

# THE PROUD WARRIOR



WORLD WAR II \* VIETNAM \* GULF WAR \* SOMALIA \* PEACE TIME

National Newsletter of the 1/9 Network, Inc.

SPRING-2004 JUNE 2004



**Marine Capt. Brian R. Chontosh received the Navy Cross Medal from the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, during an awards ceremony Thursday at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Training Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. Photo by: Cpl. Jeremy Vought.**

## **MARINE CAPT. BRIAN R. CHONTOSH RECEIVES THE NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (May 6, 2004) -- Marine Capt. Brian R. Chontosh received the Navy Cross Medal from the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, during an awards ceremony Thursday at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Training Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. Three other Marines received medals for valor at the same ceremony. Lance Cpl. Robert Kerman, 21, of Klamath Falls, Ore., got a Silver Star( other Marine not named).

Chontosh, 29, from Rochester, N.Y., received the naval service's second highest award for extraordinary heroism while serving as Combined Anti-Armor Platoon Commander, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom March 25, 2003. The Medal of Honor is the highest military award.

While leading his platoon north on Highway 1 toward Ad Diwaniyah, Chontosh's platoon moved into a coordinated ambush of mortars, rocket propelled grenades and automatic weapons fire. With coalitions tanks blocking the road ahead, he realized his platoon was caught in a kill zone.

He had his driver move the vehicle through a breach along his flank, where he was immediately taken under fire from an entrenched machine gun. Without hesitation, Chontosh ordered the driver to advanced directly at the enemy position enabling his .50 caliber machine gunner to silence the enemy.

He then directed his driver into the enemy trench, where he exited his vehicle and began to clear the trench with an M16A2 service rifle and 9 millimeter pistol. His ammunition depleted, Chontosh, with complete disregard for his safety, twice picked up discarded enemy rifles and continued his ferocious attack.

When a Marine following him found an enemy rocket propelled grenade launcher, Chontosh used it to destroy yet another group of enemy soldiers. When his audacious attack ended, he had cleared over 200 meters of the enemy trench, killing more than 20 enemy soldiers and wounding several others.

"They are the reflection of the Marine Corps type who's service to the Marine Corps and country is held above their own safety and lives," said Gen. Hagee, commenting on the four Marines who received medals during the ceremony. "I'm proud to be here awarding the second highest and third highest awards for bravery to these great Marines."

"These four Marines are a reflection of every Marine and sailor in this great battalion," said Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada.

"I was just doing my job, I did the same thing every other Marine would have done, it was just a passion and love for my Marines, the experience put a lot into perspective," said Chontosh.

In effect since April 1917, and established by an Act of Congress on Feb. 4, 1919, the Navy Cross may be awarded to any person who, while serving with the Navy or Marine Corps, distinguishes himself/herself in action by extraordinary heroism not justifying an award of the Medal of Honor.

The action must take place under one of three circumstances: while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or, while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

To earn a Navy Cross the act to be commended must be performed in the presence of great danger or at great personal risk and must be performed in such a manner as to render the individual highly conspicuous among others of equal grade, rate, experience, or position of responsibility. More than 6,000 Navy Crosses have been awarded since World War I.

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### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Phil Sutherland

Here we are only short months away from our next National Reunion at Quantico, Virginia to be held from Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004. I am very excited about this reunion and the opportunity to return to the Washington area. Our Reunion committee has been hard at work planning some very exciting activities for us, including a visit to the Vietnam Memorial Wall and the Sunset Parade at Marine Corps Headquarters at 8<sup>th</sup> & I.

The signup sheet for the reunion activities is enclosed in this newsletter for you to sign up and send in your money for the activities that you want to attend. Please note that there is a cutoff date for signing up and sending in your money. A cutoff date is necessary in order to give accurate counts for attendance to those who are providing

transportation, food, etc. Therefore, we must have the signup sheets in no later than the cutoff date. Room on the buses for the trips to the wall and the sunset parade at 8<sup>th</sup> & I, and attendance at the activities such as the banquet will be reserved for those who get in their signup sheets in by the cutoff date. We don't want anyone to miss any activities. Therefore, I encourage you to return your signup sheet as soon as possible so you won't be left out!

Just a reminder, there was some confusion at our last reunion in Las Vegas, when people sent in their reunion signup sheet and did not make their hotel reservation, or made the hotel reservation and did not send in their signup sheet. Both are necessary for attending the reunion. **Don't forget to reserve your hotel room and to send in your signup sheet.**

Our Reunion Headquarters is located at the Holiday Inn Express, in Dumfries, Virginia. We have a special negotiated room rate of \$55 per night for rooms. The hotel is beautiful and located close to Quantico MCB where many of our activities are planned. We will have a large room at the hotel for use as our reunion headquarters and hospitality suite. Once you arrive, the hospitality suite will be where your attendance packet will be picked up.

**Please look for the hotel information in this newsletter including the address, and the telephone numbers and website for making reservations. We have signed a contract with the hotel and the hotel has blocked off 150 rooms in the name of the First Battalion Ninth Marine Network. The reservation code is FBM for 1/9 members to use to make their reservations. You must use this reservation code to get the special rate of \$55 per night, and for the 1/9 Network to get credit for the room reservation to satisfy the room contract.** The hotel information was already posted in our last newsletter and the 1/9 website and I understand that the rooms blocked at the hotel are close to being completely booked. For those who did not get their reservations in on time to book a room at the Holiday Inn, we have some overflow hotels that are in walking distance of the headquarters hotel. That hotel information will also be posted in this newsletter.

Sadly, two of our stalwarts who have made tremendous contributions toward the 1/9 Network, will be leaving their positions effective at the National Reunion.

John Freeman, our Membership Chairman, who has faithfully kept the records of membership and signed up new members for the past few years, will be stepping down as Chairman. One of our Corpsmen, "Doc" Tom Stubbs, has volunteered to step up to the task and take over as Chairman. Doc Stubbs has already served as a member of the committee for the past few years and is already familiar with the tasks required of the committee. Hasn't anyone taught sailors not to volunteer? Thanks for stepping up Doc!

