



Newsletter of "The Ghost Battalion"

Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn 1st Marines

www.FirstMarines.org



Volume 17 Issue 2

June 2019

Officers & Trustees

Message from the President



Members, Family and Friends of 2/1

Since the inception of V V 2/1, which started to take its present form at the time of the Vietnam Wall dedication, we were designated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit by the IRS. Our standards and by-laws were established and since then the officers and trustees [staff] have matured into a competent and dedicated working group. The organization has matured.

Initially, the President ruled with almost dictatorial authority. The other Officers and Trustees deferred all final decisions to the President. That was not the fault of anyone, it was just that there was no rule book for the staff to adhere to. Over time the staff has taken on more responsibility and authority. I do not believe that the President should make all the final decisions. I can make the yea's or nay's. But I believe the responsibility for the recommendations should come from the staff. We have 9 voting Board members and one non-voting adviser / liaison.

Therefore, I have proposed the following for the functions of the Officers / Trustees to allow them to work as a team and have more overall responsibility for the routine and special functions of V V 2/1. [Think of this as a Battalion staff].

President [CO]. Responsible for everything that occurs or does not occur.

Vice President [XO]. The Vice President is the principal staff officer and has executive management for direction and coordination of routine and special assignments, and ensures efficient and timely staff actions.

All other Officers and Trustees function as Special Staff Officers in their respective positions / responsibilities. They normally receive direction from the Vice President and report to the Vice President on routine matters and assignments. However, each is also responsible for the specific office to which elected / assigned / assumed.

I envision this approach to foster a closer working relationship among all of the Officers / Trustees such that several work together on issues or projects. An example was when several worked with Gary on the Reunion Registration form.

Bruce provided materials for Jose on the flag display, guidons, and ceremonial music. Jesse receives assistance in the functioning of the hospitality room. [It would be great if he had someone or several - assisting throughout the planning and set up / tear down; not just during the reunion which does not require an officer / trustee.]

Working together from start to completion adds depth to our ability to maintain what we have accomplished and to improve it. This is how it should be. I believe we can do more together than as individuals.

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San Diego Reunion November 7-11, 2019

Once again, VV 2/1 returns to San Diego for our annual reunion. The venue is the Crowne Plaza Mission Valley Hotel where we gathered in November 2015. The hotel is pleasantly decorated and landscaped, giving a tropical feel to the property.

Room rates are \$125.00 a night based on double occupancy with discounted buffet breakfast vouchers at \$6.00 per person a day, tax and tip included. Full priced breakfast buffet costs are \$20 per person daily.

V V 2/1's Reunion Group Reservation code is: **V V B**

On a first-come-first-served basis, the hotel has provided a special rate for suites, which consist of a bedroom and a parlor and are on the upper floors of the hotel. Normally a suite would be \$450.00 a night. The discounted suite rate for the 2019 Reunion is \$270.00 a night, plus tax and fees. Make your reservations for these suites directly with the hotel reservation personnel.

Our banquet meal will be a choice of the following selections:

- Sliced and Grilled Tri-Tip (London Broil for those raised in the Eastern States)
- Grilled Chicken
- Baked Salmon
- Mushroom Ravioli

Entrée accompaniments will be a tossed green salad with assorted dressings, seasonal vegetables, rolls and butter. Coffee and decaffeinated coffee, hot and cold tea will also be served.

VV 2/1 will provide our custom Reunion Cakes for dessert.

Meals are priced at \$60.00 each. Selections must be given to the kitchen 72 hours in advance of the banquet (Midday Thursday November 8, 2019).

There will be three cash bars at the beginning of the Banquet Happy Hour (doors open at 5:30 PM), which will be reduced to two as the banquet begins and the drink demands slow as we dine.

For those who will drive to the 2019 Reunion and stay at the Crowne Plaza, reduced parking costs will be \$5.00/day with in-and-out privileges. Reunion attendees who do not stay in the hotel will be charged \$5.00 daily with no in-and-out parking privileges.

At the 2018 Reunion in New Orleans, VV 2/1 provided each attendee with a custom Reunion ID badge and 2/1 lanyard. We will do the same in San Diego. Please bring your Reunion ID and lanyard to San Diego. If you need one made, or want a change to your existing one, notify Tim Dunn by email (timothydunn@comcast.net) and provide your name, years served with 2/1, the company you served with, your nickname, or rank, or job (rifleman, supply, corpsman, etc.). Also provide the name of your spouse or guest for their Reunion ID badge.

Milwaukee 2020 Reunion

VV 2/1 is in the planning stages for our 2020 Reunion in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to be held in mid-September of that year. In our 2018 Business Meeting in New Orleans, we discussed holding our reunions at different times of the year from the usual November 10th and 11th dates.

Milwaukee was selected as an off-schedule location for 2020 due to the city's aggressive winter temperatures, but more importantly, to try to attract our Northern Midwest brothers who don't often attend our reunions.

