



THE THUNDERING THIRD

NEWSLETTER



THIRD BATTALION, FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION

44 Old Marlborough Road, Maynard, MA 01754

Letter from the President

Dear Fellow 3/4 Marines:

What a time we had in Seattle. It was our second reunion on the West Coast and we were greeted with many new faces as well as more familiar ones. For those who were unable to attend we toured Fort Lewis, The USS Turner Joy (which, incidentally, played a central role in the Gulf of Tonkin incident) and the Naval Underwater Museum. The hospitality room was great, not only bringing us Marines camaraderie, but an unlimited supply of "true" war stories and, of course, lot of cold beer. I'd like to extend a hearty "thanks" to Jim Wright and his lovely wife, Elaine, for putting forth that extra effort that made this reunion run so smoothly. Everyone present confirmed it was the best ever. I'd also like to thank our guest speaker, Otis King, for remarkable stories of 3/4's heroic actions at Bataan and Corregidor.

Once again, the highlight of the reunion was the memorial service conducted by our own Chaplain Stan Beach. This year we were honored to be joined by Chaplain LtJG Bob Grove and GySgt Jean-Paul Courville, both on active duty with 3/4, who presented the dog tags of six recent KIA's from Iraq. Everyone's thoughts were fixed on past memories of those on this ever-growing list as the bagpipes played 'Amazing Grace'. We performed well our duty to preserve the memory of our fellow Marines who stood in harms way and paid the ultimate price. I believe our KIA's were standing tall with the rest of us at the Fort Lewis Main Chapel.

Minutes of the business meeting are contained inside this newsletter. But, there are some points I'd like to emphasize. First, I am honored to have been re-elected as Association President. I want to extend my 'thanks' to each and every one of you for your continued support and confidence in me. Congratulations also to "Doc" McNiff who was re-elected as Secretary and also to the new Directors. We also decided on a financial plan that will bring our technology up to date. Dennis "Reddawg" Thun volunteered to write a new program and we agreed to purchase computer equipment to provide "Doc" Cook and the other volunteers much need support.

We also voted to establish Association archives, so those of you wondering what to do with that old NVA cartridge belt, or that WWII Japanese sword can preserve them with us. Association Historian Steve Emanuel has agreed to maintain these archives and will find an acceptable container, which will be brought to future reunions for all to enjoy. Please remember to include a written explanation giving all pertinent details about each item. Additionally, Steve will establish a document file to preserve your war time recollections. Each of your are encouraged to write the details of your combat experiences and forward them to Steve who will store them in a retrievable format.

(Continued on page 3)

Honorary Membership

The following, presented here in its entirety, are the first ever Honorary Memberships bestowed by our Association. Roger Kimble, on behalf of the Board of Directors, delivered this speech during the banquet dinner at the 2003 Reunion in Seattle.

"I am privileged, and honored, to be here tonight sitting amongst so many hero's, and having been asked to make a very special presentation.....the very FIRST of its kind for our Association.

Quite some time back, soon after the last Quite Reunion (in Washington, D.C.) some of our membership were discussing various subject matters, and during the course of that discussion someone came up with the idea that it would be especially nice if the Association could somehow recognize those who had gone out of their way to make personal, unselfish contributions of a varying nature, to our organization.....someone whose dedication and commitment went "above and beyond", if you will.

As the discussion moved along it eventually took shape as an idea..... that the Association should bestow upon these kinds of people an "Honorary Membership" to the Third Battalion, Fourth Marine Association. It wasn't long before the Board of Directors became involved and over the next many months the 3rd Bn, 4th Marines "Honorary Membership" became a reality. A number of people came to mind of years past who had made an impact with their time, money or other generous gifts of a varying nature. People like Martha Raye, Floyd Patterson, Hugh O'Brien, and of course, the ever popular Bob Hope who have continuously supported troops with personal visits to war zones to entertain troops of all branches of the military and bring a little bit of "home" to them. The Third Bn, Fourth Marines had visits from some of these celebrities, while most of us were in Vietnam back in the '60's and '70's, (I particularly remember Floyd Patterson's visit). These celebrities, and numerous others, for many years have given freely of their time to boost the morale of troops all over the world.