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The other excellent contributor leaving is Dan Beckham, editor of the Proud Warrior. He has been the editor since the Atlantic City Reunion four years ago and has put out some fantastic newsletters on behalf of the network. We are seeking someone who is willing to take over the task of editor and to put together and publish four newsletters a year. If you are interested, please let me know.

Both John Freeman and Dan Beckham are men who have made their tremendous contributions behind the scenes, never seeking the limelight, but making an invaluable contribution. I want to take this opportunity to recognize their contribution and to personally thank them for their hard work and excellent service to our 1/9 Network. I urge you to seek them out at the reunion to give them your appreciation as well.

Finally, as the days wind down to our reunion, I am giving one final request to send in your contribution. Remember, that the dues collected are used to provide the seed money for the activities at the National Reunion to cover costs like transportation, printing of reunion packets, etc. and also is used for other Network sponsored items like your newsletter, the Proud Warrior. We will use the funds for making reservations for the banquet facilities and other scheduled events that require advance payment. Last but not least is expense of maintaining the Hospitality Suite with food and liquid refreshment. Several members have already sent in contributions earmarked for the hospitality suite. We would appreciate any additional contributions specifically earmarked for supplying the hospitality suite.

Unfortunately, the hotel has a policy that we cannot supply our own liquor, beer and food in the Hospitality Suite. Therefore, we must contract with the hotel caterer to keep the Hospitality Suite supplied, which is a larger expense. Remember that we are incorporated as a non-profit, 501C3, and 501C19, tax exempt corporation under the federal income tax code and your contributions are tax deductible. Contributions checks should be made out to the 1/9 Network, Inc., and sent in to the National Headquarters address of 1654 E. Ruddock Street, Covina, California 91724.

Thanks again to our Newsletter Editor, Dan Beckham, who has put out yet another outstanding newsletter, his last as the editor.

I also want to thank you for allowing me to serve you these past two years as your President. I especially look forward to seeing many of you again at the National Reunion at Quantico. See you there!

Semper Fidelis!

Phil Sutherland

National President 1/9 Network

When I returned to Vietnam in 1999, I climbed to the ridgeline on the Laotian border where I lost not only a number of friends, but also a part of me during my first trip in 1969. About ten of the twenty members of our group made the climb including, Karl Pfeil who was one of my machine gunners in 1969, and whom I believe would also tell you that his life was changed by the action that took place there in 1969. After taking a number of photographs and exploring the area briefly, we were told we needed to head back down the mountain to our vehicles for the return trip to our hotel in Hue. I mentioned at that time that as a believer in prayer I would like to have any who would like to join me in a prayer for our lost Marines, their families, and for our own futures.

As we prayed, I was overwhelmed with the words of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, commenting on his return to Little Round Top, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in 1913. Chamberlain was awarded the Medal of Honor for his service there during the Civil War. I wanted to share those words with the members of our group, but I knew I couldn't remember them correctly. Rather than do an injustice to Chamberlain's eloquent words, I have saved them till now. Each of us has our own hilltop or valley where we were forever changed. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain's words express my feelings better than I ever could. I hope they touch you also.

"I went - it was not long ago -to stand again upon that crest whose one day's crown of fire has passed into the blazoned coronet of fame.

I sat there alone on the storied crest, till the sun went down as it did before over the misty hills, and the darkness crept up the slopes, till from all earthly sight I was buried as with those before.

But oh, what radiant companionship rose around, what steadfast ranks of power, what bearing of heroic souls. Oh, the glory that beamed through those nights and days.

Nobody will ever know it here! I am sorry most of all for that. The proud young valor that rose above the mortal, and then at last was mortal after all."

Semper Fi!

God Bless You In All You Do.

Sky Six – Out, **Blaine**

E-mail: magblaine@msn.com

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Ohio, a state where you can experience all four seasons in one week. Hope everyone is ready for the Reunion, it looks like it's going to be a blast. Kris Fabian is doing a fabulous job getting gifts for the raffle. Anyone out there want to donate give Kris a call or drop her an Email. If you want to take part, email her at [Kayceegirl1@cox.net](mailto:Kayceegirl1@cox.net), or call her, at (757) 471-6216. Also, Don Cahill and Mac Radcliffe have done a spectacular job of organizing the Reunion and all the events. Hat's off to everyone! Remember that this year is an election year, 1/9 I mean, getting tired on hearing the other two. You all have fun now!!

I want to thank all the contributors and readers for their support over the past four years. It has been a labor of love to do the newsletter, but it is time to move on.

Hey, it's been a nice ride!  
Semper Fi!  
Dano out!

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth fighting for is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of men better than himself.” – John Stewart Mill

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### MAIL CALL

#### LOOKING FOR INFORMATION

2nd Lt William Fidelis Reilly III

Killed in Action July 17, 1968

I am Dana Benefield, an associate member of the 1/9. My father 2nd Lt William Fidelis Reilly III (Bill) was a D2/12 FO assigned to the B1/9 May to July 68. He was KIA July 17.

As of a letter dated July 2, he was about to "jump off" on his 3rd mission. He places himself 1500m from the DMZ 4000m northeast of Con Thien a place called the Market. He mentions 4 other men with him 2 radiomen, 1 corpsman, 1 enlisted FO. Sadly, I have a newspaper article reporting four others killed with my father, I am assuming these are those men.

I am looking for the other men B1/9 CO's and platoon leaders that may have known him. I was two when he passed and I am trying to gain insight into his personality and character through those who would have known him best---the men he served with in country.

I would like to attend part of the reunion since it is close to my home, but would like to narrow my focus to B1/9 so as not to take up others precious time. If some of this vital info could be posted in the newsletter (if another will come out before the reunion) it may be helpful. The 1/9 so far has been terrific in helping me (and so patient with me too).

