



## Second Battalion, 4th Marines Association, Inc. The Magnificent Bastards



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## Feb 2014 *Sea Horse*

Greetings Magnificent Bastards,  
President's Scoop Ooh RAH!! Save the 2014 dates:

February 21, Awards ceremony at Camp Pendleton. The 2/4 Association Annual Awards will be presented to seven active duty Magnificent Bastards selected by the battalion. Awards will be represented as follows: Bull Fisher-Officer, Sgt. Major Ellis-Staff NCO, Big John Malnar-NCO, Doc. Gorrage-Corpsman, MOH's Paul, Baker-Pvt., Pfc. L/Cpl. Selection process of honorees is done by the men and women of the battalion. Colonel Jay Vargas, MOH recipient and former company commander of Golf Company 1968, will be on hand for the presentation. In addition, the Association will be represented by B/Gen. Weise, Association Historian, Scott Laidig, Association board member and author, Colonel Jim Williams, Association 2/4 Liaison Officer, Frank and Becky Valdez, Seahorse editor, and Ray and Teresa DelRio. All Association members are invited to attend. Contact information for Lt./Col Weiler is email: [robert.weiler@usmc.mil](mailto:robert.weiler@usmc.mil); Telephone, 760-763-3693.

March 7, change of command. Lt. /Col. Weiler, once a weapons platoon commander with 2/4 and presently battalion CO, Bastard 6 will be leaving for Quantico. Throughout the years we have maintained supportive communication and leadership with our Battalion commanders, but none more than Lt. /Col. Weiler. Association members are invited to attend. Contact information is above.

April 5-6. Ramadi Reunion. The annual Ramadi Reunion is led by Major Sean Schickel former Echo company commander. I am proud to announce that your board and donations by the membership is contributing \$750 toward this opportunity to recruit from what I feel is the "life blood" in continuing this Magnificent Association. Supported by the active battalion, there will be an informal gathering on the beach in San Clemente vicinity on the 5th of April. April 6; there will be a reception on base in the 2/4 battalion area. Family members and heroes that fought at Ramadi in Iraq in 2004 will be special guests of 2/4. The Association will be represented by Brooks Wilson, board VP, and other association members. All members are invited to attend. Please contact Brooks if you intend to attend this heroic event. Major Schickel's contact information: [Seanschickel@yahoo.com](mailto:Seanschickel@yahoo.com); Tel. #703-695-9562.

August 13-17. Reunion 2014 will be held in Portland Oregon, hosted by John and Nancy Schassen. Pre-plots on your maps should be set for the Red Lion at the River hotel. More information on the reunion is below.

For those of you that have not purchased "One Magnificent Bastard", autobiography of B/Gen. William 'Wild Bill' Weise, please contact Jim Rogers, director. I can assure you that this narrative will be an addition to your library of Marine Leadership that is Top Shelf cover to cover. Aside from this magnificent story of a superlative leader of men, all proceeds are donated toward the purchase of bricks for each 2/4 Marine and Sailor KIA throughout our magnificent history. Be advised, we have contributed \$78,000+ and 370+ bricks that have been placed at the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico. Those willing to contribute toward this goal in recognizing all 2/4 KIA's can contribute by submitting proceeds to treasurer Doc James Swann.

Semper Fidelis,

Steve Wilson, President

## NEWS FROM THE CO

Dear fellow Magnificent Bastards, families, and friends,

2d Battalion, 4th Marines has wasted no time returning from deployment and preparing for the challenges of the future. The Battalion said goodbye and thank you for great support from our attached artillery battery, light armored reconnaissance platoon, engineer platoon, and amphibious assault vehicle platoon. They did a great job on deployment and learned what it means to be a Magnificent Bastard. Our goodbye to them included a late Birthday Ball and Christmas Celebration in Anaheim, California. We were fortunate to have several Association members there. Sgt Valdez and 1stSgt Del Rio looked sharp in uniform; I almost mistook them for new joins until I saw Sgt Valdez's blood stripe socks. We have said Welcome Aboard to about 150 new Bastards from the School of Infantry since December. It is great to see last year's new joins taking the new Marines around the Camp and showing them how we operate. The torch keeps moving and the big green machine does not stop. Most importantly they are learning the Bastard way and they are proud to be Bastards. Each Marine who joins 2/4 receives a Welcome Aboard Brief where we teach them the history of 2/4 (we will start advertising the 2/4 Association a bit more), talk to them about the threats in the area and the usual culprits that negatively influence our Marines and Corpsmen (alcohol, DUI, etc), they meet the staff, commanders, senior enlisted, and most importantly their squad leaders. We talk to them about our adopted city, San Clemente, and the support we receive from them. Then the Squad Leaders get them settled in the barracks and give them a tour of the camp, particularly the Memorial Garden. Not too long after they join we conduct a French Fourragere ceremony in Service Alphas (pictures are on Facebook). Bottom Line - we are honoring the tradition and reputation for which you have blazed.

