



# THE THUNDERING THIRD

## NEWSLETTER



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### THIRD BATTALION, FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION

44 Old Marlborough Road, Maynard, MA 01754

#### *Letter from the President*

Dear Fellow 3/4 Marines:

One again the holidays are upon us. Diane and I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Most of us can recall spending the holidays in strange far away places where the USMC saw fit to send us. I hope this year's holiday will bring more pleasant memories. Let us all keep in mind however the young men of the battalion who are on their 4th deployment in Iraq and will spend the holiday season fighting in the desert and away from their families. Dennis "Reddawg" Thun has once again arranged to send a care package to the troops in time for the holidays. We are sending cigars and beef jerky as the Top Sergeant has assured us that the troops love them. Each company gets a separate package with plenty for each of the guys. Inside this newsletter, you will find a request for donations to help with the \$4000 cost. Please be generous. For those that want to send any other items the mailing address is also included.

Also included in the newsletter is a copy of our recently revised bylaws. After twenty some odd years the association bylaws were severely outdated and a revision was mandatory. A tremendous amount of appreciation is extended to VP Roger Kimball for undertaking the arduous challenge and re-writing them. I think you will all agree that these new bylaws keep alive the spirit that founded this organization while getting us into the modern era.

The reunion committee has been busy making arrangements for our next reunion in Savanna, GA, August 20 – 27, 2007. We will be sending out a sign up sheet in our next newsletter. Please make your hotel reservations early and return the sign up sheet as soon as available. Your advance reservation will render great assistance to the reunion committee. Remember the 6 P's, and we will see you in Savanna!!

Semper Fi,

Jim Conklin

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

*by Stan Beach*

Some questions regarding the dog tags collected....

1. Did the Assn decide that the tags would be an Assn Memorial of sorts?

I sensed some resistance to the idea from a couple who didn't like the way they were presented at the Service... some were simply angry that a friend's name was omitted from the printed list - which is now accurate I understand.

I don't want to offend people by using the tags again in some way, unless there was some decision by the Assn. A second issue therewith, if approved, is to explore a better way to present, maintain, display the tags.

2. Will the Assn cover expenses of adding tags/names?

I have purchased another 5 sets of tags for those who died in the past year...runs about \$10.00 per set. With or without tags, I think it is time to begin calling/listing the names of members who died between reunions ... that seems to be where we are at now. I had envisioned the man's buddies would make contributions in the memory of the man - then the Assn purchase the tags.

3. Do we have the tags from the Gulf War men KIA?

We have them on our "list", but I did not have the tags ... we would need to have sets made for them I suppose?

4. Thun has asked, but there may be a way via the newsletter/web site, to gain the names of those who died since Vietnam by asking for a response. I did receive a call from a daughter re her father's death two years ago. It seemed to me appropriate to establish some memorial for those who served (KIA and survivors from Nam) that would remain and perpetuate the memories

I am up and about - but the prosthesis is a big challenge for an old man - I can understand why Chuck Lear opted for the "motor scooter". Anyway, I am pushing about 4 hours of PT a day to get up to speed. God willing, I am slated to visit Newport, RI 16 - 19 November to speak, etc... then back to DC for a week of meetings. I have often run into DeBouchgrave on my visits to DC. - I guess we use the same hotel for meetings. He is a "Transnational Threat Consultant" for a think tank in DC.

Oscar Kergalvis moved to this area, and we see him from time to time. Jim Riley moved to SC. There are three others from 3/4 in the general area - friendly, but shy about reunion attendance. Earl Bucko from Kilo is one, lives in Tampa.

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 on \$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.

## Reunion Notes from Wallace Shaw

*Reunion Chairman*

The 2007 Reunion will be held at the Marriot Savannah Riverfront Hotel August 22 through August 26. You must make your hotel reservations yourself. The phone number at the hotel is 912-373-2002. The code you need to get the good group rate is 3/4 Marines. Some of you called earlier and they were not yet set up to take your reservation. They are now, so why not do it now? Early registration will help us with the planning. We will be asking for early registration to the Association events in the March/April time frame.

The events we are planning on are as follows (some are not locked in as we need some kind of numbers for the busses, rates, etc.). The golf day has not yet been decided upon.

Wednesday, August 22

Registration desk and Hospitality Room open at 1200. You will be on your own for dinner. There are many fine restaurants within and easy walk of the Hotel.

Thursday, August 23

Possible tour of Ft. Stewart, GA, home of the 3rd Infantry Division. We will visit the mock up of Iraqi villages and rifle ranges. There are two beautiful walks: Veteran's walk and museum and the KIA walk. Evening will be dinner at a local American Legion post with cash bar and local entertainment.

Friday, August 24

Parris Island Graduation and tour of the base. Memorial Service at the base chapel. Upon return to the hotel there will be a wreath laying at the Viet Nam Memorial, just a short distance from the hotel. Evening meal will be on a Riverboat gambling cruise with entertainment.

Saturday, August 25

Business meeting at a time TBA. There will be a shopping trip for our finer halves while we are at the meeting. Evening meal will be the banquet at the hotel with local entertainment.

Sunday, August 26

Departure. See you in 2009 in?????

Roger and Doc,

A heads up for you. Cynthia is the sister of Lt. Henry Dennis Babers from Lima Company, who drowned on 9/18/67 while saving lives of his men. I recently made contact with her and provided her with the reunion info. Doc, can you add her to the mailing list for the newsletter? And maybe send her the last one, that had all the reunion info.

Thank you both.

