



THE THUNDERING THIRD

NEWSLETTER



THIRD BATTALION FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION
23 Hampton Meadows, Hampton, NH 03842

Letter from the President

Dear Fellow 3/4 Marines:

What an absolutely fantastic reunion we had in Savannah! Wallace Shaw, and his wife Jean, put on a great program for us over the course of four days. Wallace and Jean worked extremely hard to make sure everyone had a good time and were accommodated in every way possible. I know, personally, that Wallace has a lot of friends in high places, in Savannah, and he must have called in a lot of favors because they laid out the "red carpet" for us everywhere we went. Even along the Riverwalk many of the shop owners referred to us as "the Marines in town" so they knew we were coming! The U.S. Army gave us a fine welcome when we visited Ft. Stewart and the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) "Warriors Walk" Memorial. We were honored with the Command of the base to visit us when we arrived and he gave us a great welcome and they took a group picture of us and everyone received a copy. Before departing Ft. Stewart we placed a wreath at the base of their Vietnam Memorial. Our next visit was to Parris Island where we attended graduation ceremonies for the young Marines who had just completed their twelve weeks of Basic Training. Looking at them reminded all of us when we were standing in formation awaiting the "Word" so we could call ourselves Marines. How proud they stood and how relieved they were when it was all over. After returning from Parris Island, we placed a wreath at the City of Savannah Vietnam Memorial and even had a police escort to take us through town to open traffic and get us there non-stop. They then stopped traffic on all four lanes along Bay St., the "main drag", to allow us to disembark and go into the park for the memorial. Wallace even managed to have a Bagpiper there to play TAPS during the ceremony. What a town!! Everyone was extremely nice and helpful everywhere we went. The Banquet was nothing short of spectacular with over 300 members and guests in attendance. We had several speakers and presentations take place during the evening. First Sergeant Courville was present, along with ten Drill Instructors, from Parris Island Drill Instructors from "Mike" Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. One of them present is the recipient of the Navy Cross and Purple Heart for his service in Iraq. First Sergeant Courville presented a shadow box containing a brass plaque, from the Drill Instructors of MIKE Company, Third Recruit Training Battalion to "Thank" us for all we have done. It will be present at future reunions for all to view. Major Gualandi, USMC, Exec. Asst. to the Commanding General, 1st MEF, & Marine Forces Central Command was present, with his father, who served with 3rdBn,4th Marines, in Vietnam. He gave us an "update" on the Active Battalion and then a very heartfelt "Thanks" to Doc Ballard for saving his fathers life when he was severely wounded in Vietnam. It IS a small world when you think about it. Lt Col McNally, Home Detachment Commander, 3rd ID Combat Aviation Brigade, Hunter Army Airfield (brave soul that he was for coming to a Marine Reunion ALONE!!) gave a brief talk on Ft. Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield as well as his commands actions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mrs. Wilidean Bourne, wife of former Battalion Commander Colonel Bourne was present as a guest of Wallace and Jean. The keynote speaker Bill Cathcart, VP & General Manager of WTOC-TV

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

television station gave a wonderful talk and praised all of the military for what they have done and continues to do today. The television station also had newsmen at our ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial and at the Banquet. I believe everyone had a great time and we now look forward to the 2009 Reunion to be held in San Diego, California. Frank Pederson will be the Reunion Coordinator and we all know he will do a fine job.

The Association presented Jim Conklin a memento from the Association for his 10 years of service as President. It was a plaque with crossed Mameluke and NCO Swords. Jim resigned his "commission" as the Association President and I was elected to fill those awfully big shoes. I will work hard to do them justice, but I know I have a lot of things I need to learn to ensure things run as smoothly as possible. With the help and support from the Board of Directors, that Jim received, I am sure the transition will be a smooth one. I look forward to working with the BOD and the Association Membership during the upcoming years as we move forward in our business undertakings and decision making processes.

Congratulations to Bill Kalm who was elected Vice President and to Jim Conklin who was elected to the Directors Committee. A list of all the Executive Board and Directors will be listed in a separate article in this newsletter.

