

THE PROUD WARRIOR



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

National Newsletter of the 1/9 Network, Inc.

SUMMER-2004

~~~~~ REUNION PICTURES ~~~~~



### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

|                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
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|                                                                  |                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
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### **REGIONAL COORDINATORS**

|                                                  |                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>1. CENTRAL/EAST</u></b><br>PATRICK DICKSON | <b><u>5. NORTH/EAST</u></b><br>WILLIAM LAVERRIERE |
| <b><u>2. CENTRAL/NORTH</u></b><br>FLOYD RENO     | <b><u>6. NORTH/WEST</u></b><br>WILLIAM T. BENNETT |
| <b><u>3. CENTRAL/SOUTH</u></b><br>DENNIS LEE     | <b><u>7. SOUTH/EAST</u></b><br>ROBERT H. PIATT    |
| <b><u>4. CENTRAL/WEST</u></b>                    | <b><u>8. SOUTH/WEST</u></b>                       |

### **FOUNDER & PRESIDENT EMERITUS**

ROGER W. LIGGON, SR.

### **PAST PRESIDENT ADVISOR**

PHIL SUTHERLAND

This newsletter is published for the members of the First battalion Ninth Marines Network, Inc. Articles and comments do not necessarily represent the views of the officers and members but are those of the author. The editor with the support of the president has the right to refuse any article that brings discredit to this organization or the United States Marine Corps.

### **First Battalion Ninth Marines Network, Inc.**

**National Headquarters**

**66 Clinton Street**

**Meriden, CT 06450**

[DELTABILL@aol.com](mailto:DELTABILL@aol.com)

### **OFFICIAL WEBSITE**

[www.1stbattalion9thmarinesfirebase.net](http://www.1stbattalion9thmarinesfirebase.net)

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

William Hesse

I was taking a step forward to volunteer when, I think somebody from Alpha Co., pushed me.....LOL. I'm extremely honored by your vote of confidence and humbled at being elected your President for 2004-2006.

Phil, thank you for keeping the network flowing smoothly and headed forward in a positive direction. Great Job! I will do my best to continue your, and past Presidents, good work.

The 3 new members, of the Board of Directors, will be a great addition to an already great Board. They started in by volunteering right away. Bill Jones, thank you for

volunteering to be my Secretary for the coming term. (I need to hear from you.) There are too many people to mention, who came forward and made our last reunion a success. To all of you I say "Job well done".

Roger Liggon, thank you for volunteering to work on the 2006 reunion in Branson MS. I have been to the Chamber of Commerce, Branson MS web site

([www.bransonveterans.com](http://www.bransonveterans.com)) and I'll tell you, they sure look like their going to show us a good time. I know that we'll be able to make the next reunion one of the most remembered.

After taking an extended vacation after the reunion, to PA, my wife and I came home to an e-mail box that was full. Thank you all for the advice, concerns and well wishes. Anyone wishing to e-mail me can do so at [Deltabill@aol.com](mailto:Deltabill@aol.com). My home phone number is 203-238-1949. I'm not always home, but, the answering machine will take your message, and I will get back to you if need be. I'll do my best to make communication a priority during my term.

There are a lot of things that go on behind the scenes in the Network (you past Presidents told me about that but I didn't understand till now). You members will be the benefactors of a lot of hard work done by a few people; their making our Network bigger and better in many ways.

John Freeman, I can't thank you enough for your fine dedication to duty as membership chairman. I know you spend many hours everyday at this job. We members will do what ever we can to help you.

Dan Beckham, thank you for continuing as newsletter editor. I understand you difficulties getting one in the mail. I hope the membership will send pictures and write articles that will make your job a little easier. Hopefully you'll get enough information to fill a newsletter more often.

Larry Gule, I'm very proud to have you in our organization as Vice President. The hours you spend on doing your job right, couldn't be paid for. I know it's your love for the network. We all owe you great thanks. The history of 1/9 that you compiled is unbelievable, great reading.

Regional Coordinators, We'll be in touch. I'll need your inputs and concerns. You're a major key in the future operations.

One last thing; when I returned home, from the reunion, I was informed of the passing of Ray Bridgewater (who I loved like family). I immediately called his wife, Lane, and told her I was on my way. MSGT Dennis Lee Ret., Central/South Regional Coordinator, took charge and sent a wreath from The Walking Dead. He allowed me to stay at his house for a couple days while I attended Ray's military funeral. Bill Bennett, A.J. Moore and new comer Don Jennings were also there representing 1/9. I know that Ray was proud to have us sitting in the front row. Ray's wife, Lane, was a little weak kneed, but hey, she had 5 1/9er's to hold her up. I know Ray will join Beetle and the others in "Guarding Heavens Gate".

I'll be going to the Kokomo Veterans Reunion next week. I hope to bump into some of you there.

Take care Marines. Get ready to report at the next reunion. It will be one you won't want to miss.

Semper Fi is Forever,  
Bill Hesse

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

I wanted to take the time to thank all of the members for allowing me to be President for the past two years.

It was a labor of love, but one that could not have been accomplished without the help of some very special people.

I wanted to especially take the time to thank those who served with me during the past two years. My Vice President, Larry Gugle, was always there to help with any advice that may have been needed. He also was very helpful in both the Las Vegas reunion and the Quantico reunion, manning the computer in the Hospitality Suite among other tasks. He also honored us by helping to lay the wreath honoring our fallen comrades at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington. Thanks for your service and good luck to you as Vice President for another two years.

Dan Beckham, our tireless editor of the Proud Warrior worked diligently to put out a quarterly edition of the Proud Warrior every quarter for the past two years. It is one of the best service organization newsletters that I have seen. Thanks for your service!

John Freeman has worked long hours as our Membership Chair, adding many new members over the last two years. Thanks John! Leon (Lee) Burns, Chairman of the Board, and my personal friend, has been there for me all the way, lending his ear and advice when asked and mostly his support. Thanks Lee! I also want to thank Colonel "Mac" Radcliffe, Don Cahill, and Rob and Kris Fabian for all of their support at the Quantico, Reunion. They worked tirelessly to make it all go well. I could not have done it the past two years without the help of these special people and wanted to acknowledge them and say thanks.

Finally, you have a great new President in Bill Hesse. Bill comes to us with many years of experience as an officer in various service organizations. I have no doubt that he will be a great President for the 1/9 Network. I intend to support him in any manner needed, and would ask that you all continue to support him in the same great manner that you have done for me over the past two years.

Last but not least, I wanted to thank all who have contributed financially to our Network. I am proud to say that I am passing on the torch to our new President with the Network in the best financial condition that it has ever been, thanks to the faithful support of all the contributors over the past two years. I also ask that you continue to support our

Network with your financial contributions as it continues to grow and get even better.

I look forward to seeing you at Parris Island and at our next national reunion slated for Branson, Missouri.

Semper Fidelis!

Phil Sutherland  
Past National President  
1/9 Network, Inc.

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### EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

#### 1/9 REACTIVATION NOT DEAD YET!

From information recently received, it looks like the re-activation of 1/9 is on the go again. From the details I received, it should happen no later than September 1995. I'll keep you posted on developments.

Oooooorahhhh!

Editor

#### HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS ROUTING SHEET (5211) NAVMC HQ-355 (REV 2/01)

Date: 26 August 2004

Subject: **MCBUL 5400-ACTIVATION OF 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 9<sup>TH</sup> MARINES**

Due Date: 10 Sep 04

1. Purpose. To obtain comments/ recommendations on the proposed MCBul 5400 at Tab (A).
2. Background. **CMC has directed the activation of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marines as a result of the FSRG.**
3. Discussion. A MCBul 5400 is required to set in motion the organizational and administrative actions necessary to accomplish CMC's intent.
