



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

www.FirstMarines.org

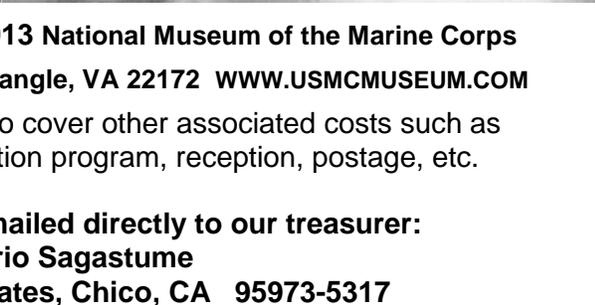
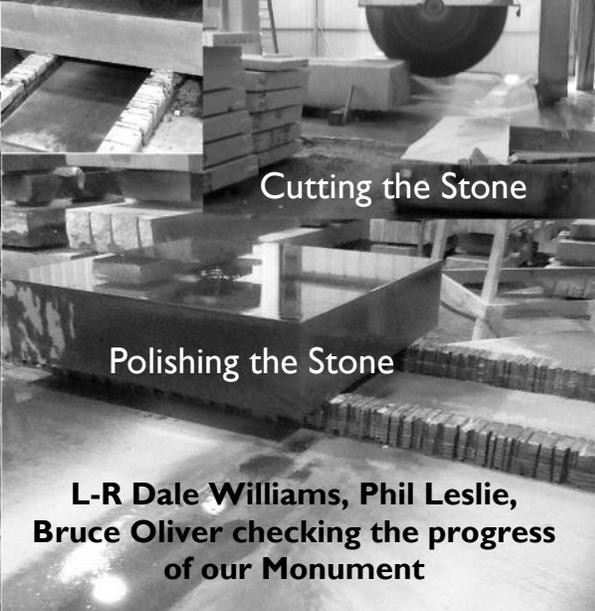


Volume 11 Issue 2

July 2013

Officers & Trustees

The building of our 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**

Donations are still needed to cover other associated costs such as transportation, the dedication program, reception, postage, etc.

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

President

Paul Mangan

NamGrunt@aol.com

515 360 2600

Vice President

Phil Leslie

pdleslie@mindspring.com

919 210 4559

Secretary

Ben Dickson

GruntLt69@aol.com

757 621 8019

Treasurer

Mario Sagastume

choncho0331@sbcglobal.net

530 521 3298

Trustees

Dale Williams

dale1949@earthlink.net

704 291 2370

Bruce Oliver

olliegolf21@gmail.com

973 960 8239

Mike Valdez

mvaldez@windstream.net

713 822 1165

Gary Gordon

glgordon21@yahoo.com

210 834 1027

Robert Sparks

Sparksee@aol.com

727 403 8108

Webmaster

Vin Burdziuk

Webmaster@FirstMarines.org

617 840 6700

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

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

Brothers, Family & Friends of 2/1

This month we celebrate our Nation's 237th year and I wish all of you a Happy Independence Day. As you can tell by the content of this Newsletter our 2013 Reunion is going to be a significant event for our brotherhood and I hope, as many of you as possible, will be able to join us in Arlington VA.. Hotel rooms are still available so be sure to make your reservations before it's too late. But if you're still unable to make it this year, be sure to visit the website during reunion week so you can be kept up to date on a daily basis. See you in November.

Semper Fi, Paul Mangan - President

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. **There is no guarantee that orders received will be inscribed and placed by Nov 8th. 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.** *** Bricks ordered must be paid in full at the time of the order *** Each person ordering an engraved brick will receive a special Certificate of Registration recognizing their contribution and confirming the Inscription(s) submitted.

Memorial Brick Inscription [1 form for each brick ordered]

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.)

Name: [LAST] _____ [FIRST] _____ [Middle Initial] _____.

Address[1]: _____.

Address[2]: _____.

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____.

Phone: _____ Email _____.

Signature _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Date: _____ Amount Received _____ [In Full]

Authorized by: _____ Date _____

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

Event Schedule - Subject to Change - Check Website for any Updates

Friday 11/08 (Day 1)

0730 Hospitality Suite Open [Location TBA], 2/1 Attendee Registration - Open, PX Open [Location TBA]

0900 - 1400 Monument Dedication; National Museum of the Marine Corps. Quantico
Monument Reception following dedication.

Depart Via Bus 1000 <-> Depart via Bus 1530

1700 - 2300 Hospitality Suite Open [Location – TBA] 2/1 Attendee Registration - Open PX Open [Location – TBA]

2400 Hospitality Suite – PX Closed

Saturday 11/09 (Day 2)

0630 Hospitality Suite & PX Open - 2/1 Attendee Registration

0900 - 1100 Annual Meeting (Location – TBA)

1200 - >>> On Your Own

1600 - 1730 Breakout Session Andy Komonchak - Purple Heart Hall of honor.

1930 Jim Page Movie Night

2400 Hospitality Suite – PX Closed

Sunday 11/10 (Day 3)

0630 Hospitality Suite Open

0800 Ceremony “Marine Corps War Memorial” Arlington, VA - Also called the “Iwo Jima Memorial”.

1200 - >>> Day on Your Own

1800 Banquet

2000 Raffle

2400 Hospitality Suite – PX Closed

Monday 11/11 (Day 4)

0800 - 1200 Hospitality Suite Open - PX Open from 0900 – 1100)

Veterans Day - Visit Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall)

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: **V2B**

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.

