



THE THUNDERING THIRD

NEWSLETTER



THIRD BATTALION FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION

23 Hampton Meadows, Hampton, NH 03842

Letter from the President

Pam, and I, hopes this newsletter finds each of you in good health, somewhat greater wealth and a bit wiser after the holidays. We hope everyone had a very nice Thanksgiving, Christmas and Happy New Year celebration. We traveled to Florida to spend Thanksgiving with two of our children, and three of our (grown) grandchildren, and then to Dallas, Texas to spend Christmas with our daughter, son-in-law and eight year old grandson. We had a wonderful time at each of their homes with them. It had been a full year since we had been with them and each trip was very special for us to be there.

Pam and I, along with Jim Conklin and wife Diane, attended the 235th Marine Corps Birthday Ball with the Battalion in Las Vegas on November 10th. There were some 950 attendee's and everyone had a great time. Jim was the Guest of Honor and participated in the cutting of the ceremonial birthday cake. He gave a good rousing speech to the Battalion, and even though he says he hates to speak in public he did a great job. We were privileged to meet the Commanding Officer, LtCol Robert Piddock and his wife; Executive Officer, Major Jackson Doan; SgtMajor David Reaves as well as most of the officer staff and senior enlisted staff members. This was the first time (as far as we are aware) that the Association presented the NCO Sword to the "NCO of the Year" at a Marine Corps Ball. This year's recipient was Sgt Randolph J. Chatfield II. When we ordered his NCO Sword it did not arrive in time for the presentation, so, Mike Siebentritt "loaned" us one of his with which to make the presentation, and when Sgt. Chatfield's sword arrived we shipped it him. Many "Thanks" to Mike for entrusting his NCO Sword to us for the presentation. We were able to visit with a lot of the young Marines and they were happy to have a couple of "Old Vietnam Vets" from 3/4 come celebrate the Birthday with them. This year, Jim and I did NOT fall into the trap of "doing Tequila shots" with them as we learned a valuable lesson from the last time we tried that! We just can't "hang" with those guys in that category. We were, however, invited to drink from the "Thunder Mug" that the officers had present and I can tell you the concoction that came out of that big ceramic bowl had quite a kick to it and the taste was, well.....it was very strange to say the least. I won't describe what it looked like, but I am sure you can imagine that for yourself. There was a lot of dancing consisting of gyrations and moves that we "older folk" can't perform any longer, so we only got on the dance floor for the slow dances. Had I tried some of those moves to the fast dances, I am sure I would have thrown out my back, hips and shoulders and probably would have had to be placed in traction for a few days! But, it was great fun to watch them on the floor while we reminisced of the "good old days" when we could move like that!!

In talking with the CO, XO and SgtMajor we learned that the Battalion will once again deploy to Afghanistan in April 2011 and be there through mid-November of the year. We truly wish them well and that they all return home, unharmed, when their deployment is completed.

Who is due for re-election as of 2011?

Election of Officers and Directors will be conducted during the General Meeting at the Branson Reunion. Listed below are the Board of Directors with current terms expiring. You can use this page as a reference for your use in listing any nominee's you may wish to bring to the floor during this portion of the meeting.

Ken Christy, Director
Brad Fagerstrom, Director
Frank Pedersen, Director
Wallace Shaw, Director
Dennis Thun, Director/Bn Webmaster
Jim Wright, Director
Tom Bulanda, Scribe/Recording Secretary
Bill Kalm, Vice President
Roger Kimble, President

** Mike Corbett/Bn Historian – Desires to step down as Battalion Historian if possible; he is asking that we seek out nominations for a replacement for this specific function; Mike will train that person and also forward any items in his possession that the Historian should retain.

Navy Cross to be presented to Ned Seath

The Navy Cross has been approved by the Commandant of the Marine Corps and Secretary of the Navy for presentation to Ned Seath for his actions on July 16, 1966 during Operation Hastings.

The presentation will be held at the Marine Corps Museum, Quantico, Virginia at 0900 on February 11, 2011.

Ned's recommendation for this award started over five years ago and has endured the very lengthy requirements and process involved to achieve approval. The effort to get this award approved was spear-headed by Bill Hutton, National Vice President, Military Order of the Purple Heart and other members of the Association. Notification was recently received by Major General David Richwine (USMC, Retired) who was Ned's Platoon Commander at the time of the action.

The Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, will be making the presentation. Anyone in the Association who may wish to attend should contact Dennis Thun and get your name on the guest list, as it will be limited. A "walk-through" of the ceremony and protocols will be held on Feb. 10th during the evening, and a reception will follow the presentation on the 11th. As further details emerge we will make postings on the website.

If you are aware of anyone whom you feel qualifies for nomination as an “Honorary Member” in our Association, ensure you get the required information submitted as soon as you are able. The Board of Directors must review each case and make their collective recommendation. Approved Honorary Members are inducted at each reunion and we’ve had several attend the past three reunions. The BOD needs as much advance notification as possible in order to have the new Honoree’s membership certificates prepared and framed for presentation. **We must receive nominations not later than July 31, 2011.** In order to be considered, the nominee should meet the following criteria:

“individual’s who have rendered outstanding or extraordinary service to the Third Battalion Fourth Marines Association. Honorary Member’s must be nominated to the Board of Directors, and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors, for membership”.

