



THE THUNDERING THIRD

NEWSLETTER



THIRD BATTALION, FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION

44 Old Marlborough Road, Maynard, MA 01754

Letter from the President

Dear Fellow 3/4 Marines:

Diane and I would like to wish all members a belated Merry Christmas and hope all of you enjoy a happy New Years. This time of year causes me to reflect on New Years at Camp Carroll. Just before Dec. 31, 1996, I was transferred from India Co to Mike Co as a platoon commander. The M Co lines faced towards a large hill and my platoon maintained a fire-team sized observation post on top of that hill, each night. Around midnight all hell broke loose with flares popping, grenades exploding, and gunfire in all directions. Of course, we could not make radio contact with the team. I envisioned the worst and sent my platoon Sgt with a rescue patrol to the site. (Although I cannot recall his name, he was a top notch sergeant who had been born and raised in Germany). I couldn't help but laugh when he reported that the enemy was not the NVA but 4 years young grunts celebrating the New Year well fortified with Vietnamese whiskey and Tiger beer 33! To this day, I cringe when I see fireworks.

Our Association has kicked off the New Year with dues notifications which were mailed in early January. The annual dues have been raised to \$20, and we ask that each of you pay these dues by the end of March. This Association cannot continue to be a viable functioning organization without your help. With your prompt payment our association will remain solvent and be able to continue with services to our membership and charitable organizations. Your dues are used to fund a variety of worthy endeavors that include this newsletter, care packages for the troops and the annual sword presentation. They also allow us to keep the costs of our reunion to a minimum. Special thanks to Dennis "Reddawg" Thun for putting together the program and of course to Treasurer Chuck Lear for his accounting skills. If you failed to receive a notification and have not paid your dues please contact Reddawg directly or through editor Doc McNiff.

Inside, you will find a copy of our year end financial statement. However, Chuck Lear has informed me that things have improved as a result of our dues notification mailing. Thanks to all who promptly mailed in a check.

Semper Fi,

Jim Conklin

Editor's Notes

by Doc McNiff

Treasurer's Report submitted by CHUCK LEAR

There will be no Chaplain's Corner in this Newsletter. CHAPLAIN STAN BEACH has been in Tampa VA being treated for the same wounds he received on Hill 400 so many years ago. He is home now and beginning to feel better. As you know, my feelings about Chaplain Beach, along with many others, are that he is the very heart and soul of this organization.

Who would ever have figured that DON MILLER would have reached the ripe old age of 60. Gary Roberts forwarded his hometown newsletter article about him and I had to smile when I thought of him as 60. then I remembered that come August I won't be smiling anymore.

Former CO of India Company Capt. HARVEY ROSS and his wife JANET spent some time in Mississippi hanging wallboard to assist those who suffered so much from the hurricanes and the aftermath. On his 68th birthday the SKIPPER became a Grandfather again. Congratulations and thanks for your great work.

Rumor has it that Reddawg is denying that he is related to Dog Chapman, the bounty hunter. If that is the way you want it Dennis, okay. But I do see a strong family resemblance to Dog's brother, Youngblood.

There are three articles in this Newsletter of speeches composed and delivered by ROGER KIMBLE at the reunion last summer in San Antonio. These were omitted from the last Newsletter by an incompetent Editor. Mea culpa, Roger. At least I got your name right this time. I'm going outside now and fall on my sword like a Jap general.

Doc

Articles – Any member wanting to have an article, or interest item, included in the Newsletter please send your copy to me at the address on the top of this Newsletter. You may include photo's, old or new.

Dues – A reminder is appropriate here about dues. If you received this Newsletter and have not paid your dues, someone else has picked up you tab. Dues are on \$20 a year. Please make your check payable to "Third Battalion, Fourth Marines Association" and send it to our treasurer Chuck Lear, 708 S.S. Basil Ct. Lees Summit, MO 64063.

**3rd BATTALION 4TH MARINES ASSOCIATION
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE PERIOD 07/01/2005 – 12/31/2005**

CASH ON HAND 07/01/2005		\$13,514.56
RECEIPTS: 07/01/2005—12/31/2005		
REUNION	\$16,965.00	
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED: HURRICANE RELIEF	352.82	
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED: INDIVIDUALS	50.00	
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED: FOR REUNION	3,428.19	
MEMBERSHIP DUES	4,740.00	
PX SALES	4,294.75	
INTEREST EARNED	<u>12.07</u>	29,842.83
TOTAL CASH TO ACCOUNT FOR		<u>\$43,357.39</u>
EXPENSES: 07/01/2005—12/31/2005		
REUNION EXPENSES		
SAN ANTONIO	\$25,267.22	
INVENTORY PURCHASES	<u>3,002.00</u>	28,269.22
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:		
NEWSLETTERS	1,295.94	
WEB SITE	214.40	
MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES	988.93	
AWARDS – NCO SWORDS	435.00	
POSTAGE/SHIPPING	137.70	
OFFICE SUPPLIES/BANK CHARGES	<u>88.40</u>	3,160.37
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>31,429.59</u>
CASH ON HAND 12/31/2005		<u>\$11,927.80</u>
US BANK CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$10,412.63	
US BANK MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT	<u>1,515.17</u>	
CASH ON HAND 12/31/2005		<u>\$11,927.80</u>

