

Hotel 2/5 Newsletter

AUGUST 2016

RETREAT HELL

ISSUE FIFTEEN

Editor's Column

You are running out of time. That's right, the clock is ticking. The deadline for the reunion registration is just around the corner.

September 30th is the deadline to register so that you can be included in the 241st Marine Corps Birthday Ball. There will be dinner and dancing. The Birthday Ball is included in our registration fees. You do not need to register with the Pensacola Marine Corps League. ***Please note that the flyer indicates formal attire.***

When you register for the reunion be sure and let us know what you want for dinner at the Ball, meat or fish. If you have already registered, please contact Larry to let him know your choice for dinner.

WE REALLY NEED ALL OF THE REGISTRATIONS

BEFORE THE 30TH SO WE CAN GET THE INFO TO THE HOSTS BY THAT DATE.

Two of the articles this month incorporate the experiences of two daughters

of Vietnam Vets. Both are inspiring and heart warming.

Hope to see you all in Pensacola.

Semper Fi.

Jay

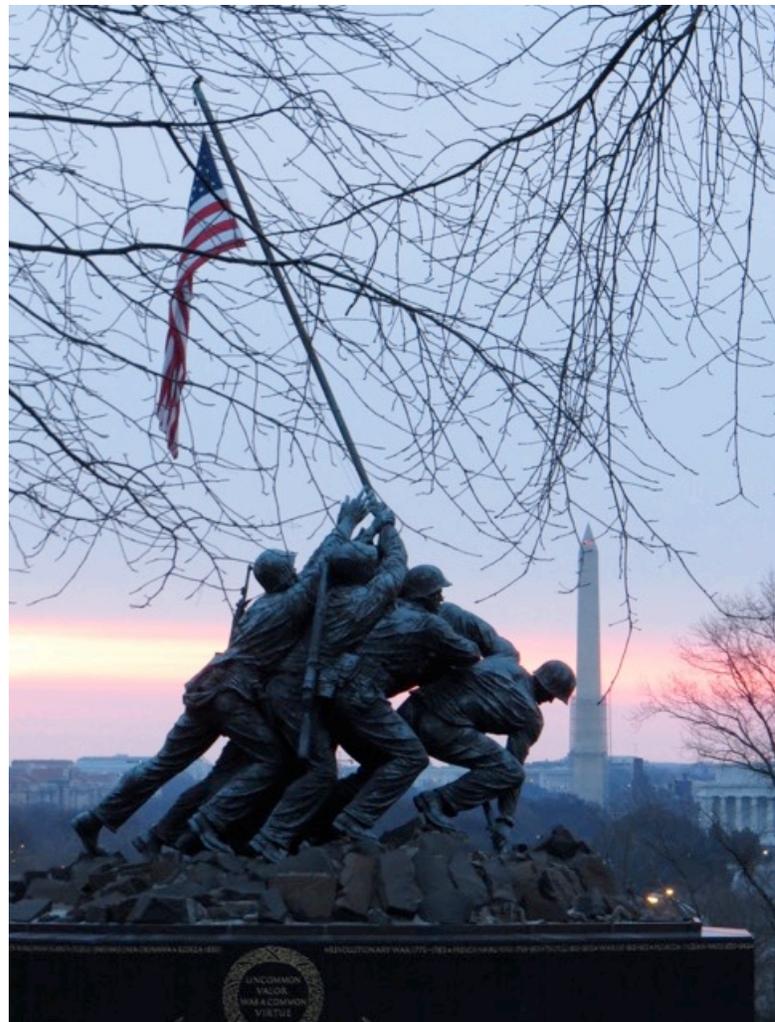


Photo taken by Margo McKay. Margo is the wife of Col. John McKay. John was Hotel's Third Platoon Commander in 1969.



Your
Editor

If you need to contact me use either:
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hotelcompanyreunion@gmail.com



Asst Editor in charge of
everything digital
Carlie Peterson





Bonnie Wade is the daughter of a Hotel Company Marine, John Wade. I took two separate newspaper articles and merged them into one article for the newsletter. Credit for the articles should go to David Lauderdale of the "Island Packet" and DeeAnna Wilkerson of the "Bluffton Today".