The Marines in general are responsible for my present success in life as the Third Marine Division made possible part of my college education. My dad would be very proud to know that the Brotherhood is still so strong after all these years for career Marine was his goal. I am very thankful that you stick together as it is helpful to me in my search.

Thank you.  
Semper Fi, Dana Benefield  
[Benefields@integrity.com](mailto:Benefields@integrity.com) (301) 373-8506

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Just wanted you know how wonderful the latest newsletter was. I read it from cover to cover. Great job. I know it's a lot of work as I put together our Wisconsin Chapter 3rd. Mar. Div. Assoc. newsletter. I'm sure you are all looking forward to the reunion. It is a great thing for you men to meet.

Thanks again for the great reading.

Warmest regards, I remain.  
Annette Loper

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### REUNION CEREMONIES – CALL FOR DRESS BLUES

In an effort to enhance our ceremonies, we are asking for volunteers who have Dress Blues for our 2004 reunion.

Don't panic, no close order drill is involved! When I saw how many men wore them at the last reunion, it struck me how awesome it would be to have some of our own as Honor Guards during the ceremonies. For example, we could have Honor Guards around the candles during the candle lighting ceremony. We could have Honor Guards around the Box of Honor as we add additional names, and leading the way when we bring in the Box of Honor, perhaps even carrying it in. These are some idea's until we can get an accurate head count of who wants to participate.

If you want to take part, email me at [Fabi778@cox.net](mailto:Fabi778@cox.net),

Semper Fi  
Rob Fabian

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## REUNION RAFFLES -Warning! Warning!!

NOW is the time to start saving for this years raffle. This year we are going to have the most diverse and wonderful selection of items ever seen in our raffle.

When businesses were made aware of this Battalions history, and the fact that these USMC/Viet Nam veterans will be visiting The Wall, they wanted to make sure you know they care and they support you.

So far we have received over \$400.00 worth of raffle items from Sgt. Grit. Gift certificates from Harley Davidson, Golden Corral, and The Olive Garden. Cabela's sporting goods has donated a fleece jacket. We have 4 "2004 Reunion" T shirts by 'Moi' (of course these are priceless). We have received a watch from Swiss Army Brands that has a retail value of \$275.00, Nags Head Hammocks donated a sling-shot swing, value \$120 and Dicks Sporting Goods donated a metal gun case, value \$70.00.

We have over 3 months to go and many more donations are pending. So start saving now! If you have any questions about donating, please contact me.

Kris Fabian ([kayceegirl1@cox.net](mailto:kayceegirl1@cox.net))  
National Reunion Committee

I hear there is also going to be a beer truck and a picnic!  
Way to go Kay C Girl! -Dano

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## BILL WOULD ALTER NAVY SECRETARY'S TITLE

The House Armed Services Committee in March heard testimony on a bill that would fulfill a VFW's resolution. The legislation would change the title of "Secretary of the Navy" to "Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps." VFW convention delegates approved Res. 421 last August supporting such a change.

"The whole issue is that the Marine Corps has been designated by past congresses as the firth armed service," said Rep. Walter Jones R-NC...sponsor of H.R. 17421. "It is not part of the Navy."

Endorsing the bill at the hearing were former Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Carl Mundy, retired Navy Adm. Stansfield Turner and Dan Howard, a former Marine and Undersecretary of the Navy.

"This is a change we would make for war fighters, not the bureaucrats." Howard said.

VFW Magazine

Thanks to Don Current for this info

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## Fifth Annual Reunion Northeast USA Vietnam Veterans Reunion

The Fifth Annual Reunion of the Northeast USA Vietnam Veterans Reunion Association, Inc. will take place on July 30, through August 1, 2004, Doman Road, Freehold, New York (30 miles southwest of Albany, NY) A Memorial Service will take place at noon on July 31, 2004. Reunion 2004 will be an extraordinary event - we will be hosting the Moving Wall (The Wall that Heals) from July 29 to August 1, 2004. The Wall will be erected in Canna Town Park in Cairo, a few miles from the Reunion site. Transportation will be available from the Reunion site to the Moving Wall.

Some 1500 vets and their families participated in Reunion 2003 on Doman Road in Freehold. 2003 was by far the largest gathering so far in the four-year history of the Association. There were so many stories of reuniting with comrades - some not having seen each other for 36 years. All were so happy just to know that their buddies were still alive and well. The Reunion Association is so energized by the success of the last four years that we are looking forward to an even larger crowd and even more reunions among those who attend.

All in country and era Vietnam Vets (and their families) are invited to attend this year's reunion/campout to take place on July 30 through August 1, 2004 with the highlight of the event being the Memorial Service at noon on July 31, 2004. Bring a tent, a camper, a van, or just a sleeping bag. There's plenty of room. For those who prefer, there are motels and bed and breakfasts nearby. Restrooms and showers will be available around the camping area. Please no campfires; it's a wooded area. We'll be serving hamburgers and hot dogs throughout the weekend. Following the Memorial Service on Saturday, we'll have a pig roast and chicken barbecue. Coffee and pastry will be available for breakfast every morning.

The prior reunions have been very informal. Evenings were spent around the campfire with entertainment provided by Bunker Bill and many others. Our hope for 2004 is that the ambiance of the last four years will remain the same, expect for a bigger fire and many more chairs around it.

For more information, please call or email any one of the following: John Kellegher, 518-634-7748, [ijk2897@aol.com](mailto:ijk2897@aol.com) Jim Sill 518-966-5295, [jims199@aol.com](mailto:jims199@aol.com); Ken Boger, 908-654-6793, [ken2030543@aol.com](mailto:ken2030543@aol.com); T. J. Smith 518-634-2499, [jarhead@francomm.com](mailto:jarhead@francomm.com); Bill Fay, 518-634-7967, [bunkrbl@capital.net](mailto:bunkrbl@capital.net); Mark Manley, 863-465-0163, [dragon@htn.net](mailto:dragon@htn.net); Walter Boes 518-634-2021, [Bheckwolfe@cs.com](mailto:Bheckwolfe@cs.com); Don Law 315-363-7871, [dlaw2@twcny.rr.com](mailto:dlaw2@twcny.rr.com); Tom May, 518 -966-8503, [tommay580@aol.com](mailto:tommay580@aol.com).