A Friends Medal

Sometime ago Cpl Ted Oval (Lima 3/4; 67-68) was visiting a high school near his home to discuss his experiences in Vietnam. When he departed he gave his Purple Heart (wounds received 4 Mar 1968) to the school.



Upon hearing of this unselfish act, Cpl John A Hudson (Lima 3/4; 67-69) brought one of his extra Purple Heart medals (John was awarded three) to the reunion and asked Major Larry McLaughlin, USMC Ret (Lima 6 on 4 Mar 1968) and former Captain of Marines Doc Holladay (Ted's former 1st platoon commander and Lima 5 on 4 Mar 1968) to present Ted with the replacement Purple Heart.

John & Ted were in boot camp (Plt #3331) together and reported to Lima together.

A short ceremony was held at the reunion with life long friends and Lima Marines Col Ken Christy (USMC ret), LCPL Ray Dore (60mm), and Cpl Larry Williams (60mm section leader) looking on.

Semper Fi
John "Doc" Holladay

Message Board

All association members: Please don't carry on a conversation with one individual, email him offline. Also when replying to something please cut out old message that you are replying to.

Posting Rules of this board are:

1) Discussions of Sex, Politics, and Religion are totally banned. 2) The use of inappropriate language will not be tolerated. 3) Personal attacks will not be tolerated. 4) All messages should have some military or association connection. 5) Jokes are limited to those with a military connection.

The penalties for misuse are:

1st offense – A warning from the webmaster

2nd offense – Banned for 30 days

3rd offense – Banned for 1 year

Remember this site is open to all members and the opinions expressed by any member are not necessarily endorsed by this association.

Semper Fi
Jim Conklin
President

In Memory of Cpl Earl "Bernie" Burnell

Since I am in a hurry, I am copying & pasting a note I wrote last Thursday on the LZ Russell website about Cpl Burnell. He was in 3/4 in 1969. He was not a member of this list because he did not have a computer. I am sending it in case anyone on here knew him or served with him. His funeral service is the Friday, December 16, at the National Cemetery near the Portland OR airport (can't recall the name).

On Tuesday, December 6, Earl Burnell succumbed to wounds suffered over 35 years ago, a half a world away. Wounds that were not physical, but emotional, soul wrenching wounds that slowly ate away at his strong spirit. Earl served on Russell in 1969 and was there the day it blew in September. He and Doc John Bennett carried my father (Portugal), who was killed in the explosion, down the hill that last day of Russell's military existence. He was in the 81's at the time. Since the time I first met Earl personally, at your Reunion in Vegas in 2002, he has been enormously helpful in obtaining documents and information about the explosion and about my father. Earl and I became very close during these past few years and I am going to miss him and our lengthy conversations sorely. I hope he has found his peace. Please pray for him. He was a good man and a good man at heart.

If anyone is so inclined, I'm sure his sister would appreciate any email of condolence from Earl's brother Marines. Earl was a very dedicated & loyal Marine.

Her name is Lila and her email address is Hawkin@xpressdata.net

I met her over the past weekend and she is very torn over the loss of her brother but believes he is finally at peace.

Steve

THE THUNDERING THIRD

Visit our website at:

<http://Thundering-Third.org>

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

As many of you know, our Association recognizes persons who have exhibited outstanding service directly to the Association, or in remembrance of Marines and Corpsmen of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines who were killed in action, or to their families. Often someone will take it upon themselves to step forward to remain in close contact with a friend, or family members, of deceased Marines and Corpsmen assisting them emotionally, physically or even financially. They willingly give their time and resources to ensure that the memory of a deceased friend or loved one is not forgotten, and to honor them for their service to our nation, the Marine Corps and the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines. Sometimes this requires them to travel long distances from their home to the families location which might be anywhere in the United States, yet, they do so while bearing the expense of personal travel and use of personal vacation time. All the while they do it for a simple, albeit, extremely important reason.....to keep the memory alive of their fallen relative or friend. On occasion we are honored with their presence at our reunions where they can meet and talk with some of those men who served with their fallen loved one, perhaps seeking a better understanding, or insight, into their much too short life as a result of fighting in a war. They might be fortunate enough to discover some Marine who was their loved one's best friend, or who may have spent the last few living moments with them; or perhaps one of the Doc's who worked feverishly to keep them alive only to lose that fateful battle with death, in the end. Perhaps they are seeking answers to questions that we can, or cannot give, them.....whatever their reasons for being with us, we're proud, and honored, to have them here. We have three such persons who came to our reunion in honor of their loved one's. In so doing, they have taken yet another step in keeping the memory alive within themselves, to their families, their friends, and with each of us as well. They have attended our memorial service at the church, and laid roses at the base of the "Fallen Warrior" tribute along with the 300+ dog tags of those men who gave the ultimate sacrifice. For the past few days they have been attending some of the various reunion activities and have circulated through the hospitality suites visiting with many of the members. They are with us this evening with the exception of one family member who had to depart early. The Board Of Directors has voted unanimously to induct these family representatives of our fallen brothers into the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines Association as "Honorary Members". As I call their names we invite them to come forward, and if they wish, say a few words. I don't think anyone will object if we go "ladies first" and by alphabetical order.

