



# Newsletter of "The Ghost Battalion"

## Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn 1st Marines

www.FirstMarines.org



Volume 11 Issue 1

February 2013

Officers & Trustees

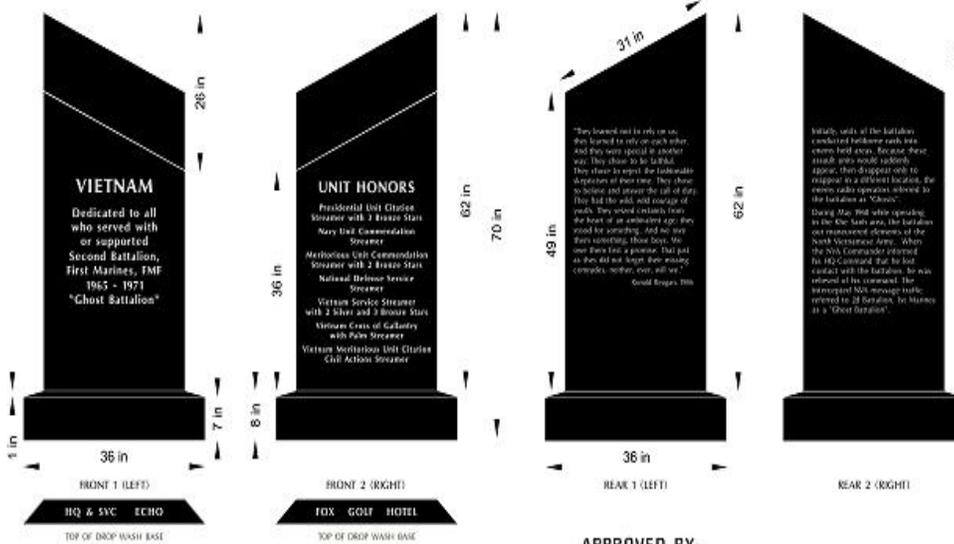
### Vietnam Veterans of 2d Bn 1st Marines Monument



**KLINE MEMORIALS**  
9214 Centerville Road  
Mechanicville, VA 20109  
(703) 368-5013  
Fax: (703) 368-3325

2'4" X 2'4" X 5'2" ALL POLISHED; BEVELED TOP  
3'0" X 3'0" X 0'8" ALL POLISHED; 1" DROP WASH

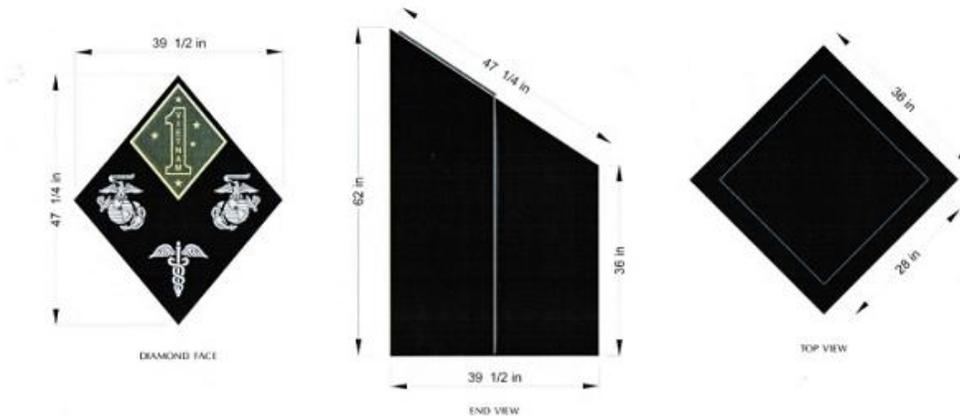
JANUARY 10, 2013



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BRONZE PLAQUE: APPROX. SIZE 18" X 22" (TBD)

JANUARY 10, 2013



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### ***Vietnam Veterans of 2d Bn 1st Marines Monument***

**Dedication November 8, 2013**  
**National Museum of the Marine Corps**  
**18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy Triangle, VA 22172**  
**WWW.USMCMUSEUM.COM**

**CONTRACT:** The contract for the fabrication and installation of the monument was signed with Kline memorials, Manassas, VA for \$31,300.00 which includes a 10 x 10 brick 'patio'. A down payment of \$4300.00 was made with the balance of \$27,000 to be made in 3 additional payments : \$7000 upon fabrication of monument; \$7000 upon completion of carving and inscription; and, (3). \$13,000 upon Installation and inspection.

