



# THE THUNDERING THIRD

## NEWSLETTER



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

### **Letter from the President**

Hello to all wherever you are! This summer has been a myriad of intense heat, flooding waters, tornados and other peculiar weather phenomena. We hope you have not had to endure much of any of these and have had a pleasant summer to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

As you know, the 2011 Reunion is not too far off and plans for it have been ongoing for some time. In fact, most of the plans have already been settled and it appears we will have a fantastic reunion in Branson, MO. John Masterjohn, and wife Lydia, Chuck Lear and wife Carol made a trek to Branson, engaged the services of a reunion coordinator, and settled on most of the agenda functions as well as pricing, hotel, food and entertainment. Included in this newsletter is the Registration Form as well as the Reunion Agenda that covers the pricing and functions. John has worked diligently with the Reunion Coordinator Pam, to put this together to get it out early. Please contact Pam, at 417-338-4048. Now is the time for everyone to make their plans to attend. Don't wait until it is too late! Be sure to contact the Reunion Coordinator and tell them you are with Third Battalion, Fourth Marines so that they get you registered with the correct reunion. I believe John has covered all the pertinent details but if you have something specific to ask him you can email him and he will get you an answer (johnmjohn@yahoo.com).

As always, Chaplain Beach is available to arrange for financial assistance to any member who may have fallen on difficult times, but still desires to attend the reunion. Contact the Chaplain ([stanbeach@aol.com](mailto:stanbeach@aol.com)) and he will assist you in your request. All inquiries to the Chaplain remain totally anonymous between himself and the person making the inquiry.

Membership continues to grow, it seems. I am still receiving Membership Certificates to be signed on a regular basis from Mike Siebentritt. Thank you Mike for all your hard work on

memberships and getting those certificates out! Dennis Thun continues to keep the database updated and those new members' names in the membership roles. Thank you Dawg for all your efforts on the database updates. If anyone knows of any Marine or Corpsman who served with the Battalion and they are not yet a member please let one of the Board members know and we will make contact with them.

See you in Branson in 2011.

Semper Fi, Roger

### **Third Battalion Fourth Marines**

2011 Reunion (Sept. 14-18)

John R Masterjohn

**At the business meeting of the 2009 reunion the floor was open for proposals for the 2011 reunion. It was time for a central US site. There were no proposals from the floor. I had done some research and was prepared with a proposal for Branson, Missouri. I live some 900 miles from Branson so most arrangements have to be made by e-mail and telephone. It is not possible to put together all parts of a reunion without living at or near the reunion site. This being the case two decisions were made regarding the 2011 reunion. The first was that it would be put together with the assistance of a "reunion planner" and second that the reunion would be offered in the form of a one price inclusive package (not including lodging). This was approved by the membership at the 2009 reunion.**

**After considerable research and speaking with several planners, I was most impressed with Pam Brown of "Gatherings Plus". This spring Chuck Lear and his wife Carol met Lydia and me at Branson. During this visit we spent considerable time speaking with Pam, touring the proposed site, and sampling the recommended shows. We also visited with military groups that were in the midst of their "Gatherings Plus" planned reunion. Everyone we spoke with gave Pam and her staff a perfect "10" rating. Most described their reunion experience as the best they ever had. I was given a list of references, which I contacted, all gave Pam and Branson glowing reviews.**

**Details of the reunion can be obtained by going to the Thundering Third website (<http://thundering-third.org/>) and clicking "Reunion information" or going directly to the reunion website:**

**[www.reunionproregistration.com/thirdbattalionfourthmarines.htm](http://www.reunionproregistration.com/thirdbattalionfourthmarines.htm)**

**At this site you will find all the information that you need regarding our upcoming reunion: Information included: lodging, itinerary, cost, printable registration form (to be mailed in), Campground and RV parks, and travel information. The lodge at the Ozarks is providing us with an outstanding hospitality room. It is a large, tiered room with stage and bar, that is usually used for their dinner theater and other special functions.**

