



# THE THUNDERING THIRD

## NEWSLETTER



### THIRD BATTALION, FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION

44 Old Marlborough Road, Maynard, MA 01754

### *Letter from the President*

Dear Fellow 3/4 Marines:

Okay guys, now is the time to get your act together and make plans to attend the Savanna reunion. Reunion chairman Wallace Shaw has put together a great schedule that will provide all of us with a very exciting reunion. We will tour Parris Island and Fort Stewart as well as experience live firing exercises. We will run the hospitality room each day and there will be plenty of opportunity to renew old acquaintances over a cold beer or soda. Many new members are coming so look for familiar faces. Chaplain Beach has arranged another wonderful memorial service to keep alive the memory of our KIA's. For those of you that have not been to a reunion before, this is your opportunity to recall and to honor your former foxhole mates who paid the supreme sacrifice. Savanna is a great city and you are guaranteed a terrific time. Now is the time to make your reservations.

The reunion site is the Savanna Marriott Riverfront hotel. The dates are Wednesday, August 22 to Sunday, August 26, 2007. If you would like to come early, some rooms have been arranged at the same great rate for Monday 8/20 and Tuesday 8/21. There has been some confusion as to the contact information for the hotel. Somehow we managed to put an incorrect phone number in the last newsletter. I apologize for that and ask you to contact the hotel for reservations at 800-285-0398 or 912-233-7722, ask for 3/4 Marine reservations. If you experience any problem contact Wallace Shaw at the telephone numbers on the sign-up sheet.

Inside this newsletter you will find a sign-up sheet to be filled out and mailed to Reunion Chairman, Wallace Shaw. Do this ASAP. We need this information for planning purposes. We could waste a lot of money by guessing on attendance so please cooperate and send the sheet out now!

Those of you who want to attend but are suffering financial difficulties are reminded that this year we are again offering an assistance program. Chaplain Stan Beach will arrange a room for anyone who qualifies. Meals will be included but unfortunately we will not be able to help with transportation. Also, regretfully this program is for members only and we will not be able to accommodate family members. For details, contact Chaplain Beach by email at [STANBEACH@AOL.COM](mailto:STANBEACH@AOL.COM).

This reunion will not be complete without YOUR attendance. Many members bring along their families, so please feel free to bring yours along. See you in Savanna!

Semper Fi,

Jim Conklin  
President

## Soo Chow Creek Medal

Jim Conklin asked me to make clear the critique for the Soo Chow Creek Medal,

Ok here goes

The cost is not \$2.00, it's free, the association will absorb the cost of the medal. (This may change later).

If you 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.

My address is:

Jim Wright  
170 E. Heights PI N  
Belfair WA 98528

My phone, if you want to ask me specific questions about the medal is: 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

## Taps in Vietnam

**Gary Canant, a Marine Vietnam veteran, plans to play taps at battlegrounds along the DMZ and at the Hanoi Hilton prison site. He has launched Taps In Vietnam.com to chronicle the trip.**

Leawood, KS February 1, 2006 – Says Canant. “I plan to return to Vietnam in April to play Taps for the people lost in that war from all sides during and after the conflict. My son Kevin and my wife Maxie will accompany me. Maxie will read the names of the fallen and then Kevin and I will play *Silver Taps*, a haunting duet version of Taps”. Kevin is an Army veteran of the war in Iraq from 2003-2004. Maxie is THE Dear Maxie letters on [www.dearmaxie.com](http://www.dearmaxie.com)

Log into [www.tapsinvietnam.com](http://www.tapsinvietnam.com) for more details. There you can submit the name of someone to remember when we play Taps, order a memorial certificate, become a sponsor, and review the names and tributes to the fallen. Later, you will see the photos and stories of the trip as it happens.

The trip will focus on Quang Tri Province, the site of some of the most intense fighting during the war. The Province was the northern most part of the old South Vietnam and includes Dong Ha, Quang Tri, Cam Lo, Gio Linh, the Rock Pile, Khe Sanh, Con Thien, portions of the Ho Chi Minh Trail and the southern part of the DMZ. During the conflict, more bombs were dropped on Quang Tri Province than were dropped in all of Europe during WWII. Since the end of the war in 1975 over 5,000 people, including 500 children, have been killed in Quang Tri Province by landmines, cluster bombs and unexploded ordnance left behind.