Semper Fi

Michael Madden

Dear Michael,

Thank you for the information, We are planning to attend the reunion & will make arrangements for the correct rate. I would very much like to be included on the mailing list...& by all means post my name...I appreciate you thinking of that!

Sincerely,

Cynthia

## The Medal Lives On

Once long ago (1932), in a land far away (China), a regiment of US Marines (4th Marines) were ordered to defend a bridge along a place called Soochow Creek in Shanghai,

Once again, the marines were caught in the middle of a battle between the Japanese and the Chinese Armies. The marines were exposed to shellfire from both sides, which routinely fell upon their positions. Fortunately, despite a number of near misses, the Marines took no casualties.

After the battle was over, a young Marine Lieutenant who was in command of one of the platoons said to the General, "General, my men behaved bravely and a number of them were valorous in their conduct. Sir, I would like to recommend them for Medals". The General replied, "Lieutenant, pay attention. This will affect your career throughout the future. Remember this, No War-No Medals". Now this was a revelation to the regiment. Imagine a battle with no medals, no awards and no chance to brag to the ladies.

So in their wisdom the Regimental officers issued their own medal for the "Battle of Soochow Creek".

The medal was to be awarded for valorous conduct however slight, upon any recommendation by anyone who thought that an incident should be commended. It was available from the company office and from the regimental newspaper office for \$2.00. A number of medals were also awarded to naval personnel of the fleet who were present during the emergency. Therefore, naval personnel attached were eligible for the award.

At the 2003 reunion of the 3d Bn 4th Marines, the members voted to resurrect the Soochow Creek medal to be awarded to the men of the Battalion who have done that which should be commended. The medals have been made and have arrived. They appear exactly as the originals except for a few small changes and they say that they are awarded by the 3d Battalion 4th Marines Association.

Here's the chance to give your best bud who served with you through the worst of times and who has survived till the best of times an award worthy of his stature as a US Marine and a member of the premier Battalion of the Fourth Marine Regiment. The medal can be awarded to anyone who served with the Battalion, either assigned or attached. In concurrence with tradition, Naval personnel are also eligible to be awarded the medal.

Did he save your life? Loan you money on liberty? Marry your sister? Any and all acts of valor will be recognized. Gentlemen, this is a real medal and will only be awarded on recommendation.

There is also a Certificate that will be signed by both the President and the Secretary of the Association to ensure that it is in fact awarded in accordance with tradition.

So, get out your pencil or crayon (Mike Maddon) and make your recommendation for the medal.

Semper Fidelis,

Jim Wright

BLT 3/4 1964-1967 Hawaii & RVN

# RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD OF THE SOOCHOW CREEK MEDAL

Name of person recommended for award:

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Your name:

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REASON FOR AWARD:

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Signature and date:

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## Oddball WWII Facts

You'll love this from Col. D.G. Swinford, USMC, Ret and history buff.

You would really have to dig to get this kind of ringside seat to history:

1. The first German serviceman killed in WW2 was killed by the Japanese (China, 1937), the first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians (Finland, 1940), the highest ranking American killed was Lt. Gen. Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps... so much for allies.

2. The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. (His benefits were later restored by act of congress.)

3. At the time of Pearl harbor the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced "sink us"), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was named "Amerika". All three were soon charged for PR purposes.

4. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required 30 missions your chance of being killed was 71%.

5. Generally speaking there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot. You were either an ace or a target. For instance, Japanese ace Hiroyoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He died while a passenger on a cargo plane.

6. It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a mistake. Tracers had different ballistics so (at long range) if your tracers were hitting the target 80% of your rounds were missing. Worst yet tracers instantly told your enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell you that you were out of ammo. This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down

YOU'VE GOT TO LOVE THIS ONE...

7. When allied armies reached the Rhine the first thing men did was pee in it. This was pretty universal from the lowest private to Winston Churchill (who made a big show of it) and Gen. Patton (who had himself photographed in the act) found the photo (hand tinted black and white).

8. German Me-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City but it wasn't worth the effort.

9. German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.

10. Among the first "Germans" captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the US Army.

AND I SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST...

11. Following a massive naval bombardment, 35,000 US and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska, in the Aleutian Islands. 21 troops were killed in the firefight. It would have only been worse if there had been any Japanese on the island.

## Sound Off

*Most of these posts are available online, however we have only about 1/3 of membership online so I thought it would be a good idea to publish them in the newsletter as well. To post something in this section of newsletter email me at Thun3905@earthlink.net and make sure you mention that it's for the SOUND OFF section of the newsletter.*

*s/f*

*dawg*

As most of you are aware we spend a good chunk of our money sending care package items off to 3/4. We've done this on each deployment and as you all know how great it is to receive stuff that is hard to get when you're in a combat zone. It would be nice if we could raise enough funds to get each Marine with 3/4 something for Xmas. So this is a call for donations, so dig deep and let's make this xmas something special for OUR guys. I know we would all like to be their with them however this is one way of showing our support for our Marines and Corpsman.

s/f

dawg

Make Checks payable to:

3rd Bn 4th Marines Association

address to treasurer

Chuck Lear

2907 Hertzog Lane

Lees Summit, MO 64086

(put a note on it that it's for Xmas Care Package)

Also if you would rather send something on your own, they are asking for shaving gear, soap and toothpaste. The Sgt Maj will distribute among the troops.