In January we deployed a Task Force of about 200 Marines (mostly Fox Company) to Singapore to train with their Armed Forces. They return this weekend; they had a great time, and performed well. We look forward to getting them back and hearing their sea stories.

We have a dynamic few months coming.

Dates to remember:

21 February 2014, 1000, 5th Marines Parade Deck: 2/4 Association Awards Presentation

7 March 2014, 1430, 5th Marine Landing Zone: 2/4 Change of Command (LtCol Mike Wilonsky will become the new Bastard-6)

5&6 April 2014, 1000, 5th Marines parade Deck: 10-year Anniversary for the Battle of Ramadi (6 April is the formal ceremony)

Anyone in the area is invited, we are always happy to see a fellow Bastard.

We are very grateful and honored to have the 2/4 Association recognize our Marines and Corpsman later this month, as well as the perpetual honor our fallen Marines and Corpsmen have received through the 2/4 Memorial in Quantico. Thank you for ensuring we continue to honor and not forget the brothers we have lost in battle.

The Battalion is conducting a 10-mile Tactical Movement Exercise in the hills of Camp Pendleton tonight to keep are skills sharp. The next training program begins in earnest.

Hope to see you soon.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol Rob Weiler, Bastard-6.

## Membership Message

Membership cards for 2014-2015 for Annual members or new membership cards for those wanting to renew early or new members will soon be available. Early billing for Annual members starts in April; however anyone wanting to join now will receive the 2014-2015 cards. The dues run from 6-30 to 6-30 annually and this gives a bonus to anyone joining now.

We are looking forward to those that have served since Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan for many years and those serving now to join us. We have several new members and I feel this will be a great year ahead. It will be an honor to have them in the Association.

We will continue to pursue those that are on the roster that we have not had luck finding due to moving and information changing. I haven't quit and will continue to pursue to find more.

If any of you see when looking at the roster the last date of contact for the previous members you will see what I am talking about., any information you might have to help please notify me at [johna24@aol.com](mailto:johna24@aol.com) or 334-673-4959.

As I have stated before we continue updating info, such as those that have passed and move them to the Memorial section and incorrect info as well when we get the changes.

The annual dues are \$20 a year or Life Membership is as follows: Ages 54 and under \$175, Ages 55-64 are \$125, Age 65 and over \$75.

Active Duty Annual for E 1 thru E 5 are \$5 E 6 and above/ Officers are \$10 for annual. Life Membership rates are the same above less 10% discount for Active Duty Members.

For information on 2/4 and links go to your web site at [www.2-4association.org](http://www.2-4association.org) as it has a lot of information.

If I can be of any help please e-mail or call me.

Semper Fidelis and Anchors Aweigh!

John Hembrough

Membership Chairman

## Lieutenant Colonel George F Warren, USMC (Ret)

Lieutenant Colonel of Marines--George F "Fritz" Warren

Many of you know Fritz Warren. He is one of the founders of the 2/4 Association and many consider him our spiritual leader, the one who started the "belly button to belly button hug" at our memorial services.

Although he never held an elected office no one has given more leadership, time, and personal resources to our Association. He has been highly successful in both his Marine Corps and civilian careers.