BY ME THANKING THESE MEN, I GET TO THANK MY DAD
Bonnie Wade Mucia

Vietnam was many years ago, and also just yesterday. Only a veteran of America's unpopular war of a half century ago could say that. And that's exactly how one responded to a Bluffton woman who has taken it upon herself to get a personal letter of thanks into the hands of every living Vietnam veteran.

Every time she sees Vietnam veterans, Bonnie Wade Mucia makes it a point to stop them, shake their hands and thank them for their service.

Vietnam veterans hold a special place in Mucia's heart. Her father, John F. Wade, served two tours in Vietnam from 1967-69 as a Marine with Hotel Company, 2nd Battalion. He fought in the Battle of Hue City during the Tet Offensive and is a Purple Heart recipient. Wade died unexpectedly in 1991 at the age of 43.

Upon their return to the U.S. beginning in the early 1970s, many soldiers who served in Vietnam did not experience warm welcomes. Decades later, Mucia is on a mission to make them feel appreciated. Mucia has started the organization Dear Vietnam Vet. Its mission is simple: to get

original, handwritten thank-you letters to as many Vietnam veterans across the nation as possible.

Mucia's life has been a blur since she organized Bluffton's official "thank you" party for Vietnam vets a year ago. That was part of a national effort sponsored in part by the Daughters of the American

Revolution. Mucia is in the local Emily Geiger chapter, and her volunteer work for the Vietnam vets has won a statewide DAR award.

"Just because of that one event, it's amazing how big it has gotten," Mucia said.

She enlisted the help of local children to write letters for all of the veterans at the ceremony, but it didn't stop there. "People just kept writing letters and since then, Dear Vietnam Vet has just become gigantic," Mucia said.

Every time Mucia writes a letter, she writes as if it's to him. "When I get to thank them, it's like I'm getting to thank my father," she said.

Bonnie has sent thousands of letters, but it's one she got in return that chokes her up. It mentions her father, the drive

behind her drive. "I could have met your father," writes an aging Marine. "We did travel the same rice paddies, villages and jungle. Vietnam was many years ago, and also just yesterday. We all have our burdens to bear. Thank you for making mine more bearable."

Individuals, school and church groups, DAR chapters and fraternities and sororities from near and far have sent packages of thank-you letters to Mucia for distribution to veterans.

Through the organization's website, people can register Vietnam veterans by providing a name and address. Then, Mucia will send them a thank-you note. She's sent letters across the country and beyond, with a few going to residents of Australia.

Though a letter may not make up for years of not being appreciated, Mucia hopes to touch veterans' hearts by sharing a heartfelt thanks.

She keeps stacks of letters in her purse and in her car, always ready to hand one to a veteran in a grocery store, restaurant or on the street. When she sees a car with a Vietnam veteran sticker or someone wearing a hat bearing the red, yellow and green emblem, she has been known to follow them just to give them a letter and shake their hand. Sometimes, she will receive notes in return.

Mostly, Mucia has been hustling around trying to get letters written and distributed. She has printed cards, accosted strangers, worked with fraternities and civic groups, and given a lot of speeches.

Sometimes veterans who write back say they are amazed that



John F. Wade with Charles McMahon

anyone her age remembers a war that even they tried to forget.

Bonnie also plans to start the John F. Wade Vietnam Veteran Memorial Scholarship. The organization is trying to help new generations appreciate Vietnam veterans by sponsoring a college scholarship, this year a \$500 offer to a Bluffton High School student. To qualify, the student must meet a Vietnam vet, interview him or her, register the interview with the Library of Congress, and write a letter of personal thanks. The scholarship will teach students about the Vietnam War and help record veterans' stories.