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE:** While the donations to date barely cover the cost of the memorial itself, donations are still needed to cover other associated costs such as transportation, the dedication program, reception, postage, etc. In addition, The Memorial Committee is looking into the possibility of a granite bench at the monument site. Kline Memorials is working up an estimate for the bench.

**We need to continue with the collection of donations;**

\* Thank you / receipt mailing; \* Dedication Program; \* Reception at MC Museum - which may be very expensive and we expect a huge crowd.

**Donations may be mailed directly to our treasurer:**  
**Mario Sagastume**  
**778 Silverado Estates, Chico, CA 95973-5317**

### ***2/1 Monument Inscriptions***

**Top Diamond:** Bronze Diamond with Vietnam in the numeral 1.  
 Left & Right EGA - Corpsman Caduceus -

**Front Left– Dedication:**

**VIETNAM**

Dedicated to all who served with or supported  
 Second Battalion, First Marines, FMF  
 1965 – 1971  
 "Ghost Battalion"

**Front Right – Battle Streamers**

**UNIT HONORS**

Presidential Unit Citation Streamer with 3 Bronze Stars  
 Navy Unit Commendation Streamer  
 Meritorious Unit Commendation Streamer with 2 Bronze Stars  
 National Defense Service Streamer  
 Vietnam Service Streamer with 2 Silver and 3 Bronze Stars  
 Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Streamer  
 Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Civil Actions Streamer

***Continued Page 3***

**Monument Inscriptions****Rear Right - Origin of Ghost Battalion**

Initially, units of the battalion conducted heliborne raids into enemy held areas. Because these assault units would suddenly appear, then disappear only to reappear in a different location, the enemy radio operators referred to the battalion as "Ghosts".

During May 1968 while operating in the Khe Sanh area, the battalion out maneuvered elements of the North Vietnamese Army. When the NVA Commander informed his HQ Command that he lost contact with the battalion. he was relieved of his command. The intercepted NVA message traffic referred to 2d Battalion, 1st Marines as a "Ghost Battalion".

**Rear Left – R. Reagan quote**

"They learned not to rely on us; they learned to rely on each other. And they were special in another way: They chose to be faithful. They chose to reject the fashionable skepticism of their time. They chose to believe and answer the call of duty. They had the wild, wild courage of youth. They seized certainty from the heart of an ambivalent age; they stood for something. And we owe them something, those boys. We owe them first a promise: That just as they did not forget their missing comrades, neither, ever, will we."  
R. Reagan 1986

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

We need to get an idea of how many of our Members, Family & Friends of 2/1 will be attending the dedication of our monument. The count is needed for the National Museum of the Marine Corps so we can plan our ceremony activity(s) inside and outside of the museum. If you are attending the reunion and are planning to attend the dedication of our monument please let us know:

1. Your name.
2. How many in your party.
3. Do you need transportation to the dedication.
4. Can you help with transportation.

Please eMail me at : [Vin@FirstMarines.org](mailto:Vin@FirstMarines.org)

Thank You & Semper Fi, Vinnie Burdziuk H&S 1966

**2/1 History Project**

Last year President Paul Mangan asked Dan Kellum (Echo '70-'71) to help with a project to get as much information and history possible on all of the Operations our Battalion participated in during our time in country and he is making some headway, but needs some help from all of you. With your participation we hope to put together an oral as well as a written history of 2/1 in Vietnam. To that end Dan has embarked on a project to make it possible for you to either have your comments recorded during the reunion, or if you're unable to attend, to help you record your thoughts and recollections at home. Granted, we have lots of good history in 'We Remember I & II' but with so many new members it just makes sense to seek more knowledge and memories to help record our Battalion's illustrious history.