We have also engaged a hotel site consultant to assist us with finding suitable reunion hotels.

Ms. Barbara Ozenbaugh of Avery Murphy will assist VV 2/1 in our hotel search for Milwaukee (and if it proves successful for future sites). Barbara is married to a retired Master Gunnery Sergeant and knows intimately the demands of Marine veterans. Her services are of no cost to VV 2/1. She is compensated by the hotel and our room and banquet rates are not elevated due to her services.

Milwaukee offers a great number of attractions to reunion attendees, such as brewery and distillery tours, unique neighborhoods to tour, many museum and mansion tours, the Harley Davidson factory, a great nightlife and music scene, and a varied selection of food and dining offerings. Please visit www.visitMilwaukee.org for a more in-depth review of the city's variety.

This September several board members will conduct an on-site inspection of several hotels identified as potential reunion sites. When selecting reunion hotels, VV 2/1 has a criteria list that must be satisfied before signing a contract with a property. The most important criteria are: the capability to feed 300 plus reunion attendees in the same hotel where we hold our reunion; free or discounted breakfast vouchers; free or discounted on-site parking; the ability to provide our own beverages and snacks in our designated hospitality suite; adequate room for a Battalion PX; comfortable sleeping rooms; and room vouchers to raffle to our attendees as an attendance reward.

Once the VV 2-1 hotel recon team concludes their on-site inspections, a hotel will be selected and a contract for the 2020 Reunion will be signed. The hotel selection and dates will be posted to the membership in a subsequent newsletter.

Washington, DC 2021 Reunion

The By-Laws governing VV 2/1 mandate that a reunion will be held in the Washington, DC metro area every four years. Our next Washington, DC Reunion will be in 2021. As a group, we have often discussed visiting Washington, DC other than in November.

VV 2/1 is proposing our next Washington, DC Reunion to coincide with the 8th & I Marine Barracks Parade Season to give an opportunity to those who have never experienced an Evening Parade to see that pageantry. The Parade Season begins in early May (2019 schedule is 3 May to 30 August). Groups are limited to 200 persons and advanced reservations are required. We will further define dates and attendance in subsequent newsletters. We will use Avery Murphy for our hotel selection and identify other excursions for that reunion. Stay tuned for further news.

Member Contact Information

The Trustees of VV 2/1 need your help in staying in touch with our membership. Many of the member addresses, emails and telephone numbers on our membership roster are no longer valid. As we organize for our annual reunions, it often becomes necessary to reach a member by email or telephone. If your contact information has changed in the last few years, please send us your new information so we may keep our membership roster current in order to better communicate and serve the membership of VV 2/1.

Updates can be sent to:

Vinnie Burdziuk – Vin@FirstMarines.org

Tim Dunn – timothydunn@comcast.net

Tony Kilroy – fox1alfa@aol.com

Congratulations Doc Bob Adams

Doc Bob Adams Received Broyles Award April 28, 2019



THE LIEUTENANT WILLIAM BROYLES AWARD

named for the Vietnam veteran and screenwriter of *"Flags of Our Fathers," "Jarhead," "Apollo 13," "Castaway,"* and *"Khe Sanh,"* is given to a playwright or screenwriter for a dramatic work dealing with U.S. Marine Corps heritage or Marine Corps life.

★ *This year's recipient is Robert M. Adams*

For his play *Place of Angels* which chronicles Bob's year in Vietnam from February 1968 to February 1969 serving as a combat hospital Corpsman with Gulf Company, 2nd Battalion, First Marines in Northern I Corps.

PLACE OF ANGELS

by

Bob Adams

© 2000
Bob Adams
2096322 North
Chicago

Congratulations to Robert M. (Doc) Adams on receiving the Marine Corps Heritage Foundations' Bill Broyles Award in recognition of his memoir **Place of Angels**, an autobiography of Doc's time in Vietnam. Doc served as a corpsman with Gulf Company 2nd Battalion 1st Marines in 1968 and 1969. The award, which comes with a check and an engraved Marine Corps Heritage Foundation medal, is a recognition of an original work of drama under the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Letters and Arts category. Doc Adams and other recipients of Marine Corps Heritage Foundation awards were recognized at a black tie affair on April 27, 2019 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Doc Adams is also a founder and driving force of the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton, Illinois. Congratulations Doc on a job well done!

Camp LeJeune Water Contamination Concerns

In past newsletters we wrote about the Camp LeJeune water concern for those who were stationed there pre and post-Vietnam service between the 1950s and the 1980s. Without belaboring the discussion, the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will administer a blood test to evaluate whether a veteran or family member may have been exposed to the contaminants of that local drinking water. The blood test is a simple procedure and is recommended to all who were stationed at Camp LeJeune. If you are hesitant to use the VA for the procedure, contact your local health care professional (doctor, nurse, physician assistant) and ask them to perform the blood test and analysis. The results of the test will provide you (and your family members who may have been in residence with you at camp LeJeune) with the confirmation that you are clear of the symptoms, or that further health care may be required.