While we felt their endeavors were very worthy of consideration, our discussions began to take on the flavor of a more "personal" nature..... some thing that had made a direct impact on the membership of the Association, rather than us being just a "part" of other circumstances. We also felt that bestowing an "Honorary Membership" status on people of the entertainment industry would not be taken as seriously as it would of someone who was "close to our hearts", someone we could talk to, someone we could shake hands with, someone we could directly involve in our Association someone whom WE knew "first hand" had a vested interest in our Association through their personal involvement.

Eventually two nominations were presented to the Directors Committee, who in turn reviewed the supporting information provided by the parties making the nominations. Both nominations were voted on and unani- mously accepted. Both of these recipients have, for many years and continue to do so today, unselfishly and generously given of their time, their finances, their moral and emotional support, their love to the surviving families of two of our fallen brothers from the Vietnam War. By doing so they have kept alive the memory of their friend and in one case, a cousin. If you recall, during the Memorial Service, when Chaplain Beach said "commit to telling your story to others, and to take action to insure that the ultimate sacrifice made by our friends, relatives and comrades not be forgotten". These couldn't be more fitting in keeping with that state- ment. Not only have these two recipients given of themselves to the families of these fallen brethren, but both have repeatedly attended the Association Reunions, standing in for those two young men who were killed in action.

(Continued on page 3)

Letter from the President (Continued from page 1)

Lastly, I'd like to mention that "Doc" Cook was awarded an NCO Parade Sword for the hours upon hours of unselfish assistance given this association over the past years. In the memory of a fallen Marine, "Doc" Cook returned the sword which will be presented in his name to a deserving NCO during this year's sword presentation.

By now, I am sure most of you are aware that San Antonio, Texas was selected by popular vote for the 2005 Reunion. Reunion Chairman, Larry Carpenter, is already hard at work and is planning a spectacular time in the 'Yellow Rose' State. Anyone in the area is requested to contact Larry to assist him. Hope to see you there!

Semper Fi,

Jim Conklin

Honorary Membership (Continued from page 2)

Now that I have let the "cat out of the bag", I will announce the names of the recipients and ask that they come forward and upon the stage.

Alphabetically, the recipients of the very first "Honorary Membership" of the Third Battalion, Fourth Marine Association are:

Mr. John Buehner

Mr. Gene Hansbauer

(Reading and presentation of Certificates of Honorary Membership to each recipient, individually.)

Gentlemen, let me be the first to congratulate you and welcome you as an "Honorary Member" of the Third Battalion, Fourth Marine Association.....this "Band of Brothers".....

In closing, I would like to offer my personal "thanks" to the Directors Committee for their continued indulgence with the many emails I sent them, their greatly valued comments and discussion regarding this matter. You helped make this happen quickly and efficiently and I appreciate that very much. I want to thank Mr. Mike Siebentritt who took the information that we passed along to him and produced these Citations and for obtaining all of the pertinent information on them in its proper perspective.

I would also like to thank Jim Conklin, President of the Association, for his patience and indulgence while the Directors Committee referred questions/comments to him and sought guidance; and, for giving me the honor of making these presentations.

Thank you....."

Members Information Sheet (attached) – Please fill out, and return, the Members Information Sheet. It is self-addressed on the back of the form. Just fold in thirds and put a stamp on it. This will only be used for Association purposes and will greatly help with the administration problems.