Dan will be posting more information about this project, and hopefully you will be able to share your knowledge about us for future generations. **Contact Dan Kellum at: [KDKellum@aol.com](mailto:KDKellum@aol.com)**



## Message from the President

*Brothers, Family and Friends of 2/1*

During my comments at this years reunion banquet I mentioned to all assembled that 'never before, in my personal and professional life, have I ever worked with a better group of people than the trustees that help lead our 2/1 family and I meant every word of it. When I assumed the leadership of 2/1 in late 2007 the one thing that all the trustees agreed upon was that every decision from that day forward would be about the members of 2/1 and nothing else. No egos, no personal agendas, no decision would be made unless it was agreed that, unless it was in the best interest of the association, it would not be acted upon. To this day, that philosophy not only continues but also has permeated the entire organization, as can be seen in the large and small things accomplished over the last several years, not only by trustees, but also by the membership in general. For this we are a much better 2/1 family and association.

The pictures and comments by the officers, trustees and committee chairmen in this Newsletter tells the story of the 2012 reunion and events leading up to it, but I think the most prominent topic is the Monument to the Second Battalion First Marines that will be dedicated at the National Museum of the Marine Corps NMMC. Elsewhere in this Newsletter is a more complete discussion of what is planned for the monument but I want to take this opportunity to encourage anyone with a couple of extra bucks to consider making a donation to the construction of this one of a kind monument. The most important piece of information noted on the monument update is the date of the planned dedication of the monument during our 2013 reunion. The date is set for Friday 08 November with the time is to be announced later.

On the topic of the reunion itself, the **dates for the reunion are 07 – 11 November 2013**. Holiday Inn Rosslyn/Key Bridge, Arlington, VA. The room rate is \$89.00 per night and to make reservations call, 703-807-2000 extension 2222 or 800-465-4329 and the same extension, give them the **reunion code; V2B** and that's all there is to it.

I'm confident we will have a full agenda for the reunion which should be posted to the website and the next Newsletter, shortly after the trustees mid-year meeting.

See you in D.C - Semper Fidelis, Paul Mangan - Foxtrot '65-'66

### ***Reunited with 2/1 during the Veterans Day Parade***

**A new member joined 2/1. Dr. Sheldon A. Kleiman MD., was reunited with 2/1 during the Veterans Day Parade, San Diego, 12 Nov 2012.**

Dr. Kleiman, Battalion Surgeon during 68-69 lost contact with 2/1 for over 40 years. He was watching the Veterans Day Parade when His Daughter, Susan, asked her dad "isnt that the Battalion you served with in Vietnam? He was excited and said YES.. He followed the parade to the end of the march and contacted Paul Mangan asking do you know Bill Duncan ? Paul said yes, Bill is standing at the fence by the Banner of 2/1. Dr. Kleiman was united with "His Battalion". Duncan and Kleiman made contract to have Kleiman visit the Hospitality Area where Kleiman gave a special 35mm slide presentation which was photo coverage from C2-Bravo to KheSanh and on to Camp Big John and South to Marble Mountain. Presentation covered the Way We Lived, Fought and Survived in humble surroundings. He stated he would attend 2/1 meeting in D.C.,and would arrange a full presentation to be presented to 2/1 and then a gift to National Museum, Quantico.

Semper Fidelis; Fratres; Aeterni... Bill Duncan - TX-Pete 6

**Dale Williams - Unit Awards**

As part of the research for our Monument, I have had several discussions with Headquarters Marine Corps, Historical Branch, Unit Awards Section concerning the awards that the battalion earned in Vietnam.

I discovered that it is a confusing process to come to a definitive answer, for individuals but also the unit. I'll get into specifics as to awards, dates and units later. First, the part that is pretty straightforward, are the awards that the battalion rates. These are the ones displayed on our colors.