It's not too early to start looking forward to the San Diego Reunion. Hope to see all of you there.

Semper Fi,

Roger Kimble
President

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Stan Beach

From our Memorial Service: **Past is prologue to the future.**

It is a shared history, or experience that unites us. This can be a help or a hindrance in our lives, depending on how we understand it, and the lessons take from it. We can fixate on it, fostering a victim mentality where we feel sorry for ourselves, and deserving of special attention. Or, we can gratefully view all of our life as from God's goodness and mercies; and go on in that strength of faith and hope. How we view our past shapes how we will engage our future. It has been a humbling privilege to serve alongside courageous and honorable men. Now, it is our gifts, and duty, to carry that history and those qualities to the future generations. That happens when we understand our shared history in terms of God's goodness and mercy that we have been personally blessed with. The we can sing, **"O God, our help in ages past, our help for the years to come."**

Wallace Shaw did a superb job - the best reunion to date. The guys who come to simply get drunk and feel sorry for themselves seem to have faded away. Great attendance, except our faithful emcee was AWOL! Stop and visit when you come to Disney.

Dear fellow members of the 3/4 Association

I have been privileged and honored to have led this great organization for the past ten years. The decision to not run for reelection again as your President was one of the most difficult decisions I have made in my life. We accomplished many things over the past years and I would like to thank all members of my staff who worked diligently to make this Association operate so efficiently. I also want to thank each of you for your support over these years. I would not have been able to step down without the assurance that there was someone ready to take the Association to a higher level and I am confident that Roger Kimball is that person. Please continue to support him as you have supported me.

Semper Fi

Jim Conklin

LOST AND NOT FOUND!!!

During the Raffle held after the Banquet ceremonies, there was an item that had been donated by Wallace Shaw, which was won by Don "Doc" Ballard. It was the statuette of the man standing in front of "The Wall" with his hand placed upon it. This statuette is a "numbered" piece and is considered to have some value to it.

While in the Hospitality Suite, after the Banquet, Doc Ballard had set it on the end of the table where Jean Wallace had been sitting while getting members and guests registered on previous days. Doc Ballard had left the room for a short while and upon returning, the statuette was missing. A thorough search of the room was conducted by several people on Sunday morning when the news reached them but the statuette was nowhere to be found.

It may have been that someone saw it sitting there and removed it from the room to safeguard it with intent to return it to its rightful owner, but didn't know who that person was. It is also possible that someone "light fingered" it for themselves (which we hope is not the case). If ANYONE knows the whereabouts of this statuette or has any idea who may have taken it, please contact Don "Doc" Ballard via the web-site and he will make contact with you. Doc said it had very special meaning to him and he would truly like to have it returned.



HONORARY MEMBERS INDUCTED INTO THE ASSOCIATION

During the Banquet there were several Honorary Members inducted into the Association. Family members inducted received Certificates of Honorary Membership.

Inducted were:

Family of HM-USN “Doc” James D. Cruse:

Fred Cruse - Brother
Joannie Cruse Johnson – Sister
Michael Jones - Nephew

Family of L/Cpl Richard Murphy:

Maureen Murphy Payne – Sister
Tom Murphy – Brother

Family of Lt. Henry Babers:

Cynthia Stafford – Sister

We welcome you, one and all, to this “Band Of Brothers”



MARINE RECEIVES PROMOTION TO SERGEANT AFTER 38 YEARS!!!

