



THE THUNDERING THIRD

NEWSLETTER



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

Letter from the President

To All 3/4 Marines and Corpsmen,

It won't be long and Christmas will, once again, be upon us. Many of us will be busy with the Grandkids watching their happy faces as they tear into the packages that Old St. Nick has brought them. It's a joyous time of year and, Pam and I extend our best wishes to each of you and your families, for a most Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. May the future bring happiness, prosperity and good health along with the time to enjoy it all with your loved ones, and friends.

As you know, the Marine Corps recently celebrated its 233rd Birthday and I hope many of you were able to attend a Ball, or other celebration, in your area commemorating the occasion. I have just recently returned from Primm, Nevada attending the 3/4 Marine Corps Ball along with Jim Conklin. We had a great time meeting those young Marines, the Commanding Officer, and LtCol. William Visted; the Executive Officer, Major Kevin Norton; and the Battalion Staff Officers and Senior Enlisted. SgtMajor Walsh was very instrumental in securing us a couple of seats for the Ball and we really enjoyed visiting with everyone. Those young Marines are "SQUARED AWAY", "GUNG HO" and really showed us a good time.

I have been signing a lot of Membership Certificates so I know we are continuing to add members to our ranks. Some are new members, some are renewals of old members from years past and some are renewals of existing active members. Keep up the great effort to continue adding to our rolls. We need every active member we can get. Please continue to search for our Brothers and let them know the Association is alive and well, and encourage them to become 'active' members. We need to continue to grow the active membership in order to continue funding the various programs we face annually. We must continue to have a steady influx of funding for the steady outgo of money!

The "annual dues notifications" will be forthcoming after the first of the New Year but if you are paid up to the 2009 Reunion, you can wait until then to renew in San Diego. As was discussed, and approved, in the General Meeting in Savannah the Association has notified all members that anyone who does not keep their dues current will not receive a U.S. Postal mailed copy of the newsletter in the future. This is particularly important to those members who do not have computer access to the web-site and have not been 'paid' members in several years. The newsletter will continue to be available on the web-site for anyone to access. If you are able to read the newsletter online, please notify the Association that you no longer wish to receive the newsletter in the U.S. Mail. It will save us a lot of expense per year in mailing expenses. The association members will no longer continue to foot the bill for those "non-paid" member's newsletters. We have already reduced our postage expense to send out newsletters.

As we move toward the New Year, we have gotten information posted on the website regarding the 2009 Reunion in San Diego on Sept. 16th-20th. Pam, and I, look forward to seeing all of you in San Diego at the reunion. I am certain it will be a great one. Our Reunion Chairman, Frank Pedersen, has been working diligently getting the reunion activities set up and he has a well planned itinerary for us when we get there. It is attached in this newsletter void of cost per event. Frank is continuing to bargain on prices so we have not included them on the list. We will have that final list available in the Spring Newsletter and will send it out then as well as posting it on the website.

If you have not yet made your hotel reservations for the San Diego Reunion you should do so as soon as possible. Rooms will begin to go fast and we only have a limited amount set aside in our name. You should contact: **CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL & RESORT at phone number (1-888-233-9527) to make your reservation.**

We continue to have postings on the Association Website that are inappropriate by the rules established (by the membership) for using the site. I implore you to police yourselves BEFORE you hit that SEND button! Sometimes we think we are sending a response back to an individual and it ends up going to everyone across the website. If you intend your email posting or response to go to everyone, take just a minute to read what you are about to send out. If its content violates any of the items listed in our Website Trailer (which is attached to every email posting) then you should stop and either delete what is inappropriate or rephrase the content so as not to be in violation. Continuous violations are being dealt with quickly and severely. Please don't be one of those who get a suspension from using the website for not thinking ahead.

Semper Fi,
Roger Kimble
President

Chaplain's Corner

by Stan Beach

Eighteen persons connected to 3/4 attended a Marine Corps Birthday gathering in Leesburg, FL on 11 November. They represented service from 1966 - 2006. The latest, LCpl Wildman, was with Kilo in Iraq three times. Fryzowicz, Delano, Griggs and Hall were from Lima '66. Lou Menacho was from India '67; and Chaplain Beach from H&S '66. Special guests were Kimberly Acevedo and her husband - the daughter of Cpl Karl Schmidt, KIA 9/66 on Mutters Ridge - and Larry Goerke (Navy). Wives and friends joined the occasion for the traditional message from the Commandant, cake cutting ceremony, and toasts. Several others in the area were unable to attend this year, and It was later discovered that another Association member lived only 3 blocks from the restaurant; so another gathering is planned for next year!