4. Recommendation. Provide comments and recommendations on the proposed MCBul 5400 at Tab (A) utilizing the comment matrix at Tab (B). Responses are due NLT 10 Sep 04. E-Mail response is requested.

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#### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Even a hunter cannot kill a bird which flies to him for refuge." Samurai maximum often quoted by Chiune Sugihara

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Four years ago in Atlantic City at our 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 9<sup>th</sup> Marines Network Reunion I began campaigning for our group to add the position of "Chaplain". Two years ago in Las Vegas the position was created and I was asked to serve as the first Chaplain. It is a position I have served in with a great deal of joy. I have appreciated all of your calls, e-mails, and letters of support. Writing the column for the newsletter has been a labor of love as has been the feeling I have had of service to all of you. However, as the Bible says "for everything there is a season" and my season as chaplain is drawing to a close.

I have asked my good and close friend and awesome 81 F.O., Corporal Bill Bennett to tender to you at this year's reunion my resignation as Chaplain. While my recovery from prostate cancer is going exceedingly well, I will not be attending this year's reunion because of follow up appointments at the Tucson VA Medical Center. I will miss this time of fellowship with all of you. I would also like to suggest to you that new a member of the Network, Douglas Everhart, Service Number 9999999, Rifle Number 110672, Blood Type A, be considered for the position of Chaplain. (In case you haven't figured it out I was Douglas's platoon commander. He is a great Marine and another member of the Network that will stand when the call comes at the reunion dinner for recipients of the Purple Heart to stand for recognition).

While we are discussing resignations I would once again like to resign as SW Area Coordinator, a position I resigned from shortly after my election due to my health problems. Somehow the word didn't get passed on and my name continues to appear with that title in the newsletter.

It has been a great tour but I'm ready for the next challenge God has for my life. I hope to see you all at the next reunion.

Semper Fi and God Bless You In All You Do.  
Sky Six – Out.

*Blaine*

Blaine E. Moyer PO Box 4391 Rio Rico, AZ 85648  
Home Phone: 520-377-2535, Cell Phone: 520-841-2632  
E-mail: magblaine@msn.com

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Well, another reunion has come and gone! Sadly, I have missed this one also, but my heart was there. I hope everyone had a great time, renewed old friendships and made many new ones. Hopefully, I will get to the next one; definitely going to try and make the Parris Island mini. I have a special gift for someone (Hint –Moo-Rine)

I have several projects I want to kick start in the Fall. Among these are the updating of the KIA list, a newsletter

archive on CD and maybe the gathering of 1/9 CC records on CD for research purposes.

Doug Todd's book, "Aftermath", is excellent. The book is filled with memories that touch the heart. Excellent book Doug!

The story/article input has dried up in these last few issues, I need some stories of 1/9. Anyone out there got a good story to tell?

So long for now. Hey, it's a nice ride!  
Semper Fi!  
Dano out!

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## NATIONAL REUNION

For those who could not attend the reunion, this was one of the best attended as far as numbers of people attending events. We did get some rain that caused us to put in place some contingency plans, but it did not dampen our spirits or enthusiasm. Wednesday cookout by the pool was rained out and held indoors. We still enjoyed the beans, burgers and BS inside, with emphasis on the BS. Plenty was flowing that night. Thursday, our trip to the wall was sunny, but more of the wall was covered than we had been told. Consequently, the section of the wall where 1/9 was in country was covered. This was a disappointment to me, as I had never seen the wall before. I did get the chance to visit the other memorials to WWII, Korea, the women and the Vietnam statue. The trip following to the Tomb of the Unknowns was very emotional. Our Honor Guard laid the wreath to honor those who paid the highest price for 1/9. Colonel Wesley Fox, John Miller, Larry Gugle, and Rob Fabian did us all proud and were excellent representatives for 1/9. Thursday evening, we were again rained out for the shrimp feast at Quantico. However, again the contingency plan was put into place. We again shifted indoors for the feast. The food was spectacular. Also, the beer truck could not be used at the hotel, so Budweiser came through with some kegs and we toasted with Michelob on draft.

Friday, we had some partial rain. We started out with LtGen. Ron Christmas coming to the hotel to give us a presentation on the new Marine Corps Heritage Museum to be built outside the gate at Quantico. We were to go to the site, but the rain made it muddy and therefore, we had to do with the presentation, which turned out to be excellent. The Heritage Museum is really going to be something to behold. Following that, we loaded on buses and went to Quantico, to tour the helicopter area, where we saw a Sea Knight and got the opportunity to tour two helicopters in use for transport today's Marines. Following that, we had lunch at the Basic School and got to hear about the training at the Basic School. Our final event of the tour of MCB Quantico, was laying the wreath at Singleton Barracks. Weid did an

excellent job of organizing a tribute to Singleton by the men who knew and served with him.

Friday night, we were worried about rain, but none appeared. Instead, we were treated to seeing the President's Own band, the Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Silent Drill Team. We then watched the Sunset Parade finale, with a cannon salute ending the evening. The highlight of the evening was a visit by General Michael Hagee, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, who came out to speak to his 1/9ers prior to the evening events. Following, we also had a visit by the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

Saturday, the Memorial Service conducted by Frank Healey was very moving and a fitting tribute to our comrades.

Saturday afternoon, Patience Mason spoke to the gathered group.

Saturday evening, we had the final event, our Banquet. We had 206 signed up, but had 225 show up for the banquet. It meant that extra tables had to be brought out and there was some confusion about the seating arrangements, but otherwise, the hotel worked to accommodate the extra people. I believe that everyone got enough to eat, despite the extra bodies.

LtGen Libutti spoke to us with a rousing motivational talk. It was great to have him participate and speak to us again. His last meeting with us was when the colors of 1/9 were furled back in 1994. Patience Mason rounded out the evening as the Guest Speaker. Some enjoyed her talk and others did not.

All in all, I believe that it was a successful reunion despite some mishaps and some rainfall. I am looking forward to Branson.

Phil Sutherland  
Immediate Past President  
1/9 Network, Inc.

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## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SATURDAY AUGUST 14, 2004;**

### **1. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Financial Report given for 2002, 2003, & 2004
- b. Board of Directors (BOD) met Wednesday August 11, 2004 and discussed removing the official sanction of the Firebase & WebBoard websites privately owned by Robert "Casey" Piatt.
  - i. Motion was made and vote was unanimously carried.

### **2. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Motion by Vice President [REDACTED] to have the BOD "official sanction" of the Firebase & WebBoard websites removed and a vote be taken to re-instate the "official sanction" by the General Membership.
  - i. Motion carried by a majority of the general members

- b. Motion by Chairman of the Board GySgt. Lee Burns, USMC, Retired to Poll the general membership for 3 sites in middle America for the next reunion.
  - i. Motion carried by a majority of the general members that Branson Missouri will be the site for the 2006 Reunion.
- c. Motion by Vice President Sergeant Major Larry E. Gugle, USMC, Retired that a committee be formed to accept any and all recommendations for By-Laws changes and the submitted changes be put in the Newsletter for review and voting on by the general membership.
