



Newsletter of "The Ghost Battalion"

Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn 1st Marines

www.FirstMarines.org



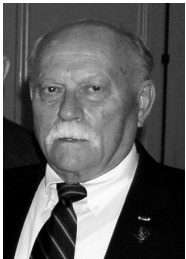
Volume 14 Issue 1

February 2016

Officers & Trustees

Message from the President

Brothers, family, and friends of Vietnam Veterans of 2 /1



Greetings and best wishes to all in 2016. First, I wish to thank Immediate Past President Paul Mangan for his dedication and service to the organization over these many years. During his tenure we have gone from a bunch of vets meeting in a motel somewhere in the Washington DC area to an organized and well put together reunion covering both coasts and middle America. However, Paul has not left us. He will continue to participate with the Officers and Trustees in certain functions. And I wish to thank all of you for your vote of confidence in electing me as your new president.

I am overwhelmed when I think of what we - no, all of you have accomplished in erecting two [2] monuments to The Vietnam Veterans Second battalion, First Marines; The first at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico VA dedicated to "All who served or supported" and a monument listing all of our KIA by company in the First Marine's Memorial Garden, Camp Pendleton, CA. Neither could have been accomplished without the donations and support of our members. Here, I would like to publicly thank all who worked on either or both monuments. However, there is one member, newly elected Vice president Dale Williams who not only had a major role in the design and approval for the monument at Quantico, he took the lead for design and placement of our monument at First Marines Memorial Garden. Also, of immense assistance in this effort was Linda Sundram and the Camp Pendleton Rotary Club who erected the wall for our KIA plaques. We would not have a wall to mount the plaques if not for Linda and the Rotary Club. And thanks to Bill Robb, BLT 2/1 Family Readiness officer who was our 'go to guy' during this endeavor. And a Big Thank You to Lt. Col. Jonathan Smith, CO Second Battalion First Marines who assisted us throughout the process and ensured the monument dedication went as planned. And, not to be forgotten is Tim Stanton, our Southern California and Camp Pendleton "Go To Guy". Tim was out direct face to face contact with LtCol Smith and Bill Robb throughout this process.

And a salute to all the officers and trustees who worked hard to make the San Diego reunion and dedication at CamPen a huge success. And Trustee Bob "Sparkee" Sparks, stepped down as a Trustee so he could concentrate on building a church in the Amazon. Thanks You Sparkee!!

And a BIG welcome aboard to our newest board members, Trustees Jose Perez [Golf 69-70] and [Past President] Tom Isenburg [Echo 65-66].

For your consideration and comments. Do we continue as a "last man standing" organization, or do we become a 'Combat Veterans 2/1' organization and/or have 'Chapters' to include 2/1 warriors from WWII, to present? The reason I ask is that LtCol Smith, the current CO of 2/1 is so excited about what WE have accomplished, he wants to continue the legacy of V V 2/1 and copy what we have done with the current 2/1 and/or somehow join, copy, be one with us. Think about it and let me or any officer / trustee know how you feel. I for one, believe WE can make this work.

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Message from Dale Williams - Vice President