Our first inductee is: MARI BOOTH – Mari is the daughter of James J. Carroll.

Our next inductee is: BRYAN MURPHY – Brother of Richard B. Murphy

Our next inductee is: DAVID STALL – Brother of William R. Stall
(David had to depart early)

As is customary, our Association presents Honorary Members with a Certificate of Honorary Membership, however, I must apologize that we do not have those available with us this evening. We will make sure that they are forwarded to each new Honorary Members home in the near future.

“THE MEDAL OF HONOR”

Revered by all who have served, and are currently serving, in the ranks of our nations military.....awarded to a “special few”.

The Medal Of Honor is our nation’s highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Generally, presented to its recipient by the President of the United States in the name of Congress, it is often called the Congressional Medal Of Honor.

There are three variations of the Medal Of Honor; Army, Navy, and Air Force. Each medal appears basically the same with some differences in details. The Navy medal, which is awarded to Navy and Marine recipients, is an inverted, 5-pointed star. On each of the 5 points is a cluster of laurel leaves representing victory mixed with a cluster of oak to represent strength. Surrounding the encircled insignia is 34 stars equal to the number of stars in the U.S. Flag in 1862.....one star for each state of the Union including the 11 Confederate States. The stars are symbolic of the “heavens and the divine goal which man has aspired to since time immemorial” according to the Secretary of the Continental Congress back in 1777. Inside the circle of stars are engraved two images. To the right is the image of Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom and war. On her helmet is perched an owl, representing wisdom. In keeping with the Roman tradition her left hand holds a bundle of rods and an ax blade, symbolic of authority. The shield on her right hand is the shield of the Union of our states. Recoiling from Minerva is a man clutching snakes in his hands and he represents discord. The ribbon holding the medal is light blue and 13 white stars, representing the 13 original colonies.

The Medal Of Honor decoration was established in 1861, and in 1862 President Lincoln approved legislation authorizing preparation of 2,000 of the medals. Since that time there have been 3,441 recipients within the ranks of our nations Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marine and Coast Guardsmen. Of those recipients there have been 19 “double” recipients; 14 of those received two separate Medals Of Honor for two separate actions; 5 received both the Navy and the Army Medals Of Honor for the same action; there has been 1 Medal Of Honor awarded to a woman (during the Civil War for her actions on the battlefield as a nurse).

Today, there are 120 Medal Of Honor recipients still living. During the Vietnam War there were 245 Medals Of Honor awarded, 61 of which are still living.....the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Association is very honored to have three of those Medal Of Honor recipients in our membership...all three of which were awarded the nations highest military award for their actions during the Vietnam War. We are honored to have two of the three of those recipients with us this evening.

When the words “Medal Of Honor” are spoken it brings to mind such descriptions as “conspicuous gallantry” at the risk of life; above and beyond the call of duty; courageous; valor; heroism; indomitable leadership; selfless devotion to duty; fighting spirit; daring initiative in the face of extreme personal danger and the list continues with many other descriptions of the actions of those recipients of our nations highest military award.

What makes a Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine or Coast Guardsman do the things under battle conditions that would merit receiving such an honorable award from their nation? Could it be that those individuals are just brave; or that they are very courageous; or that they are willing to go “above and beyond”

the call of duty for their fellow combatants to help protect or even save their lives at the expense of their own life? Could it be that the actions they take during the heat of the battle are performed without even thinking of the circumstances? I certainly don't have the answer to any of those questions.....I doubt seriously if anyone does. However, if you were to talk to each of those people, I think you would find that there is not any single factor that would stand out; that whatever action(s) they took were certainly not pre-conceived; and each would probably tell you "I was just doing my job". They just wanted to survive the conditions at hand like everyone else wanted to do, and they did what they felt needed to be done, at the time, under very extenuating circumstances, to help make that happen. Certainly, they were extraordinary men, who performed extraordinary feats under extraordinary conditions. Many of us here tonight are certainly thankful that they did, else we might not be here to talk about it.

