



Newsletter of "The Professionals"
Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Battalion 1st Marines

www.FirstMarines.org



Volume 5 Issue 1

March 2008

Officers & Trustees



Message from the President

From the CP

Message from the President

Greetings Brothers, Families and Friends of 2/1,

It's hard to believe that it has been only a few months since the 2007 reunion and now we are hard at work on our 2008 gathering at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside this November. In this issue of the 2/1 Newsletter you will get the scoop on where to be for this years reunion as well as an update on the activities and business decisions from our 2007 annual meeting.

First the details on the 2008 reunion in Oceanside, Ca., the dates are November 7 – 12, 2008 and we will again have Marty's Valley Inn, as our host hotel. This will be our third or fourth reunion at Marty's and they are giving us a great rate and setting aside enough rooms so every 2/1 Brother, their families, and our extended family of 2/1 friends will have a place to stay. The folks at Marty's, led by general manager Andrew Stewart, are making rooms available for our group at only Sixty Five (\$65.00) bucks per night when you call them at either, toll free - 1-800-747-3529 or local at 760-757-7700. The Address is Best Western Marty's Valley Inn. 3240 Mission Ave. Oceanside, CA. 92054

You will notice that the reunion sign up form has two numbers for the hotel, the 800 number and the local direct dial number, there is a reason for both of them. While the 800 number is direct to Marty's Valley Inn, if they are busy and cannot get to the phone soon enough, your call may be routed to the Best Western Hotel national call center. If you are routed to the national call center the staff at Marty's suggest you hang up and call back later and most likely get connected directly to the hotel. The reason for the suggestion to hang up if you're connected to the call center is that you may not get the special rate of \$65.00 if you book your rooms through the center. The other phone number; **760-757-7700 while not toll free, is direct to Marty's Valley Inn and once you tell them you're part of the Second Battalion, First Marines reunion you will get the discounted room rate.**

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From the CP Continued

The next newsletter will have the reunion agenda, sign up info for events or outings, and any other details on what to do while in town.

The annual meeting in Houston was well attended with much accomplished, including; BY-LAWS changes.

Among these changes was the **ELIMINATION OF DUES REQUIREMENTS.**

NO MORE DUES!!

All those qualified for membership are automatically granted lifetime membership in the association without a requirement that they pay for the privilege.

What this means is that we no longer require anyone to pay dues, but we sure will accept any - TAX DEDUCTIBLE - donation you might want to make, thank you. (Federal Tax ID Number on Request).

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



Your donation is Tax Deductible under 501 (c) 3 - Non Profit.

Daughter of Gunny Eli Sausau - Hotel 2/1 1967

I am Angela Sausau Vai the daughter of GySgt Eli Sausau.

I'm looking for pictures of my father. He passed away on July 25th 1987 when I was 18.

I tell my family about my father and how he served. When I saw the pictures on your website I cried because I have no pictures of him being in the Marines.

My children are so proud of their grandpa even though they have never met him.

So if anyone reading this has any pictures of my father please e-mail them to me at:

AngelaSausauVai@yahoo.com

Thank you & God Bless

Lt Dan Kellum is writing a book

Need information on Lt Joe Herman Montoya. How long he had been with Hotel Co., and what happened the night he and Cpl Herring were killed on Sept 20, 1970. I'm writing a book about my time in Vietnam (1970) and all the Marines and Navy Corpsmen who I served with at 2/1.

I was with Echo and served under Capt Vincent E. O'Neill in April until a helicopter's rotor wash dropped a house on him and broke his ankle. When he came back he got Hotel Co.

Can anyone put me in contact with or has a good photo of Lt Montoya would be appreciated.

Any help you can give me would be most appreciated.

Dan Kellum, 1stLt., USMCR, Echo, 2/1 1970 - 1971

Kdkellum@aol.com



"If You Want To Play Around, I Know More Games Than Milton Bradley!"

Corporate or Individual Sponsorship

In order to help pay for some of the expenses incurred by our organization we will be looking for sponsors.

Corporate Sponsors \$250.00

(Business Card Size Advertisement in our Newsletter plus an Acknowledgement on our Website for one year.)