- d. Elected officials as of Saturday August 14, 2004;

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (12): (RE-ELECTED) (9):  
GYSGT. LEE R. BURNS, Ret., 1248 Millbury Avenue, La Puente, CA 91746 \* RONALD J. COTTMAN, JR., 6944 Heron Street, Ventura, CA 93003 \* COL. WESLEY L. FOX, Ret., 855 Deercroft Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060 \* SSGT. WILLIS D. LATHAAM, Ret., 44 Le-Moyne Drive, Beaufort, SC 29902 \* ROGER W. LIGGON, SR., 1152 Kensington Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060 \* LARRY J. PRATT, 212 South Douglas, Springfield, IL 62704 \* COL. HENRY J. M. RADCLIFFE, Ret., 17 Longitude Lane, Charleston, SC 29401 \* LOUIS W. ROBESCH, JR. 82 Ventura Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201 \* LTCOL. ALBERT SLATER, JR., Ret., 523 Oakbranch Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024

(NEWLY ELECTED) (3): LTCOL. HOWARD "AL" CHRISTY, 3653 Little Rock Drive, Provo, UT 84604 \* WILLIAM R. "MAC" MCKENZIE, 5157CR 4200, Cherryvale, KS 67335 \* DAVID R. MURRAY, 402 Holly Road, Taylors, SC 29687

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS: PRESIDENT (NEWLY ELECTED): WILLIAM S. HESSE, 66 Clinton Street, Meriden, CT 06450 \* CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD (RE-ELECTED): GYSGT. LEE R. BURNS, Ret., 1248 Millbury Avenue, La Puente, CA 91746 \* [REDACTED] \* [REDACTED]  
SECRETARY (TO BE APPOINTED) \* CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (RE-APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT): DAVID M. MURRAY, C.P.A., 402 Holly Road, Taylors, SC 29687 \* MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN (ELECTED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS): LAWRENCE "TOM" STUBBS, 15852 N 50th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85254  
[REDACTED]

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# IN MEMORIAM



## **Ray Bridgewater**

**Delta Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon., Vietnam 1967-1968**

Ray "RB" Bridgewater II, RAY "RB" 55, a Plumber, died Monday, August 23, 2004 in Dallas.

Funeral: 12:30 p.m. Thursday, August 26, at Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Chapel, 5725 Colleyville Blvd. Burial: Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park. Visitation: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 25, at the funeral home.

Ray served with the United States Marine Corps from 1967 to 1968 with Delta Company 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, the 1st Bn. 9th Marines" The Walking Dead".

He was a Life member of the VFW, American Legion, Purple Hearts, MCL, Khe Sanh Vietnam Veterans. Ray was awarded three Purple Hearts during his tour in Vietnam. He also was a member of the VFW Honor Guard. Survivors: wife, Lane Bridgewater; mother, Peggy Bridgewater; mother-in-law, Beatrice Wells; brothers, David Bridgewater, Bill Harden; sisters, Laura Hardin, Melody Barber, Kathy Griffin, step-son, T. L. Coker; grandson, Kyle Coker; numerous nieces and nephews; friends, Dennis and Glenda Lee and Judy Brooks. Bluebonnet Hills 817-281-8751  
Published in the Dallas Morning News on 8/25/2004

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### MAIL CALL

Hi Dan,

I have a couple things I would like to have in our next newsletter, the most important one being recognition of all that contributed to our last reunion. Please let me know when I would need to have that information to you to be included in our newsletter. I would also love to have these two messages in our next newsletter:

#### Annual Meetings of Members

In our By-laws it states that our "Corporation Members shall hold Annual Meetings"..... All through the By-laws there are distinctions between Regular Members and

Associate Members, with the exception of the Annual Meeting. This By-law simply states "Corporation Members". All members are to be welcomed at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting is a business meeting; it is not a therapy session. It is a meeting where interested members can become aware of the financial status of our organization, as well as other information that pertains to the organization. Before the business meeting at our Quantico Reunion, Gunny Burns, Phil Sutherland, Rob and I discussed who was allowed into the annual business meeting. We felt who better to ask than the founder of our organization, Roger Liggon. We went to Roger and asked him what they By-laws mean and what was the original intention. Roger confirmed that ALL members are allowed into the annual meeting of members. He also confirmed that while all members are welcomed, only the Regular members have the right to vote. The Associate members do not have the privilege of voting, but we do have the privilege of attending the meeting.

The qualifications for becoming an Associate member as stated in our By-laws:

#### Associate Membership:

Any and all veterans attached to the 1st Battalion 9th Marines Regiment shall be granted Membership status as Associate Members of the Corporation, subject to section 3 below. Any and all relatives of any Marine or Navy corpsman specifically assigned to the 1st Battalion 9th Marines Regiment, if said Marine or Navy corpsman was killed while serving with the 1st Battalion 9th Marines Regiment, shall be granted Membership status as Associate Members, if the said relatives do not meet the eligibility requirements for Regular Membership, subject to Section 3 below. Any and all relatives of any member of the Network shall be granted Membership status as Associate Members, if the said relatives do not meet the eligibility requirements for Regular Membership, subject to Section 3 below. (Section 3 has to do with tax exempt status of the organization).

Application : (a) Provided however, that as a prerequisite to Membership in the Corporation, any and all prospective Members of the Corporation (except the Incorporators) must submit an application to the Corporation's President at the Corporation's National Headquarters (as defined in the Corporation's By-laws), which application must establish the applicant's qualifications under the foregoing criteria and otherwise be in form and substance satisfactory to the Membership Committee (as defined below), and such application must be approved by the Membership Committee for the prospective Member to attain Membership status in the Corporation.....

An application for membership is available to print from the Firebase website.

Thank you, Kris Fabian

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### WOMENS AUXILLARY

It has come to my attention that many women would like to become more active and supportive to our men, the Network and each other. I have been asked to form an auxillary group. While at first I didn't think this was something I would be interested in doing, the overwhelming interest in forming such a group has changed my thinking.

If any women are interested in being a part of this group, please contact me at: (757)471-6216, or by email at [kayceegirl1@cox.net](mailto:kayceegirl1@cox.net), or my snail mail address: 3829 Boysenberry Ct., V.B., VA 23456

We can be a great support to our men and ourselves. One thing that I would like to see us accomplish, would be to have a welcome committee at our reunions. We need to make sure our new members are recognized and welcomed. We need to lighten the load on our men when we have a reunion. I know that at this reunion when I saw Phil Sutherland, Col. Radcliffe, or Larry Gugle, they had little time to sit back and enjoy the company of their brothers. Reunions are for our men to come together and feel the support and understanding of each other. Let's see what we can do to encourage that, as well as help support ourselves.

Thank you,  
Kris Fabian

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Dan, Your name was given to me by Kris Fabian. She said this would be the time so submit any article as the deadline is this week. I am the wife of a vet and attended the reunion in VA. for the first time. My life will never be the same. As you can see, the article came back to me as I was one letter off on the e-mail address. Please consider my article for the newsletter. Thank You.

Kathy Chase

(wife of Larry "Doc" Chase  
1st Battalion 9th Marines/ Alpha Co.

### FIRST TIME REUNION FROM THE EYES OF A WIFE

I am a passenger on the bus riding to the Vietnam Memorial and then on to Arlington Cemetery where we will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Everyone is talking and I hear bits and pieces of conversations. I am a silent stranger as this is my first reunion. I don't know quite what to expect as my vet and I have waited for years to make this journey to the wall. It has been a long time coming.

When we get to the Wall. We are a little disappointed because most of the wall is closed for renovating purposes. There is a section still opened. We see people looking, searching, and some finding a name on the wall. We question as to how the names are on the wall and someone

tells us " by the order they were killed or missing". There are books with the names listed of those killed or missing. We find the books and my vet begins to look through the pages. He finds the name of a local hometown soldier that he knew did not make it out of Viet Nam. He looks for other names and does not find them. There is a sense of relief. They must have made it out O.K.

We're back on the bus, headed for the Arlington Cemetery. As our three busses enter the cemetery, there is a funeral. We see the horse drawn wagon ...It becomes quiet and as I looked out on the thousands of white markers, I weep. The silence of the markers speaks. I am humbled by the sacrifice each marker represents.

We get off the bus and climb the hill to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The "Changing of the Guard" is permanently indented in my mind.

I overhear two vets talking and one says to the other, " I wish I had been faster and smarter." The other vet agrees. These two warriors voice what each soldier feels.

