



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

www.FirstMarines.org



Volume 9 Issue 1

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Message from the President

Brothers, Family and Friends of 2/1



As we gear up for this year's reunion I am amazed at how far we as a Band of Brothers and an association, have grown in the past several years and have no doubt that our 2011 gathering will out-distance our previous reunions. Thanks to the hard work of so many people, such as our Vice President, Phil Leslie and Trustees, Gary Gordon and Bruce Oliver, our membership roster has had an overhaul and is not only current but full of new info that all of us can use to get in contact with lost Brother Marines and Corpsmen. A big Oooh Raah! to them and their committee members.

We've included the reunion Agenda in the newsletter to help you plan your trip and to let you know a few of the events planned during our stay in Olive Branch, MS. (By the way, Olive Branch is actually a suburb city of Memphis and the hotel provides shuttle service to most venues or attractions you and your family may wish to go) One of the highlights this year is the opportunity to participate in a Veterans Day Parade on Veterans Day and we will have more details on this as we get them from the Memphis parade committee. Another item you will notice in the agenda is breakout sessions for spouses. They will be focused on helping our ladies and families better understand our time in Vietnam and our Corps. It's long past due.

You will also note that there are a few motions for by-laws changes for your consideration during the annual business meeting and I want to give you a bit of background on these motions. During the recent trustees mid-year meeting there was considerable discussion with regard to assuring the membership that the associations finances are in order and our Treasurer Mario Sagastume suggested that we should make it easier for the membership to ask for an audit if they ever felt one was needed, so the suggested motion you can read in this newsletter is a method that your trustees arrived at.

The trustees also discussed the absence of a chaplain, which a good number of members have asked for over the years. Recognizing that there are various members of the association with different views of chaplainry the trustees drafted a motion that seeks to balance the spiritual needs of those Marines, Corpsmen, Families and Friends of 2/1 with the respect for not forcing views or positions on the association as a whole.

Your comments and votes on these motions during the annual business meeting are encouraged.

Continued Page 2

Presidents Message Continued

Just a reminder with regard to costs for attending the reunion, other than your hotel room, the banquet dinner (\$35.00) and this year Marine Corps Birthday BBQ (\$10.00) there are no additional costs charges or levies. The Hospitality suite is paid for by donations and, although greatly appreciated and needed, it is not a requirement to pay for refreshments during the reunion.

Come on down south and have a good time with your brother Marines and Corpsmen, their families and friends.....see you all there.

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

Mike Valdez

2/1 Members and Friends,

It is hard to believe it has already been six months since our very successful re-union in San Antonio, Texas. It seems that each year our re-unions are progressively better and well attended. Your association officers and trustees are working hard to make this year's re-union in Olive Branch, Mississippi another success.

The hospitality room was well attended in San Antonio and we plan to again make this available to all members and their families in Olive Branch. If there are any of our members who have any suggestions for improvements, changes, or requests please contact me at the email address listed below. As usual, I am always looking for some extra help if anyone would be interested in spending about one hour per day to help with the restocking of supplies. Please contact me at your convenience.

Semper Fi, Mike Valdez - H&S Comm. Plt. 65-66 - mvaldez@windstream.net

Bruce "Ollie" Oliver**Greetings to all my 2/1 brothers, friends and family. A favor to ask!**

Your officers and trustees recently returned from our midyear meeting in Olive Branch, Ms. a suburb of Memphis. This was our midyear work session and scouting party for our upcoming reunion. A good deal of work was accomplished and one item we discussed involved the music for the banquet 12 Nov.

We have decided to have our own DJ for the festivities following the Birthday Ceremony. Ben Dickson, our Secretary, has graciously agreed to handle the spinning of the discs or in this case the music downloads that are available. What I would like from each of you is a list of your favorite songs that we can have available for the dancing. If you can send these to me, I will download them into a format that will permit us to use them with our computers. This will be our second year of dancing after the Birthday Ceremony. For those of you that did not attend the San Antonio reunion, a lot of fun was had by all that stayed on for the dance.

Send your selections to my email address listed below and I'll take it from there. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Memphis for a great time.

Semper Fi, Bruce "Ollie" Oliver - Golf 68/69 - olliegolf21@gmail.com



PS: For you golfers, there are a lot of nice, reasonably priced courses nearby and if there is enough interest we would like to put arrange a little golf outing one day during the reunion, so also let me know if your interested in getting in a round of golf.

Gary Gordon

Membership

I hope that all Viet Nam 2/1 Marines have survived (for those up North ... surviving) their winters and looking forward to a summer of relaxation and fun.

