



Newsletter of "The Ghost Battalion"

# Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn 1st Marines

www.FirstMarines.org



Volume 14 Issue 2

July 2016

Officers & Trustees

## San Antonio Reunion 2016



### Reunion 2016 San Antonio, Texas

Thursday 11-10 thru Monday 11-14

El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel

110 Lexington Avenue

San Antonio, TX 78205

Direct Line (210) 223-9461

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

*"Vietnam Veterans of 2d Battalion 1st Marines"*

Room Rate \$109.00 Single & \$115.00 Double

*\*Breakfast Included*

Self Parking \$10.00 per day

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

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The 2016 Vietnam Veterans of 2/1 Reunion will be held at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel, 110 Lexington Ave. San Antonio, TX Phone: 210.223.9461. The reunion starts on Thursday 11-10 and will end on Monday 11-14. Please see the attached schedule of events. Room Rates are \$109.00 per day (Single) and \$115.00 for a double. (Includes Breakfast) This price is good 3 days before and 3 days after the official reunion dates. Please note that parking is \$10.00 per day with in and out privileges. The hotel is located on the Upper River Walk area with a River Taxi boat landing at the hotel. Please mention VN Vets 2/1 when registering.

Reunion Events and Registration	Price Per Person	Number Attending	Total Cost
Thursday , 10, Nov 1100 Registration, Hospitality Room, and PX opens. Free Day in San Antonio.	No Cost	N/A	N/A
Friday, 11 November Admiral Nimitz WWII National Museum Of the Pacific War. Located in Fredericksburg Texas (app. 90 minute drive from San Antonio) German settled with great food and over 150 Shops, galleries, and boutiques on Main Street. Bus transportation departing from our hotel at 0730 hours and returning at 1730 hours.	\$35.00 Per Person [Includes Bus Transportation, Tip for the Driver, and the \$8.00 Per Person (Reduced cost) for admission to the Museum.]	_____	_____
Saturday, 12 Nov 0830 Breakfast Tacos at VFW Post 76 Oldest Post in Texas Within walking distance from the Hotel	No Cost (Donations Accepted at the VFW)	_____	N/A
Sunday, 13 Nov 1730 Doors Open VN 2/1 Veteran Banquet and Marine Corps Celebration starting at 1800. Cocktail Bars will be located within the Banquet room for purchases after the doors open.	\$55.00 (\$35.00 for Child under 12)  No. Beef _____ No. Chicken _____ No. Other _____	Adult: _____  Children: _____	_____  _____
Monday, 14 Nov PX and Hospitality Closes	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Make Check Payable to :* VIETNAM VETERANS OF 2ND  
BN 1ST MARINES

*Mail to :* Mario Sagastume : Treasurer  
778 Silverado Estates Ct. Chico, CA 95973

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Bus Trip to Fredericksburg, Texas

**Bus Trip to Fredericksburg, Texas.** On Veterans Day, Friday November 11, 2016, VV 2/1 is offering an all-day bus trip to Fredericksburg, Texas for an inclusive price of \$35 per person.

Fredericksburg is the site of the **National Museum of the Pacific War**, a world-class museum dedicated to the WWII Pacific campaign. At 1100 hours on Veterans Day, the museum will have a Veterans Day ceremony and VV 2/1 will be honored as a group during the ceremony.

Fredericksburg is a unique Texas Hill Country town founded by German immigrants in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and was the ancestral home to Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. The town has retained its German heritage and has many German-themed restaurants, beer gardens, antique shops, unique gift shops and wine tasting rooms. The museum ticket allows you to come and go as you please during the day and affords you time to experience this quaint town at your leisure.

Luxury motor coaches will pick us up at the El Tropicano Hotel at 0730 hours and transport us in comfort to Fredericksburg. The motor coaches are air conditioned, and have electrical outlets as well as lavatories for our convenience. Each motor coach can accommodate two wheelchair veterans with advance notice. We will depart Fredericksburg at 1730 with a hotel ETA by 1930.

**Make your reservation** for this special trip by **no later than August 15, 2016**. The bus company will provide as many motor coaches as we need, but they request advanced notification. **Contact Tim Dunn by telephone [ 303-887-9275 ] or email [ timothydunn@comcast.net ]**. State the number in your party and whether you will need wheelchair accessibility. Your trip payment will be made as part of your reunion reservation to make payment easy for you.