Next come the ones that most of the battalion rates, those excluded were in a company that was attached to another organization during the time the award was given. These are also displayed on the battalion colors.

The third category is an award earned by a part of the battalion but not the entire organization.

The last category is the awards that were given to another unit to which some of the battalion was attached.

We have included all of the awards earned by components in our submission to the National Museum of the Marine Corps for our monument. The feeling is the monument represents all who served with 2/1; the awards were earned by the members of the unit whether in part or as a whole and all should be included.

I'll try to unravel the awards:

If you were with the battalion anytime between 10 Dec 65 and 9 Oct 66 you rate a PUC that was awarded to 3D Marine Division. (yes 3D)

If you were with the battalion anytime between 16 Sept 67 and 4 Oct 67 or 27 Mar 68 and 14 Apr 68 or 21 Aug 68 and 31 Oct 68 you rate a PUC but only one even if you were there for more than one of the periods. This was awarded to 1ST Marine Division.

If you were with the battalion between 14 Apr 71 and 1 Jun 71 you rate a MUC. This was awarded to 3D MAB.

If you were with H&S, Golf or Hotel between 10 Oct 66 and 15 Sep 67 you rate a PUC. If you were with Echo or Fox between 1 Oct 66 and 24 Apr 67 or 6 Jun 67 and 15 Sept 67 you rate one PUC. This was awarded to 1ST Marine Division. Echo and Fox were attached out of the division from 25 April to 5 June 67 see below.

If you were with Fox Co, the Battalion Command Group or the Battalion Logistics Team on 19 May 68 you rate a MUC. Very specific award to Fox and the command group.

If you were with Echo or Fox Co's from 25 Apr 67 to 5 Jun 67 you rate a PUC. This was awarded to 5<sup>TH</sup> Marines for Operation Union.

If you were with Echo Co from 3 Mar 71 to 12 Mar 71 you rate a NUC. This was awarded to 1<sup>ST</sup> Battalion 5<sup>TH</sup> Marines.

If you were in Echo Co from 28 May 68 to 29 May 68 or Fox Co from 13 May 68 to 16 May 68 you rate an MUC. This was awarded to 2D Battalion 3D Marines.

If I have confused you, please contact me and we can try to sort out your unit awards. I didn't even get into the Vietnamese Awards or the stars on the Vietnam Service Medal. Maybe next newsletter.

**Dale Williams : [dale1949@earthlink.net](mailto:dale1949@earthlink.net)**

**Ben Dickson - Secretary****VIETNAM VETERANS OF 2/1  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
10 NOVEMBER 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 0912 hours by President Paul Mangan. All officers and trustees are present.

The President requested that the secretary read the minutes of the last Members Meeting. The minutes were read and approved.

**President's report:** Last year's reunion was a great success with many comments on the quality of the accommodations and events available. The reunion this year has been going very well and the comments from the members have been very favorable.

**Treasurer's report:** The balance sheet for the finances was reviewed by Mario and the entries explained to the satisfaction of those in attendance. Anyone can request a copy from Mario and it will be made available. A discussion of how donations can be made to the monument fund was given and discussed. The treasurer's report was approved and accepted.

**Membership report:** Gary Gordon led a discussion of the membership roster and the procedures in place to find friends. If someone has further questions please contact Gary.

Gary is trying to update the info on the roster about the members, and trying ways to find new members. This list is for use within the organization and committee and not for general publication. Paul discussed the current methods we use to initiate contact between individuals and he gave several other suggestions about how to find people. The current method of contact was discussed and a motion was passed to keep the method in place. The current method allows people who are looking for buddies to give us the info, and then we will contact the individual and see if they want to contact the person looking for them. It is the best way to reduce the liability for the organization.

**Monument report:** Phil Leslie gave us a rundown of the first meetings, who is on the committee (Phil Leslie, Bruce Oliver, Dale Williams, Jack Klump, and Clyde Woods) and how the initial site visit went at the NMMC.