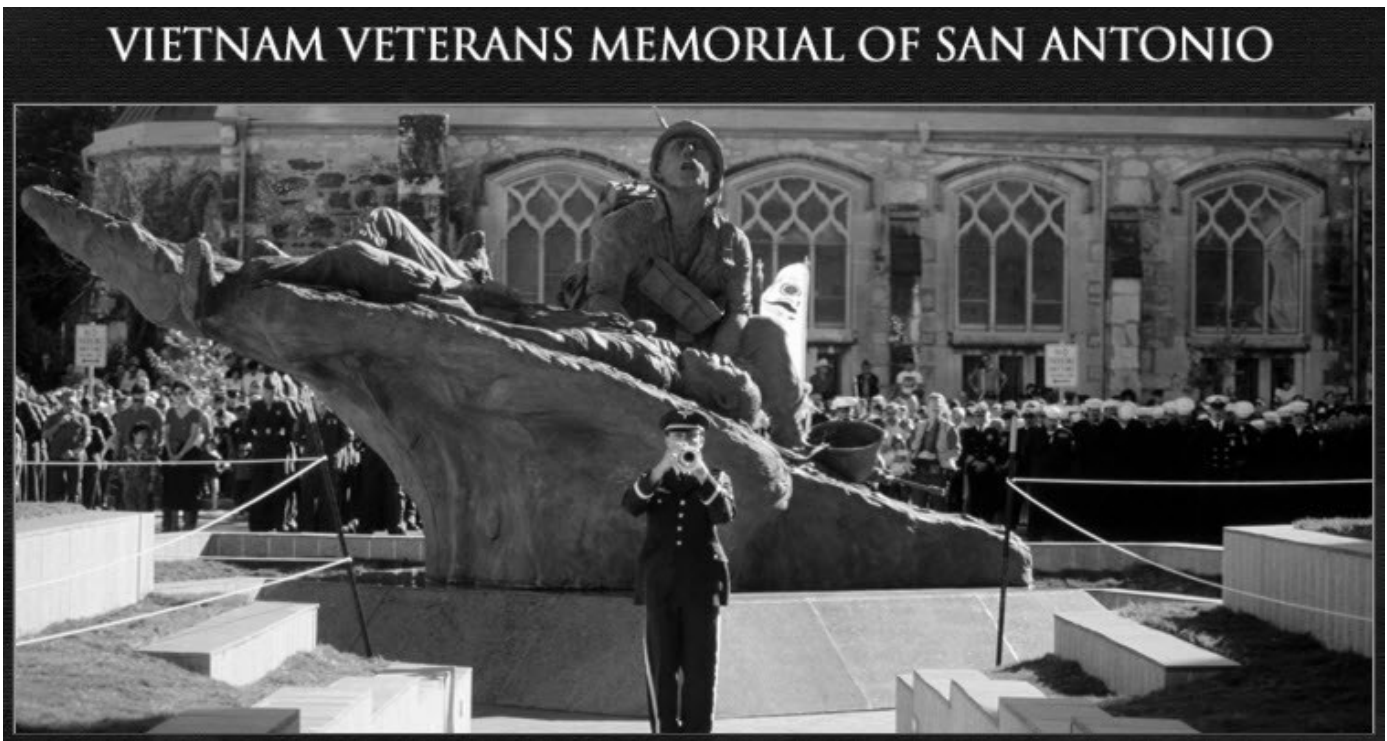


First I want to express my thanks to LtCol Smith and the Marines and Sailors of 2d Battalion 1st Marines for the support and assistance that they provided for the dedication ceremony at Camp Horno. When we did the monument dedication at the Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, we were essentially given a space and told to have at it. We had to contract for the tent, chairs, podium, speaker system, arrange for the color guard, in other words, everything. This time around all we had to do was ask for something and it appeared. I probably can't list everything they did for us but some of the things were: chairs, heads, color guard, bugler, fly over, sound system, firing detail, mess hall arrangements, static display and most important of all the working party. We could not have had an event without them.

On to the planning for the next reunion. We are planning some kind of color ceremony on the Friday of the reunion.

The thought is to have it at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in San Antonio.

www.VietnamVeteransMemorialofSanAntonio.com



We will pursue permission and hopefully we can use the space for our event. Since Friday is the 11th and Veterans Day we might have to be flexible. The memorial is only a few blocks from the hotel.

Something came to my attention at the last banquet, several of our members were wearing miniature medals. Although not exactly in compliance with the Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, I like the idea. As one of the members said, "I earned them, why shouldn't I wear them", and our banquet seems to be a good place to do the wearing. I would encourage more of our members to do so. If you want to pursue the purchase of miniatures any PX can help or several civilian businesses: Sgt. Grit (they support our reunion with donated items), The U.S. Cavalry Store and Medals of America are three that I know of, I'm sure there are others. Hope to see all of you in November. Semper Fi, Dale Williams

Bruce Oliver [GOLF 68-69] resigned as a Trustee. In accordance with the By Laws, The officers and trustees voted to fill his position with Tim Dunn [Hotel 66]. Tim brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with fiscal [money] and organizational management. We will miss Bruce as a Trustee, but he has not left us. He will remain as the contact with state of NJ as our incorporation Business Agent, our liaison / contact person for our printer, and maintain the newsletter mailing list.

Meeting Minutes

Ben Dickson
Secretary

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF 2/1
2015 MEMBERS MEETING
8 NOVEMBER 2015
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**

The meeting was called to order at 0900hrs. by President Paul Mangan. 74 members were in attendance including officers and trustees.