(*when giving consideration to nominee’s it should be noted that ‘rendering outstanding, or extraordinary service to the Third Battalion Fourth Marines Association’ includes service to the families of deceased Marines, and is considered appropriate in that they actively served with the Battalion)

In addition to the nominee’s name, address, phone number and email address please include a statement of the service(s) they have rendered that should be considered as the qualifier.

All nominations for Honorary Membership should be submitted to the Vice President, Bill Kalm and he will ensure that each is reviewed for proper criteria and then forwarded to the Board of Directors for further review and a final decision.

You can email Bill at: mike6bk@embarqmail.com

Challenge Coins and 3/4 Decals Available through the website PX!!

Coins and Decals

I got ‘em – you want ‘em. Go to

<http://thundering-third.org/Px/Px.html>



John “Doc” Holladay
Former Captain of Marines

Recently the VFW's magazine had an article in it about Michael Reagan's project to send drawings of their fallen to all of the families of the men and women of our nation that have been killed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

In it he is quoted as being most appreciative of the Soochow Creek Medal awarded him by his buddies in the 3d Bn 4th Marines that he served with in Vietnam.

" The fact that it came from the guys I served with meant an incredible amount to me, it touched my soul".

The number of awards has fallen off and I still have lots of them on hand. So lets get awards to those who need and deserve recognition.

Remember, the only requirement is that they have served in the 4th Marines and are due recognition for some service or achievement.

Did a buddy do something worth remembering? Save your life? Loan you money?, Marry your sister? Anything heroic or noteworthy is a reason.

Contact me at 360-275-8550 or if you are on line at gunner312@q.com. My snailmail address is Jim Wright 170 E. Heights Pl. N., Belfair, WA. 98528

Pictures in the Press



Lt. Col Robert Piddock and
Sgt. Major David Reaves



Lt. Col Robert Piddock, Jim Conklin and
Sgt. Major David Reaves

Reunion “General Meeting” – Agenda Items for Discussion

There will be a planned agenda for the General Meeting at the reunion in Branson. Past meetings have always run into “overtime” due to the number of items that are tossed out for discussion/resolution. It is imperative we keep our meeting as streamlined as possible in order to not get bogged down on issues not on the agenda and be able to complete the meeting in the allotted time.

If you have a specific item you wish to have addressed in the upcoming General Meeting, you must get it on the “Meeting Agenda” before the meeting in order that we can allocate appropriate time for discussion and any voting process that may be required. **The cutoff date & time to submit agenda items will be Thursday, September 15th at 5:00 p.m.** This will allow me ample time that evening to revise the agenda (if necessary) and be able to get copies available in the Hospitality Room for the members to pick up and review.

You can email, snail mail, telephone or hand-carry any item of interest (for the good of the membership) to be included in the agenda at the General Meeting. Get it to me or any other member of the Board before the cutoff date/time, so we can ensure it gets included on the Agenda. We are giving everyone very ample time to submit their agenda request(s) by this early notification. This allows everyone over 8 months to get them submitted.

In order for you to get a “head start” on this matter, here is my email; snail mail address and phone numbers:

Email: rdkimble@frontier.com

Home Address: 1524 Mallard Court, Richmond, IN 47374

Home Phone: 765-935-5058

Cell Phone: 765-969-2478

If an item of importance is brought to the floor that is not on the agenda, it will be considered based on its relevance at the time. If it is determined to be outside the realm of the meeting agenda and can await a decision, the Board of Directors will later review the matter and render a decision based on information available on the subject matter presented.

Roger Kimble

The Thundering Third

**NEWSLETTER Winter 2011
THIRD BATTALION FOURTH MARINES**

Branson, Missouri Reunion

September 14-18, 2011

Name: _____ Guest/Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Unit Info: _____ Dates: _____

Host Hotel: Lodge of the Ozarks

Call 417-334-7535 for room reservations and mention you are with the Third Battalion Fourth Marines Reunion to get the special rate of \$90.00 per room per night.

(room rate good 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion based on hotel availability)

PLEASE REGISTER ME FOR THE FOLLOWING:

REUNION ACTIVITY PACKAGE: \$245.00 per person

(includes everything listed on the itinerary)

_____ # of persons for full package x \$245.00 pp \$ _____

Opt out of show SIX: _____ # of persons x \$215.00 pp \$ _____

Opt out of Tour, Transportation to Memorial Service and Showboat _____ # of persons x \$175.00 pp \$ _____

Opt out of Tour, Showboat, Transportation and SIX _____ # of persons x \$145.00 pp _____

A 50% deposit is required by July 14, 2011 with final payment due August 14, 2011. We offer a 90% refund for individuals who cancel by September 7, 2011. Refunds for cancellations after that date will be on a case by case basis.

Mail check and registration form to:

GATHERINGS PLUS

P. O. BOX 1023, BRANSON WEST, MO. 65737

417-338-4048

www.reunionproregistration.com/thirdbattalionfourthmarines.htm

AIRPORT SHUTTLE INFO: 1-800-841-2313