



Newsletter of "The Ghost Battalion"

Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn 1st Marines

www.FirstMarines.org



Volume 19 Issue 1

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Officers & Trustees

President's Message



The Covid-19 pandemic challenged us in ways we could not contemplate when we last met in San Diego. I hope that you and your families have passed through the worst of the period without illness or loss. As we ease into less confining times, I caution vigilance.

During the restricted times, the Board of Trustees met monthly by conference calls, as usual. We discussed plans for post-pandemic gatherings and adjusted our plans accordingly. Yet we were at work looking for the time when we could safely gather as an Association.

I was glad to have many of you stay in touch with the Trustees and me. Keeping the communication open was particularly important, especially during the periodic lockdowns. Your concern for each other, your offers of assistance and your senses of humor in these trying times showed that the Marine spirit has not diminished. A sharp salute to you all.

Reunion

Finally! After many attempts to schedule a reunion over the past two years, we now have a date and a place to assemble. **Our reunion will be held between November 10th and November 14th (check out on November 15th) at the Arlington Hilton in Arlington, Virginia.** Depending on room availability, you can check in three days before our reunion dates and check out three days after the reunion at the group rate.

Located at 950 North Stafford Street, the hotel has offered us discounted parking in an adjoining structured parking garage at \$15 per day. Rooms with taxes included will be \$137.44 per night. There will be a discount of 15% at all bar and dining venues to those members wearing VV 2/1's reunion badges.

The booking code for the reunion is: **FMR**. It is important to use this code when booking a room for the reunion.

The hotel web page link is: www.firstmarines.org/reunion-info.html

Group Name
Vietnam Veterans of the 2nd Battalion First Marines Reunion

Group Code: FMR Check-in: 10-NOV-2021 Check-out: 15-NOV-2021

Hilton Arlington 950 North Stafford Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203

Phone Number: 703-528-6000

Several members have found it easier to call in their reservations at the number listed above.

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Reunion Itinerary

The trustees and I are developing an itinerary for the reunion. Tentatively, our plans are:

Wednesday 10 November – Arrivals and check-in.

Thursday 11 November – Trip to National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia.

Friday 12 November – Trip to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall).

Saturday 13 November – Free day.

Sunday 14 November – VV 2/1 Business Meeting and VV 2/1 Banquet.

Monday 15 November – Depart.

Details

Thursday 11 November. The trip to the National Museum of the Marine Corps will include a ceremony at 2/1's monument recognizing 2021 as the 50th year of the battalion returning to CONUS following six years of active combat throughout I Corps in Vietnam. We will recognize the battalion's accomplishments during the six-year deployment and rededicate our battalion colors by the current membership of VV 2/1. Following the ceremony, you are welcome to tour the museum.

Friday 12 November. The trip to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington, District of Columbia will be a visit to wall that contains the names of our fallen brothers. We plan to have a brief ceremony and leave an engraved plaque to their memory by the survivors of those long-ago engagements. Following our visit, you are welcome to tour the District of Columbia.

Sunday 14 November. A long, overdue business meeting will be held Sunday morning to discuss the business of VV 2/1 and plan for future reunions. Chief among our business needs is the elections of officers and trustees. VV 2/1 has been operating without a secretary since 2019 and are looking for a candidate for that position. The terms for Trustees Bruce Oliver, Jose Perez, Doc Stein, and Jesse Tipton have expired or will expire this year. After many years of dedicated service to VV 2/1, Bruce Oliver has decided not to stand for reelection as a trustee. However, he will continue as the Association's business manager, which is not an elected position. I urge you to think about being a candidate for a trustee opening and join the dedicated Marines and Corpsman who keep this Association running. It is a worthy and satisfying opportunity.

Our reunion banquet will be held, as usual, on Sunday evening, followed by a spirited raffle of goodies and a free room night to lucky members.

Reunion Badges

The Association will provide each attendee and their guest with a reunion badge and 2/1 lanyard.

The hotel requests that we wear the badges while on property. Many of you may have a badge from the San Diego Reunion. Please bring them with you. If you need a badge, let me know by email (timothydunn@comcast.net) and provide the following information:

Full Name () Company or Unit while with 2/1 ()

Years with 2/1 () Nickname or What you did? ()





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We Need Your Help

We need your help...We are on a mission of discovery. In a place far away and long ago there was a Retrograde performed from Hill 881N which was west of the Khe Sanh Combat Base (KSCB) near the end of May or early June 1968.

We are trying to acquire the information that is required by the Marine Corps to recognize that night Retrograde as the largest one performed, at night, with no casualties, and requiring approximately a 12 hour march to accomplish the feat back to the KSCB.

We have researched hundreds of after-action reports, read many excerpts from documentation from the Texas Tech Vietnam Library, and have spoken with a select few that we have identified as having participated in the Retrograde. After all this research, we are asking for firsthand accounts of that night. We realize it was over 50 years ago, however any help would assist us in creating the documentation required by the Marine Corps for its consideration.

Please contact **Tony Kilroy at 314-477-8800** or **email me at fox1alfa@aol.com**
Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.