A role call was taken and all of the officers and trustees were present:

Paul Mangan - President	Phil Leslie - Vice President
Mario Sagastume - Treasurer	Ben Dickson - Secretary
Bruce Oliver - Trustee	Bob Sparks - Trustee
Dale Williams - Trustee	Gary Gordon - Trustee
Mike Valdez -Trustee	Vin Burdzuik - Webmaster

The President called for the reading of the minutes. A motion was made and passed to forgo the reading of the minutes. They are available on the website, in the newsletter and may be obtained from Ben Dickson upon request.

Presidents Report:

Our President reports that the dedication ceremony at the Memorial Garden at the 1st Marine Regiment went extremely well. The Association is in good shape due to the work of all of the members through their donations, time, and suggestions. Paul discussed the role of the trustees and officers, the time commitments, and the amount of meetings that go into the planning and maintenance of the organization and the reunions. The use of a phone service to facilitate meetings allows us to save time and money and make it available to anyone who would like to take part to observe. The calls are recorded to make it possible to archive and review them. We are a transparent organization dedicated to you, the members.

Vice Presidents Remarks:

Phil gave a hardy thanks and appreciation for all the hard work that Dale Williams and his committee put into this dedication. A standing ovation followed.

Treasurers Report:

Mario gave us the yearly balance and income information. We closed last year showing a deficit of \$4000. But we collected over \$100,000 over the last two fiscal years which has gone for the monument at Quantico last year and the Memorial Plaque Dedication at the 1st Marine Regiment Memorial Garden this year. \$10000 of designated funds left over from the monument had not yet been transferred to the general fund as planned due to accounting procedures, but when things are balanced this year and the reunion expenses are resolved we will be ok. Anyone has access to the B&I sheet, just make a request to Mario. The board feels we don't think it best to publish this information to the newsletter or web site to protect our members. As of this moment we have about \$35000 in our account before expenses for this reunion. We will want to start building the account up again with donations and appreciate the generosity of our members.

Communication Committee

Vinny states that the movie we had shown will be on the web site when it is released by the producer. As of today we have had 603,000 visits to our site, 1354 in October, 768 in the last 7 days. We have 951 subscribers, 228 on our blog, have had 10000 emails this year, 14 get well cards, and 8 sympathy cards sent. There will be over 800 pictures available on the site after the reunion. Vinny is requesting that we would like more articles for the updates and newsletters from the members.

(CONTINUED PAGE 4)

Meeting Minutes Continued**Hospitality Committee**

Mike says our expenses for this reunion are \$2768.38 and as of today we have collected \$1800 in donations to help defray the cost. All of the extra cost of this and the banquet extra costs are subsidized by the organization. Phil Odom commended Mike for his hard work, and the people who helped out. Mike says the members have policed the area well and keep it looking good and well stocked. All supplies are out so drink up.

Membership Committee

Gary says our numbers have slightly increased. The trend is good. Registration worked better this year with the forms and prepaid meals. He stresses we want to only make it better. Those who have not checked in with Gary please do so asap.

Dedication Committee

Dale thanks all for their hard work. Vinny helped with the programs, Ollie with the sound, Tim with the logistics and it all came together for a remarkable event. Unfortunately no one showed up to video the event. We will have lots of still pictures.

Dale explained the Cofeld Database and how the names were arranged on the plaques by incident date and not date of death. He also explained that Corpsmen were put with the company they served with. Brick sales are ongoing and Dale has forms. Paul explained that if you go through 2/1 we get a rebate of \$90 and the brick is placed at our monument. If you go through the NMMC they place the brick anywhere and we get no money donated back to us. Installation is three times a year so get those in early.

Elections

Floor is open for nomination for president. Top Ski recommends Phil Leslie. No other nominees, a second by Terry and the motion carried by voice vote. Welcome and congratulations to Phil.

Phil Odom nominated Dale Williams to fill the spot of Vice President. Second, no other nominees and Dale approved by voice vote.

Two trustee positions are open. Bob Sparks resigned leaving a two year spot, and we have a four year spot open. Nominees where Tom Isenberg and Jose Perez. Motion made to let winner take four year and second take the two year slot. Second was heard and vote was taken. Tom wins four year slot and Jose the two year slot. Welcome aboard. Comments by Paul about Sparky's good job, farewell comments by Sparky.

Old Business:

Discussion of proposal by Doc Byers to subsidize trustee's expenses. After much discussion a motion was made to grant \$1000 a year from the general fund to the group of officers/trustees to offset expenses to attend mid-year meetings. This total is applied to the group and does not authorize each officer/trustee the maximum amount. Motion carried. A motion was made to use the extra comp rooms for trustees if they need it. Motion carried.

