our time together memorable. During the meeting a new fund was approved to continue our efforts to use association funds to help Marines and Marine families in need. The new fund will be called the Espirit De Corps Fund (Thanks Vinnie Burdziuk for recommending such a fitting name) and up to 10% of the annual un-restricted donations to the association will be allocated to the fund. For clarification on how the unrestricted fund works, our Treasurer Mario Sagastume will be explaining it with his report in the next Newsletter.

As you look through the pictures (over 1400 taken by Ken Harding alone - thanks Ken for a job well done) you will see that, with all the activities, there was something going on pretty much all day every day. From the constantly busy and full hospitality suite (a special shout out Thank You to Norma Valdez, Mike Valdez(s) gracious wife, for all her efforts to keep things going smooth in the hospitality suite, it helps a lot more than you may realize) to what seemed the always crowded PX. Reunion 2009 was one happening event. And we cant forget Jim Page movie night with the D.I, thanks again Col. Page.

Our pilgrimage to the Wall was, as always, heart wrenching, somber and cathartic. Thank you Doc Moyer for further honoring our Fallen Brothers, Marine & Corpsman alike, by placing the WE REMEMBER plaque at the center point of that hallowed ground.

The last leg of our reunion journey was to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA.. What a place! A must see for all. We were honored to have Lt/Gen. G.R. Ron Christmas (USMC ret.) and President of Marine Corps Heritage Foundation join us and give a little talk about the museum and our Marine Corps History.

All in all the best reunion in my book and next year will be even better.

Semper Fi, Paul Mangan - Foxtrot '65-'66

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[Click Here for Direct Link to our Reunion Pictures Webpage](#)



Latest Additions to Our Website

Sgt Richard L. Strange, Golf 2/1 was Awarded the Silver Star Posthumously. He was KIA on June 25, 1966.

Sgt John Sportsman Fox 2/1 who was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal.

Doc Otis L. Phelps. CUPP Unit, Echo Co. 1970-1971 Posted Picture in Submitted Pictures Page.

Sgt Elbert L.(Butch)Gatlin. While a Lance Corporal Gatlin was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

From Major Ferrell

Hello brothers my name is Major Ferrell. I was in Echo Company and was a machine gunner/tunnel rat. I am sitting with Eddie Wilkins and reminiscing of our time in Nam. Would like to hear from you. Im sure you can give me a lot of info and fill in missing pieces. We were there in 1965-1966. I was wounded on Dec. 16th in the city of Tam Key in 1965 on operation Harvest moon. Eddie says hello and oohrah!

My phone number is (310)944-2393 - Semper Fi, Major Ferrell - fourearrun@yahoo.com

New Diseases Associated with Agent Orange

October 13, 2009 Secretary Shinseki decided to establish service-connection for Vietnam Veterans with B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinsons disease; and ischemic heart disease. This is based on an independent study by the Institute of Medicine showing an association with exposure to Agent Orange. Vietnam veterans with these diseases may be eligible for disability compensation and health care benefits.



Miscellaneous Information

If you have news, pictures, or articles to share please send them to..... Vin@FirstMarines.org

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