Address is:

Mark M. Geletko

Sergeant Major

3rd Bn 4th Marines /HQ Co

Al Qaim, Iraq

UIC 41605

FPO AP 96426-1605

***The Third Battalion 4th Marines has purchased \$4,000 worth of cigars and beef jerky for the troops and it will arrive prior to Christmas. They are still in need of toiletries, toothpaste and soap.***

**Sound Off** *(Continued)*

E-Mail: alexanderkane@hotmail.com

Looking for guys who knew my father Al Clark (reconmarine). He was in Vietnam and was damn proud of being 3/4. If anybody knew him, we've got an online memorial at [www.kaatzfunerals.com](http://www.kaatzfunerals.com). Information on the funeral here in Michigan is there too. Anyone he knew or knew him is welcome. Ooh-rah!

E-Mail: phbreen@comcast.net

Would like to hear from Marines who served with Al Jasnocha L/3/4- KIA 5/15/68. Al was a good friend and a proud Marine.

E-Mail: kkt54@charter.com

My son served with Lima Co. 3rd.Bn. 4th Marines from March 1995 to April 1997, his name was Lcpl Journey Kinser. I was very proud of my son and very proud of his service in the Marine Corps. He was killed in a motorcycle accident on Aug. 16, 2004. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who served with my son while he was in the Marines.

E-Mail: iselmb2@aol.com

Hey all you jarhead's I need help finding a former marine who's name is Jim Cooper from Lima 3/4 wpn's platoon M60'S ON Hastings! Gun's Up! 1966. We are short just two guy's from our old gun team and need help finding him! The reunion is one year away and it would be nice if all of us could get back together. We found Charles Haas and Frenchy, Jim Hart, Richard Brush, just need Cooper??? If anyone can help us out please give me a call @ 951-678-3412 Wildomar, Calif. Thank's guy's, Semper Fi  
p.s. Cooper was from St. Louis, Mo.

E-Mail: pamelatroeppl@comcast.net

I'm searching for anyone who may have known PFC William (Billy) Cosden Jr. who served in Operation Hastings in Vietnam. He was in the 3/4 Lima. Any and all information would be most appreciated. I'm looking to talk to someone who knew him. Thank you very much.  
Pamela

E-Mail: usmc\_diver@yahoo.com

I am a former marine(83-87)looking for info about my father PFC Samuel Russell, I 3/4 from Nashville Tennessee. KIA 1 July 1968 near Khe Sanh. If anyone remembers him please contact me.  
931-684-4456  
PO Box 2082  
Shelbyville,Tn 37160

E-Mail: rdking97@bellsouth.net

Trying to locate some info on my uncle, KIA 3-4-68, Quang Tri Province, Gary Joseph Bell PFC.  
Jeff Stepp

E-Mail: tronald99@yahoo.com

Just seeing if anyone has any stories or pictures of my uncle Thomas Ronald. 3/4 I co. KIA 5/19/67.  
THANKS!  
Thomas Ronald

## Sound Off *(Continued)*

E-Mail: dlh81@msn.com

Looking for marines with kilo 3/4 from fall 1966 to spring 1968. Question- -looking for info. of kilo attachment or reinforcement of 2nd bat. Hue tet 1968. Question- -does anyone remember crazy A.J. gunner kilo 3/4. Please reply. Thanks Guys for letting me visit with such great men!!!  
Don Haynes

E-Mail: lmarx2@bellsouth.net

I've been watching the 3/4 emails with interest. I'm trying to get some information on my unit the day I was wounded. July 18th. 1966. I remember we were trying to evacuate wounded Marines that were ambushed. I was shot in the arm and evacuated almost at once. I was an 0300 grunt and was not in Nam very long. I remember S/Sgt Jim Grey KIA by a sniper around the first of June. Is there any way to find the Corpsman that treated me? I was sent to the Army hospital in Okinowa for about a month and then spent about a year at Bethesda from Sept 66 through about July 67. I've tried to get medical and location information through St. Louis without much success. I recently joined the Herd and plan to be at the next reunion. Any info would be appreciated. Thanks,  
Larry Marks

E-Mail: wwillison@altrionet.com

On July 30th 1967, 3/4 Marines came to our aid up at the DMZ. 9th Marines were on Operation Kingfisher and were ambushed by the NVA. 3/4 and air support is the reason some of us are here today. For those of you that were there that day, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I can still hear in my head what the gooks said to us during night. "You die tonight Marine".

Semper Fi Brothers

Wayne "Willie" Willison

Echo 2/9 1967

E-Mail: amfisk@gdicom.net

As I look back on things I know that two events always gave me cause to find personal strength when I needed it. One was seeing the set of life size before/after photos of a young man in civies and then blues. This was on the wall at rec. barracks, SD, 1965. The other was that dumb ass me got to work with 3/4. Carry on.

Allen Fisk

E-Mail: Lightnlee@cox.net

I WOULD LIKE TO "THANK" THE "GRUNTS" OF 3/4, FOR COMING TO THE AID OF "E" 2/9, DURING OPERATION KINGFISHER. I HAVE A BUD(SINCE "BOOT") WHO WAS IN "ECHO," DURING THEIR OVERNITE PERIMETER ON HIGHWAY 561."W.F.W." IS STILL WITH US, "THANKS TO 3/4." "SEMPER FI"-L.E.G."L"CO.(RIPLEY'S RAIDERS), 3/3.

LEO E. GEYZA

It saddens me to announce that Andrew James "Jim" Beharelle, a machine gunner, with I Co. from 1/69 to 1/70 passed away at his home, in Peoria, IL, on Monday, August 7, 2006.

