



# THE THUNDERING THIRD

## NEWSLETTER



### THIRD BATTALION, FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION

44 Old Marlborough Road, Maynard, MA 01754

### *Letter from the President*

Happy Holiday's to all:

Best of Christmas wishes to all members of the Third Battalion Fourth Marines Association from Diane and I. Even though it's been 38 years now, I can still picture 1st Sgt Ski (Symanski?) handing out care package "gifts" and wearing a Santa Claus stocking cap that he has managed to scrounge up somewhere at Camp Carroll in December 1966.

The Battalion was suddenly reassigned back to Iraq for duty before the start of elections in that war torn country. They will depart about January 9, 2005, well ahead of their scheduled rotation which was to have occurred in March. They will most likely be back in combat by the time you receive this newsletter. Let us all keep their safety in our hearts and prayers during this third deployment. We will offer all support possible as they pay the price for our freedom.

The Battalion has selected Corporal Timothy W. Rose, MOS 0331 as the 3/4 NCO of the Year. Cpl Rose is a real life hero who served during both OIF I and II and was combat meritoriously promoted to Corporal. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device. We plan to award Cpl Rose with an NCO parade sword during a ceremony at 29 Palms before their departure.

Several of us "old Corps" members were invited to attend the Marine Corps Ball with the Battalion held November 10th here in Las Vegas, NV. We were all impressed with the words of departing Sgt/Major Howell who advised the troops (as only Sgt/Major could do) that they could party all they wanted to but "to leave no man behind". That all had better be present for the next morning formation. Luckily we were not included!

Reunion Chairman Larry Carpenter was called away to work for an extended period on a platform in the Gulf of Mexico. To assist with reunion preparations we have put together a "fire team" of volunteers. Special thanks to Doc Nunn, John Hudson and Joe Rodriguez for stepping up to the plate when needed. This fire team is planning a January meeting so that the San Antonio reunion will be one of the best we've had. Start preparations to attend now. The dates are August 3 to August 7, 2005, and we have booked additional rooms for those who'd like to stay all week. Chaplain Beach will again coordinate an assistance program to those in need. He has revamped the program and we hope to assist more members this year. For details contact Stan Beach at [STANBEACH@AOL.COM](mailto:STANBEACH@AOL.COM)

Best wishes to all of you for 2005.

Semper Fi,  
James B Conklin  
President

## Chaplain's Corner

*Submitted by  
Chaplain Stan Beach*

Like most of you, I inaugurated a new calendar for 2005. It was enjoyable staring at the clean, unmarked spaces not yet filled with coming events. But, it was too brief of a moment to savor. There were soon a myriad of events and commitments to occupy the spaces – such as my highlighted dates in August for the Association's reunion in San Antonio. Make certain its on your calendar!

Life is short. Time flies. Biblical wisdom tells us that life is like a vapor – quickly gone. So, I must make the best best use of the time given me. Time matters – and what ever fills my time will eventually shape my life. So I must make careful choices as to what dominates my calendar. Is it beneficial? Productive? Make me a better person? Have I included in my schedule a time for God – to know and experience Him in my life?

Life can't always be neatly marked out in symmetrical blocks of calendar days. There will be those unforeseen events that God's providence allows to intrude onto the pages and my life. No one knows what those may be, or whether they will bring pleasure or pain. All we really need to know is that God will be there!

## Doc's Notes

*Reunion in San Antonio*

Place: Hilton San Antonio Airport, 611 NW Loop 410 San Antonio, Texas 78216

Dates: August 3 through 7, 2005

Telephone numbers for the hotel 210-340-6060 or 1-800-hiltons

You must make reservations for the Hotel directly with the hotel at the numbers as above

Hotel Cost: \$79 per night

Tentative Schedule for reunion:

**Wednesday, Aug 3:** Check in Hospitality room open

**Thursday, Aug 4:** Memorial Service (time TBA) walkabout San Antonio, luncheon (maybe at the needle) free all afternoon

Dinner on the River walk (?) about 8 or 9 PM

**Friday, Aug 5:** Golf for those who want to. Early tee time as possible as it gets hot by mid day. We have arranged to rent a very large swimming pool for the day and night with a Texas style BBQ, a Mexican band. Starting about 9 PM, Margaritas & beer...like a huge hospitality room with covered picnic tables, bar, bar-stand, etc.