Individual Sponsor \$100.00

(Business Card Size Message or Advertisement in our Newsletter)

Memorial for Member \$25.00

(Personal Message in Newsletter) and posted on our website Dedications Page.



**MINUTES OF THE 2007 MEMBERS MEETING
VIETNAM VETERANS OF 2/1**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Paul Mangan at 0905 10 November 2007.

A letter was read by the President from Thomas "Stormy" Matteo regarding the gavel and stand that had been a gift from GySgt. Lachance. He also wished every Marine a happy birthday.

Roll call was taken. Those present were:

President	Paul Mangan
Vice President	Phil Leslie
Treasurer	Mario Sagastume
Secretary	Ben Dickson
Trustee	Phil Odom
Trustee	Ron Bates

The Membership

Special recognition was given to the following:

Members of Alpha Squad, 1st Platoon, Golf Company 1969-70

Members of the Hotel 2/1 Organization

A special welcome was given to over 30 new members and first time attendees.

A call for a reading of the minutes was given and it was moved to waive reading of the minutes due to their posting on the web. Those requesting a copy would be given a copy by the secretary. The motion was approved by a voice vote from the membership.

Presidents Report:

This reunion is the result of the work of the Officers, Board of Trustees, committees, volunteers and chair Phil Odom. Thanks was given to all and well done to Phil for all of the hard work and effort he has put into it to benefit the members and families.

The officers and board held a mid-winter meeting in Houston to discuss detail planning of issues and goals related to the operational plan set up at last years meeting. Items affecting the membership and organization were studied and work has been ongoing to accomplish a resolution to the issues involved.

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- 1. Item one:** Liaison has been established with the Executive Director of the 1st MarDiv Association. Col. Len Hayes was a company commander with Fox 2/1 and has worked with Paul Mangan to get them to establish a new class of membership pertaining to us. This would give us autonomy but allow us to be included as members of the association as a unit. We, as 2/1, are now members of the 1st Marine Division Association but retain our independent status as an organization.
- 2. Item two:** We now have a PayPal account that allows us to accept payments over the internet and at our meetings. It will expedite our revenue intake and accounting.
- 3. Item three:** A roster of members has not been established for posting on our site due to privacy issues. Vinnie has worked on this and will establish a vehicle to accomplish the goal of allowing contact information for members to access, while retaining the privacy aspect of it. The details will be put in the newsletter, updated and given to members who request it. Security issues were discussed and will be researched.
- 4. Item four:** Our issues with regard to 501C3 status have been resolved. Status is confirmed. Any donations are tax deductible. Any expense incurred in work related to the association for the benefit of the membership, required by your position is tax deductible.

Treasurers Report:

A list of the financials and the report is available to all members who request it. Mario has copies for inspection. Contact Mario at: **choncho0331@sbcglobal.net** A review of the details was given by Mario. We are in good shape financially and our position will improve due to most of the items for the reunion being donated.

Questions were asked regarding ways to save money on our biggest cost items such as the newsletter. Research has been done and these are being worked on and reductions have occurred. We are moving forward to continue to find ways to save money, but give the membership the best possible use of the funds we have.

The issue was brought up about investing some of our capital to generate revenues to be used for the organizations work. This will be researched and put on the agenda for the Board to resolve.

Mario is keeping up with the P.X. and it has been a revenue generator for us. Members are encouraged to buy items from us if possible.

Membership

Ron Bates was introduced to the body as the committee chair. Several others who have been assisting are: Doc Weed, Ken Shaffer, and others.

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Ron discussed the goals and objectives of his committee: **1.** Helping to locate, identify and contact new inductees to the 2/1 family; **2.** To help when where he could; **3.** To help Vets adjust to the reunion, seeing old friends, and dealing with the emotions that get stirred up.

1. Information on new people will be directed to Ron. He will contact them.
2. President: We contact and identify, then try to arrange meetings with WIA/KIA families and relatives. This is a big part of what we do for the fallen brothers.

Communication

Vin Burdziuk was introduced to the membership and noted as the expert for the web site. He noted the following:

1. The web site
 - Averages 40 hits a day
 - Average time on the site is 40 minutes
 - Over 200 e-mail inquiries from throughout the states
2. There are many hits regarding
 - Loved ones
 - Friends
 - Family
3. Over 400 pictures were added which brings the total to more than 5,000
4. A legacy of 2/1 is being built through our web site.
5. Joe Mazzariello wants to donate books of 2/1 to help O1F veterans.