## Sound Off *(Continued)*

May 15th 2006, Cpl John Hinz (Gary's son) and the Gunny. The gunny came out to do an episode of "Mail Call" and they sent out a E-mail saying he was at that SNCO club for a meet and greet lunch. I gave him my Squadron patch.



E-Mail: [ac5lo@earthlink.net](mailto:ac5lo@earthlink.net)

I AM LOOKING FOR GYSGT.HAYES. HE WAS COMPANY GUNNY FOR I COMPANY 1965-66. ALSO SGT.HARRY BURNS I COMPANY 65-66. I WAS IN WEAPONS I COMPANY 65-66 CAME UP FROM A COMPANY 1-7 IN 1965.

William Mitchell

E-Mail: [flh81@msn.com](mailto:flh81@msn.com)

Looking for buddies of A.J. Haynes Kilo 3/4 gunner late 1966- early 69

Don Haynes

E-Mail: [SDHFREE2FLYAUSTIN@YAHOO.COM](mailto:SDHFREE2FLYAUSTIN@YAHOO.COM)

JUST SEEING WHO IS STILL THERE FROM THE MIGHTY 3/4 THAT PULLED DOWN THE STATUE..OPS IRAQI FREEDOM I, II..STOP BY SAY HI SOMETIME...SEMPER FI..

STEVE HARRIS

E-Mail: [mc8890@hotmail.com](mailto:mc8890@hotmail.com)

Lcpl James Larry Bosheers, K3/4 1967-1968. He was killed 01 May 1968 in the following accident. "At 0730 five Marines at hill 552 were burning trash, when an unknown explosive device exploded causing one dead non-battle casualty and four wounded non-battle casualties. Lt Place was appointed investigating officer." I would like to get any information on this accident or my Uncle if anyone remembers him.

Larry E. Williams

## 3/4 Marine Awarded Silver Star

OCEANSIDE, Calif. — With sunrise on the horizon, the men of Combined Anti-Armor Team 1 rolled along a Fallujah, Iraq, road in their armored Humvees heavy with machine guns and ammunition, their predawn patrol mission complete.

But insurgents had a different plan and, in an ensuing coordinated ambush, the 18 Marines began a fight for their lives.

When it was over more than two hours later on June 19, 2005, more than 30 insurgent fighters lay dead, another two dozen were wounded or on the run, and neither Cpl. Wyatt Waldron nor his 17 men had suffered a scratch.

“In the end state, we did what a Marine force is designed to do,” said Waldron, a machine gunner who left the Corps earlier this year. On July 27, he received a Silver Star for his combat heroism in Iraq last summer as a member of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines.

The 22-year-old Waldron, the former CAAT platoon sergeant with Weapons Company, received the award during a ceremony at Camp Wilson, 3/4’s temporary home base during pre-deployment training.

The Silver Star — the nation’s third-highest honor for combat heroism — joins a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat “V” and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals with combat “V” that Waldron earned during his previous two tours in Iraq.

The award came as a surprise to Waldron, who earned two meritorious combat promotions and learned of the Silver Star’s approval only a few weeks before the ceremony.

“It wasn’t an individual thing. It was a whole team effort,” he said.

Waldron, who joined the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department after leaving the Corps in February, brought along his parents and several Vietnam veterans, all friends of the family and combat vets like him.

### **On instinct**

Like all combat awards, it is the story behind the medal that will become the fabric of 3/4’s lore. Waldron, who grew up in the Palmdale-Lancaster desert suburbs north of Los Angeles, is one of the “9/11 Marines,” the young men and women who enlisted in the Corps after the terrorist attacks. On Sept. 12, he left a football scholarship at San Diego State University and made a recruiter’s day. The 6-foot-2, 230-pounder was elated to get his dream: machine gunner. “That’s my thing,” he said.

Inside his Humvee on that June day, Waldron noticed that something wasn’t right.

By 6 a.m. in that part of Fallujah, an agricultural area southwest of the central city, local Iraqis normally would be setting up their farm stands and vehicles would crisscross the road. “Nobody was there,” he recalled.

### **3/4 Marine Awarded Silver Star** *(Continued)*

Then, he spotted something: the first 155mm round of a roadside bomb buried and configured as a “daisy chain.” Their convoy of four Humvees stopped. A nearby bomb exploded, and an AK47 round broke a few seconds of silence. Then, “everything opened up,” he said.

Berms and ditches along a half-mile stretch of the road exploded with muzzle flashes from AK47s and rocket-propelled grenades directed at the Humvees, fired by insurgents sitting on their knees in the deep ruts. Heavy machine guns and rockets shot from the west side of the road in what Waldron quickly calculated was an attempt to push the Marines to the east — just where a van loaded with explosives was waiting for them.

Nearly 20 insurgents fired from rooftops of nearby houses, “so they had us about in a 360-degree” attack, he said.

Waldron quickly took it all in and realized it was just the kind of ambush that he said he’d plan.

So Waldron, manning the .50-caliber machine gun atop his Humvee, split off with another vehicle topped by a TOW and an M240G machine gun, ripping lead on rapid-fire, and made a charge toward the machine-gun nests — it was the insurgents’ strong point, he said — as the other pair of vehicles provided covering fire. On the flank, an MK19 took out the insurgents’ “technicals,” pickup trucks mounted with guns or rockets. The men dismounted and made their way toward the fire to kill and throw the fighters — who may have expected the convoy to race through the “kill zone” — off balance.

It was a ferocious fight. At one point, they were nearly five feet from AK-toting insurgents. “We kept on pushing. It was berm after berm after berm pretty much the whole way,” Waldron said.