I wish to take advantage of this newsletter update to share with the membership some of what has taken place with our Membership Roster in recent months. We have a good format going to list member's Viet Nam dates served, units served with, and address and phone numbers. We are also adding email addresses to our roster when they become available. I will also be working on a quarterly report to be submitted to our VN 2/1 president that will serve to keep our Board up to date with the progress of changes to our membership. More outreach efforts will be taken to locate VN 2/1 veterans that may not be aware of our fine organization. In that light, we will have a "Buddy Search" board for those who will be attending our reunion in November. For those men you have lost contact with, be prepared to submit names(with other related information you may have) so that we may search for them. If you can not attend our reunion feel free to communicate to me any of these names and we will do our best to locate them. Please remember that out of respect for confidentiality we will not send individual information to any of our members without first obtaining permission from the member you wish to reach allowing us to forward their information to you. I'm sure you all can appreciate the reason for this position.

I have received some updates from members that mail in the "address change" form located on our newsletter. Please continue to use this format to call or email any changes that take place and I will make any corrections or changes to our Master Roster list.

As our President noted at our San Antonio reunion, a strong focus is being made on updating and improving our Membership Roster this year. This involves much work. As we learned from our loving drill instructors the weight of a heavy load can be simplified by working as a team to accomplish our given mission. The membership committee continues to welcome anyone that would like to share some of the work required to produce a document that can be of great value to all of us.

Please have a safe summer and I look forward to seeing as many of you that can make it to Memphis in November.

Respectfully... Gary Gordon

Trustee – Membership Chairman

Sign Up - Change Address or Update Information

**Send this form to: Gary Gordon - 8206 Evert St, San Antonio, TX 78240
or E-Mail Gary Gordon at: glgordon21@yahoo.com**

Full Name:

Address (street, city, and zip code):

Home Phone:

Cellphone (optional):

E-Mail Address:

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

Rank:

MOS:

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

(include nickname if your buddies knew you by that): _____

Are you a member of the "1st Marine Division Association"

Yes ___ No ___



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

Annual Mid Year Business Meeting - Olive Branch Mississippi**Annual Business Meeting**

In addition to the usual agenda items scheduled for the Annual Business Meeting of the Association there will be several agenda items that will require your vote. Among those items are the following;

Shall the By-Laws of the Vietnam Veterans of the 2nd Bn. 1st Marines be amended with the following addition(s)

AUDIT of the BUDGET

At each annual business meeting, the Association's Treasurer will present an overview of income and expenses [The Books] for the budget year ending 30 September. In addition, the "Books" are open and any member may request to see a copy of the Association's expenses and income for that year.

A vote of the members present shall be taken on whether or not an audit of the Treasurers records will be conducted. However, an audit by a reputable CPA / Firm is very expensive.

A majority vote requires the Association to have an audit conducted with the expense of the audit paid from Association assets.

Should any member wish to have an audit conducted when a majority of members have voted "NO", such audit may be conducted solely at the expense of the dissenting member[s].

Should and Audit determine that improprieties have occurred with the finances, then the cost of such audit if paid by member[s]. shall be reimbursed by the association.

Chaplain

"The President may appoint an Association Chaplain whose responsibility is to provide spiritual assistance to any member who requests such assistance and to conduct services as assigned by the President."

The Chaplain provides religious guidance and solace for 2/1 Marines, brothers, families, and friends. When requested by 2/1 and/or the members, the Chaplain will to the best of his ability: participate in 2/1's events, answer questions, offer guidance, or offer counseling.

The Chaplain will act in a non-denominational capacity respecting all religious and non-religious beliefs.

Agenda 2011 Reunion

*** * * Please note that this Agenda is preliminary and subject to change * * ***

Monday 11/07 to Wednesday 11/09 [Official Reunion Opening Day]

Arrivals and Hotel Check-in [Daily]

Officers / Trustees / Volunteers set up PX and Hospitality Room

Registration - [Mahogany Room Foyer]

Great opportunity to tour Memphis Area starting November 5th

Wednesday 9 November

0700 - Hospitality Room Open [Mahogany Room]

0800 - PX Open [Boardroom]

0900 - Golf Outing {details pending}

1800 - 1900 Opening Reception – Hospitality Room [Mahogany Room]

2330 - Hospitality Room / PX Closed

Thursday 10 November

0700 - Hospitality Room Open [Mahogany Room]

0800 - PX Open [Boardroom]

0900 - 1030 Breakout Session *Details Pending [Hickory Room 2nd floor]

0900 - 1030 Women's Breakout Session *Details Pending

0900 - 1030 Healing Touch Session – [Juniper Room 2nd floor]

1030 Hospitality Room Closed

1130 - 1400 Marine Corps Birthday BBQ & The Allegheny String Band [Pavilion Patio]