As previously mentioned, our Association has three Medal Of Honor recipients.....their names, citations and the actions they took long past have been etched into the annals of our country's and U.S. Marine Corps' history and shall forever remain there.....a testament to their deeds.....a legacy to their time in battle those many years ago; a niche in the historical events of a war that shall never be forgotten, and a memory within each recipients mind of those events that unfolded nearly 40 years ago.

This evening, the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines Association would like to present a memento to honor "OUR" Medal Of Honor recipients. The memento is a desk nameplate forged from Naval Bronze. As you look at it from the front, the left side of the plate is engraved with a replica of the Medal Of Honor; on the right end of the plate it is engraved with a replica of the Third Battalion, 4th Marines crest, and in the middle is their engraved name. On the back it is engraved "Presented To (and their name) from the Officers and Men of the Third Battalion Fourth Marines Association". These beautiful mementos were designed, and hand crafted, by none other than our very own talented Jim Wright who spent many hours creating them. Jim will first read each Medal Of Honor recipients citation and then present him with his personal memento.

This presentation written and presented by Roger Kimble to the Honored Guests and Members and their guests of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines at the San Antonio Reunion on August 6th, 2005.

"Angels in our Midst – A Tribute"

I am privileged with the honor of being able to stand before you tonight to present a long overdue and very well deserved "tribute".

Most of us, here tonight, were 18 or 19 years old when we first set foot in South Vietnam back in the mid-60's. a few of you were considered the "old men" of the Battalion because you had reached the ripe old age of Twenty-Something's; and a very few of you were considered the "really crusty old men" if you were in your Thirties or possibly even the Forties of age. There were some of you who had already witnessed the ravages of war before you ever reached Vietnam, having served in Korea and possibly even World War II. No matter the age of any one of us during the time we served in Vietnam, the war has had its profound, and long lasting, affects on each of us. For some, the physical scars of that ware were very evident as we returned home, but for all of us, there were scars that were buried deep inside of us that the untrained and unknowing eye could not detect. We have carried those scars with us for many years and once in a while one of them will get reopened when we least expect it to happen. I speak of the ones that creep out of the deepest recesses of our minds, usually very late in the night, to invade our peace and restful sleep causing us to toss

and thrash about, break out in a sweat and very often cry out in the dark from terrible images and painful memories of our past. We have fought them off with a vengeance, time and again, only to have them return again, and again. Over the years, few have been able to get rid of them completely, but many have not and continue to be plagued by their unwanted and untimely visits. And, when we were awakened in the middle of the night screaming out, shaking, sweating and crying from the fear of the terrible images renewed, we were not the only ones affected. Sometimes we awakened the whole house, but always we awakened our wife lying there beside us. She would be startled awake and would immediately go into "action".....an "Angel" who reached out for us in the dark of night to help calm our fears. The soft touch of her hand on our arm, or shoulder, or her arm reaching around to hold us tightly, and the soft "Sssshhhh, it's okay" whispered in our ear was very often enough to calm us down and allow us to return to the sleep from which we had been so rudely awakened, if indeed, we were even really awake. Sometimes it only took minutes to return to our sleep, but many times it may have taken hours if we were even able to go back to sleep at all. Those times we could not return to sleep, we may have roamed through the darkness of our home, eventually settling down in a spot, sometimes in the dark or maybe with a light on until sunrise. The next morning, we rarely spoke of what had happened, maybe fearing the mention of the event might cause it to happen again that night, and God knows.....we just didn't want to go through that again. And, as I suspect, since we didn't want to talk about it, we rarely, if ever, said "Thank You" to our "Angel of the Night" for being there during that fearful time. Even so, deep down she knew we appreciated her efforts to give us comfort and help stave off the unwanted "dark visitor" that plagued us. Over the past 40 or so years, most, if not all of us could not begin to count how many times this unwanted event has repeated itself. But, we know that every time it happened, that "Angel" was there, ready and willing to give us the comfort we so desperately needed.

So, tonight, we of the Third Battalion, Fourth Marines would like to honor this very select group for your many sacrifices; your untiring and unwavering diligence; your unbelievable poise, grace and dignity; your sincere warmth and understanding during some very tough times when we need it more than you could ever imagine.

Ladies, of the Marines and Navy Corpsmen present here tonight, and representing those who were not able to attend, you have certainly gone "Above and Beyond" with your kindness and your understanding. If there were a medal that could be given I would be honored to present it to each one of you. Since there is not, would you kindly do us the honor, and please stand and accept our sincerest "Thanks" and undying gratitude.

Written, and presented to the Wives, Honored Guests, Members, and their Guests at the San Antonio Reunion on August 6, 2005.

Roger D. Kimble
1531 Sharon Drive
Cedar Hill, Texas 75104

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