From Frank Healey 03/18/04, thanks for the info Frank

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## WORLD'S OLDEST COMBAT MARINE DIES IN SYRACUSE

Gene Lee, known as the oldest living Marine and a World War I veteran with the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, died March 24 at the age of 105 in Syracuse, NY. Arriving in France at the age of 18, he was at Belleau Wood, one of the legendary and horrifying battles in Marine Corps history.

In a 1998 interview, Lee recalled how American troops were sent wave after wave to charge German machine gun fir. He was wounded in battle, but he and a buddy ignored their pain and dragged Americans to safety. He was awarded a Silver Star for his gallantry.

Active all his life, he had built his own home in a Syracuse suburb where he and his wife lived for most of their married life. Up until somewhere around his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday he drove to the Euclid Hotel for lunch 5 days a week. "Traffic was too heavy to drive there the other days," he said.

He enjoyed story telling and conversation with younger Marines—from 20 to 80 years in age—who often spent time with him, helping him, or eating with him. He was sharp and alert right up to the time of his death when his heart gave out. The funeral was carried on with full Marine military honors.

Thanks to Bob Cudworth, Alpha Co. WWII Newsletter

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## WARNING ON INTERNET MESSAGES

There is a new trend on the Internet and you may suffer as a result. The hackers are now sending Email messages to people and making it appear as though it is from someone else (one of your friends). These messages usually have a file attached which is a virus. The file (filename) will have an extension such as filename.scr, filename.hta, or filename.pif. These files will unleash a virus, damage files and may render your computer defunct until you get it to a repair shop. Another way of getting you to open an Email with a virus is to send you a message that looks like you sent an Email and it was returned for some reason. Don't open these either. The best way to stop viruses is to have a virus scanner that is active for all accesses to your PC. That means it checks Email, the hard drive, the floppy drive and the Internet connection. If you are on a cable modem, you need to have a firewall installed. Cable modems are like open doors to the Internet, you need a firewall if you are a cable modem.

Here are a couple of virus scanner companies:  
Norton Anti Virus – [www.symantec.com](http://www.symantec.com), McAfee – [www.Mcafee.com](http://www.Mcafee.com), Zone Alarm – [www.Zonelabs.com](http://www.Zonelabs.com)  
Semper Fi! Dano

## SENDING OLD MEN OFF TO WAR

If I could, I'd enlist today and help my country track down those responsible for killing thousands of innocent people in New York City and Washington, DC.

But, I'm over 60 now and the Armed Forces say I'm too old to track down terrorists. You can't be older than 35 to join the military. They've got the whole thing backwards. Instead of sending 18-year-olds off to fight, they ought to take us old guys. You shouldn't be able to join until you're at least 35.

For starters: Researchers say 18-year-olds think about sex every 10 seconds. Old guys only think about sex a couple of times a day, leaving us more that 28,000 additional seconds per day to concentrate on the enemy. Young guys haven't lived long enough to be cranky, and a cranky soldier is a dangerous soldier.

If we can't kill the enemy we'll complain them into submission. "My back hurts!" "I'm hungry!" "Where's the remote control?" An 18-year-old hasn't had a legal beer yet and you shouldn't go to war until you're at least old enough to legally drink. An average old guy, on the other hand, has consumed 126,000 gallons of beer by the time he's 35 and a jaunt through the desert heat with a backpack and M-60 would do wonders for the old beer belly. An 18-year-old doesn't like to get up before 10 a.m. Old guys get up early (to pee).

If old guys are captured, we couldn't spill the beans because we'd probably forget where we put them. In fact, name, rank, and serial number would be a real brainteaser.

Boot camp would actually be easier for old guys. We're used to getting screamed and yelled at and we actually like soft food. We've also developed a deep appreciation for guns and rifles. We like them almost better than naps.

They could lighten up on the obstacle course, however. I've been in combat and didn't see a single 20-foot wall with rope hanging over the side, nor did I ever do any pushups after training. I can hear the Drill Sergeant now, "Get down and give me...er...one." And the running part is kind of a waste of energy. I've never seen anyone outrun a bullet.

An 18-year-old has the whole world ahead of him. He's still learning to shave, to actually carry on a conversation, to wear pants without the top of the butt crack showing and the boxer shorts sticking out, to learn that a pierced tongue catches food particles, and that a 200-watt speaker in the back seat of a Honda Accord can rupture an eardrum. All great reasons to keep our sons at home and to learn a little more about life before sending them off to a possible death. Let us old guys track down those dirty rotten cowards who attacked our hearts on September 11. The last thing the enemy would want to see right now is a couple of million old farts with attitudes..



**First Battalion Ninth Marines Network**  
**Reunion Registration Form**  
**August 11-15, 2004, Quantico, Virginia**



**Please return forms as early as possible, counts are need for events and buses**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Names on Badges \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zi \_\_\_\_\_ Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE/TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY	COST	# PERSONS	TOTAL
<b>Wednesday 8/11</b>				
1800-2200	Beans, Burgers, & BS Cookout	\$11.00	X _____	= \$ _____
	\$11.00 per adult, \$7.00 for children 18 & under	\$7.00	X _____	= \$ _____
			<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ _____

<b>Thursday 8/12</b>				
0830-1215	Arlington Cemetery & Vietnam Veterans Memorial	\$10.00	X _____	= \$ _____
1730-2200	Seafood cookout MCB Quantico	\$15.00	X _____	= \$ _____
			<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ _____