Throughout the reunion I am impressed by the bond each vet seems to have toward each other. I realize that we don't have to do a thing to belong to this group. We already do. I begin to relax...

When I leave on Sunday morning, I know that I will never be the same. Each person that I have talked to has touched my life in some way. We have laughed, we have cried. We know that our vet does not feel that we understand what they have been through. But we as women understand what we have been through. As we spent time sharing in the Hospitality Room, one thing we agreed on was this. We love our Vet and he is our Hero. I am honored to have been a part of the reunion held in Virginia...our first...hopefully not our last!

Thanks to everyone who helped make this reunion a success!

Kathy Chase (wife of Larry "Doc" Chase 1/9 Alpha Co.)

### SICK CALL

Dixie Fix writes that Howard (1/9 WWII)has been diagnosed with lung cancer and has started radiation treatments. It's certain he would like to hear from his 1/9 friends at 5847 Pleasant Ridge Road, Harrisonville, PA 17228 (From the A-1-9 Newsletter) Howard was at our National Reunion a couple of years back

Casey Piatt got the word from Doctor's that he has cancer of the esophagus and stomach. Casey is scheduled to go in for surgery sometime in September. I know he will appreciate your cards and letters at 134 Bridle Trail, Youngsville NC 27596

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## SALTY LANGUAGE

by Col James W. Hammond Jr., USMC (Ret)

In the (not so) old Corps, the first time a "boot" referred to a vertical partition as a "wall" or said that he had spilled something on the "floor," he incurred the unmitigated wrath of the nearest drill instructor. To gain the attention of the miscreant, the DI would smash his swagger stick on the top of the boot's pith helmet accompanied by a very loud bit of enduring advice, "That's 'bulkhead' [or 'deck']. If you draw the pay, you speak the language!"

Marines are "Soldiers of the Sea," and it is right and proper that conversation be sprinkled with nautical expressions. In "The Leatherneck," his introduction to "Fix Bayonets," the late Colonel John W. Thompson Jr., USMC (Ret) described the many men making up the 4th Marine Brigade about to see action at Belleau Wood in June 1918: "And there were also a number of diverse people who ran curiously to type, with drilled shoulders and a bone-deep sunburn, a tolerant scorn of nearly everything on earth. Their speech was flavored with Navy words, and words culled from all the folk who live on the seas and ports where our war-ships go." He was describing Marine professionals who, like all professionals, have a language peculiar unto themselves.

A language is a living and evolving thing. As we go to more strange and distant climes, some foreign words creep in. Some are transitory and don't survive. Marines still go to the "head" to "pump bilges," although there was a generation or two who went to the benjo for the same thing. I've always liked the story of the world-traveler Marine sitting in a bar in Athens who politely summoned the waiter and ordered a beer with "Garcon, iddy-wa, una botella de cerveza bitte."

But over the years I have detected not just a lessening of the use of nautical terms among the naval services, but almost a complete lack of them. This is more than 25 years ago when my son came home from the United States Naval Academy his Plebe Christmas. He had been raised on "deck," "bulkhead," "overhead," "ladder," "galley," etc. He called his Boy Scout equipment "782 gear," but he was no longer using those descriptive terms because they weren't in use at the Academy.

After he graduated, I spent a dozen years in Annapolis on the staff of the Alumni Association of my alma mater. I was appalled at the lubberly-ness of the staff, faculty and midshipmen at the Academy. Fortunately, the Marines on duty there kept the tradition of nautical language alive. It must be paying off because every year the allotted "boat spaces" for Marines on graduation are oversubscribed. But I am not concerned with Navy per se, but rather our Corps of Marines. I equate it to the reply an old gunnery sergeant gave to the lady who upon hearing the legend that the quatrefoil on the cover of Marine Officers' frame caps stems from days of sail when Marines in the "fighting tops" could identify their officers on deck by the chalked cross on

their caps and not fire on them, asked, "What about the Navy Officers?" "Who cared?" snapped the gunny." Language is both spoken and written. "The Marines' Hymn" says, "We are proud to claim the title of United States Marines." There are Army officers and soldiers, Navy officers and sailors, Air Force officers and airmen, but we are all Marines. That is why Marine is always written with a capital "M."

We must be careful not to allow our own professional culture to be corrupted by the words of other services. The Army says 1600 (sixteen hundred) hours. We say 1600 (sixteen hundred). It is a small but subtle difference. Many years ago at a large East Coast Marine base, an over zealous "police sergeant" neatly painted on the "deck" in front of a regimental headquarters building: "NO PARKING AFTER 1600 HOURS." The commanding general, or "CG," came by and saw the offending sign. He dashed into headquarters, burst in the office of the commanding officer, or "CO," and began holding "school-of-the-boat" (the most basic instruction one can give to the landlubber) on the colonel. He said, "In the Army, it's 1600 hours; in the Navy, it's 8 bells; in the Air Force, I think it is 'when Mickey's big hand is on 12 and his little hand is on 4,' but in the Corps, it is 1600. Get that abomination corrected immediately!"

Most Marines knew the motto of our Corps before they went to boot camp, or they probably wouldn't have gone. It is "Semper Fidelis" - always faithful. Shortened to "Semper Fi," it is a bond of respectful recognition between and among Marines. One Marine greets another with it. When they part company, each says to the other, "Semper fi." Informal memos or e-mails between Marines usually are signed "Semper fi" or just S/F. But there used to be a darker side. Used by Marines to members of the other services or civilians, "Semper fi, Mac," said with a sneer, had a sinister connotation. It could mean anything from "I got mine; the hell with you!" to "I did fine; how did you do?" An old "China Hand" once told me that on payday night in Shanghai cabarets, it meant, "You buy the fifth; my girl is drunk already!" I much prefer the version denoting mutual respect among a "band of brothers" than the cynical version. Some words and phrases have found their way into common American usage through the Marine Corps. Some are of foreign origin. "We have fought in every clime and place." Others were Marine-coined.

The best example of a Marine-coined word in widespread use is "gizmo." "Gung-ho" is of Chinese origin, via Col. Evans F. Carlson of the World War II Carlson's Raiders. Going back several campaigns, we find that "boondocks" comes from the Tagalog "bundok" or mountain jungles of the Philippines. "Honcho" came back from Korea and Japan.

Another word that is sacred to our Corps is "Doc" - the corpsman who wear our uniform, joins with and cares for us in combat. Many years ago I had a "Stateside" battalion during the time that doctors were drafted for two years of



service. My battalion surgeon (billet title since he wasn't really a "cutter") came to me with a complaint. The young Marines were addressing him as "Doc." Since he was a professional man, he felt he deserved the respect of being addressed as "Doctor." I told him that evidently he was not ready to be addressed as "Doc" inasmuch as that is the highest honor that a Marine can bestow upon a "squid."

The language door swings both ways. We have allowed civilian language to corrupt our pure nautical expression. While a landlubber may refer to a ship as "it," a true "soldier of the sea" knows that a ship is a "she." Likewise, it is a real nautical bust, both orally and in writing, to precede the name of a ship with a definite article. A ship is a distinct personality, and referring to the Lexington is as improper as referring to me as the Hammond. She is Lexington. Many readers will argue that the definite article is used in professional naval publications, and I invite their attention to the fact that those journals have professional editors and writers, not naval professionals. Finally, one serves in not on a ship. If it is the latter, you are in deep trouble. To a precise reader or listener it conjures up the vision of your sitting on the keel of a capsized vessel.

How did this departure from salty language occur? I alluded to the traumatic change to the nautical nature of the Naval Academy, at least in my observation. Emphasis was more on turning out graduates who could go on for advanced degrees. "Techies" and their bastardization of English for computer talk followed. This was compounded by flooding the faculty with academics holding advanced degrees from campuses of the '60s. This sizeable group of civilians avoided being part of the naval culture. Over the past quarter century, the leadership of half the naval service has eroded much of the base of salty-language usage. If those at the top don't lead the way, it is a military axiom that those below won't follow.