Mucia is also working with the Military Order of the Purple Heart Jimmie Leach Chapter in Beaufort to get local businesses to designate a parking space for combat-wounded veterans. And she's gearing up for June when her father will be inducted into the "In Memory" program of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, builders of "The Wall." This is a way of honoring veterans whose names are not on the wall, but whose lives were cut short as a result of their service in Vietnam.

Letters may be sent to Dear Vietnam Vet, P.O. Box 1383 Bluffton, SC 29910 or emailed to dearvietnamvet@gmail.com. Those who wish to register a Vietnam veteran to receive a letter may do so at dearvietnamvet.com.



PHOTO SHARE

I have a web page up with many of the photos from Hotel Company guys and some of the reunion photos. It's a free site that I have no control over, but it is free.

The password for all of the pages is the same.

The password for each of these sites is:

Semper Fi

The first letter of each word must be capitalized and a space between. I kept it simple and one that most Marines and Corpsmen can spell.

You should be able to go to the site just by clicking on the URL in this Newsletter. If not, copy and paste. Each of the photos can be downloaded to your own computer. If you have any trouble getting in to view just let me know.

Barry Broman's Photos:

<http://img.gg/ltoz9ld>

Dr. Bailey's Photos:

<http://img.gg/TSMz9qh>

Doc Rod Rood's Photos:

<http://img.gg/BpFNvbQ>

Carlos "Paco" Armenta's Photos:

<http://img.gg/S82DK9t>

Capt. Drez's Photos:

<http://img.gg/49BACWb>

Doc Noah Photos:

<http://img.gg/yNKFzZO>

Doc Noah Camp Del Mar:

<http://img.gg/uL9CGjh>

Dennis Kuftic's Photos:

<http://img.gg/6N33MkL>

Thomas Whitey Boggs

<http://img.gg/reUAq9i>

Lt. Homer "Bo" Brookshire (Recently Deceased)

https://nis.nikonimagespace.com/html/guest/index.html?g=EtwkIVJboPLeXrlow-4-DM9Yup1EFYEvGatw7cC7VCuH7p-yc7mM4_dFC-hgzch2KxAluN6erX4yfld2pAaZaw

Larry DeClerck Photos

https://nis.nikonimagespace.com/html/guest/index.html?g=nZgBjJr1heR1sSO6HgW9-njUwBpM0JCLovDiszecn6WH7p-yc7mM4_dFC-hgzch2KxAluN6erX4yfld2pAaZaw

Robert Dasch's photos:

<http://img.gg/KDs9CYf>

DoD Photos:

<http://img.gg/wz9Elcf>

Hotel 2/5 Web Page

Larry is constantly updating and improving the Hotel web site. Be sure and check it out regularly. Most importantly, send Larry anything you want to appear on the pages. He is looking for photos and articles about Hotel to fill the pages. He can't do it without your submissions.

If your having problems accessing the pages, just contact Larry and he will walk you through it.

<http://hotel25vv.org/>

Once A Marine Always A Marine-- Once A Corpsmen Always A Marine.

I went on my first Alaskan cruise in June. First time to Alaska was a great experience on a cruise line that I have frequented many times. Princess Cruise line is my favorite cruise line for a number of reasons. Of course not my most favorite, but one I really like and utilize often. One reason I can always recommend Princess is that they give Veterans a big bonus to honor our service. Long story behind it, but the bottom line is that if you are a Vietnam Veteran you can get a junk of change as an onboard credit to spend as you see fit. The amount depends on the length of the cruise. If you spent 6 months in combat you qualify. You file your DD214 with them and when ever you cruise with them they honor you with the credit.

Princess also does a veteran's get-together on each cruise. They give notice of the time, date and location of the get-together and usually have someone from the crew present to host it. The host is important because he/she pours free champagne. This cruise was no exception. There was a large group onboard. One individual I met was a Vietnam veteran with a twist. He had been in the Vietnamese military and made it out in the end when everything went to shit. However, he had then joined the U.S. Navy. What made him special was that he became a Corpsmen and served with the 4th Marines stationed in Okinawa. The other Marines and I all gave him a Semper Fi and felt the same camaraderie we have for any Corpsmen. They are Marines.