By-laws

President Paul Mangan brought up changes to the By-laws on page 3, part 9. After some discussion a motion was made and seconded to accept the changes. The motion passed unanimously. It was also stated that the By-laws need to be re-lettered as appropriate.

A motion was made to change the way the board is elected. Since there was no second there was no action on the motion.

A motion was made to change methods of voting. There was no second so no action was taken.

Nomination for New Officers

The following items were discussed:

1. Staggered terms
 - Current officers – number years left on term
 - Secretary – 1 year
 - Treasurer – 2 years
 - Vice President – 3 years
 - President – 4 years

Motion was made and seconded to stagger terms of officers. The motion passed

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2. Election of officers

All current officers were nominated for another term. All accepted. A motion was made and seconded to elect the current slate of officers for another term. The motion passed.

The slate of officers and there terms are:

President – Paul Mangan	2010
Vice President – Phil Leslie	2009
Secretary – Ben Dickson	2008
Treasurer – Mario Sagastume	2011

Future Reunion Locations

2008 : Oceanside, California, November 8 – 11; rates \$65.00 per night, rates effective November 7 - 12.

Direct Line 1-760-757-7700 to Marty's Valley Inn Best Western, Oceanside, California
1 800 747-3529 **Reservation Code = 2nd Bn 1st Marines**

Col. Hayes is point man for the reunion. It is possible that we may celebrate (birthday ball) with the current 2/1 if they are not deployed. If they are we will party at the "O" Club.

2009 : Washington, DC – Holiday Inn in Rosalyn; Tour of the museum

2010 : Recommended locations: Branson, MO - Denver, CO - Kansas City, MO - Overland Park, KS
Tampa Bay, FL - Charleston, SC - San Antonio, TX - Hot Springs, AK - Albuquerque, NM
Biloxi, MS - Nashville, TN - Bronx, NY - Cruise Ship.

Old Business

Under old business the following items were discussed:

1. Doc Adams works with a homeless veterans shelter sent a message wishing us a happy birthday.
 2. Marty Juve brought up the following issues:
 - We need to initiate long range membership goals.
 - We need to use our organization to recruit.
 - We need to invite others, members, family, etc.
 - We need to do public service announcements.
 - We need to use marketing to promote our organization.
- "We Remember Books"
- It was agreed to sell them as a set for \$24.00 while supplies last.

The meeting was adjourned by President Paul Mangan at 1100.

Veterans Day Activities



The highlight of our Houston gathering was the Veterans Day Ceremony in which our Battalion was officially welcomed home by the City of Houston. Our 2/1 Brother Bill Duncan (Col. USMC ret) and former Battalion Commander was one of the Keynote speakers during the ceremony and his timing was impeccable. How he got two choppers to do a repeat fly over just as he finished his speech was uncanny. The parade experience was exciting and humbling. I think all of us that walked or rode on the "float" were surprised at the outpouring of respect and support from those watching the parade.

Golf and other Activities

For the first time, and hopefully not the last, the reunion included a golf outing to one of Houston's many courses and as these pictures show, a lot of us showed up for a good round of golf.



Annual Business Meeting



The Annual meeting was well attended and the unified, cooperative way we accomplished 2/1's business, especially with all the By-Laws changes and committee discussions we had to deal with, made the lengthy session successful.

During the annual meeting the election of officers resulted in the reelection of Paul Mangan as President, Phil Leslie as Vice President, Mario Sagastume as Treasurer and Ben Dickson as Secretary.