<b>Friday 8/13</b>				
0800-1400	Marine Corps Base Quantico Tour & Lunch	\$12.00	X _____	= \$ _____
1630-2400	Marine Barracks 8 <sup>th</sup> & I, Evening Meal & Parade.	\$18.00	X _____	= \$ _____
			<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ _____

<b>Saturday 08/14</b>				
1700-2200	Banquet at Holiday Inn, MCB Quantico	\$28.00	X _____	= \$ _____
			<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ _____

<b>REGISTRATION FEE Mandatory per person fee</b>	\$15.00	X _____	= \$ _____
<b>REGISTRATION FEE for children 18 &amp; under</b>	\$10.00	X _____	= \$ _____
		<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ _____

**Total Fees Enclosed including Registration Fee \$**

**Make Checks Payable to: HJM RADCLIFFE**

<b>Return completed form with money to:</b>  <b>COLONEL HJM Radcliffe</b> <b>P. O. Box 22051</b> <b>Charleston SC 29413</b>	<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>		
	Check #	Date Rec'd	Amt Received
	Inputted	Name Tags	Completed



# First Battalion Ninth Marines Network

## Reunion Schedule of Events

August 11-15, 2004, Quantico, Virginia



### ~ NOTICE ~

The events of September 2001 and the locale of this years Reunion requires stricter adherence to various codes of conduct and security clearance than at prior reunions. The Reunion Committee strongly discourages the use of personal vehicles. If you are not riding on one of our buses you may not get to a function or be late. Recommended dress is shirts w/collar and sleeves, no denims, no profanity on clothing.

**YOU MUST HAVE A PHOTO ID TO GET ACCESS TO MCB QUANTICO!**

### ~ Wednesday August 11~

TBA	Post Exchanges open throughout the reunion
0900-1800	Registration Desk open all day until cookout.
1000-1500	Tee times available at Medal of Honor Golf Course, MCB Quantico (must register)
0900-1500	Shopping at Potomac Mills available for interested others
1800-2200	DINNER – BEANS, BURGERS & BS COOKOUT AT THE HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

### ~ Thursday August 12 ~

0830-1215	TOUR ARLINGTON CEMETERY AND VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
1300-1600	Registration at Hospitality Suite open 13:00 – 16:00 following Tour
1000-1500	Tee times available at Medal of Honor Golf Course, MCB Quantico (must register)
TBA	Organized tours of Fredericksburg or Manassas Battlefields
1730-2200	DINNER - SEAFOOD COOKOUT, MCB QUANTICO

### ~ Friday August 13 ~

0800-1400	MCB QUANTICO BASE TOUR & WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT SINGLETON HALL
1400-1800	Open for socializing and shopping (PX ?)
1630-2400	BUSES DEPART FOR MEAL AT MARINE BARRACKS FOLLOWED BY EVENING PARADE, EIGHTH AND I, WASHINGTON, DC

### ~ Saturday August 14 ~

0800-0930	Breakfast on your own (Free Continental Breakfast at Holiday Inn)
0930-1030	MEMORIAL SERVICE
1030	Business Meeting for Members Only (See Event Board for Location)
1145	Board of Directors Meeting immediately following Business Meeting (closed meeting for Board and Elected Officers of 1/9 Network)
1300-1600	Free Time, Hospitality Suite open for socializing
1830	Cocktails (See Event Board for location)
2200	BANQUET BUFFET AT THE HOLIDAY INN

### Sunday August 15

AM:	Various Church Services
PM:	Departure



## First Battalion Ninth Marines Network Reunion Information



### HOTEL INFORMATION

**It is necessary to make hotel reservations and register separately for the reunion**

**Holiday Inn Express, (HQ)** 17133 Dumfries Road, Dumfries, Virginia 22026

Hotel is 3 miles from Quantico Marine Corps Base. Exit 152 on I-95.

Reservations for the Network Members can be made at: 703-221-1141.

Use reservation code FBM. ***Please stay at the Holiday Inn unless all rooms are booked. We were required to sign a contract guaranteeing a certain number of rooms. You must use the code FBM for reservations. Otherwise, you will be told that there are no rooms and the hotel is booked.***

Reservations can be done on line at [www.hiexpress.com/dumfriesva](http://www.hiexpress.com/dumfriesva). Use the same code FBM

Over flow hotels within walking distance of the Holiday Inn. (Please use only if Holiday Inn is booked)

**Days inn**, 16925 Old Stage Road, Dumfries, Virginia 22026

I-95 Exit 152B, (Phone) 703-221-6300, (Fax) 703-221-7300 or 1-800-DaysInn,

\$59.00/night Single, \$69.00/ night Double, Additional \$10.00/night on Fri and Sat

**Econo Lodge**, 17005 Dumfries Road, Dumfries, Virginia 22026

Phone (703)-221-4176, (Fax) 703-221-8465

\$49.99/night Single, \$59.99 Two Beds, Additional \$10.00/night Fri and Sat night (55 Rooms)

### REGISTRATION:

Registration is required by all persons attending the Reunion. The cost is \$15.00 for each adult with postmark prior to July 15, 2004, after July 15, 2004 the Registration fee is \$20.00 per adult. Children 18 & under are \$10.00 each. The Registration fee includes a Welcome Packet, one 50/50 Raffle ticket, Name Tags and Souvenirs. Early returns are appreciated, many of our plans are dependent upon total count of people for trips dinners and other events. Be sure to call and make your hotel reservations, the Network is not doing hotel reservations. See the 1/9 Reunion registration form for mailing address for the form. If you cannot afford to attend, see the bottom of this form regarding assistance.

Contact List for Registration questions only

**Don Cahill**     [dc0173@aol.com](mailto:dc0173@aol.com)

**Mac Radcliff**   [mactgfusmc@aol.com](mailto:mactgfusmc@aol.com)

### RAFFLES:

Kris Fabian has done a tremendous job of collecting prizes for the raffle. Kris will need help sorting out all the prizes and selling tickets at the reunion.