**Saturday, Aug 6:** business meeting and banquet at the hotel.

**Sunday, Aug 7:** departure

Registration forms for the Reunion will be forthcoming under a separate mailing. Please watch for them!!!

Dues – A reminder is appropriate here about dues. If you received this Newsletter and have not paid your dues, someone else has picked up you tab. Dues are on \$15 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.

## Notes From the Board of Directors

### Newsletter Item #1:

“The San Antonio Reunion will be upon us before we know it and now is the time to get your nomination(s) into me for candidates for “Honorary Membership”. As you may know, the Association may bestow upon person(s) who have rendered an outstanding or extraordinary service to the Third Battalion, Fourth Marines Association. At the Seattle Reunion we bestowed Honorary Membership upon two such persons who have gone “above and beyond” in their efforts to honor friend and loved one with their continued dedication and service to their families. If you know of someone you feel has performed a service to the Association that is worthy of consideration as an Honorary Member, please send their name, address, phone number, and any supporting information (or documents) to me as soon as possible. Once received, this information will be conveyed to the Board Of Directors for review and consideration. Please send all information to my email address: rdkimble@swbell.net or “snail mail” to Roger Kimble, 1531 Sharon Drive, Cedar Hill, TX 75104; OR you can call me at 972-971-2460 and I will return your call as soon as possible”.

### Newsletter Item #2:

Over the past many months, I have lost contact with some of the members who were appointed to the “Directors Committee” at the Seattle Reunion, due to family relocations, new email addresses, etc. I need for each person who was appointed to the “Directors Committee” to re-confirm with me the following information (all that apply): **(Name; Home Address; Home Phone Number; Work Phone Number; Cell Phone Number; Fax Number; and EMAIL Address)**. This information will NOT be given out to anyone but will be used to update my current contact information. I need to have as much information on each committee member as possible in order to stay in touch with you regarding Association business matters that may come up.

### ARTICLE III

#### SECTION FOUR: *Place of Meeting*

The location of the General Reunion shall be determined by a majority of the members voting at the preceding General Reunion. Potential General Reunion sites may be designated four (4) years in advance, however, final selection will be only at the preceding General election, two (2) years in advance. This will provide the membership, and the host city “point man” with more advance notification of upcoming General Reunions and help facilitate advance planning opportunity. The members may designate any place within the United States as the place of meeting for any bi-annual meeting or for any special meeting. If no designation is made, the place of meeting shall be the registered office of the Corporation in the State of Illinois.

(The purpose of this change was to provide the membership with advance notification for the upcoming Reunion).

### ARTICLE VII

#### SECTION FOUR: *Requests for Funds*

Requests for funds in excess of \$250 must be submitted to the Association President, or Chairman of the Directors Committee, by written request (U.S. mail letter) or by email (Internet). When received, requests

for funds will be reviewed by the Board of Directors, whereupon, a vote will be taken by the respondents. The Board of Directors will notify those person(s) making such requests for funds, with the voting outcome of the Board of Directors, within 30 days following final vote.

(The purpose of this change was to direct all requests for funds exceeding \$250.00, extraneous of Association business expenses, through the President and/or Directors Committee for review and approval).

I need for anyone/everyone who has a single or multiple nomination(s) for HONORARY MEMBERSHIP to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines Association to be sure to get those nominations to me right away. I need to get a list of the nominations and all supporting documentation for the nomination prepared and sent to the Board of Directors as soon as possible so we can begin the review process. This process is very time consuming since I have to email it to each Board member and then field all the replies. Once all replies are gathered I have to ensure that each Board member gets to review all the replies and then we proceed to making recommendations. This process takes several months, so please emphasize to our membership that this information (nominations AND supporting documentation for the nomination) get to me right away!!

Send all nominations/documentation to: [rdkimble@swbell.net](mailto:rdkimble@swbell.net)

I will correlate all the information and make sure that it gets to the Board of Directors.