#### **On their own**

For an hour, Waldron’s men fought a heavy fight. At one point, when the main enemy force was quashed, he sent two vehicles to Camp Mercury a few miles away to get more ammunition. By then, and for another hour or so, “we were chasing little pockets” of resistance, he said.

They countered the ambush without help. Fighting elsewhere had flared up that morning and tied up the rest of the battalion and other units.

There was no quick-reaction force. It was engaged in another fight. No mortars.

His call for support was denied, because no mortar section was ready to fire. No air support or unmanned aerial vehicle. The area’s lone UAV had gone off-station an hour earlier.

So it might have been an odd string of good luck that the insurgents ambushed their convoy.

“There’s so much firepower in a CAAT team,” Waldron noted, adding, “I look back on it now — the amount of training that we had was a big factor. I thank God.”

He credits teamwork, aggressiveness and luck with getting them through the ambush unscathed.

“We definitely broke their plan,” he said. “They had certain axis of advance. I guess they hit the wrong CAAT team, the wrong day.”

## FSB Russell Incident

On Sept. 21, 1969, as Marines were preparing to abandon Fire Support Base Russell (also known as LZ Russell), an accidental explosion occurred on top of the hill. That blast and several sympathetic detonations of ordnance resulted in the deaths of several Marines and injuries to many more.

Six weeks after the blast, it was discovered that one of the Marines who had been on the hill that day, LCpl. James W. "Jimmy" Jackson of Atlanta, a rifleman with L/3/4, had disappeared. Despite an effort by an Article 32 board to reconstruct the events of that day, it could not be determined if Jackson had disappeared on the hill or, as members of his unit testified, had been medevaced to 3rd Med at Quang Tri.

The mystery of Jackson's disappearance remains to this day. For the past 24 years I have been trying to piece together parts of this puzzle, with little success. I have interviewed at length family members, former members of L/3/4 who served with Jackson, and anyone else who was there that day. No one seems to have that one piece of the puzzle that will make it all come together.

If anyone was on Russell on Sept. 21, 1969 and is familiar with what happened, or knew Jackson during his time in country, please contact me. I am trying to write a book about what happened to him and solve the mystery.

For a more complete version of Jackson's story, go to this web site:  
<http://www.usvetdsp.com/story18.htm>

Semper Fi,  
Ron Martz  
USMC 1965-68  
rmartz@ajc.com  
rlmartz@hotmail.com

## Association Bylaws

The Association Bylaws were reviewed (as discussed at the 2005 San Antonio Reunion/General Meeting) in order to bring them more in line with the manner in which we presently must conduct business. While the original bylaws were very effective for the Association when it was formed, and have served us well over the years, we are forced to revise them in order to meet the demands of our present day logistics and provide us the mechanisms with which we must operate in today's environment. The basic Bylaws left in tact, but there were some items that were changed in order to provide us the latitude of serving our membership throughout the United States via present day Internet, telecommunications, etc. These minor changes enable us to conduct our business much quicker and more effectively and respond to issues of importance in a much more timely manor. The basis of our Bylaws did not change, however, some statements contained in the original Bylaws were altered to meet today's needs; in a very few cases a few Bylaws were altered to eliminate ambiguity and repetitiveness. Please print a copy of these Bylaws and keep them for future reference.

Semper Fi  
Roger

# BYLAWS OF THIRD BATTALION FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION

(Revision Date: August 15, 2006)

A NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION

## ARTICLE I. OFFICES

### SECTION ONE: Principal Office

The principal office of the Association of the State of Illinois shall be located in Worth, Cook County, Illinois.

### SECTION TWO: Other Offices

The Association may have such other offices, either within or without the County of Cook, State of Illinois, as the Board of Directors may determine or as the Association may require from time to time.

### SECTION THREE: Registered Office and Registered Agent

The Association shall have and continuously maintain in the State of Illinois a registered office, and a registered agent whose office is identical with such registered office, as required by the Illinois Non-Profit Association Act. The registered office may be, but need not be; identical with the principle office of the Association in the State of Illinois, and the address of the registered office may be changed from time to time by the Board of Director's.

## ARTICLE II. MEMBERS

### SECTION ONE: Categories of Members

There shall be three (3) categories of members: Honorary members, Executive members and Participating members.

- A. Honorary Members. Honorary membership may be extended, by the Board of Directors, to individuals who have rendered outstanding or extraordinary service to the Third Battalion Fourth Marines Association. Honorary Member's must be nominated to the Board of Directors, and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors, for membership.
- B. Executive Members. Executive Members shall consist of all elected Officers and members elected to the Directors Committee.
- C. Participating Members. Participating membership shall consist of all members in good standing pursuant to the rules and regulations of this organization.

### SECTION TWO: Definition of Voting Members

Voting members shall consist of the Board of Directors and general membership who are current with all

financial obligations owed to the Association. Honorary Members and Participating Members, whose dues are “not paid current”, shall not have voting rights on business matters of the Association.

#### SECTION THREE: Voting Rights

Each eligible voting member shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the membership or the Board of Directors.

#### SECTION FOUR: Termination of Membership

The Board of Directors, by affirmative vote of two thirds of all of the members of the Board, may suspend or expel a member for cause after an appropriate hearing and may, by a majority vote of those present at any regularly constituted meeting, terminate the membership of any member who becomes ineligible for membership, or suspend or expel any member who shall be in default in the payment of moneys owed to the Association.

The Board of Directors may suspend, or permanently expel, a member for cause after an appropriate hearing by the Board of Directors. A majority of votes received from the Board of Directors will constitute the “quorum” required for this action.