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

Stan Beach Officially Appointed "Battalion Chaplain"

The Association now has an "official" Chaplain by the recent appointment of Stan Beach to that title. He has, since the conception of the Association, been fulfilling all those duties by what he called "default" but a great many members wanted to make it official. Stan has always voluntarily stepped forward to take on various tasks associated with a Battalion Chaplain and has gone far beyond that with numerous other activities as well. This appointment (though not an elected position) makes Stan our Battalion Chaplain in title and carries no additional voting privileges such as being on the Board Of Directors, Directors Committee or an Elected Officer to conduct Association business matters.

Please welcome me in congratulating Stan on his appointment and let's all step up and give him whatever assistance we can.

Roger Kimble

John Masterjohn has been appointed Assistant to the Chaplain and will provide much needed help to Chaplain Stan Beach with the duties he carries out for the Association. John graciously stepped forward and offered his services for the Chaplain. John now resides three miles from Chaplain Beach and will be a great asset to him as he continues in his performance of duties. A BIG Association "THANK YOU" to John for this unselfish act of kindness to assist.

Honorary Membership in the Association

If you are aware of anyone whom you feel qualifies for nomination as an "Honorary Member" in our Association, be sure to get the information submitted as soon as you are able so the Board of Directors can review each case and make their collective recommendation. Honorary Members are inducted at each reunion and we've had several attend the past three reunions. The BOD needs as much advance notification as possible in order to have the new Honoree's membership certificates prepared and framed for presentation.

In order to be considered, the nominee should meet the following criteria:

"individual's 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".

(**when giving consideration to nominee's it should be noted that 'rendering outstanding, or extraordinary service to the Third Battalion Fourth Marines Association' includes service to the families of deceased Marines, and is considered appropriate in that they actively served with the Battalion)

In addition to the nominee's name, address, phone number and email address please include a statement of the service(s) they have rendered that should be considered as the qualifier.

All nominations for Honorary Membership should be submitted to the Vice President, Bill Kalm and he will ensure that each is reviewed for proper criteria and then forwarded to the Board of Directors Committee for finalizing.

You can email Bill at: mike6bk@embarqmail.com

Marine Corps Ball with the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines

As previously mentioned, Jim Conklin and I, attended the 233rd Marine Corps Ball with the Battalion in Primm, Nevada on November 14th. And a grand Ball it was as you can see from the pictures taken of the Marines and their Ladies in attendance. We had a fine Prime Rib dinner after the usual ceremonies of posting the Colors and the cutting of the cake. We were privileged to meet the Commanding Officer, LtCol William Visted and his wife Sheri; Executive Officer, Major Kevin Norton and his wife Erika; the S3A, 1stLt Aloysius Boyle; CWO2 (Gunner) Gordon Hay and his wife Andrea; SgtMajor James Walsh and most of the officer staff and senior enlisted staff members as well as the Guest of Honor GySgt Nick Popaditch and his wife April. Many of the young Marines came to us and introduced themselves and welcomed us to the gala event. Everyone we talked with seemed genuinely proud that a couple of "Old Vietnam Vets" from 3/4 came to celebrate the Birthday with them. A few even wanted us to do some "shots" with them but we declined their generous offer since we had to drive back to Las Vegas later in the evening. However, they were all required to spend the night at the hotel so they could let their hair down freely. They were dancing and having a great time when Jim, and I, departed saying, "We're leaving this party to the younger generation". The Battalion has been "back home" only a month prior to the Ball and they were ready to turn loose and have some fun. And, believe me they DID!!

In talking with the CO, XO and SgtMajor we learned that the Battalion did not suffer any injuries during this last deployment. We also found out that their AO was some 2600 square miles of desert, a river and several large cities. They were spread really thin over there and were covering an area that would usually be 2-3 Battalions but due to recent pull down of military their AO grew exponentially.

The Guest of Honor was GySgt Nick Popaditch who previously served in Iraq with "B" Company, 1st Tank Battalion and was attached to 3/4 during Operation Freedom I when they seized Baghdad and tore down the famous Saddam Statue. He was seriously wounded when struck in the head by an enemy RPG and was later medically retired in June 2005. His awards include the Silver Star and Purple Heart. During the Gunney's speech he emphasized that those young Marines look at us Vietnam Vets as "a legacy that MUST be carried forth and will NOT be let down under any circumstance, on their watch; and that they must carry the torch higher in order to equal the lofty standards and accomplishments that we set for future Marines of 3/4 ". Judging from what I saw, and what I heard those Marines talk about, I can honestly say they have done us, and themselves, very proud and will continue do so on future deployments.

Several of the Marines stated that they would be coming to our Reunion in San Diego and also would be signing up as new members of the Association. I ensured them we would welcome them with "open arms" and wanted them to carry on the Association for us.