**Hope you can join us on this special trip.  
Wear your VV 2/1 colors to let Fredericksburg that we have landed.**

## EXPERIENCE HISTORY IN FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

### MUSEUM COMPLEX



#### DIVE INTO HISTORY

The 6-acre, 3-museum complex is rich with stunning macro-artifacts, interactive exhibits and poignant reminders of the sacrifices that war demands

### PACIFIC COMBAT ZONE



#### WHAT IT WAS LIKE

A unique indoor/outdoor exhibit featuring restored WWII military vehicles and weaponry situated in replicated docks, entrenchments and beachheads.

### PLAN YOUR VISIT



#### YOU'LL ENJOY THIS TRIP

Getting here is easy... leaving may be a little harder, because the Museum will enthrall you and Fredericksburg will charm you.

## Witness To War Foundation



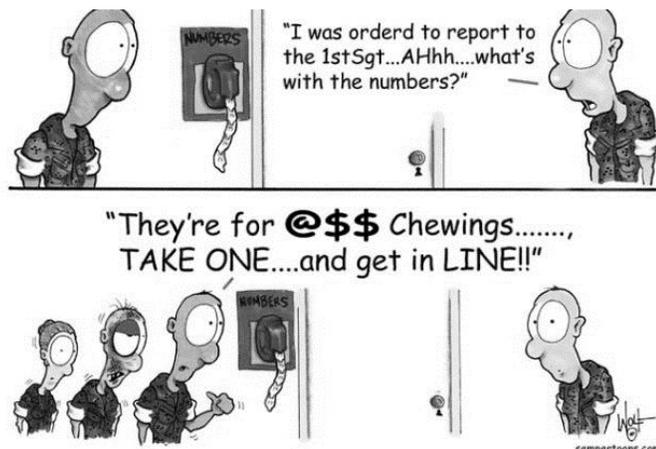
Message from Trustee Tim Dunn

**Witness to War Interviews.** During our San Antonio Reunion, a representative from the Witness To War Foundation will be conducting interviews of VV 2/1 veterans to memorialize their stories for posterity.

The Witness To War Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation that seeks to preserve the oral histories through hour-long video-taped interviews of those veterans who experienced combat while in service to our country. The taped interviews become a permanent record at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC and will be accessible to the public, researchers, and scholars to better understand what those combatants endured while in service.

The interviews are conducted at no charge to the veteran or to VV 2/1. The Foundation has independent funding and is non-partisan and non-political. **This is an opportunity for you to tell your story in your own words.** Following the taped interview (within several weeks), you will receive a CD of your interview.

Martin S. Madert of the Witness To War Foundation ([www.witnesstowar.org](http://www.witnesstowar.org)) will be conducting interviews at our reunion in San Antonio commencing 10 Nov 2016 and continue the interviews through 14 Nov 2016. He will be paying his own expenses. He sets up the interviews in his hotel room (he is staying at the El Tropicano) and will have a sign-up schedule for those who are interested. Consider telling your story in your own words for yourself, your family and posterity.



**German Wurstfest Celebration in nearby New Braunfels**

We will be back in San Antonio for our Reunion in November...my backyard, sort of, being from Texas. I've trotted by a proposal to our 2/1 trustees and Phil Leslie for a visit to the German Wurstfest celebration in nearby New Braunfels Nov. 4-13.

See their website at <http://wurstfest.com> It's a celebration of sausage, beer and lots of Chicken dancing to German music.

There's an excellent eatery at The Grist Mill Restaurant & Bar in nearby Gruene, Texas on a bluff overlooking the Guadalupe River. See their website at <http://gristmillrestaurant.com> Note they claim the Gruene Dance Hall as one of the oldest ones in Texas and is a magnet for tourists looking for flavorful Texas sites in the heart of the Hill Country. One of my journalism lab students from college in East Texas back in 1975, George Bokorney, is a prominent businessman in New Braunfels and I suggested we get together for a meal at The Grist Mill. He did me one better and made the **proposal that our 2/1 organization come to the Wurstfest in New Braunfels.**

After getting Phil's approval to check into George's proposal to get free or reduced entry tickets (**\$8**) and **possibly some beer coupons as well as a local military organization hosting us**, I asked him to see what he could do for us. The Wurstfest organizers, Opas (grandfathers), have asked for a ballpark figure of how many of us they can expect to attend. George is also talking it up with his fellow New Braunfel Rotarians.