But how did the decline of the use of salty language creep into our Corps? Drill instructors still drill into recruits the use of "deck," "bulkhead," "ladder," etc., although perhaps with a less emphatic way of getting their attention than in the (not so) old Corps.

For one thing, more Marines are married these days, and many live ashore among the civilian community. These Marines try to blend into the civilian community rather than flaunt their pride of being a Marine. Their use of salty language becomes one of the first casualties.

Even today it is a matter of pride to sport a regulation haircut, spit-shined shoes, proper civilian attire and, of course, salty language. It is gratifying when some stranger at a cocktail party says, "You sound like you're a Marine."

Another reason for the decline of salty language is that many young Marines are "cool." Nautical talk is not cool, computer talk and jive talk are. Unlike the Navy with its many technicians, "every Marine is a rifleman" and has the privilege of displaying pride in the language of his profession. It is a privilege not available to others.

How can we restore this eroding tradition? Like everything else in the Corps, it begins at the top. Senior officers should use salty language at every opportunity and hold school-of-the-boat on their subordinates who don't. Top staff noncommissioned officers should do likewise.

Tradition is not something that can be ordered. It must have solid roots to survive. Marines should want to show that they are a different breed and be willing to demonstrate their uniqueness at every opportunity whether among other Marines or among civilians. That's what it is about personal pride in being a Marine.

More than 50 years ago, during the Cherry Blossom Pageant in Washington, DC, 10 junior officers from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps were detailed as escorts for princesses from 48 states and the territories of Alaska and Hawaii. Most of the Marines were strangers to each other.

At the end of the ceremonies a musical tribute to the gallant escorts of the lovely princesses was announced. The band struck up a medley of "The Caisson Song," "The Air Force Song," "Anchors Aweigh" and "Semper Paratus." At the first note of "The Marines' Hymn," 10 Marine lieutenants scattered among the audience were on their feet as 20 heels clicked as one. An officer from another service paid them a high compliment. In a stage whisper audible to all, he said, "Those s.o.b.s!" That's what it is all about - exhibiting your pride in your Corps every time you can.

About 30 years ago there was the tale of an old sergeant major who retired and had a nice job, although he was putting in long hours. He had another problem as well, or at least his boss and co-workers thought so. He still said "deck," "bulkhead," "overhead," etc. The boss made him an appointment with the company psychiatrist. The sergeant major arrived, and the doctor, who was of the Freudian school, directed him to lie on the couch.

Doctor: "Do you lead an active sex life?"

SgtMaj: "Sure!"

Doctor: "Tell me about it."

SgtMaj: "What do you want to know?"

Doctor: "Your last affair, when was it?"

SgtMaj: "About 1950?"

Doctor: "You call that active?"

SgtMaj: looking at his watch: "It's only 2115 now!"

Draw the pay; speak the language.

Semper fi.

[Col Hammond enlisted in the Corps in 1946, was appointed to the Naval Academy in 1947 and was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1951. He commanded an infantry platoon and company, an artillery battery and battalion, an infantry battalion (2/4) in combat (RVN). He was wounded in action during the Korean War and twice wounded in the Vietnam War. He is the author of more than 50 professional articles in a wide variety of professional publications, including Marine Corps Gazette, Naval Institute Proceedings, The

Hook and others. He was managing editor and then editor-publisher for Gazette from 1964 to 1966 and in retirement was editor of the U. S. Naval Academy Alumni Association's monthly magazine, Shipmate. He has written two books: "Poison Gas - The Myths Versus Reality" and "The Treaty Navy - The Story of the U. S. Naval Service Between the World Wars". Colonel and Mrs. Hammond make their home in Reno, but can be found in Annapolis during football season.] Contributed, YNCS Don Harribine, USN(Ret)

From: Grubb, Robert

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## **CORPSMAN'S HEROISM** **HONORED**



### **MARINES SAVED DURING BATTLE AT AN NASIRIYAH**

August 12, 2004 ERIC STEINKOPFF  **DAILY NEWS STAFF**

The fight lasted two hours.

On March 23, 2003 Marines from 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment came under heavy fire near the Iraqi city of An Nasiriyah. Gaining control of the Saddam Canal Bridge would be integral to the successful push for Baghdad. One of the Marines' Amphibious Assault Vehicles was ablaze - five troops were still inside. Navy Seaman Louis Fonseca Jr. got them out. In fact, the young corpsman is credited with saving numerous lives that day. For his bravery and heroism, Fonseca, 23, was presented with the Navy Cross - the Navy's highest recognition next to the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Navy Secretary Gordon R. England made the presentation Wednesday outside the Naval Hospital aboard Camp Lejeune.

"It's a terrific day - a great day to serve and honor somebody who exhibited extreme valor and courage," England said. "Corpsmen have a long tradition, and (it is one of the) most valuable ratings in our service. "You are the finest of the finest," England told Fonseca.

As grenades detonated and bullets whizzed through the air, Fonseca moved the injured Marines to a safer vehicle. He applied tourniquets to at least two amputees and dosed them with morphine to dull the pain. Later, when his own AAV was immobilized by enemy fire, Fonseca braved "a wall of enemy machine gun fire," organizing and directing teams with stretchers to rescue four other wounded troops. He personally carried one to safety.

A humble Fonseca said he didn't think about what he was doing at the time. Hospital commander Capt. Richard C. Welton wore a broad, proud smile Wednesday, but it was a small group of Marines - some in dress blues, others in camouflage - who knew first-hand of Fonseca's actions. "Our track got hit - blew up - and I was knocked unconscious," said Cpl. Noel Trevino, who suffered a head wound in the battle near An Nasiriyah. "I saw a big flash, and the vision in my right side was gone. "I was pulled to safety, but I blanked in and out. First I was in a house, then on a tank and then put into a helo."

Sgt. Nick Elliot, 23, from New Castle, Del., suffered severe injuries to his neck and arm. He lost much of the back of one leg. Still, he vividly remembers hearing reports of Fonseca's actions. "I heard over the radio that he was going here and there," Elliot said.

"Even though he's in the Navy, I consider him a Marine."

### **NAVY CROSS**

(Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard)

*For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force.*

Authorized February 4, 1919, the Navy Cross was the Navy's 3rd highest award for combat heroism and other distinguished services. On August 7, 1942 Congress made the Navy Cross a COMBAT ONLY decoration with precedence over the Distinguished Service Medal, making it the Navy's 2nd highest award ranking below only the Medal of Honor. It shares its position with the Army's Distinguished Service Cross and the Air Force Cross.

There have been 6,901 Navy Cross Awards since it's inception including; 1833 in World War I, 3968 in World War II, 267 in Korea, 487 in Vietnam, 2 in Desert Storm and 6 in The War on Terror.

A total of 19 1/9 Marines and Corpsmen have been awarded the Navy Cross for Heroism in Vietnam.

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# THANKS TO ALL THE REUNION SPONSORS

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Many, many thanks for all who contributed to our Quantico National Reunion. Without you, it wouldn't have been as fun or as successful. We had so many wonderful contributions that we were able to have 50+ door prizes as well as the two fund raising raffles.

