From the President:

Tom Martin

Congratulations to the 49 hardy souls who made the trip to Cody for what was one of the best reunions we have had yet! Not surprisingly more than half, by my count, drove more than 500 miles to attend while 10 or so logged over 1000 miles to enjoy the rugged West. The “Iron Butt” award however goes to the three of us that endured a 2000 mile plus adventure to get there!

The addition of family, including an ever increasing number of grandchildren, brought our number to just over 100 for the dinner. A strong turnout for any of our reunions. It is well worth noting that 7 new guys joined us in Cody. This was their first time, and from all indications it will not be the last!

A number of very important items were discussed and decided upon, actually more than I can remember at any previous reunion, so let me outline them for those who could not attend. I urge those who could not attend to let me or the Vice Presidents know via e-mail or snail mail, or for that matter phone call, if you have input on any of the following.

J.D. has assigned himself the rather massive task of organizing an effort for the incorporation of “Chapters” into the overall Fox 2/5 Association organization. Many of you will remember that in the past we have discussed admitting to membership those who served in Fox Co. during periods other than Vietnam and those who served as attachments to the Company and/or fought alongside of us at various times. J.D. will be contacting these guys for the purpose of organizing “Chapters” which will then become part of the organization (ie. Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan etc.).

Along with the addition of “Chapters” goes the question of the Association Logo as first proposed by Tony Marengo in Washington at the previous reunion. We will drop the “halo” surrounding the “Fox” and instead list the battles, operations etc. individually for each member of the Association which he will add to his own cover (by ordering a custom cover thru Donna). The new logo will be just the “Fighting Fox”.

Nashville was selected as the next reunion site.

The selection process was the subject of debate over two basic ideas concerning the reunions. The one insisted that the selection of “destination” cities would attract more attendance in that the variety of attractions, at places such as Las Vegas and New Orleans, would entice many who are looking for both a get together with old comrades, and a family vacation, where the kids and wife might get to see places of interest to them. The other argument is that these are after all primarily a reason to see and talk with each other and outside attractions would tend to draw us apart rather than together.

The second part of the city selection concerned how we select the city. Long ago we determined that in order to afford as fair an opportunity to attend as possible we would move the site from West to Mid.

(Continued on page 6)
**From JD Moore;**

First of all. Donna - what a great call on Cody! I believe everyone had a great time. Next stop in 2012 is Nashville. Never been there but cannot wait. During the business meeting we agreed that the younger Fox 2/5 Veterans should be invited aboard. The main question still unanswered is how this is to be done. I see that we have three options:

1. Do nothing.

2. Invite the younger veterans into our association as it is now with full membership and voting. I cannot see inviting a Fox 2/5 combat veteran into this association and not have full membership.

3. Reorganize Fox 2/5 Association. Fox 2/5 association (HQ) with officers. Chapters i.e. VietNam/Somila/Iraq/Afgan under Fox 2/5 Association. Our association as it stands now would be a Chapter with the other veterans becoming Chapters as new members come aboard. A complete reorganization of the association would be required.

I know this is a lot to digest. If we want Fox 2/5 association to live on we need to take action now. Leaving things as they are we will die a slow death, timing is everything. The first weekend of June 2011 the younger veterans are having a reunion of the "Blackhearts" in Las Vegas. They already have 107 vets saying they will attend. I am not sure if this is vets or family members included. This is their first reunion. If we want them to come aboard this would be an opportune time. I have contacts that will send out inquiries as soon as we decide. It is believed, with our leadership, the response will be very much in favor.

Inside the newsletter will be a ballot on your choice. Veterans only have a vote. Please vote by E-mail or U.S. Mail. Send your vote to the following:

- E-mail: jdmooreorl@cfl.rr.com
- U.S. Mail: J.D. MOORE
  8014 Steeplechase Blvd.
  Orlando, Fl. 32818 - 8702

Votes must be received by 15 Dec. 2010 to count. Thanks for covering the return postage to keep cost down.

I'm having a get together at my house to Weekend of 15 - 17 Oct. It started out to be a visit from some folks that did not make Cody and has somewhat grown. If you can make it please let me know.

The results and updates will be announced in the next newsletter. Stay safe and say a prayer for our troops.

