



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



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Nov 2014 *Sea Horse*

President's Scoop

As the leaves begin their majestic color presentation throughout East Tennessee, I am mindful of the year's end; our accomplishments and the men and women of Second Battalion Fourth Marines. There is of course Football season, The World Series, Family and giving thanks. There are a number of things we are all thankful for, but none more significant than family, and mine starts with Phyllis Ann, my wife. I challenge you to embrace the spirit of the season expressing your thankfulness for family.

Your board continues work on the writing of by-laws with changes to the document providing clarity and practicality. Our membership continues to adjust with the excitement of new members and sadly, the loss due to "old salts" passing. I can assure you all that we have made every effort to recognize those we have lost individually when aware. Our family continues to change, but not without thanks for each Magnificent Bastard. Please make us aware of changes in status as they may occur.

This past month I had the privilege of attending the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's annual event held here in Knoxville, TN. This year's event hosted forty three of the living MOH recipients. Two of our MOH members were in attendance; Major General James Livingston, and Colonel Jay Vargas. They were a hit during the several activities in the community, schools and throughout the week as seen in the local newspaper. The Gala and dinner were hosted by Gary Sinise. Individual awards were presented to Jack Tapper from CNN, Justice Samuel Alito, Mark Walberg, and David Feherty. Next year's event is scheduled for Boston. If you have the opportunity, I would recommend attending this display of honor. Ooh Rah! To "The Skipper" and Sara for providing Phyllis and me the opportunity and memories we will forever remember.

Plans continue to develop for the 2015 reunion in Washington, D.C. Jim Rogers, host and committee, Dave Jones, Dale Robinson and Gen. Weise are putting together a series of events that will make this reunion unforgettable. Possible highlights include visits to Semper Fidelis Park and the marine Corps Museum, The Mall in D.C. and the Evening Parade. Please set your calendars aside for July 22-26, 2015.

Because of the venue, please keep in mind cost of the area we will be attending. The committee is working diligently and is mindful of costs.

This season, this year, comes with thankfulness and responsibility. Once again, we have the opportunity to express our thankfulness for our Marine 2/4 families throughout the globe and a November that embraces our responsibility, our freedom to vote. Get informed and vote.

God Bless, Happy New Year and

**Semper Fidelis,
Steve Wilson**

NEWS FROM THE CO

Greetings Bastard Families, Friends and Followers, we are now in the homestretch towards making our way out the door to our six month deployment to Okinawa, Japan. It has been a chaotic few months to get here, but well worth all the hard work. Today, we have approximately 150 Marines on deck in Camp San Mateo because the other 800 Bastards on leave until next week, and then we get right back at it. We expect to depart Southern California during the second week of November. Today, we already have 80 Marines on Camp Hanson working through the gear turnover and awaiting our arrival. Time is definitely flying by.

Last month we celebrated the Marines Corps' 239th Birthday Ball at the Huntington Beach Hyatt, and it was fantastic to see all the Marines, Sailors, and guests dressed in their finest uniforms and gowns. We began the evening with the traditional ceremony (General Lejeune's message and cake cutting) and then enjoyed a wonderful meal and concluded the evening by dancing until midnight. -My hat's off to Frank Valdez for his fancy footwork and awesome break dancing routine. As the sun came up and the Bastards departed Huntington Beach, CA-- we all will look back on some fond memories of this celebration.

For those interested in seeing the Battalion depart on our six month journey, please keep in contact with our Family Readiness Officer, Mark Sperling, to check on dates and times. We won't know the exact times until 10 November. Until then, Happy Birthday Marines.

Bastard 6



LtCol Wilonsky addressing and thanking the City Council of San Clemente during the meeting on Oct 21st. He praised the council and the city for their efforts and generosity in supporting the Marines and Sailors of their adopted battalion over the past year as well as their commitment to support the command's families during the upcoming deployment. 2/4 begins a six month deployment with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit beginning mid-November.

Membership Chairman

To the Membership New, Life and Annual, and former members,

My time as your Membership Chairman will end at the end of the year, we have made great progress since we began in July 2012 and I say a special Thank you to Manuel Travassos our Secretary who took over billing of Annual members, Becky Valdez who helps with the Newsletters, Cindy Greer who helps me with calling, verifying the Roster as I'm sure many of you have talked with her and James "Doc Swann, our

Treasurer who manages many functions. Our Web Sgt. Brooks Wilson. I also want to thank our Board of Directors, Scott Laidig and Jim Rogers.

A special thank you to Steve Wilson who has been our President for the past 3 plus years. He was great to work with as well. I certainly thank you, the Membership for your help.

Joining or rejoining has never been easier now as you just go to the Web Site www.2-4association.org and click on Membership and on the left side is a Membership application. Simply click on it and enter your information and print out and mail the check to the address at the bottom of the form which is our Treasurer. I get notified electronically as well as the Treasurer. When he gets your check he notifies me and I send out the Membership card. If taking a Life Membership you will also get a 2/4 coin while they last.