Meeting interrupted by a visit from General Vargas, MOH from the battle of Dai Do with 2/4. He made some gracious remarks about us and what we do.

New Business

All those who were with the original float group in 1965 meet at 1730 outside the ballroom for a group picture.

We need recommendations for the 2018 reunion.

Suggestions are:

Houston- not allowed due to rotation, New Orleans, Tampa FL, Albuquerque, Orlando, St. Louis

After votes and discussions it was voted for New Orleans in 2018.

(CONTINUED PAGE 5)

Meeting Minutes Continued

New Business Continued

Lt. Col. Smith wants to duplicate our organization for all of 2/1. After discussion we will explore this possibility and get back to the members with this. Col Duncan spoke about the need to create an ongoing organization of Warriors leading Warriors. They need the mentoring, and stories to motivate and keep the legacy going. We will get more info before making any recommendations.

After several announcements and Col. Duncan reviewing the Dagger Thrust concept back in 1965 and the source of the Ghost Battalion legend. A member asked if we would consider making a donation to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation when all our funds are reconciled. This will be addressed at the trustees meeting after the first of the year.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 1130 hrs. by President Paul Mangan. There will be a passing of the colors ceremony at the reunion to officially pass the presidency to Phil Leslie.

Message from Mario Sagastume - Treasurer



Thanks to the commitment and generosity of the membership, we stand on the best financial ground in our history. The bank balance as of the writing of this report is over \$34,000. This amount is unencumbered but for a few bricks for which we have not paid the Museum and are waiting for the appropriate time. The majority of this amount is the result of donations for the monuments and those received at the reunion.

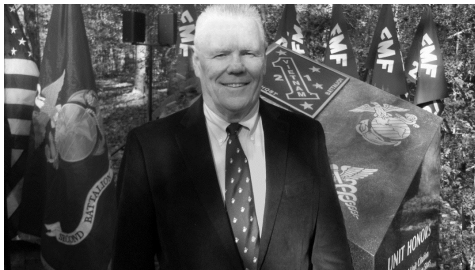
We also improved our process of collecting for the banquet prior to registration at the reunion. This provided us a more accurate number of attendees to give the hotel. Please continue to help us out by pre-registering this year for the San Antonio reunion.

Please feel free to request additional details regarding our financial status at any time.

Thank you and Semper Fidelis. Mario Sagastume



Dedication of Memorial Plaques November 6 2015



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF 2D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES

Brothers, Families & Friends,

Today as we dedicate these plaques to our Fallen Brothers, for many of us, this will be our first opportunity to have a Ceremony of Remembrance to their Service and Sacrifice. It is appropriate that this Dedication occur as we Commemorate the deployment of our Battalion to Vietnam 50 years ago. Many of us here may remember the details of when we left for war and many may remember the day we came home, but all of us remember Marines and Corpsmen named on these plaques, they were our brothers and they will never be forgotten.

When a Brother fell on the battlefield, there was no Funeral, no Service, no sitting Shiva, no Wake, there Was No Closure, No Finality. Today is that Day, we will Cry, we will Laugh, We Will Remember. May God Bless The Marines & Corpsmen named on these plaques, and may God Bless the 2nd Battalion 1st Marines.

Semper Fidelis, Paul Mangan - President
Vietnam Veterans 2nd Battalion 1st Marines



Professionals,

Welcome home! Although it is for a somber occasion, the current generation of the "Professionals" couldn't be happier to have you back in Horno. Your influence runs strong through the veins of the Marines and Sailors in the Battalion today. Our current logo displays your call sign (GUNSMOKE), your operating concept (Ghost Battalion) and your moniker (The "Professionals"). There isn't a day that goes by when we don't feel the pressure to uphold the legacy which you forged. Your honor, courage and commitment to America, the Marine Corps and each other stands as a staggering reminder of what the standard of excellence looks like.

Today we will memorialize our brothers who fell on the battlefield many decades ago. The day will challenge all of our nerves. For those who have lost fellow warriors in combat closure is a tough thing to come by. No matter how challenging today's memorial is you should take solace that this memorial sets the stage for generations of "Professionals" to witness the price paid in Vietnam. Marines and Sailors will pass in the shadow of this memorial during countless events demanding that they stand a little taller, hump a little farther or run a little faster if they want to measure up. We owe our remarkable reputation to you and the heroes on this wall. The Marine Corps is the most feared fighting organization in the world because of the sacrifices of those on this wall and the veterans here to pay their respects - Thank You... We owe our successes as a Corps and a nation all to you.

