



Newsletter of "The Ghost Battalion"

## Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn 1st Marines

[www.FirstMarines.org](http://www.FirstMarines.org)



Volume 12 Issue 2

December 2014

Officers & Trustees

### Memorial Plaques Approved by Our Membership for Camp Horno



From Dale Williams

At this year's business meeting the proposal to place plaques listing and honoring the members of our battalion that lost their lives in Vietnam was approved. The plan approved places a plaque for each company in the 1<sup>st</sup> Marines Memorial Garden at Camp Horno, the current home of 1<sup>st</sup> Marines aboard Camp Pendleton. The plaques will be dedicated during next year's reunion being held in San Diego in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 2/1 deploying on 4 August 1965. The estimated cost of the plaques is \$17,000. Extras such as renting buses for the trip from San Diego to Camp Pendleton could run as much as \$10,000. We have \$10,000 in the monument account so we need to raise the remaining \$17,000 to fund the entire project.

The battalion's losses were at total of 561 Marines and Corpsmen. This information has been provided by the Coffeld Data Base, the same data base that provided the data for the Vietnam Memorial (The Wall) in Washington. H&S lost 43, Echo 108, Foxtrot 176, Golf 117 and Hotel 116. Twenty-five of the 561 are Corpsmen, they are included in the company where they were a casualty, not in the H&S total where they were administratively assigned. There is one Marine, Stephen Bullard, which does not have a company listed. We are researching his record at The National Archives.

There will be at least two plaque sizes; Foxtrot will be larger than the others for obvious reasons. The H&S plaque will be in the center and contain the dedication. All will be of cast bronze with raised letters listing the rank, name and casualty date of each of the 561 Marines and Corpsmen.

**You can make your donation on our homepage [www.FirstMarines.org](http://www.FirstMarines.org)  
Or send your donations to:**

**Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Bn 1st Marines, Memorial Monument Fund  
778 Silverado Estates, Chico CA 95973**

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**Presidents Message**

Brothers, Families and Friends,

With the 2014 reunion behind us, your officer's and trustee's want to thank you, our 2/1 family, for your continuing support and encouragement on our efforts to make our annual gatherings the best they can be. In the last ten years we've come a long ways thanks to all of you, whether you are able to make reunions or are able to follow us on the web page or Newsletter, and your trustees want you to know that the association's growth is because of all of you. Thanks for supporting your 2/1 association.

As you can probably tell from the pictures posted to the website, ([www.FirstMarines.org](http://www.FirstMarines.org)) as well as a lot of facebook pages and such, our Charleston reunion was full of good times and experiences.

The trip to Parris Island proved to be a homecoming for some, and eye opening experience for others and a great time for all. Best estimates are that there were somewhere in the area of 175 of us that took the hour and a half journey to the hallowed place where Marines are made and the time spent seemed to satisfy everyone's expectations. For some it was watching the graduation of both men and women Marines, to others it was wandering around old territory and sharing their time with the sand fleas and boot camp in general. And for a few, especially the ladies, getting 'acquainted' with a Drill Instructor's bellow while standing on yellow footprints was the highlight of a very enjoyable day.

On Saturday we participated in the city of Charleston Veterans Day Parade and we certainly made our presence known. While most of the other parade participants marched and did the usual parade thing, your 2/1 brothers and families not only did the parade thing, they managed to spend the entire route walking from one side of the street to the other shaking hands and hugging everyone wearing a military cap or clothing. We were a real herd out there, but everyone had a good time. Thanks to the Charleston VA Hospital for hosting the lunch for the community. And a special thanks to Master Gunnery Sergeant Frank Odzimowski for his excellent contribution as our Battalion's 'transportation officer'. Thanks Top.

As usual, the Hospitality suite was the go to place for camaraderie and good family atmosphere. It seemed to be full most of the time and good cheer was the order of the day. The attendance by company was close this year, with Echo and Golf out pacing Foxtrot with their 32 each signing the company roster to the 31 for Fox. Hotel and H&S were not far behind.

The annual business meeting was well attended and there were a couple of items on the agenda that all will be pleased to know. The membership voted to have a series of plaques with the names of all of our KIA's made and dedicated at the 2015 reunion in San Diego. These plaques will be permanently placed at the Memorial Garden located at Camp Horno the Home of the 1st Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton. The association has a little over ten thousand dollars left over from the funds raised for the monument we dedicated at the National Museum of the Marine Corps last year and it will be applied to towards the cost of the plaques honoring our KIA's. We will need to raise and additional seven thousands dollars to complete the project. Details on contributing will be in the next Newsletter.