Over the past several months, Gary has contacted the local governments in Quang Tri Province to get permission to play Taps in their country. Most officials in Vietnam have been warm and welcoming since the focus of the project is to honor all American and Vietnamese lost during the war and others who were innocent casualties of war. So far, the only piece missing is permission to play Taps at the site of the old Hanoi Hilton where many American POWs were held. Gary is very hopeful that Vietnamese officials will allow Taps at the old Hanoi Hilton, too.

Gary says, “The Taps in Vietnam concept began as a way for me to create closure by having the memorial services we never had during the war. It has since grown into a much larger project to let people who lost so much in that war express their losses and share common memories.”

Gary added, “I hope that during my lifetime Kevin and I will have a chance to play Taps in Baquba and Baghdad in memory of people lost in the Iraqi War.”

Semper Fi,  
Gary Canant  
Bugler, 3rd Battalion, 4th marines 1968-1969 in Vietnam  
[Gary@tapsinvietnam.com](mailto:Gary@tapsinvietnam.com)

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN TO:

WALLACE A SHAW  
 RT 3 BOX 31-2  
 LUDOWICI, GA 31316  
 Email washaw@alltel.net  
 Home phone # 912-545-9789 (night)  
 Cell phone # 912-977-4551 (anytime)

**PLACE: Savannah Marriott Riverfront, Savanna Georgia August 22nd—26th, 2007.  
 Tel. 800-228-9290 code Third Battalion.**

The following information is necessary for ordering buses, reservations, etc. Please fill out and return **ONLY** to the address above. Enclose a \$25.00 check (refundable if you have to cancel), which will be applied to your attendance fee, which will be collected at the registration desk in the hospitality room. Make checks payable to the **“Third Battallion Fourth Marines Association”**.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO. OF PERSONS ATTENDING** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wednesday, August 22nd, 2007 (Day 1)**

REGISTRATION & GET ACQUAINTED (HOSPITALITY ROOM) Opens at Noon.

**Thursday, August 23rd, 2007 (Day 2)**

No. Attending: Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children & Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Tour of Fort Stewart – Marine Division Third Infantry Division of Ft. Stewart that combined forces with the 3/4 in Operation Iraqi Freedom in the taking of Baghdad. We will be visiting Ft. Stewart Museum, Warriors Walk (KIA Memorial), and a Veteran’s Walk. Observe live fire exercises, simulation especially tank simulator and stinger missiles and any static displays that may be available. Lunch in one of the dining facilities. Cost per person \$20.00 includes lunch and transportation.

**Thursday Evening:**

No. Attending: Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children & Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Diamond Casino and Dinner Cruise – Boat goes out to Intercostal Waterway for Dinner, gambling, and entertainment. Buffet Dinner will be: Tossed Green Salad with choice of dressing. Choice of: Roasted Pork Loin or Marinated Beef Tips, Roasted Potatoes, Buttered Egg Noodles, Green Beans, Bread and Drink.

Cost per person \$30.00

**Friday, August 24th, 2007 (Day 3) Parris Island Tour**

No. Attending: Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children & Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Attend 0900 Graduation. Memorial Service at Base Chapel. Lunch at base dining facility. Tour PI and return to Savannah for wreath laying at Vietnam Memorial.

Cost per person \$20.00 includes lunch and transportation.

**Friday Evening:**

On your own. Large selection of restaurants, bars, and shops on River Street and adjacent streets within walking distance of the hotel.

**Saturday, August 25th, 2007 (Day 4)**

0900 Business Meeting in hotel. After conclusion of meeting, free time until Association Banquet at 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Social (cash bar) and picture taking. 7:00 pm Dinner with menu choice of Beef or Chicken.

Cost per person \$35.00

No. of adults attending \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children attending \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday, August 26th, 2007 DEPART**

**THIRD BATTALION, FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION**  
44 Old Marlborough Road, Maynard, MA 01754

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44022  
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## **Special Reunion Edition**

**Savanna, Georgia**

**Wednesday, August 22 thru Sunday, August 26, 2007**

**SIGN UP TODAY!!!!!!**

# **THE THUNDERING THIRD**

Visit our website at:

**<http://Thundering-Third.org>**