We have talked for some time of cleaning up the Roster at years end, all names with a date of last contact 2009 and before will be removed as we have exhausted all efforts in trying to locate them and getting them to join back up. If you see this and want to renew please contact me and I will be very happy to take care of that. We presently have 69 former Members in this category.

We also have 40 that are 2010 and after that will stay on the Roster as we are working towards getting them renewed as well as we have incorrect information on them also. Please help us in getting updated and please get your dues in, just contact me for any help that I may be of to you.

I would ask everyone to please look at the membership roster to verify your e-mail and phone number are current. We update as we find the information. This will insure your delivery of the newsletter and all communications via e-mail or by address, any changes please e-mail me or call me

I have enjoyed serving as your Membership Chairman. Dues can be sent to our Treasurer and he notifies me and I get your card out to you at the following address.

**Treasurer, 2-4 Association
455 Concord Parkway North # 6511
Concord, N. C. 28207**

**Semper Fi and Anchors Aweigh,
John Hembrough
Membership Chairman
johna24@aol.com
Phone: 334-673-4959**

Happy Birthday to all Magnificent Bastards and those who support them.





36th COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE FOR ALL MARINES

Marines, I am truly honored and humbled to serve as your Commandant. I'd like to begin my tenure by thanking General and Mrs. Amos for their four decades of extraordinary service and commitment. They transition to the next phase of their lives with the admiration, appreciation, and affection of all Marines and their families.

The Marine Corps is in great shape. We are recruiting and retaining high quality Marines who are fit, tough, and smart. Our Marines are well led, well trained, and well equipped. The infrastructure at our posts and stations -- our barracks, family housing and training facilities -- has been significantly enhanced over the past decade.

We remain **forward deployed and forward engaged** in the Pacific, South America, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Just in the last year, we have **responded to crisis** in the Philippines, South Sudan, Libya, and Iraq. In Afghanistan, we have remained engaged in **combat operations**. We have clearly demonstrated our flexibility, versatility, and adaptability. Marines are relevant and in high demand.

We have answered the call and we have delivered! Throughout the last decade, Marines have enhanced their reputation as the Nation's premier force in readiness. Today's Marines, like their predecessors, can be very proud to claim the title United States Marine.

Despite these accomplishments, much work remains to be done. As Marines, we maintain the highest standards and we constantly seek to improve. We will continue to attack by:

- Maintaining a first-rate, well-trained total force of Marines in a high state of readiness.
- Prioritizing the support of those Marines in harm's way.
- Developing and fielding MAGTF capabilities that will ensure that the Marine Corps remains an innovative, relevant, naval, expeditionary force-in-readiness.
- Building upon our success in leader development, professional military education, wounded warrior care, and family readiness.

Our Corps is informed by your input. I will continue to engage with Marines of all grades to solicit feedback. Your ideas will help us improve our warfighting and crisis response capabilities and provide the foundation for detailed Commandant's Planning Guidance in the New Year.

Know that I'm extraordinarily proud to stand in your ranks.

Thanks for who you are and what you do.

Continue to march...



MajGen Nicholson, Commanding General 1st MarDiv, talking to the Magnificent Bastards of BLT 2/4

The 2014 Reunion Portland Oregon

Hosts Nancy and John Schassen did a wonderful job in hosting this year's event. Highlights included a trip to the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum in McMinnville, OR, and lots of great restaurants with beautiful views of the Columbia River. The banquet featured guest speaker Cameron Smith, Director of Oregon Veteran's Affairs and keynote speaker LtCol Mike Wilonsky, CO, 2/4



Message from Dave Little

Betty and I attended the Gen PX Kelley celebration at the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico this past Saturday, September 27th. Also attending from 2/4 were Jack Hilgers, John and Emily Regal, Jim and Diane Panther, Bill Van Zanten, and Fred Williamson. There were about 90 attendees which included many former Commandants and 31 general officers as well as former Secretary of the Navy John Lehman and former Governor/Senator/Mayor/Marine Pete Wilson who was the honored speaker. Gen Joe Hoar and MGen Matt Caulfield hosted; Gen Hoar was the emcee.

During the cocktail period I approached Gen Kelley who was conversing with a small group and let him know the 2/4 contingent was nearby. His face lit up and he immediately broke away and joined us. He spent about 15 or 20 minutes talking with just us. He looked good considering he's coming up on his 86th birthday. He held a cane but was not using it while he reminisced with us.

Governor Wilson spoke to honor Gen Kelley and was followed by CMC Gen Amos. General Kelley moved slowly to the podium; then, without notes, he changed the focus to relating experiences he had had personally with the losses Marines suffer in combat. It was evident that he felt these casualties deeply. He set a very personal tone about comforting a dying Marine -- I believe this may have been on Operation Utah. He also mentioned later making a casualty call while assigned at Fort Benning. He also talked about Operation Texas. He specifically cited his time with 2/4, but did not mention any other assignments or periods of his career.