**3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINES ASSOCIATION
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE PERIOD 07/01/2001 – 06/30/2003**

(Note: This financial statement does not include all of the expenses incurred for the Reunion in Seattle, Washington - 2003)

CASH ON HAND 07/01/2001 \$19,729.65

RECEIPTS: 07/01/2001- 06/30/2003

Reunion	\$16,259.00	
Contributions received	4,024.00	
Membership dues	9,920.00	
PX Sales	6,619.80	
Advertising	49.20	
Interest earned	715.26	\$37,587.26

Total cash to account for: \$57,316.91

EXPENSES 07/01/2001-06/30/2003

REUNION EXPENSES

Arlington	\$15,467.32	
Seattle	1,355.49	
Inventory purchase	3,491.62	\$20,314.43

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Newsletter/dues notices	\$4,507.31	
Website	625.20	
Membership expenses	645.87	
Awards – NCO swords	756.57	
Postage/Shipping	549.74	
Bulk Mail Permit	400.00	
Office supplies/bank charges	158.17	
Battalion Care packages	796.99	
Other donations	1,827.43	\$10,267.28

TOTAL EXPENSES \$30,581.71

CASH ON HAND 06/30/2001 \$26,735.20

U.S. Bank checking account	\$6,658.30	
Wells Fargo Bank checking account	3,000.00	
U.S. Bank Certificate of Deposit	15,615.24	
FIRSTAR Money Market account	1,461.66	

CASH ON HAND 06/30/2003 \$26,735.20

Following are the Minutes from the reunion Business Meeting:

July 26, 2003

I. Treasurer's Report:

- Reunions are mostly self-sustaining
- We've had a \$6,000 increase in our income since the last reunion
- Present balance: \$26,000+

II. Technology:

- Our present system of newsletter preparation and mail out is archaic
- Update computer to a laptop with printer
- Software will handle email, address changes, track dues, labeling, ID card preparation
- Software must be user friendly
- Motion was made to allot \$5,000 to purchase laptop, printer, software and seek professional guidance for the type of software that will enable us to do all the things on our "shopping list"

III. Financial Future:

- Reviewed list of programs we are currently supporting and will continue to fund (helping 3/4 Vets who need financial assistance to attend reunions; Recognition of 3/4 members (the Active 3/4 with NCO Sword for "Outstanding NCO" and Association members who perform "above and beyond"); Mobility gifts (wheelchairs and basket-bikes for those with walking problems)
- Will fund other projects as they come to our attention and are of a "worthy" cause
- Motion was made to contribute \$532 to help fund Chuck Lear's trip to Spain to represent U.S. in archery competition; this amount will be added to cash donations to bring total amount to \$1,000; motion was passed unanimously

IV. 3/4 Archives:

- Pictures, letters, documents of any kind that members want to give to the Association to be a history of events and occurrences (be sure to include a narration of what it is and who it came from)
- Send to Steve Emmanuel (Battalion Historian); he will give us his address
- Write recollections of operations as recalled by the member; can be placed on the website
- USMC Heritage Museum; select items may be sent to them to perpetuate our battalion
- History of 3/4 via tape recordings; be sure to give name, unit, etc.
- Motion made to pursue this endeavor; passed

V. NCO Sword

- Presentation to the "Top NCO of Active 3/4"
- 29 Palms, California in November
- Any attendees must pay their own way
- Great reception by Officer's and Enlisted with much fanfare for vet's with stories to tell; everyone urged to attend if they can

VI. Awards

- Motion made by Jim Wright to create replica medals of the “Souchow Creek Medal”, originally cast in 1939/40
- To be awarded to members who give “outstanding service” to Association
- Cost for dye preparation is \$850 (we get to keep the dyes)
- Cost for preparation of each medal (in bronze) is \$12.50

VII. Elections

- Offices that require being filled:
 - President (4 year term)
 - Secretary
 - Board of Directors (need 4 replacements)
- Nominations:
 - Secretary – “Doc” McNiff (motion carried)
 - President - Jim Conklin (motion carried)
 - Recording Secretary – Roger Kimble (motion carried)
- Directors:
 - John Masterjohn (motion carried)
 - Jim Wright (motion carried)
 - Bill Kalm (motion carried)
 - Brad Fagerstrom (motion carried)

VIII. Reunion Site for 2005

- Nominations:
 1. Chicago (point man Gary Heinz); received 12 votes
 2. San Antonio (point man Larry Carpenter); received 38 votes
 3. Detroit (Carlos Saenz); received 1 vote
- Nomination for alternate site:
 - Savannah (motion passed)
 - NOTE: Wallace Shaw agreed to host the 2007 reunion in Savannah