Did you know that Fritz is one of 14 children? He was a high school dropout who enlisted in the Corps by forging his parent's signatures when the Korean War broke out in 1950. He was a bugler in the Marine Detachment on the battleship USS Missouri where a Navy Officer tutored him in math and encouraged him to apply for the Naval Academy Prep School. Fritz passed the entry exam, completed the prep course, entered the Academy and graduated with honors in 1957. At Annapolis Fitz was an All-American Lacrosse player and also played varsity football. After graduation Fritz Warren was elected President of his Class for 28 years in a row. He was commissioned a 2d Lieutenant and served in the Marine Corps for 25 years, retiring in 1975 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He earned numerous military awards, including the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and two Bronze Stars with Combat "V" for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam. Serving with the Magnificent Bastards of 2/4.

In civilian life he and his family lived in Indonesia where he was assigned to the U.S. Embassy while assisting the Indonesian Military in the use of data processing in the areas of Personnel and Logistics Management. Fritz was later a manager in the Offshore Engineering Department of an oil company operating in Indonesia and a consultant to Arthur Young and Company.

After 10 years in Indonesia, Warren returned to the United States where he earned an MBA and qualified as a CPA. He was also the Business Officer of Chaminade University in Honolulu, the Chief Financial Officer of an up-scale color printing company in northern Virginia, CFO of a Catholic charity in Washington, DC, and CFO of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in Arlington, Virginia.

He earned degrees from the Naval Academy (BS), the Naval Post Graduate School (BS in Communications Engineering), Georgia Tech (MS in Information and Computer Science), and Chaminade University of Honolulu (MBA and Advanced Professional Certificate).

#### QUITE A CAREER FOR A HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT

To learn more about the American Hero's First Foundation please see the following link.  
<http://www.ahff.org/ahff---board-of-directors>



### One Magnificent Bastard

BGEN William Weise, USMC (Ret.)

Hard cover book with "Memories of Dai -Do" video insert signed by  
BGEN Bill Weise, USMC (Ret.)

Cost: \$26.00 each including shipping & handling  
LIMITED TIME OFFER

Send check (made out to "2/4 Association Memorial Brick Fund")

\*and your mailing address to:

MGySgt Jim Rogers, 6893 Signature Circle, Alexandria, VA 22310

Remember that the proceeds from book sales will support the  
2/4 Association Memorial Brick Program!

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Name (*first, mi, last*) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (*number, street*) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, State \_\_\_\_\_, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (*area code, number*) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Number ordered \_\_\_ x \$26.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

Questions? Call Dave Jones, 410-310-4571

Dear General Weise & Fritz,

I received your book yesterday and read all the way through it today. Wow! Thank you for making this book happen and sharing your story. It triggered so many memories and made me doubly proud to 1] be a Marine and 2] walk with Marines like you. I was overwhelmed with emotions in all directions. There are so many things that can be said, but you already know what I mean.

Semper fi, Brooks

If you are interested in receiving your own copy and having the same effect on you or others, Please go to Amazon.com (paperback) for a paperback copy or to Jim Rogers (hard back with DVD and Bill Weise's autograph). The more books that we sell, the more Memorial bricks we can purchase and the more people can get to know about "One Magnificent Bastard" and the Marines he led into battle at Dai Do!

## LZ RUSSELL ASSN REUNION

The reunion will be held Sept. 2014 in Las Vegas. NV  
Please contact Larry Hammer LZ Russell Ass. Humanitarian Director [ldhocean@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ldhocean@sbcglobal.net)  
2116 Cottontail Dr.  
Cedar City, UT 84721  
435-586-0342  
or Kein Heins: [ump45-nt@swbell.net](mailto:ump45-nt@swbell.net)

### YN 19, an H-34 Helicopter Becomes Part of Marine Corps History

On 8 Nov.2013, I had an incredible experience-- a ride in YN 19, a 50 year old H-34 helicopter, piloted by Captain Ben Cascio, USMC (Retired) who lost an eye and was badly wounded in a night medical evacuation which saved the lives of his crew and 8 Magnificent Bastards of on 30 April 1968. My last previous ride in an H-34 was on a stretcher in 2 May 1968 during the Battle Of DaiDo.

This venerable aircraft participated in the Operation Starlight in August, 1965 and most likely carried Marines and Sailors of the 2d Bn 4th Marines in a successful helicopter--borne assault under the command of LtCol "Bull" Fisher. It may have even carried LCpl Joe Paul, 2/4's first Medal of Honor recipient. Starlight was a highly successful spoiling attack which destroyed a Viet Cong Regiment prevented destruction of Chu Lai Air Base.