#### SECTION FIVE: Suspension or Expulsion Criteria

All members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is favorably representative of the U.S. Marine Corps and of the Association. Instances by which a member may be suspended or expelled are, but not limited to:

1. Failure to pay membership dues or other funds owed to the Association
2. Misconduct at reunions, legally constituted meetings, committees or on the Association website (e.g. foul language, slanderous or demeaning remarks, personal threats, public drunkenness, fighting, insulting the general public)
3. Acting in any manner that causes an embarrassment to this association or the United States Marine Corps.

#### SECTION SIX: Reinstatement

Reinstatement to the Association may be requested by any suspended or expelled member. The statement must be submitted to the Secretary of the Association in writing unless the suspension was of a temporary nature and automatic reinstatement was previously approved by the Board of Directors at the time of suspension. Any member who was given permanent expulsion may submit a letter to the Secretary for reinstatement after one full year of expulsion. A vote of two-thirds majority by the Board of Directors is required to overturn a permanent expulsion.

#### SECTION SEVEN: Transfer of Membership

Membership to this Association is not transferable or re-assignable.

**ARTICLE III. GENERAL REUNION****SECTION ONE: Authority**

The general reunions shall be the supreme legislative governing body of this Association. It shall be composed of all members in good standing that are able to attend.

**SECTION TWO: Regular Meeting**

A General Reunion of the Association will be convened every two years (in odd numbered years). The specific dates in which the reunion may be scheduled will be determined by the reunion hosting committee using criteria based on locale, optimal weather conditions for the selected city, utilizing seasonal cost effectiveness for hotel/motel accommodations, mass transportation availability and seasonal activities available. The location of the General Reunion shall be determined by a majority of voting members at the preceding General Reunion. The members at the reunion shall hear reports provided by members who wish to host the upcoming reunion describing their locale and availability of amenities.

**SECTION THREE: Special Meeting**

Special meetings of the Association may be called by the General Officers and (delete "the General Officers and) the Board of Directors, if in writing by the majority, or by two-thirds of the members in good standing of the Association by means of a petition.

**SECTION FOUR: Place of Meeting**

The location of the General Reunions 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 opportunities. The members may designate any place within the United States as the place of meeting for any General Reunion or for any special meeting. If no designation is made, the place of meeting shall be the registered office of the Association in the State of Illinois.

**SECTION FIVE: Notice of Meetings**

Written notice shall be mailed to all members in good standing of the Association informing them of the time, site and object of said meeting. This information must be mailed at least thirty days before meeting is to take place.

The Board may at its discretion in lieu of calling a special meeting of the Association submit any matters that may have been acted upon at such special meeting to a vote by referendum. It shall be adopted unless, within ninety days from the date of submission thereof, a majority of all members in good standing have voted in favor thereof.

**SECTION SIX: Quorums: General Reunions, Board of Directors and Committees**

A quorum shall consist of those members present at the General Reunion meeting and Meeting's of the Board of Directors, or committee, for the purpose of casting votes to resolve issues of the Association.

**SECTION SEVEN: Casting of Votes**

General Reunion meetings: All votes must be cast in person and votes may not be accepted absentia, proxy or otherwise assigned.

Board of Directors: All votes on issues for resolution may be cast in person, via postal mail, internet email or by telephone, whichever medium is used by the Board of Directors on a particular issue at hand. Votes of members of the Board may not be voted absentee, by proxy or otherwise assigned. A simple majority of votes received from the Board of Directors shall constitute the "quorum" required for the purpose of voting on any issue submitted to the Board of Directors to be resolved.

#### **ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

##### **SECTION ONE: General Powers**

The property and affairs of this Association shall be managed, in the interim between General Reunions, by its Board of Directors.

##### **SECTION TWO: Number of Board of Directors and Terms of Office**

The number of Board of Directors shall be fifteen (15) members in good standing, which includes the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Recording Secretary, by virtue of their office. Additionally, ten (10) Directors shall be elected by the members at the General Reunion to serve on the Directors Committee.

The terms of office shall be as follows in order to provide overlapping terms:

President - 4 years (elected to office with the Secretary)

Vice President - 4 years (elected to office with the Treasurer)

Secretary – 4 years (elected to office with President)

Treasurer – 4 years (elected to office with Vice President)

Recording Secretary – 4 years (no overlap required)

Directors – 4 years – (except that one-half of the Directors Committee shall be elected every two years, providing an overlapping term)

##### **SECTION THREE: Qualifications of Office**

To hold a position on the Board of Directors, an individual must be a member in good standing, and have been a dues paying member of the Association for at least one (1) year. Honorary members may not hold elected office in the Association.

##### **SECTION FOUR: Authority and Powers**

Without prejudice to the general powers conferred by statute, and the Articles of the Association, the Board of Directors shall have the following specific powers and duties:

- A. The Board of Directors may receive all appeals from the act. and decisions, of the President, and if charges are preferred against any officer of the Association, they shall proceed to arrange for an investigation and hearing thereof.
- B. The Board of Directors may call special meetings whenever it deems such action necessary for the welfare of the Association. It shall have access to all papers, correspondence and books of the Association at all times and shall have power to summon and require any member to testify affecting the matter which may be the subject of investigation before it.

- C. The Board of Directors shall cause the books and accounts of the Association to be audited under their supervision, at each General Reunion prior to the General Meeting.
- D. The Board of Directors shall have the authority between regular General Reunions to alter, amend, repeal or suspend these bylaws, in the manner and subject to the limitations, set forth elsewhere herein.
- E. In addition to the powers and authorities by these Bylaws, expressly conferred, the Board of Directors may exercise all such powers of the Association and do all such lawful acts and things as are not by statute, the Articles of the Association, or these Bylaws directed or required to be exercised or done by the Association membership.