A general discussion was given on the location, concepts considered, vendors contacted, stones, prices, and text that could be used. After the initial site visit, it was decided we wanted something different, unique, and one that will make an impact in the years to come.

Ollie has taken many photos of current monuments at the site and they can be accessed through the web site or contact him.

Dale Williams had a discussion on the shape of the design ( we have pictures posted) the type of stones being considered, costs, site design, payments to vendors, and a general overview of the time frames to get it completed.

**Continued on Page 7**

**General Membership Meeting - Continued**



A motion was put forth for the committee to go forward with the acquisition, design and construction of the monument. This was passed.

The size, shape, and emblems to be included are selected. The engravings will be up for discussion and review by the committee and will be finalized at a later date. All are encouraged to submit ideas to the committee members.

Someone volunteered a donation, and a total of over \$7000.00 was pledged by members before the meeting ended. Mario and Phil will coordinate the fund for the donations and how the payments will be made. All donations are tax deductible.

Elections: Treasurer is up for reelection. Mario was the only nominee and he was voted on and approved.

Trustees: 3 up for election... Dale Williams was elected  
 Mike Valdez was elected  
 Bob Sparks was elected

Old Business: A discussion was had about the possibility of doing a reunion in the springtime so we could do some northern venues. This will be taken up by the trustees at their mid-year meeting.

Phil Odom has again donated \$100.00 to the condolence fund.

New Business: Buddy poppies are available for a donation to remember our fallen for Veterans Day

The communications committee is expanding our presence on the web. We now have YouTube videos and several other venues with info on VV2/1.

**From Our San Diego Reunion**



**From Gary Gordon**

'Tis the Season to look back and give pause to reflect on all that has come into our lives and give thanks for the good and maybe shed a tear or two for the various bits of sadness we may have experienced. I, for one, wish to give thanks to all the fine people, too numerous to list here, that have helped contribute to the growth and accuracy to our current Membership Roster. There remains much work to be to update old data for those who cannot attend our reunions or otherwise have lost contact with us. We will continue to work on cleaning up our membership list this coming year.

The buzz still continues about how much of an overall success our San Diego reunion was this past November. All was not fun, food and drink for we did hold our annual membership meeting to conduct related Vietnam 2/1 business. As I had stated to some of our membership in this past year, I did bring up once more the issue of how best to share our membership information with each other in a way that maintains security and confidentiality. After rather good discussion it was determined that we should continue with our current policy. If you seek someone on our roster, we will notify them for you of your request. If they agree, we can provide them with your contact information and they can choose to respond directly to you. Fill free to communicate with me or any board member in this regard.

I look forward to the New Year and what it may bring. As in the past please give me a call or send an email regarding anything that I may do to continue to support you, our deserving membership.

Gary Gordon, Trustee  
HQ 1968

**From Mario Sagastume****REPORT FROM 2/1 TREASURER - MARIO SAGASTUME**

Thank you, Marines and families. Once again, the Marine Corps spirit brought us together in San Diego, resulting in another outstanding reunion. Without your attendance and participation, the results would not be the success they are. I am still receiving positive comments and kudos for my small part, which when added to the rest of the Trustees' parts, the result is synergistic.

Thank you also for your generosity and willingness to part with your hard earned dollars for the benefit of the Organization. A special thanks to you who bring items for the raffle and auction. It makes it easy for us to raise funds and add excitement to the reunion.

Here are the results, in dollars and cents:

The beginning balance of \$17,833.81 included \$11,250.00 comprised of designated gifts for the monument. It was decided by your Trustees in late November to maintain separate bank accounts for the monument and general operating cash. As a result, you can see the transfer in December of \$29,095.97. All transactions are posted directly to each account producing a good audit trail. I know it is a lot of detail but if you can get through it, you should come out with a good idea of what we are doing with your money. Please feel free to contact me or any of the Trustees if you have any questions or concerns.