A couple of weeks ago a much younger local criminal defense attorney here in San Luis Obispo was arguing with a Deputy DA about the facts of their case. The DDA was making the argument that the defendant had a specific tattoo that made him a gang member. The defense attorney argued in reply that a tattoo could not and did not make his client a gang member. The defense attorney further argued that just because he had a USMC tattoo that did not make him a Marine. He

stated that he was a Navy Corpsman and that he would never be considered a Marine by real Marines.

After their discussion ended I took the defense attorney aside and told him how wrong he was. I agreed with him that the tattoo by itself would never make him a Marine. However, the rest of his argument was off base. He was a Corpsman. He had served as a Corpsman with Marines and that was what made him entitled to wear the tattoo with honor. Marines would consider him one of them.

I then showed him our company coin and explained that our Corpsmen carry the coin proudly. They were there with us through every fire fight and when the shit hit the fan they patched us up saving our lives. We are proud of our Corpsmen.

He then told me how proud he was to have served as a Corpsman. I assured him that the guys with whom he served felt the same about him as we do about our Corpsmen.

If you want to read a couple of great books about Marines and their Corpsmen, I highly recommend "A Corpsman's Legacy", and "A Corpsman's Legacy Continues" by Stephanie Hanson Caisse.

"Adopted as a baby, Stephanie began a search for her biological parents.... She discovered her birth father, Gary Norman Young, was killed in the Vietnam War before she was even born. Locating veterans from her father's world revealed his duties as a Navy Corpsman assigned to the Marine Corps as a helicopter crew member. As the story unravels, the mystery of her father's courage, bravery and finally his death, brings Stephanie in contact with thousands of Marines and their families, including those who died in the helicopter crash with her father."

"A Corpsman's Legacy Continues" chronicles the

tremendous kindness and courage of our nation's veterans as they talk openly about a time that shaped their lives forever. And woven throughout the many stories is the power of one man's legacy to heal the wounds of war."

I get an honorable mention in "A Corpsman's Legacy Continues" for helping Stephanie track down some of the info for which she was searching. Helping her was one of those exceptionally rewarding moments in life.

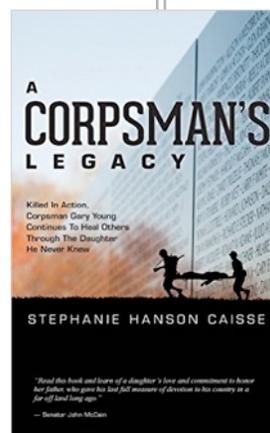
Finally, I just watched the Smithsonian Channel's "The Unknown Flag Raiser of Iwo Jima". I was amazed when I read "Flags of Our Fathers" which revealed the background on locating and identification of the raisers of the 2nd flag. Prior to reading the book I only knew the name of one flag raiser and that was Ira Hayes. That knowledge came from both the song by Johnny Cash and the movie starring Tony Curtis.

The documentary establishes that Corpsman, John Bradley raised the 1st flag and that PFC Harold Schultz was the heretofore Marine identified as Corpsman Bradley.

PFC Schultz knew he was in the iconic image, but chose not to talk about it just like Corpsman Bradley who chose not to discuss the flag raising after the war.

Schultz may have mentioned his role at least once. He said he was one of the flag raisers over dinner in the early 1990s when discussing the war in the Pacific. When told "Harold, you are a hero," he replied "Not really. I was a Marine." What is the import of all of this? Marine Corps' Commandant Gen. Robert Neller sums it up when he said, "... what they did together and what they represent remains most important. That doesn't change."

Corpsmen were there as they fought their way up Suribachi. Corpsmen helped raise the 1st of two flags. Corpsmen are with us every where we go and they are Marines.





Marine Corps Ball 2016

Saturday, November 5th 6 - 10pm...