IX. Change in By-Laws:

- Motion was made by Lee Bourne to change the selection process for reunion sites to extend the selections out by 4 years so that membership will know where reunions are being held in future; will enable host city “point man” to make some early preparations; Motion was carried

- X.** Charles “Charlie Brown” Wright gave a presentation for he is heading up; a memorial for Corpsmen, Nurses and Doctors. This project is for “National Medical Memorial” and Education Youth Center designed to educate young people for leadership roles, service to our country and about military history; requested contribution of \$1,000 from the Association; \$49 Million project; located in Kansas City, Missouri. Motion was withdrawn and Mr. Wright is to provide the Board of Director’s the details of the project which they will review and decide on the \$1,000 donation within 3 months (end of October).

XI. Pete Wymes, Atty (retired) (Lima Co.) gave a presentation regarding his role in sponsoring 3/4 veterans with obtaining legal counsel to obtain benefits if they are not getting them or if they are having trouble getting upgraded; member's should contact Pete direct for assistance.

XII. Major Whitney Mason gave a presentation on "Marine For Life"; a networking program designed and funded to help transition Marine's leaving the military and entering the private sector, this program puts Marines in touch with people in the private sector that can assist them in obtaining employment, housing, education, etc.; Member's interested in this program should contact their "hometown link" through the website: www.marineforlive.com or
Email: marineforlive@marinecorps.com

The following members should send an email to rdkimble@swbell.net so that he may contact you regarding Association issues (John Masterjohn, Jim Wright, Bill Kalm & Brad Fagerstrom).

Meeting was adjourned

Note from "Dawg" – We are falling back from using EZBoard as it wasn't easy enough to use. So, to get online back with Yahoo Groups you need to go to this link
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ThirdBnFourthMarines/>

Note of "Thanks" –The Association received letters from Mr. John Buehner and Mr. Gene Hansbauer, both of whom were made honorary members of our Association (see presentation elsewhere in this newsletter). Both men have friends and/or relatives who were killed while serving with 3/4 and attend the reunions in support of the Association in honor of their memory.

New Archives 3/4 Our Battalion Historian, Steve Emmanuel, has begun to assemble an archive of matters dealing with 3/4. You are encouraged to write down your experiences and send them to him at 60 Kenneth St., Newton Highlands, MA 02461-1942. You can send him any old souvenirs that you no longer wish to keep and he will log them in and store them. Please NOTHING EXPOSIVE!! If you happened to have sneaked an old Claymore home, and don't know what to do with it, DO NOT send it to Steve!! But, he will take anything non-explosive. You can also reach Steve online at s.emmanuel@juno.com. He is particularly interested in the Battalion Newsletters before 1967 and after 1968.

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 \$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.

Articles – Any member wanting to have an article, or interest item, included in the Newsletter please send your copy to me at the address on the top of this Newsletter. You may include photo's, old or new.

Membership Information

During the Business Meeting at the Seattle Reunion we voted to update our computer capacity in both hardware and software. All members, whether you are on-line (internet), or not, are asked to complete the following questionnaire and return it to the address on the back of the form. Simply fill it out, fold in into thirds, put a stamp on it (staple or tape it closed) and stick it in the mail.

***THIS INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR ASSOCIATION PURPOSES ONLY
AND WILL NOT BE SHARED WITH ANYONE ELSE.***

Prefix _____

First Name _____

Middle Name _____

Last Name _____

Address

City

State _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

Country _____

Membership status (Circle) A = Active; I = Inactive (non dues paying); N = Non-member

Date joined Association

Dues Due Date _____ (leave blank) _____

Membership type (Circle) L = Life; R = Regular; H = Honorary

Date(s) attached to Battalion _____

Company(s)

Special Awards (MOH, NC, SS)

Miscellaneous Info _____

Welcome to Seattle



THE THUNDERING THIRD

23-28 July 2003









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See our special "pull out" section of the Seattle Reunion.