YN 19 made its last official flight by landing at the National Museum of the Marine Corps where it will become the center piece of a new exhibit highlighting Operation Starlight and the Vietnam War. The exhibit is scheduled to open in 2016. Operation Starlight was the first United States major ground operation of the Vietnam War. A huge crowd welcomed the arrival of YN 19 and her crew.

Semper Fi,  
Bill Weise



The photo is the first rough drawing for the Operation Starlight Display planned for YN19 at the Museum (NMMC)



## **RAMADI REUNION**

On behalf of the Iraq era 2/4 vets, we very much appreciate the financial help from the 2/4 Association!

The money will be used for a 2/4 Alumni Fellowship event that I am Hosting on April 5th AT San Onofre Beach at MCB Camp Pendleton from 1500-2100...

I will have a table/area set aside as well for a 2/4 Association membership drive where Marines can sign up on the spot, and will certainly set up a time for Brooks Wilson. In fact, I have posted the 2/4 Association website on the Facebook page so that Marines could start signing up now. You may start seeing a handful trickle in over the next couple weeks. However, I am somewhat confident that we will get a large percentage of those that show up at the beach to join the Association while at the event. The reunion that the battalion is graciously hosting will start near the 2/4 area at the 5th Marines AO at 1000. They will have a timeline of events posted. The quick version is that they will have a formal memorial event at 1000 followed by a social event in the chow hall. The membership drive will be after the memorial on April 6th in the chow hall.

Again, thank you and the 2/4 Association for you generous donation. I think this overall memorial event will be an excellent time to both remember our brothers that did not make it home, and forge a bond from generation to generation of Magnificent Bastards.

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/events/367219916740335/?source=1>

Sean Schickel  
Maj USMC

## **Barry Allen Houser**

02/22/46-7/11/2012

Barry passed away due to an unexpected massive coronary event in the early hours of the day. Barry's active duty was from 04/24/66 through 04/26/68. He was injured on 08/16/67 and was awarded the Purple Heart. Barry was originally from Altoona, PA  
For more information please contact his son Adam Houser at [kit600ana@gmail.com](mailto:kit600ana@gmail.com)

## **The 2014 Reunion will be held in Portland Oregon**

Hosts John and Nancy Schausen welcome you to join the following festivities.

We will leave the Red Lion by bus and travel to the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum in McMinnville, Oregon, which is about 45 miles southwest of Portland. This is where Gunny Brandon volunteers much of his time. We will have the Memorial service at the Chapel located on the museum grounds at about 10:30. After the memorial service, those who wish can take a guided or unguided tour of the museum. This is where the Spruce Goose is housed and is something to see. The guided tour takes about 1-1/2 hours. We will have a no-host lunch in one of the two cafeterias and then board the bus again to travel back to Portland to Washington Park where we will visit the Viet Nam memorial.

After the park, we will return to the hotel. We should arrive between 3:00 and 5:00 PM. There will be a fee for the bus plus a separate \$14 fee to tour the museum. Also on the museum grounds there is a water park (for those bringing grandkids.) They would only have approximately two hours in the pool. Separate fees for the water park.

Red Lion Hotel on the River - Jantzen Beach

909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, OR 97217 (Formerly Doubletree)

Call directly (503) 283-4466 do not forget to mention the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn 4<sup>th</sup> Marines Reunion to receive the discounted rate. AFTER 10 February 2014

Please keep in mind that there are NO SALES TAXES in the state of OREGON.

More information will be on the 2/4 Assn. Website soon.

Nancy's email is [schassenjc@aol.com](mailto:schassenjc@aol.com)

## **Bastards Awards**

Congratulations go to the following Marines who are the recipients of the 2013 awards

**Bull Fisher-First Lieutenant MAXWELL F. BERNSTEIN**

**Sgt Major Ellis-Staff NCO Staff Sergeant MINDO D. ESTRELLA**

**Big John Malnar-NCO, Sgt BENJAMIN M. MILLER**

**Doc Gorsage-Corpman- HM3 David R Wolf**

**MOH's Paul/ Barker-Pvt., Pfc. L/Cpl. Lance Corporal NATHANIEL S. TRACY**