Joint Pensacola Marine Corps League & 2nd Battalion 5th Marines Reunion Ball



*Celebrating 241st Marine Corps Birthday
Dinner & Dancing
Formal Attire or Uniform*

In Honor of deceased J.R. Spears Detachment 066 Members:

Walter Sullivan

"Doc" Tom Eagles



Iwo Jima 1945



Vietnam 1968



Ronald Drez - Featured Speaker

Gonoi Island, Vietnam 1968
2nd Battallion 5th Marines



Location: New World Landing 600 S. Palafox St., Pensacola, FL 32502

RSVP & Payment by September 30, 2016 Tickets \$45 per person

RSVP: Number of guests, entrée selection, phone number and email address for a Confirmation email. If no email, we need an address to mail your confirmation.

Either visit the Pensacola Marine Corps League Website to make payment and leave info
or

Payable to MCL 4235 Chezarae Dr., Pensacola, FL 32514
Contact: Margaret Rogers teachothers@aol.com 562-964-6550

2016 Reunion Info Pensacola, Florida

This year's reunion will be held Nov. 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th, 2016 at the Pensacola Grand Hotel, 200 East Gregory St. Pensacola, FL 32502

The room rate for our group is \$124 per night plus applicable taxes. Your reservation must be made by October 17, 2016 to qualify for the group discount. The discount rate is available for November 2nd through the 7th if you would like to arrive early and/or stay later. Call the hotel directly and make the reservation. The telephone number is 850-433-3336, ext 5526. The group code is "H25". You can not reserve online.

The hotel provides a free airport shuttle 6 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. Parking and internet are complimentary.

There will be an informal get together with the Pensacola Marine Corps League for dinner on Wednesday for those coming in early.

Tentative itinerary is as follows:

November 3 Thursday

Thursday afternoon and evening Registration. We will need some volunteers to man the registration table on Thursday afternoon and evening.

Dinner on your own

19:00 Reception in Hospitality Room

November 4 Friday

Complimentary breakfast in restaurant

Hospitality Room and registration open 09:00

Explore Pensacola on your own.

12:30 Bus transportation to USS Alabama Battleship Museum in Mobile, AL.



Dinner will be served to in the Wardroom of the Ship.

Return to Hotel. Hospitality Room open after hotel return.

November 5 Saturday

Complimentary breakfast in hotel restaurant.

Hospitality room open 09:00.

Company meeting at 9:30 to discuss business items and 2017 reunion in Santa Fe, NM.

Shuttle trolley to the US Navy Aviation Museum and USN Exchange starts running 10:30 – 15:00. Purchases at the exchange are only permitted to those holding a valid Department of Defense ID card.

There is a guided tour of the Museum and Lunch is included.

Evening: Marine Corps Birthday Ball in conjunction with the Pensacola Marine Corps League. Guest speaker will be our own Capt. Ron Drez. See the flyer on the preceding page. Reunion registration fee includes the Ball.

November 6

Breakfast in Hotel Restaurant and Goodbyes.

Hospitality Room closes at 12:00.

HOTEL COMPANY 2/5
2016 REUNION
PENSACOLA, FL

REGISTRATION DEADLINE DATE IS SEPTEMBER 30TH

REGISTRATION FORM

Marine or Corpsman

Name: _____ Fee: \$155.00

Guest Name: _____ (ADD \$155) Fee: _____

T Shirt size(s) _____ (\$15 per shirt) (3X or larger \$20) # shirts _____ Total Fee: _____

TOTAL FEE INCLUDED: _____

Contact info: _____

Marine Corps Birthday Ball included in registration for the reunion.

Dinner Choice:

Marine _____ Prime Rib _____ Fish _____

Guest _____ Prime Rib _____ Fish _____

Visit the **Hotel** web page and sign up online using your credit card: <http://hotel25vv.org/>

OR

Print this page. Fill in the blanks. Make your CHECK PAYABLE TO Larry D. Tyler and Mail your check and this form to:

Larry D. Tyler
17242 Sierra Sunrise LN
Santa Clarita, CA 91387

Please note "Attn: Hotel2/5 Reunion" on the memo of the check