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**Cash Flow Report From October 1 2012 to January 31 2013**

	DEPOSITS	DISBURSEMENTS	BALANCE
CASH BALANCE 09/30/12			\$ 17,833.81
OCTOBER 2012:			
DONATIONS AND PX SALES	\$ 6,125.00		
WEBSITE EXPENSES		\$ (79.18)	
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE		\$ (100.00)	
MCA PURCHASES/RAFFLE		\$ (1,849.26)	
BALANCE 10/31/12			\$ 21,930.37
NOVEMBER 2012:			
DONATIONS AND PX SALES	\$ 31,075.23		
PX INVENTORY PURCHASES		\$ (3,594.28)	
HOSPITALITY EXPENSES		\$ (1,806.92)	
BANQUET		\$ (8,600.00)	
BAHIA HOTEL-MEETING ROOMS		\$ (3,444.94)	
BANQUET MUSIC		\$ (450.00)	
TRANSPORTATION		\$ (712.00)	
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE		\$ (60.00)	
OTHER REUNION EXPENSES		\$ (966.30)	
BALANCE 11/30/12			\$ 33,371.16
DECEMBER 2012:			
DONATIONS AND PX SALES	\$ 6,039.38		
WE REMEMBER II BOOKS PURCH		\$ (452.00)	
WEBSITE EXPENSES		\$ (102.51)	
LIABILITY INSURANCE		\$ (435.00)	
SUPPLIES AND SHIPPING		\$ (488.44)	
COINS PURCHASE		\$ (135.00)	
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE		\$ (20.00)	
TRANSFER TO MONUMENT ACCT		\$ (29,095.97)	
BALANCE 12/31/12			\$ 8,681.62
JANUARY 2013:			
DONATIONS AND PX SALES	\$ 948.60		
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE		\$ (40.00)	
PX INVENTORY PURCHASES		\$ (445.00)	
BALANCE 01/31/13			\$ 9,145.22



**Special Thanks**



Tom & Linda Lang deserve a "Special Thanks" for their hospitality during our reunion in San Diego.

They opened up their home to our bunch of old crazed 2/1 Veterans and made us all feel very welcome.

**They live the Spirit of the Corps!**

**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. Each engraved brick honors the donor or another person. Bricks may be ordered through Vietnam Veterans 2/1 or through the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation [MCHF]. Each brick costs \$300 and you may order as many as you like.

**If you want a memorial brick installed at the monument by the dedication on 8 November, you need to place and pay for your order through V V 2/1 no later than Monday, July 15, 2013.** There is no guarantee that orders received after July 15 will be inscribed and placed by Nov 8<sup>th</sup>. Please Note: There is no guarantee of where your memorial brick will be placed if ordered thru MCHF except it will be 'somewhere' along the pathways in the order received.

However, if your engraved brick is ordered through V V 2/1, it will be placed at or adjacent to the V V 2/1 Memorial Monument. But, in order to guarantee your engraved brick will be placed at / adjacent to the memorial monument, V V 2/1 must have orders of no less than 35 engraved bricks for each order.

Bricks ordered through the MCHF must be paid for at the time of the order. While V V 2/1 would prefer full payment upon order, members may make time payments of \$75 per month for 4 months.

Each person ordering an engraved brick will receive a special Certificate of Registration recognizing their contribution and confirming the inscription(s) submitted.

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 Received \_\_\_\_\_ [In Full / 4 Payments]

Authorized by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Send this form along with payment made out to Vietnam Veterans of 2d Bn 1<sup>st</sup> Mar to:  
Dale Williams - 915 Waterview Lane - Monroe, NC 28110**



Reunion 2013 Washington, DC 7-11 November, 2013

**Holiday Inn Rosslyn @ Key Bridge**

**1900 N Fort Myer Drive**

**Arlington, VA 22209**

**<> Front Desk # 703-807-2000 x2222 <> Toll Free # 888-465-4329 <>**

**\*When making reservations, please use the three (3) letter Reservation code: **V 2 B****

**Room Rate \$89.00 per night**

Make your reservations for this year's reunion now, you'll be glad you did!

***Vietnam Veterans of 2d Bn 1st Marines 2013 Reunion in Washington, D.C.***