Thanks, and Semper Fi

### **ATTENTION GOLFERS!!!!**

There will be a golf outing at the San Antonio Reunion on Friday, August 5th. Exact tee times have not yet been established but an attempt will be made to set them up for an early start to avoid the heat of the day. If you would like to participate in a foursome, or if you have a foursome you would like to get set up, please notify "ROGER KIMBLE" at: [rdkimble@swbell.net](mailto:rdkimble@swbell.net) or, call him at 972-291-2460 to make your group, or individual, arrangements. BE SURE to pack those golf clubs, shoes and LOTS of golf balls and come out to enjoy the fun. You will be notified in future newsletters, and personally, of the golf outing arrangements, once they are complete.

Thanks, Semper Fi

Roger D. Kimble  
(972) 291-2460  
[rdkimble@swbell.net](mailto:rdkimble@swbell.net)

**We still take care of one another – that's what Marines do best.** The Association has established a fund to help those who may need assistance to attend our reunion. This pays for the hotel lodging and, if funds remain available, other activities at the reunion (banquet, tours, etc.)

Priority will be given to those attending for a first time, and requesting this no later than 1 July 2005. All requests are held in confidence, and are handled by Chaplain Beach. He can be contacted at (352) 365-2406, or [stanbeach@aol.com](mailto:stanbeach@aol.com), or at 108 Poinsettia Cove, Leesburg, FL 34748

Those who received this assistance at earlier reunions will be placed on a waiting list, and accommodated with whatever allotted funds remain available after 1 July. Every person counts. We all need to renew and enjoy the contact with those we depended on and who depended on us.

## Letter From Jim Wright

Hello Doc,

I just got off the phone with Joe Featherston (BLT 3/4, India Battery 1964-66), who presented the desk plate we had made for LTC McCoy as a token of appreciation from the association.

Joe spent the afternoon with LTC McCoy at his (Joe's) home in Manassas where he made the presentation from the association.

Joe told me the LTC McCoy was surprised and pleased by the present and remarked that 3/4 would be "forever his unit".

Attached are three photos taken one is of LTC McCoy and Joe with LTC McCoy holding the plate, the second is of the plate by itself and the third of the presentation statement on the back of the plate.

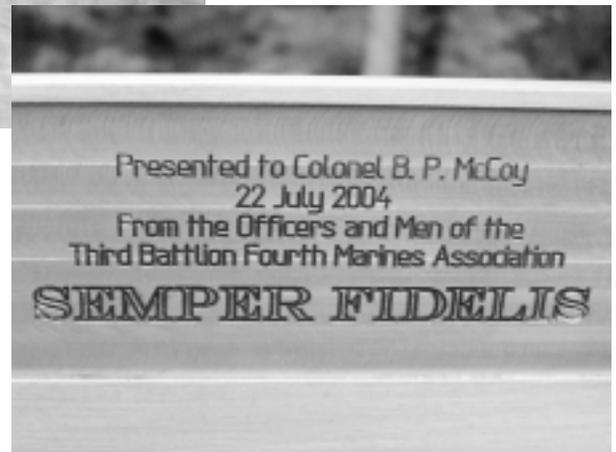
It is made of 1/4 inch thick Naval Bronze mounted on a base of Black anodized aluminum 1 inch by 5 inches by 19 inches long. It stands 5 inches high. It weighs about 20-25 pounds and the Colonel can get his morning exercise doing bench presses with it. On the front it has his name engraved above his (soon to be) rank engraved. The EGA is engraved on the right with the 3/4 crest engraved on the left. On the back it has a presentation statement engraved in a machined pocket that says, "Presented to Colonel Brian P. McCoy 22 July 2004 from From the Officers and Men of the 3d Battalion 4th Marines Association, SEMPER FIDELIS".

Now we knew that LTC McCoy isn't yet a Colonel, but I found out that he is in the zone for promotion and to make sure that it was up to date for his future assignment, I engraved it with Colonel, USMC.

LTC McCoy is presently attending the Command and General Staff College in WA, DC.

Semper Fidelis

Jim Wright  
BLT 3/4 1964-1967



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44 Old Marlborough Road, Maynard, MA 01754



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## REUNION 2005

Hilton Hotel, San Antonio Airport, San Antonio, Texas

August 3-August 7, 2005

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!!!**