1600 - Hospitality Room / PX Open [Mahogany Room] [Boardroom]

2330 - Hospitality Room / PX Closed

Friday 11 November

0700 Hospitality Room Open [Mahogany Room]

0800 PX Open [Boardroom]

0900 - 1300 Veterans Day Parade – Memphis (Details pending)

1500 - 1630 Women's Breakout Session *Details Pending [Hickory Room 2nd floor]

1500 - Healing Touch Session – [Juniper Room 2nd floor]

1600 PX / Hospitality Room Closed

1930 - 2130 Jim Page Movie Night [Amphitheater]"Battle Cry" starring Van Heflin, Aldo Ray & James Whitmore

2330 - Hospitality Room / PX Closed

Agenda 2011 Reunion - Continued

*** * * Please note that this Agenda is preliminary and subject to change * * ***

Saturday 12 November [Veterans Day Holiday]

0700 Hospitality Room Open [Mahogany Room]

0800 PX Open [Boardroom]

0900 – Hospitality Suite/PX closed until Annual meeting adjourns

0900 - 1100 Annual Business Meeting – [Amphitheater]

1300 - 1430 Breakout Session *Details Pending [Hickory Room 2nd floor]

1400 until Set up Banquet room / flags, guideons, sound system

1830 - 2030 Marine Corps Birthday celebration / Annual Banquet [Grand Ballroom]

2330 - Hospitality Room / PX Closed

Sunday 13 November

0700 Hospitality Room Open [Mahogany Room]

0800 PX Open [Boardroom]

0800 - All day - Checkout

**Whispering Woods Hotel & Conference Center**

11200 East Goodman Rd.

Olive Branch, MS 38654

662-895-2941

www.wwconferencecenter.com

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Zoo, Rock & Roll Museum, Antiques to Shopping Malls, Gaming & Racing, Walking Tours etc.

Reunion Guest Speaker Dr. Andrew A. Wiest, PhD - University of Southern Mississippi.



Dr. Andrew Wiest, Professor of History at the University of Southern Mississippi specializes in the study of World War I and Vietnam. He has served as a Visiting Senior Lecturer at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in the United Kingdom and as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Warfighting Strategy in the United States Air Force Air War College. Since 1992 Dr. Wiest has been active in international education, leading a study abroad program on World War II and developing an award-winning Vietnam Study Abroad Program. Dr. Wiest has presented his research at conferences both nationally and internationally, has appeared on several documentaries for the History Channel, Granada Television and Lucas films, and has served as a commentator on military events for national news outlets including the San Francisco Chronicle and the Philadelphia Inquirer.

His several publications include **The Vietnam War, 1959-1975**, Osprey Press, October 2002. **The Illustrated History of the Vietnam War**, (Co-authored with Chris McNabb) Thunder Bay Press, October 2000 and **Rolling Thunder in a Gentle Land: The Vietnam War Revisited**, Osprey Press, September 2006.

At present Dr. Wiest is working on a range of projects, including an article on the U.S. advisory effort in the Vietnam War, including an archival project which will follow the men of Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry during their tour in the Vietnam War. The study will rely on oral histories and archival sources to tell the story of Charlie Company, which was raised specifically for the war, from its training through its year in combat. The study will then move on to investigate the lives of the men after they returned from Vietnam and reintegrated into American society. Dr. Wiest lives in Hattiesburg, Mississippi with his wife Jill and their two children Abigail and Luke.



Dr. Wiest's complete bio may be found at: <http://www.usm.edu/history/wiest.php>

The Future of Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn 1st Marines

During the mid-year meeting the Officers and Trustees discussed the future of our association. The consensus is that we maintain V V 2/1 as it is; that is "Last Man Standing".

However, it was our opinion that the best way to serve our 2/1 Brothers from the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns is to share our knowledge and experience to help and assist them with creating an association like ours to foster the legacy of their service and serve their fellow Brothers.

We will be discussing this during the reunion and look forward to the ideas and suggestions from all of you that will be in attendance.

2011 Reunion - November 9 - 13

Majority events occurring on the 10th, 11th, and 12th

Whispering Woods Hotel & Conference Center

11200 East Goodman Rd., Olive Branch, MS 38654

662-895-2941

Room Rate \$82.00

Same Rate for Single, Double, Triple or Quadruple Occupancy.

Reservations Code: 2nd Bn 1st Marines Reunion

Hotel Parking & Wireless Internet FREE

Includes complimentary breakfast, FREE shuttle service to Beal Street, the Casino, the Upscale Mall, shuttle pick up at the airport.



Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn 1st Marines 2011 Reunion in Olive Branch, MS



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