### LOGISTICS:

Buses will be used for all of the trips to the various activities. The Network strongly advises against the use of personal vehicles. Security precautions and heavy traffic in the Quantico and Washington DC area can hamper vehicles from reaching a destination.



## First Battalion Ninth Marines Network Reunion Information



### **IDENTIFICATION:**

The tours and activities on MCB Quantico will require a photo ID and proper dress to gain access to the base. Failure to comply with either may result in removal from the bus and denial of access to the base.

### **VOLUNTEERS:**

This is a call to Members of the Network for volunteers to help at the National Reunion at Quantico. The more volunteers, the less that will have to be done by each volunteer.

### **Event Coordinators and volunteers are needed for the following events:**

Wednesday evening dinner at the Hotel  
Thursday trip to Arlington Cemetery and the Vietnam Memorial Wall  
Thursday evening blast at the golf course.  
Friday MCB Base Tour and Wreath Laying Ceremony  
Trip to Marine Barracks, 8<sup>th</sup> & I.  
Saturday Memorial Service  
Banquet Dinner at Crossroads Inn

Transportation Committee: 3 to handle trips where the buses are used.

Welcome Committee Chair and Committee: Volunteers to assemble and hand out packets to attendees.

This National Reunion of the Network is stacking up to be one of the best that we have ever had. We need your help to make it even better. If you can help us, please let me know by sending me an e-mail at [cpmsuth@verizon.net](mailto:cpmsuth@verizon.net) calling me on my cell phone at 323-610-8605, or my home phone at 562-776-0120, or snail mailing me at the 1/9 headquarters at 1654 E. Ruddock Street, Covina, California 91724. Also, we are a band of brothers and we do not want anyone left out because they cannot afford to join us. If you need assistance to be able to attend, contact me by mail, phone, or e-mail and we will help you.

Semper Fi!

Phil Sutherland  
National President

**Contact List for Registration questions**

**Don Cahill** [dc0173@aol.com](mailto:dc0173@aol.com)  
**Mac Radcliff** [mactgfusmc@aol.com](mailto:mactgfusmc@aol.com)

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# I GUESS THERE ARE STILL NO ATHEISTS IN FOX HOLES.

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This is interesting stuff in these times of our courts blocking access to worship on so many fronts. I guess there are still no atheists in fox holes. [Blaine](#)

## **Sheparding Faith on the Frontlines**

by Staff Sgt. Timothy S. Edwards  
Marine Corps News April 20, 2004

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- A slight breeze rustles through the overhanging leaves and branches of a mango tree as the quiet hum of a distant generator permeates the otherwise silent morning. Beneath these peaceful bows, a small group of men from a mixture of military services come together to share in a common calling. As all but one of these men sit on a mixture of makeshift benches, folding chairs and sandbags, a bird dips down gliding below the tree's canopy as if giving its blessing, then soars off. Still standing, one of the service members addresses the gathering, "I am Lieutenant Clarke, the Regimental Chaplain."

Navy Lt. Randall S. Clarke is the lead in the Marine Air Ground Task Force's Religious Ministries Team here providing for the religious needs of service members with the Multinational Interim Force-Haiti (MIFH) deployed in support of Operation Secure Tomorrow. "Being a Southern Baptist Minister, I am specifically here to take care of the needs of the Southern Baptists and Protestants in general," Clarke stated. "But I am also here to facilitate the needs of those of other faiths as well."

According to the Odessa, Texas native, he does this by providing access to chaplains of the other faiths by either locating a chaplain within the deployed members of MAGTF-8, locating a chaplain within the MIFH, or by providing lay leaders for those faiths that have no chaplain representation. "I am a firm believer in the lay leader program," he explained. "Lay leaders are the eyes and ears of the chaplain. They can identify needs and problems within the members of their faith and address them to the chaplain."

Lay leaders are service members who have stepped forward to represent a particular faith group. Such service members in the Catholic faith are trained by priests and can handle the sacred host and provide services. Protestant lay leaders are trained by chaplains and can provide services, except for communion, when a chaplain isn't available. A good lay leader is the chaplain's left hand, but his right hand is his Religious Program Specialist (RP). The RP is a sailor specifically trained to support the chaplain. They do this by helping the chaplain rig and set up for services, take care of administrative matters and provide for the chaplain's personal safety.

"The RP is a vital and irreplaceable part of the Religious Ministry Team," Clarke said. "Chaplain's are people of God," he continued, "but we are not God. We cannot read minds, and we can't be everywhere at once."

A good RP and lay leader can greatly enhance the ministry provided to service members. "They help the chaplain to better understand the needs in the command and to provide for them and address them with the command," Clarke explained. "They help us take care of problems at the lowest level," he said. "Most of the time there is just the need of a friendly ear to listen."

First, the setting is different. Most often, a church is not available to conduct services when a unit is deployed, so location of the Easter Sunday Service under a tree is not uncommon. Second, these services are more like devotion, according to Clarke. "Field services are very simple, it is more like a devotion with one thought to ponder," he explained. "You want to find one point to leave with the service members for them to ponder on through the week."

According to Clarke, services aren't conducted to build "brownie points" with God. "It is to support and encourage each other in their faith. "Services helps remind us that faith isn't just one day a week, it is everyday," he continued. "It reminds us that we have to stand up for what we know is right regardless of whether it is popular." According to Spc. Raheem R. Terry, field services help to keep the morale high and uplift service members.

"We are away from our families out here," the Mounds, Ill. native explained. "By attending these services and staying close to God, we also stay close to our families in our heart." To many of the service members attending these services, the location and setting is of little concern.

"Everywhere you go you have God inside of you," Terry stated. "You don't need a church to practice your faith, just God in your heart." Another unique aspect of these services is the interaction with foreign service members with the Multinational Interim Force – Haiti. The service members deployed here are able to attend service with and receive ministry from members of these forces. "What this does is allow them to see that God and the Bible transcends race as well as language," Clarke said. "It allows them to see that it goes beyond political views.