Roger



Bringing in the Cake for cutting



Marines & their Ladies on the dance floor



XO Major Kevin Norton and wife Erika



*LtCol. William Visted and Maj. Kevin Norton
with their wives*



Roger with LtCol William Visted and wife Sheri



Jim & Roger with GySgt Nick Popaditch



*Roger with LtCol. William Visted and
Maj. Kevin Norton and SgtMajor Walsh*

In Memoriam

I learned yesterday of the sudden death of former Lima Company Plt Cmdr (1966-1967) Larry Richards. Larry, Dan McCart, "Chick" Lord and I all went to VN together and returned together. Larry retired as a Colonel and lived with his wife Donna in Cary NC. Larry has 2 sons both USMC veterans, one still on active duty. Larry died of an apparent heart attack.

The funeral was on Saturday 11/29/2008 at 1PM. In keeping with Larry's wishes, he will be cremated and his ashes spread in the Atlantic next summer. The family requests donations in lieu of flowers to The Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund. The funeral will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 117 S. Academy St., Cary, NC 27511.

Sympathy cards can be sent to the family at: 102 Paladin Pl, Cary, NC 27513-1766; Tele 919-465-1350.

I would suggest that either Stan or Roger make a personal expression of sympathy. And, that a donation be made on behalf of the Association.

Additional details, travel assistance can be obtained from 3/4 Association member John Booth at boothj@aol.com, cell phone 919-673-3720.

Semper Fi old friend,

Jim Conklin

Notes on membership database and Web Site

If you have been receiving newsletters or dues notices in the mail you are rostered with the association. If you have an address change there is a link on the web site to change your address. Please don't use the MusterIn link which is for new members.

Also to keep up with membership in between reunions we have a Yahoo Groups link on the main web page <http://Thundering-Third.org/>

Semper fi
Dawg

Sex In The Shower Survey by Brut Aftershave

In a recent survey carried out for leading toiletries firm 'Brut', people from Detroit have proved to be the most likely to have had sex in the shower!

In the survey, 86% of Detroit's inner city residents said that they have enjoyed sex in the shower. The other 14% said they hadn't been to prison yet.

**Association Reunion – San Diego, CA.
Wednesday, September 16th
Through
Sunday, September 20th, 2009**

Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel and Resort
2270 Hotel Circle North
San Diego, CA 92108

Reservation Phone #: 1-888-233-9527 (**DO NOT** call any other number than this one, or your reservation may not get established correctly – if you have attempted to make reservations prior to now and used a different number it is suggested you confirm them at the number provided above)

Reservations Under: Third Battalion Fourth Marines

Website Address: <http://resweb.passkey.com/go/3bat4mar>

Room Reservation Cutoff: August 26, 2009

(If you reserve a room after this date you will be required to pay the FULL ROOM RATE established by the Hotel for this time of year – NO EXCEPTIONS!!)

Room Rate: \$115.00 per night + applicable taxes and fees (Note: You can obtain a room at this SAME RATE for additional days – 3 days prior and 3 days after the Reunion dates – for those who might want to stay longer to tour Southern California)

Hotel Parking: \$5.00 per day

Reunion itinerary: (Please Note: Some meal costs and bus transportation to events are still under negotiation and will be posted later)

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

8:00 am to 5:00 pm Hotel Check-in and Reunion Registration
6:00 pm to ??:?? pm VFW Steak Dinner (Cost under negotiation) - (Bus transportation to this event)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

8:00 am to 9:30 am Mt. Soledad Memorial Cross
10:00 am to 11:00 am Marine Corps Air Station Museum
11:00 am to 1:00 pm Lunch at the MCAS O-Club (Cost under negotiation)
1:30 pm to 4:30 pm USS Midway Museum (Bus transportation all day to these events)
Dinner is on your own

Friday, September 18, 2009

8:00 am to 9:30 am Breakfast at Mess Hall MCR (Cost under negotiation)
10:00 am to 11:30am Recruit Commencement Ceremonies at Marine Corps Museum
Lunch is on your own
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm Memorial Service at Base Chapel (Bus transportation all day to these events)
6:00 pm to 10:00 pm Royal Hawaiian Luau at the Hotel which includes a show
(Cost \$36.95 per person – this is a very nice meal and show)

Saturday, September 19, 2009

9:00 am to 10:00 am Board Of Directors Meeting
10:00 am to Noon General Meeting
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm Banquet Reception (Cash Bar)
7:00 pm to ??:?? pm Banquet Dinner (\$?:.?? per person)

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23 HAMPTON MEADOWS, HAMPTON, NH 03842



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Visit our website at:

<http://Thundering-Third.org>