Semper Fidelis, Lt Col Jonathan R. Smith G.U.N.S.M.O.K.E.6

MAJOR GENERAL GENE A. DEEGAN - RETIRED

Major General Gene A. Deegan was born on August 3, 1936 in Lewisville, MN. Upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1958 he was commissioned a 2d Lt in the Marine Corps. After completing The Basic School in April 1959 he served as a Platoon Commander and company XO in the 1st and 3d Divisions. In 1961 he was a member of a three man team that established the Northern Training Area base camp on Okinawa and conducted small unit training in counter guerilla operations. He also attended the British Far East Land Forces Jungle Warfare School in Kona Tingi, Malaya and participated in operations in Vietnam. From June 1962 until July 1965 he served as parade adjutant and Officer-in-Charge, Infantry Course Writer Unit at the Marine Barracks, Washington, DC. He was promoted to Captain in January 1963. Prior to reporting for duty as a company commander and S-3 with 2d Bn. 1st Marines, in RVN he attended the Career Course at the U. S. Army Infantry School, Ft. Benning, Ga. Promoted to Major in October 1967, MajGen Deegan reported to HQMC to serve with the G-3 until July 1970. He then completed the Command and Staff College and was assigned as Aide to the Director, Defense Logistics Agency. He returned to Okinawa in 1974 and commanded 2d Bn 9th Marines, he was promoted to LtCol in April 1974.

Other assignments included: Manpower Dept, HQMC, on the staff of the Command and Staff College, and Deputy J-3 and Chief Current Operations for Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force. He was promoted to Colonel in Sept 1979. MajGen Deegan assumed command of the Basic School in June of 1981. He was promoted to Brigadier General in April 1983 and assigned duty as Special Assistant for Amphibious and Pre-positioning Matters, HQMC. In July 1985 he was assigned duty as the Deputy for Education / Director, Education Center, MCDEC, Quantico, VA. He assumed duty as GC MCGACC, 29 Palms, CA and CG 7th MEB in August 1987 and was promoted to MajGen Oct 1, 1987. He was assigned as Vice Director Joint Staff in Aug 1989 and served in that capacity until assuming command of MCRD/ERR Parris Island, SC. MajGen Deegan retired June 30, 1993. His decorations include: Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal. With Fox 2/1, he was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, Navy Commendation Medal w / V and Combat Action Ribbon.



We would like to thank the following individuals for their help in making this day come to life:



Phil Kenny
On Left From
FORD SIGNS

Tim Stanton, Echo 2/1
On Right
Inspecting Finished
Memorial Plaque

Rick Burroughs and Libby McNeill of Kline Memorials, Manassas, VA. They took our lists and ideas and designed the plaques you see on the wall.

Matthews Architectural Co. Pittsburg, PA for casting the finished product.

Stacy Ford of Ford Signs, Oceanside, CA for the installation of the plaques.

Linda Sundram of the Rotary Club of Camp Pendleton. She is the moving force behind the Memorial Garden. A special thanks for getting the wall built for our plaques. We hope this will become a special place for the Marines of the regiment.

Bill Robb, 2/1's Family Readiness Officer. He was the liaison between us old guys and the current 2/1. This day couldn't have happened without him.

Vietnam Veterans 2nd Bn 1st Marines



Vietnam Veterans of 2d Battalion, 1st Marines is a non-profit, non-political, fraternal association of all Vietnam veterans who served with or supported the battalion in Vietnam from 1965 to 1971. The primary purpose of the Association is to assist members of the organization, including next of kin, and to educate the general public about the actions and accomplishments of the battalion and its members and provide true and

accurate depictions of events and experiences from the perspective of the individual grunt.

In 1983, Bob Hughes (Hotel 2/1) attended a gathering of Marines from Hotel 2/5 and wondered about how to do the same for Hotel 2/1. Based on that experience, Bob contacted a few members of Hotel 2/1, and they met the following year. With help from David "Doc" Johnson, the function grew a little larger in each succeeding year and expanded to include members from the other companies: Echo, Fox, Golf, and H&S. The 1989 reunion, held at the Holiday Inn, Washington, DC, consisted of 32 attendees. From there it grew into the organization we have today of approximately 1,400 members. Soon it became apparent that the loose group that met every year needed to incorporate because of tax issues with donations and dues. In the mid-1990s a vote was taken to incorporate and become a non-profit under the tax code. Bob, who resided in New Jersey, contacted an attorney who submitted the necessary documents. Thus, The Vietnam Veterans of the Second Battalion, First Marines, FMF was sanctioned as a non-profit corporation in New Jersey with four officers and five trustees. A few years later we also were sanctioned by the US IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation.