In addition the membership voted to hold our 2016 reunion back in San Antonio, Texas and we will have those details as the hotel selection process progresses.

The 2015 reunion planning is already in the works and registration information is posted to the website; [www.FirstMarines.org](http://www.FirstMarines.org) but the short version is as follows;

The 2015 reunion will be held in San Diego California from 05 November thru 09 November. The location is the Crowne Plaza Hotel San Diego located on Hotel Circle. The room rate is \$105.00 + tax, including buffet breakfast. The rate is for 3 days prior and 3 days after our reunion schedule.

This reunion is a big one folks, it represents the 50th year of our Battalion's deployment to Vietnam in August of 1965, so try do to all you can to make it.

Semper Fidelis, Paul Mangan

San Diego Reunion 5 –9 November 2015

Crowne Plaza Hotel San Diego California



CROWNE PLAZA San Diego. 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108

**MAKING RESERVATIONS**

A dedicated website is now available for our attendees to book their hotel rooms online.  
Reservations can be made at this web address:

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/2ndBattalion1stMarines>

**Reunion Dates are November 5 to November 9, 2015**

The room rate is \$105.00 and **includes complimentary buffet breakfast**. Three or more in a room will cost an additional \$10.00 per person. The main thing is that you mention our group reservation info when you call in for reservations.

\*Rate will be available until October 14th 2015

\*Call in reservations hours are from 7am-11pm EST **1-888-233-9527**

**\* Ask for the "Vietnam Vets 2nd Battalion 1st Marines" room rate when calling.**

**Memorial Bricks - Enclose 1 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. As of the dedication, 151 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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 VV 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:

Name: [LAST] \_\_\_\_\_ [FIRST] \_\_\_\_\_ [Middle Initial] \_\_\_\_\_.

Address[1]: \_\_\_\_\_.

Address[2]: \_\_\_\_\_.

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Received \_\_\_\_\_ [In Full / 4 Payments]

Authorized by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form along with payment made out to Vietnam Veterans of 2d Bn 1<sup>st</sup> Mar to:

**Dale Williams 121 Shadow Brook Dr. Jacksonville, NC 28546**

## Memorial Bricks Make a Long Lasting Gift



It's 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.



### FROM THE WEBMASTER

We have received so far 600 pictures from our Charleston Reunion. If you have pictures you would like to share from the reunion please send them to me by email at: [Vin@FirstMarines.org](mailto:Vin@FirstMarines.org) or by CD if you have a lot of them to my home at: **Vin Burdziuk PO Box 685 Hanson MA 02341.**

I am looking forward to seeing your photographs and would be honored to post them on our website. To see the pictures already on-line visit our website at: [www.FirstMarines.org](http://www.FirstMarines.org) and click on the Reunion Info & Pic's (Good Conduct Medal) Ribbon.



### LOOKING FOR HELP

I have a couple of friends that served, one with 1/5 during Hue City battle with Ron Christmas and the other in the navy during our era. They lost a friend that was KIA with Fox 2/1 on operation Union in April 1967. There're trying to find anyone who may have known PFC Maurice O'Callaghan. He is listed just below Gary Martini on our roll of honor. Semper Fi, Bruce Oliver (Ollie) [olliegolf21@gmail.com](mailto:olliegolf21@gmail.com)

### Gary Gordon



One foot down. One foot up. One year down and another year coming up. Time marches on. It is at the end of this year that I would like to give pause to remember our Brothers who got reassigned to a new unit this past year. May they rest in peace.

I hope that most of you enjoyed the changes made to improve our functions at our last reunion this year. As you may have come to expect, we, the VN 2/1 Board, are not going to stop trying to improve the services we offer our membership. As we have more and more people attending our reunions it becomes necessary to have a better idea of how many people will be attending ahead of time so that transportation and meal counts can be optimized. This saves the organization money and relieves some stress from your hard working board. More will be said by others in regards to an effort we will make to pre-register and pre-pay as much as we can in upcoming reunions.

We collected the very positive suggestions offered by the membership and have already started to move forward with many of them. One area that I will be focused on this year is to continue to keep our Membership Roster updated and will add new efforts to seek out our comrades who have not joined us or even know we exist as an organization. I collected a few names of individuals who offered to assist in this mission. I now ask that if anyone else who may have the time and desire to work in a "Buddy Search" committee to please send me an email. It would be useful to have basic computer skills and excess to Microsoft Excel or some related format on their computer. Related to this, several folks mentioned knowing of web sites that may have old unit rosters and the like. If anyone has a good site that may have this type of information please send it my way.