"It also shows them that if one of our service members is hurt, a chaplain of one of the forces will be there to provide for their religious needs," he continued. "If one of the other members of the (Multinational Interim Force – Haiti) was in need, I would be there to provide pastoral services, regardless of language."

Ultimately, the religious ministry team is here to provide guidance and set an example in how to live life.

"I am here to teach and to set the example by the way I live," Clarke explained. "I am not a good chaplain or pastor if I am not setting the example for those I minister to." As the morning service came to a close with the service members' voices raised in song, the bird once again dips down beneath the tree's bows then soars off into the distance as the last voice fades.

As if a whisper on the wind, "Amen."

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# MELBOURNE REUNION

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**1/9 Group picture April 24, 2004  
Melbourne Vietnam Veterans Reunion**

The Vietnam Veterans reunion was held in Melbourne, Florida from April 23 through the 25<sup>th</sup>. It was a HOOT, we had a great time, and Rebel Dave didn't burn down the Port-a-Johns. Paul Revere & the Raiders did the ROCK 'N ROLL for us again.

Semper Fi, Danny

In the picture kneeling in the front row left to right: Dave Demick, Dave Miller, Dave Mullins, James Gilbert, Unnown (no one can remember the guys name).

In the picture standing in the back row left to right: Doc Rudolf, Cal Council, Anthony Piotrowski, Al Quick, Jon Bashem, Danny McWain, Don Horseman, Mike Bradley, Dennis Lee

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# ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

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## AN EXPLANATION OF RANK

A young Second Lieutenant approaches the crusty old Chief Master Sergeant and asked about the origin of the commissioned officer insignias.

The Chief replied, "Sir, it's history and tradition, first we give you a gold bar representing that you are very valuable and also malleable. The silver bar also represents significant value, but is less malleable. When you make Captain, your value doubles, hence the two silver bars. As a Colonel you soar over military masses, hence the eagle. As a General, you are, obviously, a star. Does that answer your question?"

"Yes," said the Second Lieutenant, "but what about Majors and Lieutenant Colonels?"

That, sir, goes waaaay back in history-to the Garden of Eden. You see we've always covered our pricks with leaves."

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## FREEZING THE BALLS OFF THE BRASS MONKEY," A NAVY PHRASE ABOUT CANNON BALLS-FICTION!

April 7, 2004

Darelene, a lady from my office, came in today and was asking about Brass monkeys, she had just spent the weekend in Annapolis Maryland, seems like she overheard two guys in a bar talking about it. Now everyone has probably heard of the expression, "it's so cold it would freeze the balls off a brass monkey"; now the rest of the story.

Dano

### Summary of the Rumor

This piece of alleged history explains that in the olden days of sailing ships, cannon balls were stacked on the decks on brass plates called "monkeys." The plates had indentions in them that held the balls on the bottoms of the stacks. Brass, however, expands and contracts with the temperature and if it got cold enough, the cannon balls could fall...giving real foundation to the phrase "cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey!"

### The Truth

According to the United States Navy Historical Center, this is a legend of the sea without historical justification. The center has researched this because of the questions it gets and says the term "brass monkey" and a vulgar reference to the effect of cold on the monkey's extremities, appears to

have originated in the book "Before the Mast" by C.A. Abbey. It was said that it was so cold that it would "freeze the tail off a brass monkey." The Navy says there is no evidence that the phrase had anything to do with ships or ships with cannon balls.

### A real example of the eRumor as it has appeared on the Internet: Subject: brass monkey

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannon fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck?

The best storage method devised was a square based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of thirty cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

There was only one problem -- how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with sixteen round indentations. But, if this plate was made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys."

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey!"

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### Holy Water

A little boy was sitting on the curb with a gallon of turpentine and shaking it up and watching all the bubbles.

A little while later a Priest came along and asked the little boy what he had. The little boy replied, "This is the most powerful liquid in the world, it's called turpentine."

The Priest said, "No, the most powerful liquid in the world is Holy Water. If you take some of this Holy Water and rub it on a pregnant women's belly, she'll pass a healthy baby."

The little boy replied, "You take some of this here turpentine and rub it on a cat's ass and he'll pass a Harley Davidson."

From Danny Mcwain

# NOTICES & REQUESTS

## 1/9 T-SHIRTS

Frenchy Laverriere, has resurrected the “old style” 1/9 t-shirts with the original Grim Reaper look. The t-shirts are red, with the Grim Reaper inside a gold shield with a banner underneath that says “The Walking Dead”. The shirts sell for:

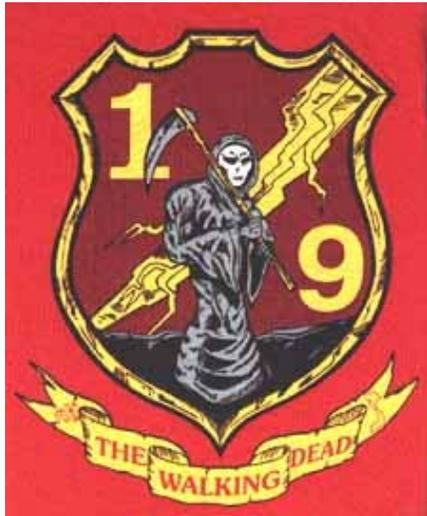
- Med-XL \$16.25 plus \$3.25 shipping
- XXL \$18.25 plus \$3.25 shipping
- XXXL \$22.00 plus \$3.25 shipping

If your ordering more than one shirt the shipping is only \$3.00 total.

Thanks

Billy “FRENCHY” Laverriere

Send your order and check to: Billy Laverriere, 5 Celia Circle, Methuen, MA 08144. I hear they are selling fast!



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# BOOK REVIEWS

## AFTERMATH:

### **A song for Tyrone**

One of the best books I have had the good fortune to read. Doug Todd (Delta Co 1966) has authored a wonderful book of poetry, stories and tributes. He says it is fiction based on facts, but one can feel a connection with almost all the stories. The tributes to some of Brothers who have passed is especially touching. Several other 1/9 Brothers have also contributed stories to the book.

