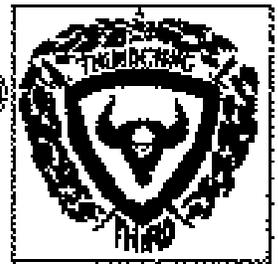




THE THUNDERING THIRD NEWSLETTER



THIRD BATTALION, FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION

44 Old Marlborough Road, Maynard, MA 01754

Letter from the President

Dear Fellow 3/4 Marines:

It is hard to believe that we're already into 2003. Time sure seems to pass quickly these days, totally unlike the 13 months spent in Vietnam. We are down to only six months before reunion 2003 in Seattle. We have been busy preparing for this reunion so, let me take the opportunity to remind you, to begin making arrangements to attend. Chairman, Jim Wright has done a terrific job and planned some exciting events. This reunion is shaping up to be the best ever, and our association is rapidly growing. Your attendance is important, so plan to attend.

Make your plans early and mail in the pre-registration form you will find attached. This accomplishes two things. First, you save money by getting cheap airfares, etc., and the reunion committee can make advance plans, as well. We will need to estimate numbers in order to accurately complete the schedule. Look inside for additional information and the scheduled events.

Take a few minutes today to call the Doubletree Hotel, Seattle Airport at 1-206-246-8600
Or 1-800-222-TREE. Be sure to request the 3/4 reunion rate of \$79 per night.

Once again this year, I have approved association funds to be used to assist anyone suffering from a severe financial hardship. I want all of us to attend so I have earmarked \$3,000.00 to assist with hotel rooms of those in need. Chaplain Beach has without hesitation agreed to monitor this program once again. Remember that this program is totally unanimous and no one other than Chaplain Beach will know the names of those who request help. Those interested contact the Chaplain for more details.

Additionally, we will vote for a new financial plan which the Directors have put together and also vote for some officer positions. The president's position that I have held for 6 years will be up for re-election. Anyone interested in running please submit your name and come prepared to present a short platform.

I don't need to remind you that we're not getting any younger, so lets make this the most memorable reunion ever. Contact old and new members, search out old foxhole mates and plan to attend. Please fill out the attached form and give Wright as much help as possible.

Thanks for your cooperation and we'll see you in Seattle.

Semper Fi,
Jim Conklin

Report of the Reunion

Here's the latest,

Because of training commitments the Ranger company can't confirm their offer. So We will take a pass on that. It's too bad because they are really an outstanding bunch of young men. I'll try to arrange something smaller with them but won't know till later.

Wednesday

Arrival day and registration, Hospitality Room.

Thursday

Fort Lewis Drive Around Tour and Possibly a display of Equipment and Capabilities by the 2d Infantry Division.

Memorial Service at Main Chapel

Luncheon at American Lake Club, Cost Approximately 12.00 per person.

Ft. Lewis Military Museum Tour and Access the PX.

Bus for the day about 10.00 each.

Friday

Leave at 0800 for the Ferry to Bremerton and the USS Turner Joy, The Turner Joy was one of the Ships that was involved in the "Gulf of Tonkin" incident where US Ships were attacked by NVA Torpedo boats.

Bremerton Shipyard Museum (Adjacent to the Turner Joy) Cost 7.00 for adults 6.00 children. A Harbor tour of the mothball fleet can be taken from the Turner Joy.

Luncheon at the Evergreen Club Cost about 12.00 per person. I'll know more and have hard numbers after I have a face-to-face with the catering officer.

Tour to the Naval Underwater Museum at Bangor, A look at the Undersea Service history and Displays. (Way Cool Place)

Possibly a presentation by the Folks in the Marine Detachment at Bangor, I'm talking with the Smaj there.

Return to hotel.

Saturday

Association Meeting at the Hotel 0900 to 1100

Banquet in the PM. Our guest speaker for this year will be Sergeant Otis (Karl) King who was a member of the 3d Battalion 4th Marines on Corrigidor.

Otis H. (Karl) King
4th Marines, 3rd Bn, "L" Co.

Enlisted in Marine Corps at age 14 in San Francisco, 13 weeks boot-camp. First duty station - Prison chaser at Mare Island Naval Prison (15 yrs., old). June 1940 transferred to Asiatic Station aboard USS Chaumont. Duty in Tientsen China and Philippines at Cavite Navy Yard. TDY to staff of Admiral Thomas Hart, CNC Asiatic Fleet. (Intelligence section)

Drove to Bataan with Ike Williams in a hot-wired one star Generals staff Car. Combat on Bataan during the battle of Longaskakayan Point and the battle of the Big Pocket. Corredidor 10 April to 6 May. Shot down Jap Zero with air cooled 50. Salvaged from Navy PBX. Bronze Star, 2 Purple Hearts, Presidential unit citations and more 3 1/2 years POW Japan. Conducted sabotage operations against Japanese while POW. Released from POW Camp 29 August 1945, returned to states 2-Sep 45. Honorable, Medical, discharge 1947.