#### SECTION FIVE: Meetings

The Board of Directors shall conduct meetings, in person, via telephone, or via internet email (whichever is most appropriate) between reunions in the course of conducting business as may become necessary. These meetings shall be held at the convenience of the Board members available. Members of the Board of Directors shall not be reimbursed for expenses to attend any meetings held in person. Meetings held by the Board of Directors at General Reunions shall be conducted by the President or his designate. All notes, voting tabulations and all other materials necessary to resolution of issues shall be made available to the Board of Directors, as required or requested..

#### SECTION SIX: Quorum

A quorum shall consist of the Board of Directors available in person, or those submitting their vote via U.S. Postal Mail, Internet Email, telephone or other viable means used by the Board of Directors, for the purpose of casting votes to resolve issues of the Association.

#### SECTION SEVEN: Special Meeting

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by, or at the request of, the President or any two (2) Members of the Directors Committee. Special meetings may be conducted by telephone or by internet email.

#### SECTION EIGHT: Manner of Acting

A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be those present at a face to face meeting, or those who respond within an established time frame on "time sensitive" issues via the internet email.

#### SECTION NINE: Vacancies

If any office of the Board of Directors becomes vacant, for any reason, the Board shall nominate, and subsequently elect a member in good standing to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

#### SECTION TEN: Compensation

Board of Directors shall not receive any stated salaries for their services. If assigned duties require that any Board of Director expend personal funds in the course of conducting Association business, they must receive prior approval to expend Association funds to accomplish the task. When completed, should they have expended personal funds in the accomplishment of the task, they shall be reimbursed for the exact amount of those expenses only. Submitting original receipts of expenses to the Treasurer for reimbursement is required.

**SECTION ELEVEN: Board of Conduct**

The Board of Directors may convene by telephone, or internet email as a Board of Conduct to rule on matters pertaining to the conduct, or actions, of any officer or member. The ruling of the Board of Conduct on such matters is final.

**ARTICLE V. OFFICERS****SECTION ONE: Officers**

The Board of Directors of the Association shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Recording Secretary who shall be elected at the General Reunions. The Board of Directors may appoint such additional officers, and agents, as it shall deem necessary to the conduct of business. Such appointed officers shall have the authority to perform the duties prescribed by the Board of Directors and shall serve in this capacity without voting rights on the Board of Directors. Appointed officers may be removed by action of the Board of Directors as necessary.

**SECTION TWO: Election and Term of Office**

The Board of Directors of the Association shall be elected, and serve the appropriate term of office for the position to which they are elected, at the General Reunion in accordance with Article IV, Section Two (Number of Board of Directors and Terms of Office).

**SECTION THREE: Qualifications**

To qualify for election to a position on the Board of Directors a member must be: 1) a former member of the Third Battalion, Fourth Marines; 2) attached to the Third Battalion, Fourth Marines (Corpsman, Artillery, Chaplains, or other such attachments); 3) a member in good standing of the Association for at least one (1) year.

**SECTION FOUR: Nominations of Officers and Members of the Directors Committee**

Nominations for all positions of the Board of Directors may be submitted by postal mail, internet email not later than 30 days prior to the established date of the upcoming General Reunion, or may be accepted from the floor at the general meeting at the General Reunion.

**SECTION FIVE: Removal**

Any Board of Director (elected or appointed) may be removed from office by action of the Board of Directors when, in its best judgment, the best interests of the Association would be served.

**SECTION SIX: Vacancies**

A vacancy in any elected, or appointed, office may be filled by action of the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

**SECTION SEVEN: Advisory Committee**

Past Presidents of the Association shall, at the end of their term of office, serve on an "Advisory Committee" of the Association in a supporting role to the Board of Directors on issues of importance (as needed). They will remain in

this capacity for a period of two years following the expiration of their term as President, as long as they continue to be members in good standing.

SECTION EIGHT: President

The President shall be the principal Executive Officer of the Association and shall, in general, supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Association. He may sign, with the Secretary, or with any other proper officer of the Association, contracts or other instruments that the Board have authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be delegated by the Board of Directors, or by these articles or by statute to some other officer or agent of the Association; and, in general, he shall perform all duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

SECTION NINE: Vice President

In the absence of the President, or in the event of his inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the power of and be subject to all the restrictions on the President. The Vice President office will also fill the position as the Chairman, Directors Committee and will conduct all business directly associated with the Directors.

SECTION TEN: Treasurer

If required by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall give bond for the faithful discharge of his duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Board shall determine. He shall have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds and moneys due and payable to the Association from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such moneys in the name of the Association in such banks as shall be selected by the Board of Directors. And, in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the President or by the Board.

The treasurer will submit a written annual statement to the Association showing a balance of funds in the treasury to include all major expenditures and credits.

SECTION ELEVEN: Secretary and Recording Secretary

The Secretary will oversee the publication of the association newsletter and any other association publication as requested by the Board Of Directors. The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors in one or more books provided for the purpose; see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provision of these bylaws or as required by law; be custodian of the corporate records and of the articles of the Association and see that the seal of the Association is affixed to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the Association under its seal is duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws; keep a register of the post office address of each member which shall be furnished to the Secretary by such member. And, in general, perform all the duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the President or by the Board of Directors. The Recording Secretary will have a collateral duty of Sergeant at Arms who may be called upon for disciplinary measures as deemed appropriate by the Board Of Directors.