Texas Tail Gate Party



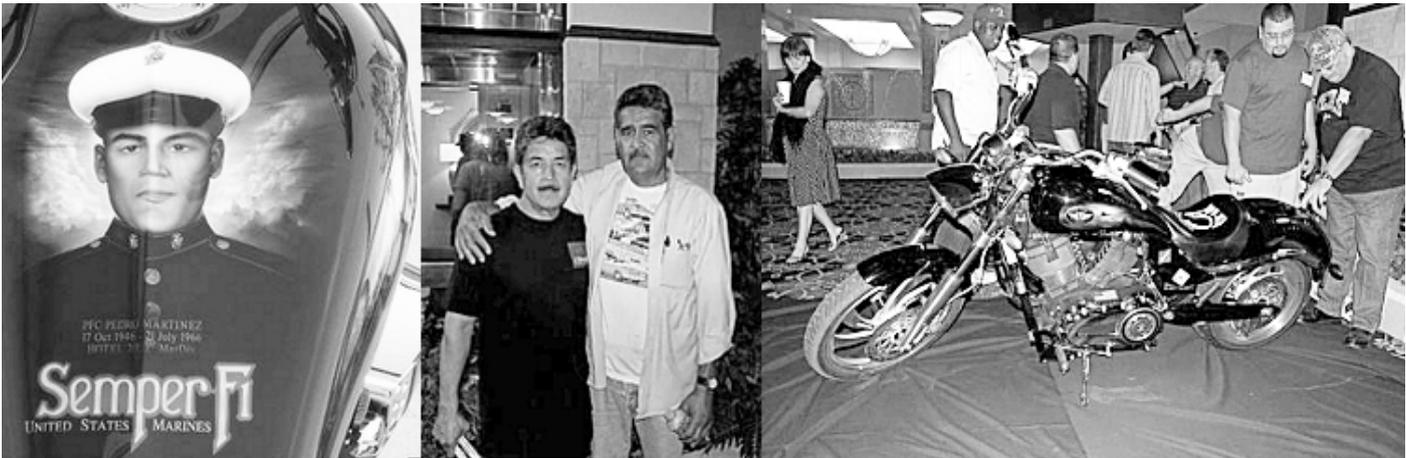
Hospitality



The turnout for the Texas Tailgate Party was huge and thanks to the many contributions and involvement of the Houston community we had a great party. Thanks Houston!

Our hospitality floor including the food and 'beverage' suites, a full PX and rooms for the education sessions, but the hallway seemed to become the best place to gather with buddies from 'back in the day'.

Tribute to PFC Pedro Martinez 2/1 Fox & Hotel Company



Center Picture - Juan (left) with his Brother Luis had this Harley Davidson customized in Honor of their brother PFC Pedro Martinez 2/1 KIA July 21,1966. They chose our reunion to unveil it for the first time. The brothers, their sister Yolanda and their mother Maria attended the Reunion Banquet.

Reunion Banquet



These are the men responsible for the 2/1 Banner project.



From left to right are:

George Barnes, Dave Henderson, John Henderson and Greg Henderson. Not available for the picture were: Bill Hardy, Terry Shriner and Amy Henderson.

Paul, Greg and John are brothers who co-own:
Henderson Tarp, Inc.,
PO Box 188 Middletown, Pa. 17057

They funded the project in total. If I were not in their employ, this banner would have cost me \$300 - 325. All of us from Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn1st Marines want to extend our thanks for their hard work and generosity. - Semper Fi, Doc Ken Shaffer -

CORPORAL ROBERT ALLEN BLISSET



1st Picture: Robert Blisset's brother Ben & his nephew Rob receiving a Certificate from our 2/1 President

VIETNAM VETERAN'S OF SECOND BATTALION, FIRST MARINES - In honor of our fallen comrade who has given the ultimate Sacrifice in combat for his fellow Marines and the United States of America On this date: November 11, 2007 In Houston, Texas

*WE PRESENT TO THE FAMILY OF CORPORAL ROBERT ALLEN BLISSET
Foxtrot Company KIA DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 1967, Quang Tri, S. VIETNAM*

THIS PERSONAL AWARD OF APPRECIATION FOR OUR FALLEN BROTHER WHO WILL LIVE IN OUR HEARTS FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES. YOUR LOVED ONE'S DEDICATION TO THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AND HIS FELLOW MARINES, HAS SAVED THE LIVES OF MANY OF US HERE TODAY. MAY YOU ALWAYS KNOW THAT WE, THE MARINES OF THE 2ND BN 1ST MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION ARE YOUR FAMILY AND THAT OUR HEARTS ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO ASSIST YOU IN YOUR EVERY NEED. - SEMPER FI -

Help Needed on story about LCpl Theothis Collins of Fox 2/1

I am a reporter with The Asbury Park Press in Neptune NJ. I am working on gathering information for a story about LC Corp Theothis Collins of Fox Company 2/1 who was listed as MIA on 19 AUG 1968.