It is my wish that you all have a healthy and truly happy New Year to come.

Respectfully, Gary Gordon, Trustee  
**glgordon21@yahoo.com**

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#### THE ACCLAIMED VIETNAM MEMOIR VIDEO "PLACE OF ANGLES IS AVAILABLE ON DVD

The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans is pleased to announce the video featuring actor Jeff Still of an autobiographical account written by Bob Adams experience as a Navy Corpsman during the Vietnam War as he sought to care for wounded Marines. Amid a conflict that was both horrifying and exasperating is now available on DVD for a minimum \$25 donation +shipping with proceeds benefiting the agency's programs:

If you would like to obtain a DVD visit: [http://www.helpaveteran.org/place\\_of\\_angels\\_purchase.htm](http://www.helpaveteran.org/place_of_angels_purchase.htm)

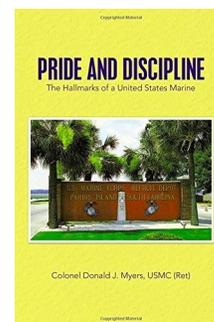
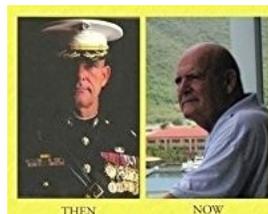
Doc Adams co-founder of MSHV was member Bruce Oliver's Corpsman  
 "2/1 Marine Doc Adams" [llnrma321@aol.com](mailto:llnrma321@aol.com)

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#### THE BOOK ABOUT PARRIS ISLAND THAT COLONEL DUNCAN RECOMMENDS

Author: Colonel Don Myers  
 Book: Pride and Discipline  
 Published By: Trafford Publishing

Available on Amazon or by calling 1-888-232-4444



**Secretary's Report from Ben Dickson****Vietnam Veterans of 2/1  
Annual Members Meeting****9 November 2014  
Charleston, SC**

The members meeting was a big success and very well attended. Over 70 members attended and we had 12 first timers. The board would like to thank all who gave input and we appreciate the participation of everyone. This is your organization and we serve to bring you the best time at the best prices. Thanks to all who helped out, made donations, and to the families who attended. Please contact me if you hear of anyone who would like a hard copy and I will make it available to them. Thanks for a great reunion and see you in San Diego.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

President Mangan commented on the success of the reunion so far, and thanked all of the members, families, and trustees for their support, assistance, and cooperation in making all aspects of the events, plans, and trips being a great time for everyone. He reviewed the hard work and dedication of the board in meeting 25 to 30 times this year in phone conferences and the mid-year meeting/site inspection of the reunion hotel. Paul reviewed the details of the mid-year meeting, how and why we have it, and the fact it is key in planning and negotiating the contract for the reunion. He praised the ability of the board members to work together, sometimes in heated discussions, and always come to a consensus in the best interest of the members they represent. He stated he values their commitment to do what they do at no expense to the membership, with all trustees paying their own way for travel, hotels, and meals. He expressed a job well done.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

Mario Sagastume reviewed the financial report for the previous year our year running from Sept. 2013 to Sept. 2014). He gave a detailed accounting of our assets and liabilities, the review of last years reunion and dedication, the surplus in the monument fund and offered copies of the reports to anyone of the members requesting it. He discussed the reasons and fact that we do not publish our financials on the website due to security and privacy risks. He again offered copies and reminded the members that we have complete transparency for anyone who might express concerns or is curious as to what our financial position looks like. A motion was made to accept the report of the treasurer; it was seconded, and passed by a majority voice vote.

**SECRETARY REPORT**

The minutes of last years members meeting were read, and a motion was made to forgo the reading. In discussion, Top Ski expressed concerns that without reading the minutes some members would not have access to the information. The secretary stated that a hard copy is made available to anyone requesting it. The minutes are also put into the 1st update that comes out after the reunion, and this is also posted to the web site. There being no other discussion, the motion was seconded, and passed by voice vote. The minutes from last year were accepted as published in the reunion update.