I think the stars have aligned for this Reunion with the Wurstfest going on the same time as our 2/1 gathering. I just think it would be something unique and fun for us to partake in as George notes the Wurstfest folks greatly admire vets and there might be a break they can offer us as a group.

Break or no break it would still be something different for our group to experience. Phil will work on transportation to and from the Wurstfest if there's enough interest. George is busy working on this at his end.

Contact me at [kdkellum@aol.com](mailto:kdkellum@aol.com) so we can get an approximate head count of those wanting to go to the Wurstfest. Dan Kellum

## Message from our President

Brothers, Families & Friends,

As most of our members know, the current 2/1 CO, Lt Colonel Jonathan R. Smith wants to create a 2/1 organization patterned after Vietnam Veterans of 2/1. The following two pages from their presentation to our [2-1 Association] has been included in this newsletter, especially the "Vision and Mission". V V 2/1 will also honor the NCO of the year with an NCO sword as well as provide a plaque. All of this is "currently in the works" and nothing finalized to date.

Semper Fidelis, Phil Leslie - President



## Mission and Vision

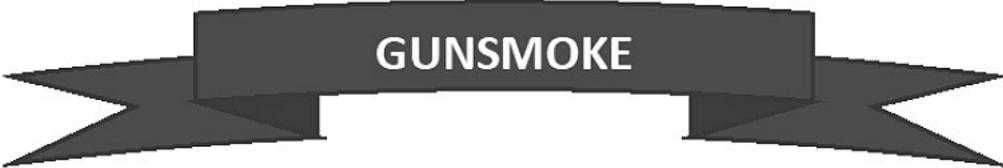


- Mission
  - To connect current and former Marines and Sailors of 2/1 in remembering and passing on the battalion's legacy
  - Additionally, connect members from each company and those who served on particular deployments or campaigns
- Organizational Structure
  - First, an informal club
  - Once the requisite officers have been appointed, members recruited, and key functions established, the organization could incorporate in California as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization
- Members
  - Membership would be composed of active duty, retired, reserve and honorably discharged Marines, Navy chaplains and corpsmen assigned or attached to 2d Battalion 1st Marines, regardless of era
- Relationship to Vietnam Veterans Association
  - The 2/1 Vietnam Veteran's Association is a separate organization that could provide advice and assistance to and affiliate with the 2/1 Association in developing its organization and fulfilling its mission

# Services Rendered



- Preserve History
  - Collect historical information, documents, and photographs related to the battalion's activities and organize them in archives that are easy to query, access, and able to be passed down to new officers and members.
- Publish Newsletter
  - Quarterly or biannual newsletter that covers news related to the activities of the battalion, the association, and the association's members.
  - Promote the battalion's history in articles and encourage fundraising activities.
- Hold Reunions
  - Annual or biennial opportunities for veterans of 2/1 to reconnect.
- Foster Networking
  - Create and maintain a website that enables members to connect with other veterans who served in their unit during their period of service, for new members to sign up, and for people to donate.
  - Social media site such as Facebook.
- Fund Awards and Scholarships
  - Awards for active duty Marines and sailors with monetary gift.
  - Scholarships for veterans of 2/1 or their dependents seeking educational opportunities.



## GUNSMOKE

### 2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION 1<sup>ST</sup> MARINES

#### "THE PROFESSIONAL" OF THE YEAR

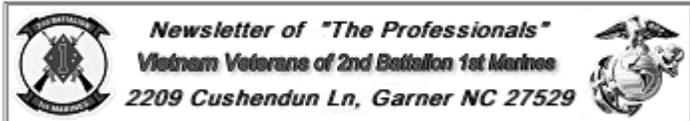
IN RECOGNITION OF THE NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER WHO BEST EXEMPLIFIES THE SPIRIT OF THE BATTALION THROUGH HIS LEADERSHIP AND ATTITUDE; WHOSE HONOR GUIDES HIS ACTIONS AND HIS ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN HIS WORDS.





2016 SGT YANCEY PASCHALL GHOST	2017 SGT ROKROY DAVIS HACKSAW	2018 SGT GEORGE HERNANDEZ WARLORD	2019 SGT JAMES HORN WARHAMMER	2020 SGT RUSSELL HULSEY PALEKIDER

**PRESENTED BY THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF 2/1**



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