

The recent Third Battalion, Fourth Marines Association Reunion that was held in Chicago was a great success and attended by a total of 144 Marines, Sailors and Spouses/Significant Others. Our numbers were down a little bit from past reunions but we hope it will get back to where it has been. I know it's hard to make each one, so our attendance varies from location to location. Our next reunion, in 2019, will be held in Norfolk, Virginia. I expect to see an increase in attendance at that one as it is a fantastic place to visit and will be a really great reunion. There is so much to see, and do, there I am sure many will want to attend who were unable to be in Chicago.

There were a LOT of photo's taken at the Chicago reunion by several people. Russ Barber will be posting his photo's soon and you can go to his Facebook site and go through the one's he took. He always has a lot of very good photo's that give a real look at who was there and what events we attended. I expect they will be on his site within a week, or so. All you will have to do is log onto Facebook, do a search for Russell Barber (his picture will be next to his name) and open it up to view the pictures.

We had one very special tour (in my opinion) to the Harold Nelson Library in downtown Chicago where the most impressive and heart rendering display of 58,307 dog tags hang from the ceiling over the escalators between the 2nd and 3rd floor. This piece of magnificent artwork, titled "Above and Beyond", was created by artists Ned Broderick (one of our 3/4 brothers), Rick Steinbock, Joe Fornelli, and Mike Helbing, back in 2001 and originally hung at the National Veterans Art Museum, in Chicago. When the art museum moved to Portage

Park in 2012, the installation stayed behind in the South Loop building until renovation at the building forced the installation to come down in May 2013. For the next four years the dog tags remain boxed because the museum couldn't find an appropriate location where the display could go up again. "The search for a spot for "Above and Beyond" was complicated by the size and weight of the piece, not to mention it is viewed best in natural light so the sun can play off the tags," wrote Annie Sweeney on [Chicago Tribune](#). "Viewing it from all sides also enhances the experience." Each dog tag is hung on a stainless steel wire, one inch apart and when a breeze is present they will "tinkle" and glitter in the light cast upon them. At one time during the process, the three men hanging the dog tags witnessed a "V" shadow on the far wall which emulated the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. Other than the Vietnam Wall in D.C. this is the only location that has all the names of those killed in Vietnam. Locations that were considered included the city airports, Navy Pier and the South Shore Cultural Center. Finally the Harold Washington Library was chosen. The art piece now hangs from the ceiling above the main escalator. There is a wall of windows and viewing space from all sides on the third floor. "Above and Beyond" will stay at the Library Center until 2020. Each dog tag was hung on a special frame over the escalators by Larry Emm, John Kovaka and Ned Broderick. It took them over a year to complete the task, hanging 400-600 per day and one one occasion 1,200 in a single day. They worked on this project almost every single day and often times well into the night standing on a scaffolding platform placed over the escalators from the side hall railings. It's a wonder nobody got hurt or fell of the scaffolds, from sheer exhaustion.

The hotel (Hilton) we stayed at in Naperville/Lisle area was really nice and the staff were very accommodating. They went the “extra mile” for us to make sure we had everything we needed and in a very timely manner. The rooms were comfortable, the food and service was good as well (though on a couple of occasions the food was not real hot when someone forgot to put the Sterno heaters under the serving trays). We were told by the manager that our group was the largest group they have ever had that utilized the hotel for more than a day! We had a large Hospitality Room, PX room, Archives/Memorabilia room and the buffet breakfast bar was right next to our hospitality room and was breakfast items were VERY adequate. If you went away hungry, it was your own fault.

At the banquet on Saturday night, our Special Guest of Honor and Guest Speaker was former Battalion Commanding Officer, Colonel Bryan P. McCoy who led the Marines into Baghdad and soon after, took down Saddam Hussein’s statue. He was warmly welcomed and we had a great time catching up with him. He lives in Wyoming and retired upon his return from his tour in Afghanistan after 28 years of active service and now consults for the Marine Corps on future concepts experiments and develops future civilian and military leaders as a field instructor for the National Outdoor Leadership School by leading students on multi-week “off the grid” mountain expeditions.

We made some presentations during the banquet. One was to present the Quilt of Valor that was present at the 2015 San Diego reunion that everyone signed. It was given to Chaplain Stan

Beach and he was very humbled and grateful to receive it.

We also presented all of our Navy Corpsmen with a specially designed “Challenge Coin” just for 3/4 Corpsmen. For those who were unable to be in attendance, we will be mailing those coins out to them if they had contacted us prior to the reunion and we have their address. I am sure we will get some more addresses that we have not initially received from our original request to contact us. All Corpsmen who served with 3/4 are eligible for a coin but we need to have contact from them to get an address to send it to. If a family member of a Corpsman (who was KIA) contacts us, we will also provide a coin to the family.

For those of you who were unable to attend this reunion, we certainly missed your presence among us. We truly hope you will be able to attend our reunion in Norfolk, Virginia. The reunion will be held about the same time as the Chicago reunion so you can start to plan ahead for a mid-August time frame. Plans are already in the works. Don't miss this one if you can possibly attend, it will be a good one.

We will try to get some reunion pictures posted on the website soon.

Semper Fidelis,

Roger Kimble
President