## **THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR RAFFLES AND DOOR PRIZES**

Ben Baldwin - USMC Door Knocker\* Bill "Frenchy" Laverrierie - NCO Sword & 1/9 Golf Shirt\* Col. Radcliffe - 2 autographed copies of Recovering From The War (+ he donated what he won at the raffles) \* Col. Wesley Fox - Autographed copy of Marine Rifleman & Medal of Honor Coin \* Casey Piatt - Bowie Knife \* Doc Gaspard - USMC coin from the U.S. Mint \* Doug Todd - Autographed copy of Aftermath: A Song For Tyrone \* Frank Healey - Nam A Photographic History book \* Jim "Cotton" Cottingim - Two 1/9 Clocks \* Lt. Col. Donnolly - Semper Fi - Viet Nam book \* Lou Robesch - 2004 Reunion knives \* Mac & Karla McKenzie - John Wayne Knife & Iwo Jima picture \* Richard White - Birdhouse reflecting this years Reunion & USMC \* Rob & Kris Fabian - 4 'Quantico 2004' T-shirts & 48 'Quantico 2004' gift bags

## **THANK YOU TO THESE BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS**

ACE Hardware - Basket full of bar-b-que items (\$70.00) \* Anheiser-Busch - \$244.00 donation \* Anonymous - Vector Sport Spotlight (\$40.00) & Ritz camera print & frame coupon (\$43.00) \* Applebee's - \$25.00 gift certificate \* Arnold Palmer - Autographed picture \* Cabela's Sporting Goods - Fleece Jacket (\$40.00) \* Chili's - 3 \$10.00 gift certificates \* Coleman Company - 354 Emergency Rain Poncho's (\$354.00) \* Cracker Barrell - 2 meal coupons, good for 2 meals each \* Dicks Sporting Goods - Metal Locking Gun Case + coupons (\$100.00) \* Dremel - Cordless Rotary Tool ( \$125.00) \* EMarinePX - \$100.00 donation \* Golden Coral - 12 free breakfast coupons \* Harley Davidson- \$25.00 gift certificate \* Jack Nicklaus - Autographed copy of My Story \* Keith Nolan - Autographed copy of Operation Buffalo \* Mrs. Fields Cookies - 2 coupons, each good for 1 cookie \* Nags Head Hammocks - Sling-Shot Swing (\$120.00) \* Norfolk Marine Recruiters - 33 Marine coffee mugs, 119 CD holder books, 20 straps \* Olive Garden - \$15.00 gift certificate \* Omaha Steaks - Cookbook (\$25.00) \* Red Lobster - \$15.00 gift certificate \* Sgt. Grit - 14 T-shirts, 3 sweaters, 2 Golf shirts, 4 hats + access. (\$400.00) \* Swiss Army Brands - Watch (\$275.00) \* Va. Beach Marine Recruiters - 11 Marine coffee mugs, 26 CD holder books, 21 straps, 19 T-shirts, 7 Marine water bottles \* War Zone Wear - Lithograph of "Legacy", 2 autographed copies of No Survivors, 2 gift certificates @ \$25.00 ea. 4 T-shirts, 2 Devil Dog Pins (\$230.00) + 15% online discount using Code: WD2004 \* Washington Redskins- Autographed picture of Renaldo Wynn \* Thank you to the person that donated - USMC-A complete History & World War II Video set

## **THANKS FOR ITEMS DONATED FOR OUR HOSPITALITY SUITE**

Debbie & David Zeller- 2 beautiful wicker baskets full of sugar & sugarless goodies, kleenex & US flags \* Frito Lay - 4 free product coupons \* Pepsi - 15 cases of soda, 5 cases of water \* Planters Peanuts - 2 cases of 1 oz. size pkg. of peanuts \* Snyders of Hanover - 2 cases 1/2 oz. size Mini Pretzels \* Mars Candy - 8000 Kudos bars, 2 cases of Snickers candy bars (yes, that is not a typo, it was 8000 Kudos bars!) \*

## **A HUGE THANK YOU ALSO GOES TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS...WITHOUT YOU IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR CONTRIBUTING YOUR TIME AND EFFORT**

Alice Cooper & Robert Syler \* Dana Benefield \* Darlene & Tom "Mac" McGuigan \* Debra & Johnnie Beamon \* Debbie & David Zeller \* "Frenchy" Laverrierie \* "Weid" Weidenbacher

## **MANY THANKS TO THE FOLKS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO BRING PATIENCE MASON TO OUR REUNION. SHE WAS ABLE TO TALK WITH AND HELP QUITE A FEW PEOPLE WHILE SHE ATTENDED.**

Alvin Mays \* Archie Echols \* Bill Martin \* Chris Runion \* Doc Gaspard \* David Zeller \* EmarinePX \* Ed Franzone \* Glenn Stantiford \* Mac McKenzie \* "Weid" Weidenbacher\*

If I have forgotten anyone, please accept my apology. I tried to keep track of all the wonderful people that have helped to make this reunion such a success. All of the businesses that donated did so with the intentions that our men would realize the support and thanks that they have for the members of "The Walking Dead".

Thanks again to all that participated & helped to make this a great reunion.

Kris Fabian

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# MEMORIES

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You know how you remember some event from Vietnam, but most of the details are lost to time and fading memory? I know a lot of us have fading memories of events, and they get dimmer as time goes on. Yeah, there are those “special” events that never seem to fade, but linger around just as they happened yesterday, we all have those.

I remember an event from late in 1968 that I remember and talk to my Radioman Lance Larson about every once in a while. Lance has a great memory, he remembers events that have long been erased from my memory. I’ll bring it up, then he’ll add something and we’ll try and remember just exactly what went down. One such event is the finding of a helicopter deep in the mountains at some long forgotten location in Vietnam. Lance and I will talk about it and how Alpha Company stumbled on it in late 1968, but that’s about all we remember. The story of the helicopter overgrown with jungle and what we actually found still plays out in our minds.

It’s September 2004, 36 years after that one event lingers in the back of my mind trying to come to light. And low and behold, I hit the jackpot. I am reading the daily event log from the December 1968, 9<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment Command Chronology. And right there in front of me is 19 December, A/1/9 found 1 CH-53 downed chopper. I stare in disbelief, could it be the same event? It had to be!

## **Transcribed from the actual 19 December 1968 report**

19 Dec At 1430H, vic YD223260 A/1/9 found 1 CH-53 downed chopper estimated to be 1 year old. Found human bones and ID tags with names WHITE, R 2353781, PORTLAND, G.J. 2266513 AND BERRY, K.D. 235949?. Also found 1 watch with name SCRAM, F.L. engraved on back. At 1630H, found 4 ID cards with names fo NICHOLSON, D.D. 2323079, FREEMAN, G.W. 2200577, DIAZ, D. 2347916, DAY, M.R. 2152524. Also, 2 45 cal pistols #936454 and #2130875.

After all these years, I finally had confirmation that Alpha did indeed find a “missing” downed helicopter. But, if we found it, what happened to the rest of the crew ( and passengers)? I had to find out, so I turned to the Internet to see if I could find out more information. I went to www. Popasmoke.com and found more information on the downed helicopter.

On the Popasmoke website, I found the information on the Ch-53 Tail #153710 and details of the event. It seems that the CH-53 loaded with a crew of 5 and 40 passengers, when it crashed ( fog, weather conditions, not shot down). The helicopter had crashed almost a year earlier on 8 Jan 68, and we did not find it until 19 Dec 68, but it had been found and bodies recovered 11 months before in late January 1968. That’s why we only found some ID cards and stuff.

## **FROM THE POPASMOKE WEBSITE:**

### **Comment on Incident:**

According to the HMH-463 Squadron Command Chronologies for Jan and Feb 1968, the crew was reported as MIA on 8 Jan 1968. The crew was reclassified as KIA/DAI on 26 Feb 1968.

### **Personal Narrative:**

As a platoon commander with A/1/3, it was my unpleasant task to command a reinforced platoon that was dropped above the crash site to hike down to where the actual aircraft came to rest. There was more to the story than just a body recovery operation, as I found out later. I thought the flight commander was a Major at the time, I found his flight jacket with name patch. We had CID, graves [registration] and a Colonel from MAG-? in Da Nang there with us. Seems some important documents were on board.