The last two years have seen the organization undertake two large projects, the installation of a monument on the grounds of The National Museum of the Marines Corps at Quantico, VA and plaques honoring our fallen at the 1ST Marine Regiment Memorial Garden at Camp Horno aboard Camp Pendleton, California.

Over the years the membership has grown to about 1,400 members, worldwide; next of kin are automatic members. The organization has evolved such that we now meet annually on a four-year rotation with Washington, DC; West Coast; Central West; and Central East.



HISTORY OF 2D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES

2d Battalion, 1st Marines was first activated on 1 August 1922 at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. It participated in the occupation of that country until deactivated 20 July 1924. It was reactivated 1 March 1941 at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as a part of the 1st Marine Division. It redeployed to Parris Island, SC, in April and was deactivated 14 June 1941.

Formed again on 11 February 1942 at New River, NC, and assigned to 1st Marine Division, 2/1 deployed to Wellington, New Zealand, during July 1942. From there it participated in the Guadalcanal campaign commencing 7 August 1942. Following a rest and rebuilding period in Australia, it participated in the Eastern New Guinea (Cape Gloucester), New Britain, Peleliu and Okinawa campaigns. In September 1945, 2/1 deployed to Tientsin, China, for occupation duty until deactivated 1 October 1947.

2d Battalion, 1st Marines was reactivated on 4 August 1950 at Camp Lejeune, NC, and assigned to the 1st Marine Division. It deployed to Kobe, Japan, later that month and participated in the Inchon landing in September. It later participated in the Chosin Reservoir, East Central Front and Western Front (Outpost Battles) campaigns. 2/1 participated in the defense of the Demilitarized Zone from July 1953 until redeploying to Camp Pendleton, CA, in April 1955.

On 10 August 1965, 2/1 deployed from Camp Pendleton to WestPac. It was assigned as the Special Landing Force, 7th Fleet until 10 December when it was assigned to 3d Marine Division. On 12 August 1966, 2/1 was reassigned to 1st Marine Division. On 14 April 1971, it detached from 1st Division and was assigned to 3d Marine Amphibious Brigade. From 19 May to 1 June 1971, the battalion redeployed to Camp Pendleton, CA.

During April and May 1975, 2/1 participated in Operation New Arrival at Camp Pendleton, CA (the relocation of new arrivals from Indochina). 2/1 was deactivated 24 January 1989 to provide personnel for the newly formed Light Armored Infantry Battalions. Reactivated 9 September 1994 at Camp Pendleton, CA, 2d Battalion, 1st Marines deployed four times (from 2003 through 2009) to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Vietnam Veterans 2nd Bn 1st Marines



2d Battalion, 1st Marines moved from Camp San Mateo, Camp Pendleton, CA, on 10 August 1965 to the port at San Diego, CA, for embarkation aboard USS *Bexar* (APA-237). Arriving on Okinawa for training, the battalion was organized as a Battalion Landing Team and, along with attachments, became the Special Landing Force (SLF), 7th Fleet. The first landing in Vietnam came shortly thereafter in platoon-sized increments for familiarization. The first landing as a force came in the Dagger Thrust operations starting on 25 September. With a short trip to the Philippines to support possible operations in Indonesia, the battalion returned to the coast of Vietnam.

In December, while attached to the 3d Marine Division, the battalion participated in Operation Harvest Moon. Later in the month it was permanently moved ashore and assigned responsibility for the defense of the Hue-Phu Bai Airfield. For the next several months, the battalion patrolled that area and participated in several operations including New York, Troy, Oregon and Jay. In August, after participating in Operation Hastings, the battalion was transferred to the 1st Marine Division and moved south to the Da Nang area. This was the northern edge of what became known as Dodge City, an area west of Route 1 about 10 miles south of Da Nang Air Base. The month of September saw patrolling and several operations, Cannon and Coffee among them. November and December saw continued patrolling in the same area.