**ARTICLE VI. TELLERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

SECTION ONE: Tellers and Standing Committees

Committees may be established by the Board of Directors, determined to be necessary, and shall be made up of members in good standing of the Association. Committee's shall have a necessary life so long as it is required to accomplish an assigned task.

**SECTION TWO: Duties of Tellers**

The tellers shall count all votes cast at the General Meeting as their assignment is deemed necessary by the President or by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION THREE: Duties of Committee and Credentials**

The committee shall ensure that all persons attending the General Meeting at reunions are members in good standing and are eligible to cast votes. Honorary members, and Participating Members whose dues are not paid current, are NOT eligible to vote on issues of the Association.

**SECTION FOUR: Duties of Committee on Bylaws**

The Board of Directors may appoint a committee to review and consider amendments to the Bylaws. The committee may be comprised of members of the Board of Directors or from the general membership. Amendments to the Bylaws shall be prepared in written text and made available to the Board of Directors for review prior to the General Reunion for ratification, or rejection, or subsequent modifications. Amendments to the Bylaws that have passed the review of the Board of Directors, and ratified, shall be presented to the general membership at the upcoming reunion for review.

**SECTION FIVE: Duties of Committee on Ritual**

The committee shall carefully consider the ritual being used and make such recommendations, in writing, as they may deem proper to the Association.

**SECTION SIX: Duties of Committee on Resolutions**

The committee shall consider all resolutions presented to the General Reunion and shall report such recommendations, in writing, to the Association.

**SECTION SEVEN: Duties of Reunion Committee**

The Reunion Committee is charged with the task of making all arrangements for upcoming reunions in the host city, to include but not limited to, the established date, accommodations, meals, tours, mass transportation, hospitality suites, meeting rooms and other matters pertaining to the success of the reunion. The reunion committee shall report to the president one year in advance of the reunion with the proposed/established dates of the reunion and hotel accommodations. All other arrangements shall be completed not later than nine (9) months PRIOR to the established reunion date in order to allow sufficient time for the general membership to make arrangements for attending the reunion. A detailed report of reunion arrangements shall be submitted, in writing, to the President not later than nine (9) months prior to the established reunion date.

**SECTION EIGHT: Term of Office**

Each member of a committee shall continue as such until the next General Reunion, unless the committee shall be sooner terminated, or unless such member is removed from such committee, or unless such member shall cease to qualify as a member thereof.

**SECTION NINE: Chairman**

One member of each committee shall be appointed chairman by the President.

SECTION TEN: Vacancies

Vacancies in the membership of any committee may be filled by appointment made in the same manner as provided in the case of the original appointments.

SECTION ELEVEN: Quorum

A quorum of an established committee shall be those present at a person to person meeting, or those who respond to the Chairman of a committee via U.S. Postal mail, telephone or internet email whichever medium is utilized.

**ARTICLE VII. PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**SECTION ONE: Membership Qualifications

To be a member of the Association, an individual must have been a member of the Third Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment at any time, in direct of, or indirect support of the Battalion, or a member of the Third Raider Battalion-World War II.

SECTION TWO: Dependent or Heir

To be considered a dependent, or heir, for the purpose of any future Scholarship programs, the qualification is that of a daughter, son, granddaughter or grandson of a member or deceased member.

**ARTICLE VIII. CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS, EXPENSES AND GIFTS**SECTION ONE: Contracts

The Board of Directors may authorize any officer, or officers, agent or agents of the Association, in addition to the officers so authorized by these bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Association, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

SECTION TWO: Checks, Drafts, or Orders of Payment

All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Association shall be signed by such officer, or officers, agent or agents of the Association and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors.

SECTION THREE: Deposits

All funds of the Association shall be deposited to the credit of the Association in such banks as the Board of Directors may select.

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. Postal 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.

**SECTION FIVE: Gifts**

The Board of Directors may accept, on behalf of the Association, any contributions, gifts, bequests, or device for the general purposes or for any special purpose of the Association.

**ARTICLE IX. MISCELLANEOUS****SECTION ONE: Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of this Association shall be determined by the Board of Directors, and with the approval of the Internal Revenue Service. (Note: The choice of when the fiscal year ends was made upon the original incorporation of the Association. Any subsequent changes to the fiscal year must be requested from, and approved by, the Internal Revenue Service.)

**SECTION TWO: Books and Records**

The Association shall keep correct, and complete, books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its members, Board of Directors, and committees having any of the authority of the Board of Directors, and shall keep at the registered or principal office a record giving the names and addresses of the members entitled to vote. All books and records of the Association may be inspected by any member or his agent, or attorney, for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

**SECTION THREE: Dues**

All members who wish to remain in good standing must pay dues to the Association. This annual fee established, by these Bylaws, is set at \$20.00 per year. This fee will be due each June 1st.

**SECTION FOUR: Honor Guards**

In the event of a member death, the Association will contact members living closest to the deceased member and try to arrange an Honor Guard of brother Marines.

**SECTION FIVE: Dissolution**

In the event that this Association were to dissolve, the BOD would by these Bylaws ensure that all moneys or other things of value be donated to the Third Marine Division Association, or any designated U.S. Marine Corps entity.

**ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS****SECTION ONE: Power to Amend Bylaws**

These Bylaws may be altered; amended, or repealed and new Bylaws may be established by the Board of Directors or adopted at a regular General Reunion.

**THIRD BATTALION, FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION**  
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