Col. Ellis was traveling with the "Die Marker" plans, McNamara's defensive positions in I Corps. I searched his wallet and found his CA driver's license. SgtMaj Cyr is a mystery. One of the SSgts, SSgt Grimes, I knew from OCS at Quantico.

The aircraft literally slammed into the side of a mountain, in the fog and was off course. Bringing Marines back from R&R, I believe. Found part of WO Price wrapped around a tree. Most of the bodies were unrecognizable. Col. Ellis' body was remarkably intact. It looked like he was stretched out sleeping near part of the aircraft. It is my understanding that the aircraft had been there three weeks before we went after it. Spooky area, Hai Lang Forest, R&R for NVA. I was there on 28 Jan.

There was an arty FO [Artillery Forward Observer] with us and he took a few photos, but I don't remember his name. The graves people put bodies in bags. Don't know if anyone went in after we left. I wasn't told to look for a briefcase with the "Die Marker" plans. Found out about it a few days after we returned to Quang Tri.

Submitted by Bruce S. Lewy, A/1/3, platoon commander, recovery platoon

### Another comment on Incident:

The following two men died while missing as a result of an unknown helicopter crash on January 8th, 1968. I have no record of any other helicopter crashes, Army or Marine, on that day. Neither was a helicopter crewmember. They were reported as helicopter passengers downed in "province unknown, Military Region 1" and died while missing.

[Passengers - US Army]

Bardach, Alan Jensen CAPT(US Army) Pass HHB, 108th ARTY GRP, USARV 680108

Zirfas, Ewald 1Lt(US Army) Pass 507th Transportation Group, USARV 680108

Submitted by [Alan H. Barbour](#), Historian, USMC/VHA

### Another Personal Narrative:

A good and dear friend of mine died in that crash. Tommy "Grumpy" Grimes as we called him. We served together as Marine Security Guards at our Embassy in Lima, Peru in 65-66. The funny thing here was that Tommy was from Lima, Indiana. He told all of the women that his home town was named after Lima, Peru it made him quite a hit.

I have a lot of Grumpy story's I could share, but the one that stands out is the day that Senator and Ms. B. Bayh from Indiana called on us at the Marine house in Lima. The Senator was on a fact finding trip, and when he found out that one of our Marines was from Indiana he wanted some photos. Tommy could not make up his mind if he should wear his Dress Blues or civvies. Grumpy was in rare form. I can not reprint his words here. In the end all hands had a good time. He took a lot of ribbing from the rest of us about sucking up to the Senator. Tommy was a fine Marine and a good leader. He is missed. PS: We all wore civvies.

Submitted by [Jim Rutherford](#), SSgt. USMC

### **The list of crew and passengers of CH53 tail #153710**

#### **CREW-HMH-463 MAG-16:**

Chapman, John Thomas Capt Co-,Olson, Bennett Walfred SSgt Gunner ,Schram, Frederick Lloyd Capt Pilot ,Strand Jr., Philip Stanley Cpl Crew ChiefVenegas, Vernon Bernabe Cpl Gunner

#### **PASSENGERS:**

Bardach, Alan Jensen 1stLt HHB, 108th Arty , \* Barry, Kenneth Donald PFC H&SCo/1/1, \* Curry, Hovey Rice PFC A/1/1 ,Cyr, \* Lawrence Joseph SgtMaj HQBtty/4/12 , \* Day, Michael Robert Sgt A/3rdTankBn, Diaz, \* Daniel PFC HQCo/3rdMarines, \* Dietz, Gary Philip Cpl B/1stAmtracBn, Dornak, \* Leonard Edward 1stLt CommSuptBn/7thCommBn, \* Eaddy, Ishmell PFC E/2/9, \* Ellis, George Walter Col H&SCo 3rdMAF, \* Fennell, Alton Jimmy PFC 3rdMAF, \* Fox, Ronald Lee LCpl I/1/12, \* Freeman, Glenn Wayne Cpl 3rdMAF, \* Fulwider, Daniel Raymond Sgt 3rdMAF,. \* Garza, Vicente Sgt 3DATCo/3TANKBn Grimes, \* Thomas Allen SSgt K/3/26, \*Hall, Michael Jennings 2ndLt H&SCo/FLSG"B"/ForceLogCom \* Hetland, Ronald Lee LCpl BttyE/2/12, \* Jackson, Donney Lyrcce HM3 Corpsman-Pass 4/12 \* Jones Jr., Halcott Pride HM2 Corpsman-Pass 1/4 \* Kirschner, Stephen Benjamin PVT HQBtty/1/12, \* May, Craig Nolan LCpl Passenger H&SCo/1/1, \* Miller, James Irvin LCpl C/1/1 1stMarDiv \* Nicholson, David Donell Cpl E/2/9, \* Patrick, Jerry PFC H&SCo/1/1 1stMarDiv \* Pintar, James Albert LCpl H&SCo/1/1, \* Price Jr., Millard Ernest WO HQCo/HQBn/3rdMarDiv, \* Protano Jr., Guy Jerry LCpl G/2/1, \* Schautteet Jr., Louis L LCpl A/1/1, \* Shaffer Jr., Wallace Clair HM3 Corpsman 3rdMedBn, \* Sigmon, Harold Wayne Sgt B/1/4,. \* Smith, Charles Herbert LCpl H&SCo/3/2,. \* Teeter, Gary Alan LCpl C/1/1, \* Ugino, John Joseph PFC M/3/26, \* Vaught, Michael Eugene LCpl A/1/4, \* White, Craig Preston LCpl C/1/1, \* White, Raymond PFC A/1/1, \* Wilson, Robert Charles PFC B/1/1, \* Zirfas, Ewald Capt 507thTransGrp/TMA/MACV

These Marines are listed with a casualty date of January 08, 1968, Air Loss Crash-Land : Crew or Passenger, body recovered, Thua Thien Province. A total of 45 Marines lost their lives in that fatal crash, all but 2 are interred at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St Louis, MO : Plot 81 0 270-272. Burial date is listed as 07/23/1968.

That's my little piece of memory restored. Rest in peace Marines.  
Dan Beckham

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## POINTS TO PONDER

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### WISDOM FROM GRANDPA

Whether a man winds up with a nest egg, or a goose egg, depends a lot on the kind of chick he marries.

Trouble in marriage often starts when a man gets so busy earnin' his salt, that he forgets his sugar.

Too many couples marry for better, or for worse, but not for good.

When a man marries a woman, they become one; but the trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

When a man has enough horse sense to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she will never turn into an old nag.

On anniversaries, the wise husband always forgets the past -but never the present.

A foolish husband says to his wife, "Honey, you stick to the washin' ironin', cookin', and scrubbin'. No wife of mine is gonna work."

The bonds of matrimony are a good investment, only when the interest is kept up.

Many girls like to marry a military man - he can cook, sew, and make beds, and is in good health, and he's already used to taking orders.

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age, and start bragging about it.

The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth. Remember about Algebra.

You know you are getting old, when everything either dries up, or leaks.

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Old age is when former classmates are so gray and wrinkled and bald, they don't recognize you.

If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.

First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper, but it's really worse when you forget to pull it down.

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft.....Today, it's called Golf.

Have a GREAT day.....and keep Smiling.

Women and Cats will do as they Please, Men and Dogs should just get used to it.

From: Grubb, Robert

### DADDY'S EMPTY CHAIR

A man's daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her father. When the minister arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed.

The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me, he said. "No, who are you?" said the father. The minister told him his name and then remarked, "I saw the empty chair and I figured you knew I was going to show up," "Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?" Puzzled, the minister shut the door.

"I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head." I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day four years ago; my best friend said to me, "Johnny, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest."