The early months of 1967 saw the battalion involved in several County Fairs, Medcaps and Operations Independence, Lafayette and Stone. In October the battalion moved from the Da Nang area north to Quang Tri. It mounted a heliborne assault into the Hai Lang Forest during Operation Medina and later in the month participated in Operation Granite. In December the battalion took over the defenses of Con Thien, securing the approach from the DMZ.

The battalion remained at Con Thien for the first several months of 1968 before participating in Operation Pegasus, the relief of Khe Sanh. Along with 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, 2/1 advanced up Route 9 to the combat base. The battalion was then responsible for the final destruction of the base prior to evacuating it in July. It was at Khe Sanh that the battalion was named "Ghost Battalion" by the NVA. Shortly after leaving Khe Sanh, the battalion was involved in Operations Scotland II and Napoleon Saline. A raid into the DMZ was launched in August before the battalion headed south to the Cau Ha Combat Base. The battalion participated in Operation Meade River in November.

1969 opened with the battalion at Cau Ha using intensive patrolling to secure the Rocket Belt around Da Nang. June saw the battalion move to the Dodge City area and stepped off on Operation Pipestone Canyon to sweep Dodge City and Go Noi Island. Later, it headed into the Que Son Mountains for Operation Durham Peak. In August it returned to the Cau Ha area and resumed intensive patrolling.

The year 1970 opened with a large land-clearing operation in the portion of the AO that bordered the South China Sea. In late January the battalion moved from the Cau Ha Combat Base to Camp Lauer at the base of Marble Mountain. The battalion continued intensive patrolling of the Da Nang rocket belt with one company participating in Operation Dubois Square in September.

2d Battalion, 1st Marines has the distinction as the last Marine Infantry Battalion to redeploy from Vietnam. Prior to leaving, there was one more operation, Scotch Orchard, which went up to, and maybe into, Laos in search of American POWs. During May and June, redeployment was completed with the last elements embarked aboard USS *Denver* (LPD-9).

For a more in-depth history, go to our website, www.FirstMarines.org, and our book, "We Remember."

Vietnam Veterans 2nd Bn 1st Marines

MEDAL OF HONOR

2d Battalion, 1st Marines had three Medals of Honor Awarded during the Vietnam years. They are marked on the plaques with and inverted five pointed star representing the actual medal.



The first, PFC Gary Martini, was awarded his for actions that took place on 21 April 1967 at the beginning of Operation Union while a member of Fox Co. He exposed himself to enemy fire in an assault on the enemy position after 14 Marines of his platoon were killed and 18 were wounded. He then again left his position of safety, not once but twice, pulling two wounded Marines to safety. His award was posthumous.



The second was PFC Dewayne T. Williams of Hotel Co. On his 19th birthday, 18 September 1968, while engaged with the enemy, he rolled on a grenade, sacrificing himself to save his comrades. His award also was posthumous.



The third, LCpl Emilio Albert De La Garza, Jr. of Echo Co, has a similar story of self-sacrifice. While attempting to apprehend an enemy combatant on 11 April 1970, he placed himself between a grenade and two other Marines, absorbing the blast. His award was posthumous.

MISSING IN ACTION

There are still two members of 2d Battalion, 1st Marines who are unaccounted for. They are marked on the plaques with an asterisk.



LCpl Roger D. Hamilton of Fox Co. He was carried off the battlefield by the NVA following the 21 April 1967 engagement that initiated Operation Union. Information has been obtained that he remained alive for at least another whole day in the care of local villagers. He was picked up by the NVA and as far as can be determined he was being transported to a field hospital but most likely died during the trip and was buried along the trail. The search for his remains continues.



LCpl Theothis Collins of Fox Co. He became missing in action on 19 August 1968 in the DMZ. While running to assist a helicopter that had been shot down, LCpl Collins disappeared in an artillery barrage. No trace has been found to date.

Battalion losses were 561 Marines & Corpsmen. This information has been provided by the Coffeld Data Base, the same data base that provided the data for the Vietnam Memorial (The Wall) in Washington.

H&S lost (43), Echo (109), Foxtrot (176), Golf (117) and Hotel (116). Twenty-five of the 561 are Corpsmen, they are included in the company where they were a casualty, not in the H&S total where they were administratively assigned.