Broadcast Journalist 1947-1972. Major stories covered include Kennedy Assassination & Ruby Trial for UPI Audio; BA in Journalism 1984, TCU. One son, deceased; a daughter; two grandsons and one great-granddaughter. Subject of book: The siege Bataan and Corregidor—The Alamo of the Pacific-- Defended by The Forgotten Warriors of WWII—The Battling Bastards of Bataan and how they continued the battle from behind barbed wire through sabotage operations.

Pike place market and Pioneer Square. Buses will leave from hotel and return (A schedule will be posted later)

Cost? - not sure right now.

Pike place market is a sight to see, street vendors, musicians and various and assorted odd people fun place. Pioneer Square is an area with nice shops and is the old part of downtown Seattle. There is a Goldrush Museum, a Underground Seattle tour and coffee shops and Jazz clubs.

Also a bus to the local Mall for those who need a Mall fix can be arranged.

For those who want to make the trip to Victoria B.C. I will make arrangements for them to take the Clipper to Victoria and return the same day. Arrangements can be made for any day except the first day. (Wednesday) But be aware, this will be a long day and the cost is at this time 95.00 per person round trip fare. Victoria is a piece of England transplanted to the American continent and is a fun day. High Tea at the Victoria Hotel is a real trip, Jacket and ties are required.

Also, for those who want to stay over longer, the Seattle Seafair will take place the following week. The fleet will be in and the Blu Angels will fly over, there will be an Unlimited Hydroplane race at the end of the Week and a Parade on the Starting day.

To make Hotel Reservations Call:

1-800-222-TREE (5433)

tell them that you are with the 3d Battalion 4th Marines Reunion and the SRP is MCB.

Contact me at (206)878-3325 (I have Voice mail) if you have any pressing and important questions, I will return your call if you leave me a number. My email address is gunner312@qwest.net. Feel free to email me. I will answer all emails. I need to know who is coming so I can arrange the bus transportation. So please fill out the form and mail it to me along with a 25.00 deposit. Make checks payable to the 3d Battalion 4th Marines Association. Deposits will be returned if you don't attend. They will be applied to your attendance fees.

I will update again later if possible. Rest assured marines, this will be a good reunion.

Semper Fidelis

Jim Wright
India Battery
1964-1966 Hawaii and RVN

SIGN UP SHEET
PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN TO
JIM WRIGHT
3 605 S. 21st St.
Kent, WA 98032

The following information will be helpful in ordering busses, reservations, etc. Please fill out and return ONLY to the address above. Enclose a \$25.00 deposit (refundable if you don't attend) which will be applied to your attendance fees. Make checks payable to the Third Battalion Fourth Marines Association.

Name.....No. attending reunion.....

Day One

Hosted by the 2nd Ranger battalion. Display of Ranger equipment and capabilities (may be discontinued due to duty requirements). Tour of Fort Lewis Military Museum. Memorial Service at the Main Chapel. Lunch at O club. Return to hotel.

Number attending.....

Day Two

Choice of Seattle Tour, Pike Place Market, Seattle Center or ferry to Victoria B.C. and spend the day there (ferry leaves VERY early)

Seattle tour No. attending..... Pike Place Market No. attending.....
Seattle Center No. attending..... Victoria B.C. No. attending.....

Day Three

Ferry to Bremerton, tour of the USS Turner Jay (Museum ship) and Bremerton Naval Shipyard Museum. Bus to Naval Underwater Warfare Museum at Sub Base Bangor, WA.
No. attending.....

Day 4

Meeting and banquet

No. adults attending banquet..... No. of children attending banquet.....
(Kids 12 and under are free)

Day 5

Departure

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHAGRIN FALLS, OH
44022
PERMIT#141

THIRD BATTALION, FOURTH MARINE ASSOCIATION
44 Old Northburgh Road, Maynard, MA 01754



Old Friends and Comrades in Arms

Almost thirty-five years after serving with India Co, 3/4 in Vietnam, Doc McNiff and Sergeant John Temple were reunited for lunch at the Publik House in Sturbridge, Ma. "He hadn't changed much," McNiff said. "I'd have known him anywhere. And he still is one of the best Marines I ever knew."