"Sit down in a chair; place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because he promised, "I will be with you always." "Then just speak to him in the same way you're doing with me right now." "So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church. Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her daddy had died that afternoon. Did he die in peace?" he asked. Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange about his death.

Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?"

The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we could all go like that."

Just send this to four people or more, and do not break this, please. Prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive. I asked God for water, He gave me an ocean. I asked God for a flower, He gave me a garden.

I asked God for a friend, He gave me all of YOU.  
From Suzi Littlefield

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# ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

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## A DETECTIVE STORY

Three elderly ladies are excited about seeing their first baseball game. They smuggle a bottle of Jack Daniel's into the ballpark. The game is real exciting and they are enjoying themselves immensely mixing the Jack Daniel's with soft drinks. Finally one of them passes out. Soon they realize that the bottle is almost gone and the game has a lot of innings to go.

Based on the given information, what inning is it and how many players are on base? Think! Think some more!! You're gonna love it.....

Answer: It's the bottom of the fifth, one out, and the bags are loaded

## NEED AN ATTORNEY

Mafia Godfather finds out that his bookkeeper has screwed him for ten million bucks. This bookkeeper is deaf. It was considered an occupational benefit, and why he got the job in the first place, since it was assumed that a deaf bookkeeper would not be able to hear anything he'd ever have to testify about in court.

When the Godfather goes to shakedown the bookkeeper about his missing \$10 million bucks, he brings along his attorney, who knows sign language. The Godfather asks the bookkeeper: "Where is the 10 million bucks you embezzled from me?" The attorney, using sign language, asks the bookkeeper where the 10 million dollars is hidden.

The bookkeeper signs back: "I don't know what you are talking about."

The attorney tells the Godfather: "He says he doesn't know what you're talking about." That's when the Godfather pulls out a 9 mm pistol, puts it to the bookkeeper's temple, cocks it, and says: "Ask him again!"

The attorney signs to the underling: "He'll kill you for sure if you don't tell him!" The bookkeeper signs back: "OK! You win! "The money is in a brown briefcase, buried behind the shed in my cousin Enzo's backyard in Queens!"

The Godfather asks the attorney: "Well, what'd he say?" The attorney replies: "He says you don't have the balls to pull the trigger"

## THE CONFESSIONAL

A drunken man staggers in to a Catholic church and sits down in a confession box and says nothing. The bewildered priest coughs to attract his attention, but still the man says nothing. The priest then knocks on the wall three times in a final attempt to get the man to speak. Finally, the drunk replies: "No use knockin' pal, there's no paper in this one either."

## THE TOOTH EXTRACTION

A Scotsman goes to the dentist and asks how much it is for a tooth extraction. "\$85 for an extraction sir", was the dentist's reply. Och huv yer no got anythin' cheaper", replies the Scotsman. That's the normal charge for an extraction sir", said the dentist.

What about if yer din't use any anesthetic?" asked the Scotsman hopefully. Well it's highly unusual sir, but if that's what you want, I suppose I can do it for \$70", said the dentist. Hmmmm, what about if yer used one of yer dentist trainees and still without anesthetic", asked the Scotsman. Well it's possible but they are only training and I can't guarantee their level of professionalism and it'll be a lot more painful. I suppose in that case we can bring the price down to say \$40", said the dentist.

Och that's still a bit much, how about if yer make it a trainin' session and have yer student do the extraction and the other students watchin' and learnin', said the Scotsman hopefully. Well OK it'll be good for the students I suppose, I'll charge you only \$5 in that case", said the dentist. Now yer talkin' laddie! It's a deal", said the Scotsman - "Can yer confirm an appointment for me wife for Tuesday?"

## THE DEAD JACKASS

Father O'Malley rose from his bed. It was a fine spring day in his new Washington, DC parish. He walked to the window of his bedroom to get a deep breath of the beautiful day outside. He then noticed there was a jackass lying dead in the middle of his front lawn. He promptly called the US Senate for assistance.

The conversation went like this. "Good morning, this is Senator Daschle." How might I help you?"

"And the best of the day te yerself. This is Father O'Malley at St. Bridget's. There's a jackass lying dead in me front lawn. Would ye be so kind as to send a couple o' yer lads to take care of the matter?"

Senator Daschle, considering himself to be quite a wit, replied with a smirk, "well now father, it was always my impression that you people took care of last rites!"

There was dead silence on the line for a long moment. Father O'Malley then replied, "Aye, that's certainly true, but we are also obliged to notify the next of kin."

From Bob Grubb

# 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, Metheun, MA 08144



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Got something to sell? Let me know and I will post your information in this section. Ed.

# 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 are 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.

## NIGHT OF THE SILVER STARS

### **The Battle of Lang Vei**

William R. Phillips writes a concise and detailed book of the Battle for Lang Vei, a battle that took place on February 6, & 7, 1968. Seems like this book has been out for quite a while (1997), but it makes interesting reading for those at nearby Khe Sanh Combat Base. There are many corrections to previous reports about the battle in other books. There was one Medal of Honor, one Distinguished Service Star, nineteen Silver Stars and three Bronze Medals earned by brave men that night. These don't include earned by rescue teams and such.

NIGHT OF THE SILVER STARS, The Battle of Lang Vei, @1997 by William R. Phillips, Naval Institute Press (original), St. Martin's paperbacks (2004), 256 pages, ISBN 0-312-99681-0



## MEMBERS PASSED AWAY

Thomas Taylor, Delta Company 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Vietnam 1965-66, passed June 15, 2002, from his wife Vicki Taylor  
Ray Bridgewater, Delta Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Vietnam 1967-1968, passed away August 23, 2004.

## 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

#### BAKER/BRAVO COMPANY

|                 |    |            |      |            |  |  |
|-----------------|----|------------|------|------------|--|--|
| Kelsey          | C. | Council    | 1st  | 68-69      |  |  |
| Douglas         | L. | Everhart   | unk  | unk        |  |  |
| Daniel "Tex"    | D. | Ferrell    | unk  | 65,66 & 69 |  |  |
| James           | P. | Gordon Jr. | 1st  | 65-66      |  |  |
| Kenneth         | M. | Kusmick    | 2nd  | 65-66      |  |  |
| Richard "Brent" |    | Messick    | Wpns | 1966       |  |  |
|                 |    |            |      |            |  |  |

#### CHARLIE COMPANY

|       |    |               |      |            |  |  |
|-------|----|---------------|------|------------|--|--|
| Louis | M. | Hayselden Jr. | Wpns | Feb-Aug 67 |  |  |
|       |    |               |      |            |  |  |

#### DELTA COMPANY

|         |    |         |     |       |  |  |
|---------|----|---------|-----|-------|--|--|
| Richard | D. | Habiger | 1st | 66-67 |  |  |
|         |    |         |     |       |  |  |

#### HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE COMPANY

|      |    |       |        |            |  |  |
|------|----|-------|--------|------------|--|--|
| John | T. | Wayne | HQ/S-2 | May-Oct 66 |  |  |
|      |    |       |        |            |  |  |

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

|          |    |                |                   |  |  |
|----------|----|----------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Margaret | M. | Wilmott        | Family - wife     |  |  |
| Barbara  | R. | Wayne          | Family - Wife     |  |  |
| Heather  |    | Wayne-Starbuck | Family - Daughter |  |  |
| Michael  | D. | Hutchison      | Family - Son      |  |  |

### ADDRESS/EMAIL CORRECTIONS

None reported this time around

***THE PROUD WARRIOR***

**% Daniel Beckham**

**First Battalion Ninth Marines Network, Inc**

**6680 Groton Circle NW**

**Canton Ohio 44708**



**TOGETHER THE PAIN BECOMES BEARABLE**