( Continued Page 8 )

**Secretary's Report Continued****COMMITTEE REPORT:****MEMBERSHIP:**

Gary Gordon reports that our number of new members is increasing. We have generated many contacts through word of mouth, and the success of the reunions has greatly increased our exposure. The monument dedication and video postings have helped in a big way. It has also helped to increase the attendance at our reunions. Please continue to funnel contacts and inquiries to Gary and his committee. Gary gave a detailed explanation of the new form, what the information obtained is used for and how it helps us with the registration process and keeping data up to date. He discussed the post cards that go out and how they help to verify and give us feedback on vital information. A discussion of the email updates stressed the need to verify a request so that all updates can be sent to the right address and how the process works. Gary gave an update on the things put in place to make the banquet ticket process better and alleviate some of the problems that occurred last year. Doc Bo brought up a request to improve the ways we can connect with other members of the individual companies we served with. Several good suggestions were made and will be discussed by the trustees at the mid-year meeting. Findings and recommendations will be brought to next year's reunion and implemented to help us find our brothers when we arrive. 12 new members were recognized as being first time attendees.

**COMMUNICATION:**

Vin Burdziuk - A review of the data he collected this year reveals we have 252 members now with our blog. Since 1 January we have had 23952 visits to the web site, with 97,540 page views. Since setting up in 2002 there have been 583,931 visits to the site. We have over 8000 pictures and articles on the site. We have been sending out an average of 3 to 4 cards a month to those who are sick or have suffered loss. A big round of applause for our webmasters hard work, dedication, and expertise was given.

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Phil Leslie discussed the hard work and dedication of the trustees and board. He discussed what we do, the goals we have and what goes into our meetings to make things better for the membership. He reviewed the fact we take no compensation, or admin costs like many other organizations. He reviewed our commitment to transparency, protections in place for privacy concerns, and the responsibility all trustees feel toward the trust placed in us by the members.

**ELECTIONS:**

The opening this is year is for Vice President. Nominations were opened, only Phil Leslie was nominated, seconded, no discussion opinions voiced, and affirmed by voice vote.

**THE PRESIDENT OPENED THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION ON OLD BUSINESS:**

The first item was the dedication of KIA plaques at Camp Pendleton next year at the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Battalions deployment to Vietnam. Dale Williams gave a slide presentation on research he has completed, based on the recommendation by the membership last year to explore placing a plaque at the First Marine Regiment memorial garden being constructed.

( Continued Page 9 )

**Secretary's Report Continued**

The proposal includes five plaques for each of the companies (E,F,G,H,H&S), with the names of all the official KIA names for each company on their plaque. Corpsmen to be included with the companies they served. Some of the items brought up in the discussion that followed were:

- \* The KIA list will be drawn from official records and reviewed to make it as complete as possible.
- \* A statement will be included to cover those who died of wounds subsequent to their service. The committee will work on the wording of a statement and it will be sent out when it is completed.
- \*Special designation will be made for MOH and MIA Marines.
- \* The cost is estimated to be \$17000 (We have \$10000 surplus in the monument fund)

A motion was made to go forward with this plan. Discussion- Col. Duncan stated that we might want to ask General Christmas for his insight and suggestions as he has offered to help us. Dale reminded us that each brick sold brings in \$90 which is donated to 2/1 which could help defray costs. The motion was called for vote, seconded and approved by voice vote.

The second item discussed was the video of the dedication of our monument. A copy of this video is free to each member and can be picked up in the PX. It can also be sent to those who request one if they are not in attendance at the reunion. It is also posted on the web site and YouTube.

**New Business:**

2015 Reunion- The Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego is the site of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion. The cost will be \$105 per night and includes breakfast. The dates will be 5-9 Nov. 2015. The trustees will make a site visit in April to firm up the final details with the hotel and scout out area attractions. Events will include a dedication at 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Regiment of our KIA plaques, and a visit to 2/1 with activities depending on if they are not on a deployment. Details to be announced later. Docs video will be shown again so more people have the chance to see it. A suggestion was made to change the by laws to provide financial assistance to anyone elected to the board who can't afford the expenses involved. It will be discussed at the mid year meeting and results brought back to the members.

Reunion 2016 is due to be a central location. 7 Locations were put forward and the winner by vote of the members was San Antonio, Texas.

Dan Kellum asks for members to supply him with info for his new book on operations in Vietnam. He would solicit any comments or things people have to say about their time on operation.

Doc Adams says that people can go to his web site to get a video of his play and order it. A motion was made to donate \$1000 to his shelter, it was seconded and after discussion was passed by a voice vote.

Colonel Duncan introduced Fred Mullinax from the Patriotic Education Foundation. He explained how it is a historical program to take students to battlefields for study. He would appreciate meeting people and taking their comments.

A motion was made to adjourn after no other new business was brought up. It was seconded and passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 1054 hrs.