Yes, you read that right! Corporal Larry S. Williams had not a single clue that a bunch of Lima Company Marines were about to spring an ambush on him during a dinner that was set up to include the promotion. In fact, he thought it was all a 'big joke' when Retired Sergeant Major Dick Bell (and a former DI) ordered him to "report to the Colonel" (Retired Col Ken Christy). So Larry, with a smirk on his face, sauntered up toward the front of the room when he heard Dick Bell bellow, "Dammit Corporal Williams, I said report to the Colonel." Well, that booming voice snapped him out of his "sloppy civilian ways" real quick and he 'snapped to' so fast you could hear his spine crack as he returned to being a Marine very instantaneously. Just goes to show you.....the change really IS forever!! Anyway, Dick Bell made a "Sergeant Major level decision" and had Col Ken Christy perform the promotion ceremonies. They did place the Sergeant chevrons on Larry's shirt collar but I never did find out if they were actually "pinned to his sleeves" in the manner in which I received mine, as I am sure many of you received yours. Dick Bell went to great lengths to scrounge up a Promotion Warrant from "those days" because the one's they use today look totally different, and had it was officially signed by the Executive Director of BCNR. In order to get this promotion started and confirmed, a letter was sent to General William L. Nyland (Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps) and eventually another to the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR) and after review they found that Larry rated to be promoted to Sergeant. So, his promotion to Sergeant was made effective 1March1969, and was presented to him at the reunion 38 years, 5 months and 21 days later!! Congratulations Larry, on your "promotion".

Articles – Any member wanting to have an article, or interest item, included in the Newsletter please send your copy to me at the address on the top of this Newsletter. You may include photo's, old or new.



Board of Directors Elected and Re-elected in 2007

Roger Kimble, President
 Bill Kalm, Vice President & Directors Chairman
 "Doc" McNiff, Secretary
 Chuck Lear, Treasurer
 Tom Bulanda, Scribe/Recording Secretary

Jim Conklin, Director
 Mike Corbett, Director/Bn. Historian
 Ken Christy, Director
 John "Doc" Holladay, Director
 John Masterjohn, Director
 Frank Pederson, Director
 Wallace Shaw, Director
 Dennis Thun, Director/Web Master
 Jim Wright, Director
 Brad Fagerstrom, Director

The five Executive Officers (on the left) serve four year terms.
 The Directors (on the right) serve two year terms.



Chuck Lear



*Chaplain Beach at the
 Memorial Service*



*1st Sgt JP Courville
 with Maj Dick Jackson*



*J.J. McGinty, MOH,
 with 2 young Marines*



*Lt. James Conklin,
 Sergeant Chuck Johnson, and
 Captain Harvey Ross*



*Jim Conklin, Stan Beach
 and Harvey Ross*

Dues – A reminder is appropriate here about dues. If you received this Newsletter and have not paid your dues, someone else has picked up your tab. Dues are only \$20 a year. Please make your check payable to "Third Battalion, Fourth Marines Association" and send it to our treasurer Chuck Lear, 708 S.S. Basil Ct. Lees Summit, MO 64063.

SOO CHOW CREEK MEDAL

Jim Conklin, Immediate Past President, was the first member nominated for a presentation of the Soochow Creek Medal. Other nominee's and recipients will receive their medals via U.S. Mail in the near future.

If you know or want your bud to have one, you need to write a recommendation, you need not to be eloquent or put alot of thought into reasons. (I type slow and don't understand most words with more than two syllables). Keep it simple. Send it to me along with the address of the awardee. I will make out the certificate and send it to the awardee along with the medal. It can be awarded for almost anything but lets not be silly with it. It really is an Honor and an award from You, through the association, to someone you respect, for something they have done that deserves recognition. It can be awarded to the family of a deceased member of 3/4 in memory, but only if there is a family member to receive it. In this instance, it needs to be approved on a case by case basis by the prez.

The cost is free, the association will absorb the cost of the medal. (This may change later).

If you wish to nominate someone for this medal, please contact Jim Wright at gunner312@hughes.net and he will make the arrangements.

Jim Wright
170 E. Heights PI N
Belfair WA 98528
360-275-8550

I am on the west coast, so if you live on the east coast, please don't call early in the morning or late at night your time. I'm retired, so I get up late and go to bed early.

Semper Fidelis
Jim Wright
BLT3/4 1964-1967



THIRD BATTALION FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION
23 HAMPTON MEADOWS, HAMPTON, NH 03842

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHAGRIN FALLS, OH
44022
PERMIT#141



THE THUNDERING THIRD

Visit our website at:

<http://Thundering-Third.org>