Great job Ironfeather!

For ordering information write Doug Todd at 4716 Blackwell Rd, Warm Springs Arkansas 72478

*AFTERMATH: A Song For Tyrone*, @2004, by Doug Todd, Monument Press, 156 pages, ISBN 0-9748463-0-9, Hardback edition.

## YOUR WAR MY WAR

### **A marine in Vietnam**

Donald Myers, another 1/9 Marine, has written a book about his experiences in Vietnam and they are many. Arriving in late 1966 and leaving after being wounded for the fifth time in February 1969 (Dewey Canyon), Don saw it all. Don says that he is not a writer, but the book is an easy read and takes you through more than you would think any Marine could live through. Don has also written several other books such as, 101 Sea Stories to mention one.

You can order books from:ALMAR Books, 5342 Elmwood Avenue Suite G, Indianapolis, Indiana 46203, \$21.99 including postage.

*YOUR WAR MY WAR, A marine in Vietnam*, @ 2000 by Donald F. Myers, Pentland Press, Inc., 408 pages, ISBN 1-57197-187-4, Larger softback edition, the book is in its fourth printing.

## MEMBERSHIP SECTION

The names submitted to the Network should not be reproduced and given to other sources for commercial use. Please respect the privacy of our Brothers and their families.

### NEW MEMBERS

#### ABLE/ALPHA COMPANY

Larry	W.	Chase "Doc"	Unk	1967
Michael	S.	Johnson	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1965
John	D.	Moore	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1969
Davie	E.	Rushing	2 <sup>nd</sup>	68-69
John	L.	Whitehead	3rd	69-70

#### BAKER/BRAVO COMPANY

James		Purtell	3 <sup>rd</sup>	'??
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Russel	A.	Latona	1st	68-69
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#### CHARLIE COMPANY

Bruce	M.	Devert	Unk	1965
Dr. William		Noble III	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1965

#### HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE COMPANY

Roger	D.	Peppers	81's	1968
Alfred	C.	Perkins	Motor T	79-82
Thomas	J.	Quamme	Wpns	69-70
Kenneth		Seebach	Comm	1967

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Dana	M.	Benefield		
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Daughter of KIA Lt. W. F. Reilly 07/17/68 w/ Bravo

Barbara	J.	Wise		Wife of James L. Wise, Deceased 3/30/99
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Betty	J.	Pulliman		Mother of LCpl. Dale Pulliman KIA May May 14, 1967 with Charlie Co.
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### 1/9 KILLED IN ACTION VIETNAM

Over the past couple of years I have happened on names of 1/9 Marines not included on our 1/9 KIA Roster. Some of our gracious members such as Bob Humphries, Dave Mellon, Woody Postle, David Halley, Michael Walker and Chuck Olson have provided me with list or information to help make the list more complete; thank you. Hopefully, since there are 24 Marines to add and not just one, these names can be added to the 1/9 KIA Roster. ....Editor

LAST	FIRST	SUF	RANK	CITY	ST	DATE	PANEL	ROW	CO	SOURCE
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Balazy	George Stephen		PFC	Rochester	NY	09/12/65	2E	81		1/9 RECORDS
Brookens	Williard	Jr	LCPL	Los Angelos	CA	04/05/67	17E	101		1/9 RECORDS
Brown	David Dee	Jr	PFC	Wrangell	AK	04/16/68	50E	12	C	Virtual Wall
Carver	Harold Leroy		PFC	Joplin	MO	04/05/67	17E	102		1/9 RECORDS
Combs	Thomas Eugene		LCPL	Dayton	OH	04/05/67	17E	102		1/9 RECORDS
Cooper	Roger Edward		LCPL	Berkley	WV	01/10/67	14E	5		1/9 RECORDS
Elie	Leonard Wayne		PFC	Alexandria	LA	04/05/67	17E	103		1/9 RECORDS
Fowler	James Harrel		PFC	Ponca City	OK	04/05/67	17E	104		1/9 RECORDS
Hutchins	Marion Ray		PFC	Jacksonville	AR	04/05/67	17E	104		1/9 RECORDS
Lira	Alfred George		PFC	San Antonio	TX	04/05/67	17E	105		1/9 RECORDS
Manning	Jerry Wayne		PFC	Lamont	CA	04/05/67	17E	103		1/9 RECORDS
Mattracion	Phillip Reginal		HM2	Beacon	NY	04/05/67	17E	106		Virtual Wall
McCoy	James Glendale		PFC	Buffalo	NY	07/02/67	22E	110		1/9 RECORDS
Meglio	William Michael	Jr	PFC	New Haven	CT	12/06/65	3E	135		1/9 RECORDS
Monohan	Robert Edward		LCPL	Swedsboro	NJ	05/28/67	21E	6		NC Citation
Mullan	Charles Richard	Jr	HN	Berkely	CA	07/28/67	22E	80		Virtual Wall
Roberson	Donald Radford		PFC	Walker	CA	01/09/67	14E	2		1/9 RECORDS
Rowe	Chester Earl	Jr	CPL	Lancaster	PA	04/05/67	17E	107		1/9 RECORDS
Salter	Charles Lowell		CPL	Birmingham	AL	04/05/67	17E	107		1/9 RECORDS
Savoren	William Martin		LCPL	Minneapolis	MN	11/29/65	3E	114		1/9 RECORDS
Shull	Sandy Lee		LCPL	Nashville	TN	02/16/68	39E	66	H&S	Lt Walker list
Smith	J.W.		PFC			04/05/67				1/9 RECORDS
Sweeney	John Edward		LCPL	East Poultney	VT	07/18/68	51W	9	H&S	FO-1 Alpha
Wheeler	Morris Craig		LCPL	Muncie	KS	01/10/67	14E	7		1/9 RECORDS