### Phil Leslie - Vice President



John Nance Garner spent two terms as Vice President under President Roosevelt. He is quoted as saying that the office "is not worth a bucket of warm spit." Well, he was not serving as VP of V V 2/1. Had he, he'd say the VP position is a very fulfilling and rewarding position. That is my feeling. At the Meeting of the membership at our reunion in Charleston, I stated that the position was somewhat like herding cats because the job requires one to keep up with the other eight elected positions as well as the several non-elected members who also serve and volunteer to make this association of combat veterans the best ever.

President Paul Mangan is responsible for what each of us does or fails to do. I assist him in his efforts especially when he needs a reminder, suggestion or counsel on which way to proceed. Secretary Ben Dixon records our in-person or conference call meetings and keeps us honest as to what was said or agreed on. Treasurer Mario Sagastume [aka Amanda] keeps track of our expenses, expenditures and donations. In addition, he not only manages the PX store at the reunions, but manages PX orders and sales from his home for the other 11 months and 3 weeks of the year.

Trustee Mike Valdez oversees the Reunion Hospitality room and ensures all the room is well stocked with coffee, adult beverages, soda, and snacks throughout the reunion. Gary Gordon keeps up with membership and maintains the master list. Bruce Oliver is our Business Agent for the State of New Jersey where we are incorporated. He maintains the member mailing list and current addresses and will soon be the representative to the printer of our newsletters and postcards. Dale Williams was a member of the Quantico monument committee and now, almost single handedly designed and coordinated the memorial that we will dedicate at Camp Pendleton in 2015. Bob Sparks is the newest Trustee and has coordinated the design of the long sleeve V V 2/1 pull over shirts.

We also have several members who hold no elected office but are instrumental in the orderly operation and functioning of the association. Vinnie Burdziuk is our webmaster and does one outstanding job. In addition, he formats all of our printed materials in the manner required by the printer. Ken Harding is our photographer as well as manages the audio / visual requirements for the reunions. Top Ski [Odzimowski] volunteers to drive the 15 passenger shuttles we lease at the reunions and drives members to town, museums, shopping, meals, etc. Tim Stanton is our Go To member for whatever we need in Southern California. And, Archie Williner who has donated items of clothing, travel bags, etc. to the PX for the past several years.

As the saying goes, 'baby, you've come a long way' since the "gatherings" of 2/1 veterans in the DC area morphed into the outstanding and well managed organization we are today.

Semper Fi, Phil Leslie



### Treasurers Report

Below, you will find your Organization's financial results for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014.

The non-existent net income was due to a negative adjustment of inventory. These inventory items were "fire-sale'd" and given away at the DC reunion. I had carried this unsaleable merchandise on the books hoping to sell them at some point, but shipping them from one reunion site to the next reunion site was going to cost us dearly. We have been lucky that many of us drive to these reunions and are able to transport merchandise and other items utilized at each reunion. Coordinating this function was proving more and more challenging each year. I will be driving to the next two reunions, thus eliminating most shipping costs.

Please feel free to comment or ask questions regarding our financials or any other concerns you may have. Or, request a full set of financial statements from me. I will not be offended or threatened.

Your Treasurer,

Mario Sagastume

Semper Fidelis.



## VIETNAM VETERANS 2D BN 1ST MARINES INCOME STATEMENT

Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2014

### Revenues

Sales-PX	\$12,405.36
Sales-Bricks	3,150.00
Raffle Tickets	3,997.00
Donations-Unrestricted	11,026.64
Total Revenues	<u>30,579.00</u>

### Cost of Sales

Cost of Sales	9,603.20
Cost of Sales-Freight	<u>631.91</u>
Total Cost of Sales	<u>10,235.11</u>
Gross Profit	<u>20,343.89</u>

Total Expenses	<u>19,674.30</u>
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Net Income	\$ 669.59
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Charleston SC Reunion Pictures



Charleston SC Reunion Pictures



Charleston SC Reunion Pictures



Charleston SC Reunion Pictures





**Newsletter of "The Professionals"**  
**Vietnam Veterans of 2nd Battalion 1st Marines**  
**2209 Cushendun Ln, Garner NC 27529**



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Make your reservations for this year's reunion now, you'll be glad you did!

Three or more in a room will cost an additional \$10.00 per person

**Room Rate \$105.00 includes breakfast**

**"Vietnam Vets of 2d Battalion 1st Marines"**

**\*To guarantee the room rate be sure to identify yourself as part of the group**

**Call 7am to 100pm EST # 888-233-9527**

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

**Reunion 2015 San Diego, CA 5 - 9 November 2015**