Memorial Bricks Make a Long Lasting Gift



Its never too late to purchase your Memorial Bricks... They will be placed with our Monument at the Marine Corps Heritage Center Museum. For a donation of \$300, your name, or that of someone you wish to honor or remember, will be engraved on a brick lining our Monument in the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park overlooking the Museum's awesome structure.



Memorial Bricks - Enclose One Form for Each Brick Ordered

ENGRAVED MEMORIAL BRICKS

A double row of Engraved Memorial Bricks line the pathways of the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park, National Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico, VA. Additionally, approximately 450 bricks were placed around our monument and are available for engraving. To date 176 of these had been sold. Each engraved brick honors the donor or another person. Each brick costs \$300 and you may order as many as you like.

Vietnam Veterans of 2d Bn. 1st Marines will continue to sell bricks as long as there is space to place them at our monument. The museum installs bricks several times a year. We will submit brick orders to the museum in groups to coincide with their ordering and installation pattern.

Bricks must be paid for at the time of the order. Make check or money order payable to V V 2/1.

Engraving is limited to 3 lines of 20 characters each. A character includes all letters, punctuations and spaces. Each line must end with a full word or name (words and names will not be hyphenated and continued on the next line.

Memorial Brick Inscription (1 form for each brick ordered.)

Order Placed By:

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____ **Middle Initial:** _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Signature: _____

Payment Information: **Date:** _____ **Amount Paid:** _____

Authorized By: _____ **Date:** _____

**Send this form along with payment made out to: Vietnam Veterans 2nd Bn 1st Marines
Mail to: DALE WILLIAMS - 225 HEIN DR - CLAYTON, NC 27527-5270**

San Diego Reunion 7 –11 November 2019

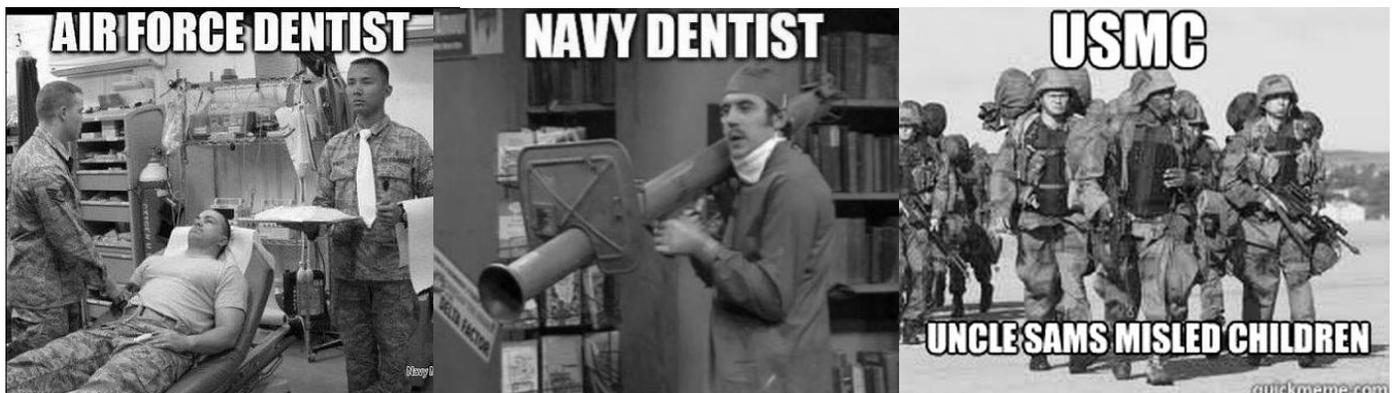
Crowne Plaza Hotel San Diego California

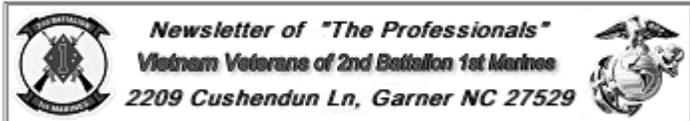


Fly into San Diego International Airport (SAN)
3225 N Harbor Dr, San Diego 92101

Distance to Hotel 5.8 Miles or 15 Minutes

CROWNE PLAZA SAN DIEGO 2270 HOTEL CIRCLE NORTH, SAN DIEGO, CA 92108





2019 Reunion San Diego, CA November 7 - November 11

**Crowne Plaza Hotel
2270 Hotel Circle North
San Diego, CA 92108**

Call 7am to 1100pm EST # 888-233-9527

****To guarantee the room rate be sure to identify yourself as part of the group
Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Battalion 1st Marines "Reservation Code: V V B"***

**Room Rate \$125.00 - breakfast voucher \$6 a day includes tip & tax
Three or more in a room there will cost an additional cost per person**

Parking is \$5 a day

Vietnam Veterans of 2ND BN 1st Marines is Tax Exempt under IRS 501(c)3 Non-Profit