**The package price is \$245 per person (this does NOT include lodging). It does include: registration fee, snacks, soft drinks and alcohol at hospitality room, Deli Buffet on Wed. evening, a great patriotic themed show on Thursday (theater next to hotel), Thursday dinner, busses on Friday to Downtown in the morning, to the Memorial Service in the afternoon and to Dinner Showboat Friday evening, and it includes an excellent Banquet. If you are staying at the lodge there is a free continental breakfast with a small up charge for full hot breakfast.**

**At this time the package price is the only way to go. If you consider that it includes four dinners, all hospitality room snacks and beverages, the memorial service, bus transportation and great show and a riverboat dinner-show. It is really an excellent price.**

**The Lodge of the Ozarks has a limited number of rooms for those with special needs. If you need a special room please make your reservations early and be specific as to what your needs are.**

**A final note, Gatherings Plus will accept a payment plan for the reunion fee if that is helpful for anyone.**

**Not everybody is a fan of the one price deal, but that was the best way to put this reunion together. I truly believe that all who attend will have a great time. I also think the wives and significant others will have an especially good time. See you in Branson.**

**Semper Fi**

**John M**

**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 \$20.00 a year. Please make your checks payable to **“Third Battalion Fourth Marines Association”** and send it to our treasurer: **Chuck Lear, 24907 Hertzog Lane, MO 64086**

**Third Battalion Fourth Marines**

**Branson, Missouri Reunion**

**September 14-18, 2011**

(to be printed and mailed in to **GATHERINGS PLUS**....not to register online)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Info: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

**Host Hotel: Lodge of the Ozarks**

Hotel reservations can be made by calling Lodge of the Ozarks at 417-334-7535. Room rate is \$90.00 plus tax. Be sure to tell them you're with the Third Battalion Fourth Marines reunion group to get the special rate. Room rate is good three days prior and three days after the reunion, based on hotel availability.

**REUNION ACTIVITY PACKAGE:**

**\$245.00 per person**

(includes everything listed on the itinerary)

\_\_\_\_\_ # of persons x \$245.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

A 50% deposit is required by July 14, 2011 with final payment due not later than August 14, 2011 There will be a 10% cancellation fee if reservation is cancelled prior to Sept. 7, 2011. Refunds after that date will be on a case by case basis. Questions??? Call us at 417-338-4048....

**PAYMENT PLANS ARE AVAILABLE INTEREST FREE!**

**MAIL REGISTRATION FORM TO AND CHECK PAYABLE TO:**

**GATHERINGS PLUS**

**P. O. Box 1023, Branson West, Mo. 65737**

**417-338-4048**

Information Requested/Buddy SearchDom Pastore, Jr

Hello Doc,

How are you ? I hope your enjoying your retirement, & all is well with you & yours. I was hit pretty bad with the March / April "Mega" flood we had around here, and in the process of moving all my many books away from the rising water, I ran across my copy of your "Hell Looks Different Now". I ended up re-reading it, & it reminded me that I never finished my memorial to L/Cpl. William F. LaBrecque, yet another "forever 19 year old Marine" who was KIA on either the 1st or 2nd day of Operation Hastings. His official data lists his KIA date as July 16, 1966, which initially, I had no reason to doubt. However, as I began to really delve into the matter, I just can't seem to find any reference to the actual event. I've been all through the relevant USMC Command Chronologies, AAR's, & other related documents, but nowhere is there any reference to L 3/4 sustaining a fatal casualty on either July 15 or 16, 1966. The CC's & AAR's do appear to be fairly detailed, & seem to document all the pertinent events, but for some reason, there is no mention of L/Cpl. LaBrecque's being KIA ? His parents were advised the he had suffered a single GSW to the head, on early Saturday afternoon, 07/16, with last rites being performed in the field by Lt. Cmdr N.W. Hubble, USN. The only things I can think of to explain the lack of an official entry in the above mentioned documents are; 1) Perhaps his Company assignment was mis-reported, as I understand that such instances were somewhat frequent during the initial days of Hastings. One of the 3/4's AAR's states that in the future, more care must be undertaken in the "tagging of casualties", as it had become an issue at the 3/4's BAS. ( during Hastings ) 2) Perhaps the oversight can be chalked up to the infamous, "fog of war" factor. From what I've learned, and I'm sure you can attest to, you guy's were quite busy during the initial days of the operation. I guess it really shouldn't matter exactly what day Billy became KIA, but I'd still really like to know. Both of parents are now long gone, & he had no siblings or other close relatives. As there's no one else around to dedicate some kind of memorial to him, I felt it was up to me to do what I can to ensure that his sacrifice is remembered. I started this project a while ago now, and would really like to complete it. Once I've gone as far as I can with the data I have, I'll add his "file" to my pending website of memorials to several New England area Veterans who "gave their all" for the rest of us. I also have a 3 volume memorial edition of the same data, but in book form, which someday I'll manage to scrape up enough extra money to get it published. ( Once I finally retire I'll be able to devote much more time to it. ) So, if you're still affiliated with the 3/4's Newsletter, I would be MOST DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE if you would add a "request for information" or something similar to an upcoming edition. I'm sure that someone from the Hastings era LIMA Company (3/4) must recall L/Cpl. LaBrecque ? Whatever assistance you would be kind enough to provide will be very much appreciated.