Memorial Bricks Make a Long Lasting Gift



Its never too 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 _____

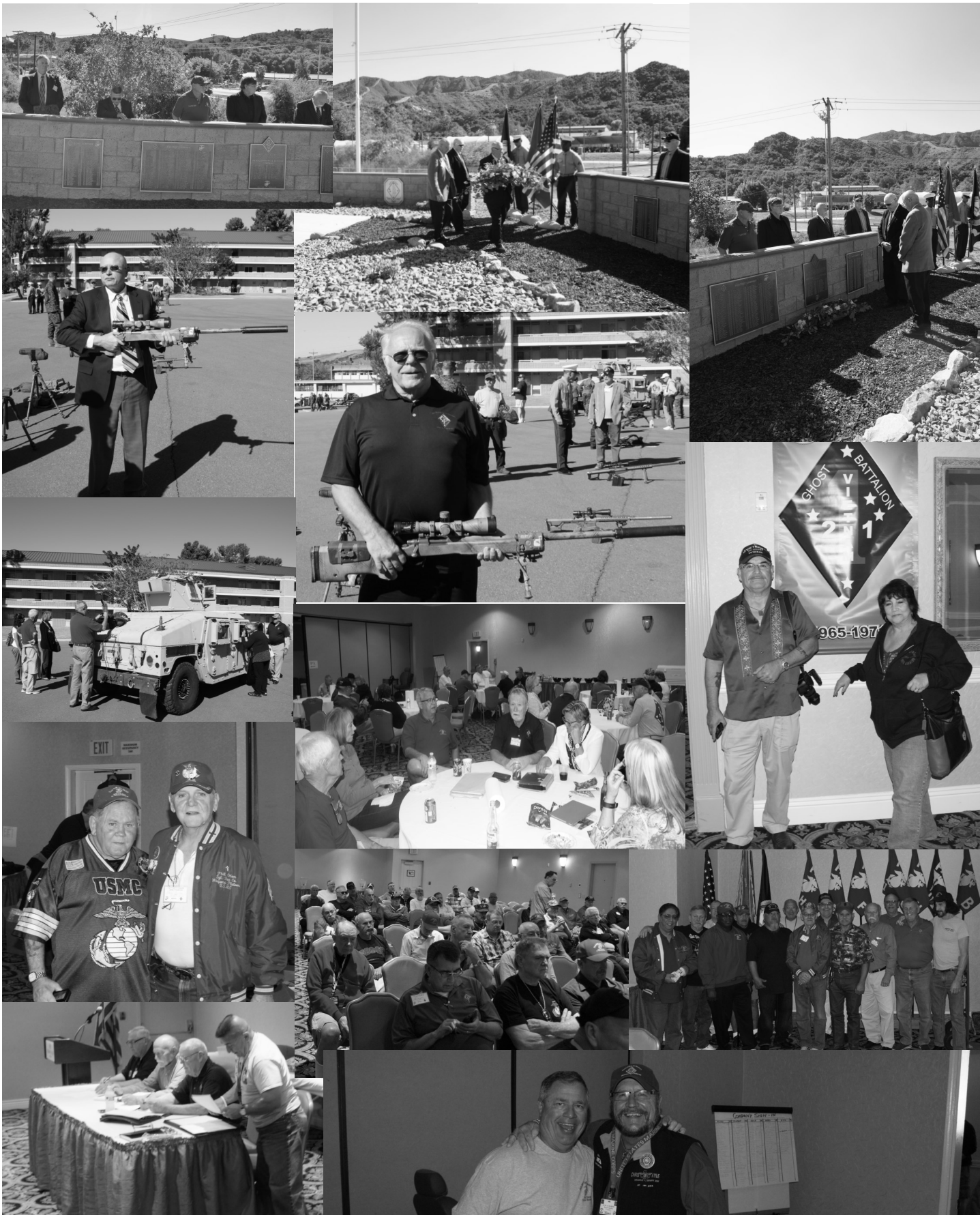
PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Date: _____ Amount Paid: _____

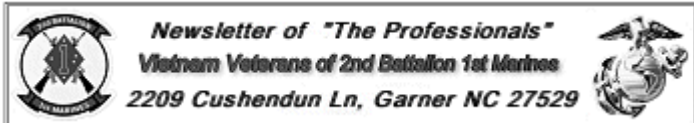
Authorized by: _____ Date _____

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

Dale Williams 225 Hine Dr. Clayton, NC 27527







Reunion 2016 San Antonio, Texas

Thursday 11-10 thru Monday 11-14

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****To guarantee the room rate be sure to identify yourself as part of the group***

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***Breakfast Included**

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