This year is the 40th anniversary of that action and I would like to write the story for our paper so that the area residents don't forget the name and sacrifices of Theothis Collins and all his fellow Marines.

According to what I have found in my research, so far, Collins was KIA but his body was not recovered. I would love to talk to anyone from Foxtrot company that was in the field with Collins on that day. Can you help me?

Charlie Webster, Staff Writer, The Asbury Park Press cwebster@app.com (732) 462-6509

- OUR PX - www.1stMarines.org/PX.html

You can help support our organization by shopping our PX. *Stop in and browse our items. The present assortment we have on hand is the best value for our membership. We try to carry what our members want. Please send in any recommendations we can do to help make your shopping experience better .*



WE DO LISTEN !
Back by popular demand.
Our RED Vietnam 2/1 Caps \$15.00



WE REMEMBER Books
We want all our members and friends of 2/1 to own our piece of history. Makes a great gift... \$12.00

Your Tax Deductible Donations to Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn 1st Marines can be made on our PX page using Pay-Pal.

PARRIS ISLAND TRIP PLANNED

Trip to Parris Island planed for the 1st week in May

Dates are May 8 - 11th. The cutoff dates for signing up for the trip is April15. The more Marines attending the better our Hotel Rates.

When calling leave you Name, Phone Number, eMail Address and the number of people going.

Tom Scala or Joe Mazzariello will get back to you with all the information needed to make this trip a success!

Joe Mazzariello	Tom Scala
1-718-904-8038 home	1-826-632-9656 home
1-917-912-0133 cell	1-609-790-8306 cell

Remember the cut off date. So get back to us as soon as possible. - Semper Fi! -

Your donation is Tax Exempt under 501 (c) 3 - Non Profit.

Memberships

All those qualified for membership are automatically granted lifetime membership in the association without a requirement that they pay for the privilege.

What this means is that we no longer require anyone to pay dues, but we sure will accept any - **TAX DEDUCTABLE** - donation you might want to make, thank you.
(Federal Tax ID Number on Request).

Donate to the Association. We rely on donations and sales from our PX as the only sources for us to conduct our business. So if your financial circumstances are such that you can send a few bucks our way, it will be greatly appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please return this form along with your Tax Deductible "Voluntary" donation of:
\$15.00 : \$25.00 : \$50.00 : \$75.00 -or- \$100.00

Payable to: Vietnam Vets of 2nd Bn 1st Marines

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

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

PHONE:

eMail ADDRESS:

Is this a new membership?

Yes! I wish to support 2/1 and enclosed is my Voluntary Donation in the amount of: ()

Yes! I wish to receive the newsletter: ()

* Organization name (i.e. Golf, Foxtrot, etc.): _____

* Rank: _____ MOS: _____

* Year(s) of service in Vietnam: _____ to _____

* (your nickname your friends called you):

Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn 1st Marines 2008 Reunion in Oceanside, California

Pre Registration Form

A \$25.00 Deposit is requested for each meal ordered for the Banquet. The Deposit is (Refundable) upon notice to us that you won't be attending.

NAME:

Make Check Payable to:

Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn 1st Marines

ADDRESS:

Mail To:

Mario Sagastume : Treasurer

778 Silverado Estates CT

Chico, CA 95973

PHONE:

HOW MANY WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE:

eMail: _____

MEAL CHOICES: Poultry _____ Meat _____

YEAR(S) in Vietnam _____ & CO _____

REGISTRATION DEPOSIT: \$ _____

760-757-7700 while not toll free, is direct to Marty's Valley Inn and once you tell them you're part of the Second Battalion, First Marines reunion you will get the discounted \$65.00 room rate.

Room Rate is \$65.00 Single or Double Occupancy

Marty's Valley Inn Best Western - Oceanside, California - Nov 7 -12 (800) 747-3529

Our Reservation Code is : 2nd Bn 1st Marines



Newsletter of "The Professionals"
Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Battalion 1st Marines
2209 Cushendun Ln, Garner NC 27529