**THANK YOU**

Best regards, *Dom Pastore Jr.* ( [dpast32@aol.com](mailto:dpast32@aol.com) )

>>> Brief background on L/Cpl. LaBrecque;

William Francis LaBrecque, of Pawcatuck, Connecticut. USMC Service # 2136762. His primary MOS was an 0311, but as of 05/01/66 he was certified as an 0311 / GRENADIER. ( It's noted as his ChPriDu, which I assume indicates = Chief Primary Duty ) His date(s) of service are: 06/29/65 - 07/16/66, & his D.O.B. was 06/03/47. He arrived in RVN on 03/20/66, via Okinawa. He's buried in St. Michael's (New) Cemetery in Pawcatuck, CT

### Battalion Historian

Mike Corbett

The history of our beloved "Thundering 3rd 'Herd'" is being written every day by the women and men who so bravely serve our nation. Their sacrifice is no less than ours - we who regularly participate in the 'Reunion Association' activities, including our semi-annual gatherings around the country. And, while we may read of their faithful and daring exploits where ever they may serve, those of us whose time in the 'crucible' has long passed have as much a meaningful story to tell.

As Association 'Historian' it is my duty to collect, protect, and store the documentary evidence of our time with the Bn. The official records of the Bn tell one story; your personal recollections, when properly and completely recorded, may become as much a part of the lore of "3/4" as those official papers. Two ways to accomplish this are, submit a written narrative; and, make a tape, Disk, or DVD recording.

Either format is acceptable and may include photos from your personal archives. However, when submitting one of these items, be sure to fully identify who you are, what your position in the Bn was and when you were there. Remember, how we learned to repeat our name, rank and serial number? As well, we quickly learned our unit designation in order to receive mail from loved ones - that is the way to identify any historical information you may submit for our archives.

Additionally, as you are recording, or writing, your story, be sure to describe and define people, places, dates, and events as specifically as possible. Even when you are not certain of the information, be sure to identify your information as "approximately," or say, "I think it was June," etc. Describing activities, such as, "We were receiving small arms fire from a hill to our left," would be better understood if you say, "While a machine gunner with 3rd Squad of 1st Platoon, of 'K' Company, about mid-June..."

These recollections are intended for the permanent record of our Association and may, one day, be matched-up with the official documentation that exists elsewhere (NARA?).

So, while the 'Unit Diary,' for a particular date may show you were on sick call with a bout of malaria from 12 - 16 June of that year, we may better define the time you

actually received live fire from that hill.

Remember, too, the records of our 'exploits' with 3rd Bn, 4th Marines, may one day be read by our great-grandchildren. Wouldn't you want them to know your story? (Well, I'm certain that some parts of our individual stories need not be exposed to public scrutiny).

Finally, I would like to put in a pitch to all those who served in "3/4" both before the Vietnam war and after that period. Your stories are as much needed for our archives as the others. So long as you served in or with "3/4" we want your story included in with ours. "3/4" has a long history going back to the early 19th century, let's try to fill it in as much as possible....M. Corbett: Bn. Historian

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Visit our website at:

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