He just seemed thrilled that there were some 2/4 Marines were in attendance. It was clear that his 2/4 time was very dear to him.

The dinner was a marvelous event and it was a pleasure to be there. I think I can speak for the other 2/4'ers that they were as pleased as I was to attend and were equally struck by the attention Gen Kelley devoted to us and 2/4.

Dave & Betty Little.



L to R: John Regal (G), Jack Hilgers (H), General Kelley, Dave Little(S-1), Jim Panther

Message from Fritz Warren

Jacque Moore, who lives in Dothan, Alabama, has accepted my invitation to become my wife. We expect to join our lives as husband and wife, on the last day of this year. The wedding will take place in Kona on the big island of Hawaii. Fritz and Jacque will live on the Big Island of Hawaii.

New Book by William Myers "Marines, Medals and Vietnam"

For information please contact williammyers363@gmail.com (337) 898-0191

Bastards Pancake Breakfast September 6



San Clemente Mayor Tim Brown, LtCol Mike Wilonsky, Jim Pierce, Carla Hogan & Jim Everet at Ole Hanson Beach Club.

2/4 Christmas Ornament



239th USMC Birthday ornaments for sale. Cost \$15.00 per ornament with \$3.00 shipping. Contact Becky Valdez at (714) 306-2329 or email fxala@hotmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS to Gen. James E. Livingston

An induction ceremony was held on 1 November 2014 by the Georgia Military Hall of Fame (GMVHOF) to honor General Livingston. <http://www.gmvhof.org/>

2015 Reunion Quantico VA.

The dates for the reunion are July 22-26 2015. The Wingate by Wyndham is now accepting reservations. Those who make reservations should let them know that you are with the 2/4 Association. The room rate is \$85.00. Please make sure that you are making your reservations for Stafford, VA. The hotel address is 15 Salisbury Dr. Stafford, VA 22554

Please call (540) 659-3600

More information can be found on the 2/4 Assn website <http://www.2-4association.org/> under the Reunion tab. More information will soon follow.

PROPOSED 2014 BYLAWS CHANGE BALLOT

Dear 2/4 Association Members,

Your Board is proposing a change to Article III – Membership, Section 2: Annual Members, following discussions by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting in Portland, OR. The consensus was that requiring a copy of a DD-214 was unnecessary and restrictive and deterred some from joining the Association. Therefore, this proposed amendment is being presented to you, the members, for a vote. Please review the proposed change on the website www.2-4association.org and/or the attached, as appropriate. Per the Bylaws, thirty (30) days' notice must be given to the Membership prior to any vote on changes to the Bylaws. Therefore, this posting will fulfill this requirement. Once you have completed your review, please mark the ballot below and return it via U. S. Postal Service to:

Sergeant-at-Arms Pat Burns
2850 Avenida DeSoto
Navarre, Florida 32566 Or via e-mail: emmalaoise@msn.com

PRESENT BYLAWS:

"Section 2: Annual Members. All officers and enlisted members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America and her allies who are serving now or who have served honorably with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, [assigned or attached] are eligible for membership. Those veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and allies who did not serve with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, and civilians who support the spirit and purpose of the 2nd Battalion 4th Marines and this Association may become members.

"Annual membership applications from those having served in the military should include a copy of Copy 1 of the applicant's DD-214, active/reserve ID or other documentation substantiating proof of service in the Armed Forces of the United States. This allows the Association to 1] substantiate the IRS requirement for at least a 75% membership count of active and former military members and 2] ascertain what awards have been made to individuals so that they may be honored appropriately on the association's Wall of Honor. [CH 1]"

PROPOSED CHANGE TO BYLAWS:

Under ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP > Section 2: Annual Members, replace the present wording to read:

"All officers and enlisted members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America and her allies who are serving now or who have served honorably with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines [assigned or attached], are eligible for membership. They must comprise no less than 75% of the total membership.

"Those veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and allies who did not serve with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, and civilians who support the spirit and purpose of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, and this Association, may become members as long as the total does not exceed 25% of the total membership. This is in keeping with IRS rules relating to this Association. [CH 2]"

Voting Rules:

- . Voters must be in good standing and only one ballot per person is authorized. Each voter will be verified against the latest membership roster provided to the Sergeant-at-Arms by the Membership Chairman.**
- . The Sergeant-at-Arms will be responsible for collecting, counting and verifying ballots. He will present the final count to the Board of Directors no later than five (5) days after the voting deadline. Ballots will then be sent to the Secretary for proper filing.**
- . If more than one ballot from an individual is submitted, the first one received will be considered the valid ballot.**
- . Ballots must be dated on or before the deadline date of 15 December 2014.**
- . A quorum will be the total ballots received per the deadline rule.**

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PROPOSED 2014 CHANGE TO THE BYLAWS BALLOT

Member's name: _____ Date: _____

Member's signature: _____ (if submitted by U. S. Postal Service)

___ I DO accept the new proposed change to the bylaws.

___ I DO NOT accept the new proposed change to the bylaws.