Semper Fi,
JD

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Semper Fidelis</strong></th>
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<td><strong>From Bobby Smith;</strong></td>
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It has been just over three months since the Cody reunion and now the wheels are in motion for the Nashville 2012 reunion. I made the trip to Nashville the first week this month and with some inside scoop from Dave Brown I settled on The Radisson Of Opryland for Sep 2 thru 5 2012. I tried to get the rates lower but had to settle for $94.00 a night so you need to start saving those aluminum cans. Being that I am the VP I hope that I am not stepping on the presidents toes for passing this on.

This was my first trip to Nashville and I really loved what I saw in three days. I know that everyone will have a great time there. We purchased Grand Ole Opry tickets at the hotel and they provided roundtrip transportation. We saw some old stars like Jack Greene and Little Jimmy Dickens and some young guys like James Otto and Josh Turner. There are so many places that will keep you on the go while you are there. The Grand Ole Opry, General Jackson Showboat, Wild Horse Saloon and Bass Pro Shop are a few great attractions to name a few. Opryland Transportation will provide transportation of some places at no charge and others for a small fee.

We came back to Memphis and spent a few days at the navy lodge and met up David Richards. He and his wife took my wife and I out to eat at the worlds famous Corky's BBQ. I had seen this place on the travel channel and said that if I got to Memphis I was going to try their dry rub ribs. It was great spending time with another Fox 2/5 buddy. I don't know what the best part of the night was, visiting with him or his picking up the tab. At any rate the ribs were great.

The next day we toured Graceland (home of Elvis Presley). Spent almost all day there and if you ever go through Memphis it is worth stopping and enjoying.

Semper Fi,
Bobby

---

**Gunnery Sergeant Sam E. Jones**

Born: February 19, 1929

Passed: November 01, 2010

Entered the US Marine Corps - October 1946

Retired: April 1968

Sam was a Veteran of Korea and the " Frozen Chosin Reservoir" an he served in Vietnam from 1966 - 1967.

Among his awards are the Bronze star and two Purple Hearts.

He and Margaret shared 41 years of marriage


From the Editor,

On the first day of our six week reunion/vacation trip to Cody we blew the engine on our truck in the mountains of North Carolina. Undaunted we had an engine put in and three days later we were on our way again. We stopped in Kansas City, halfway to Cody, to visit family. While there we got news from the home front which caused us to cancel our trip and return home.

This was the first reunion we have missed since we were located by Chris Brown in 1992. To us the reunion is a family affair. We don’t socialize outside of the reunion but for those few days every two years we are reunited catching up on friendships from the last eighteen years and learning about ourselves, buddies and experiences from more than forty years ago. Not one reunion has gone by without my learning something new about my tour in Vietnam. Not one reunion has gone by without meeting someone new and adding to our Fox family.

Now we are excited and talking about Nashville and looking forward to 2012. Oddly enough on our abbreviated trip to Cody we stayed at a KOA campground just down the street from the Grand Ole Opry and Raddison etc. Good spot for any RVr’s in the group.

Semper Fi,
Ken

How to make a C-Ration Stove

The small cans included in the meal were ideal for making a stove. Using a “John Wayne” pierce a series of closely spaced holes around the top and bottom rims of the can. This stove was satisfactory, but did not allow enough oxygen to completely burn the blue Trioxin heat tablet, causing fumes which irritated the eyes and respiratory tract. A whole heat tab had to be used.

Sam Jimenez - Looking for info on a 3rd platoon buddy……

I served with the 3rd platoon as 3rd Squad Leader. I served from Jan. 69 to Sept. 7-69 when I badly wounded. I want to know about John Ballaraies, as I heard that he was badly wounded also. I didn't see him on the list of the KIA for Fox 2/5.

Warm Regards,
Sam (RECON) Jimenez

Anyone who can provide some info. Contact Sam at “samj1213@yahoo.com.”
Marines;

I have procrastinated long enough. I should have sent out this e-mail long ago notifying you that one of our own Fox 2/5 Marines has written a book and it is available from the web-site below web-site. We all have our own perceptions and when looking at something we often have different opinions of what we see. You may not agree with some of the things written in the book but it is the author's perception and opinion.

For men that served in Fox 2/5, you will receive more from reading the book than probably anyone else because it most likely depicts some of your own feeling. The book is written by Brent MacKinnon and titled "Winning the War Within PTSD and The Long Road Home. As you may or may not know Brent was one of the few men survivors when Captain James A. Graham ordered the Command Post group to pull back and he remained with the wounded. But, this is not a story of Operation Union II. Brent has spent most of his life assisting other people and now is working with Veterans through the VA that suffer from PTSD. For those of you that are fortunate enough to know Brent, you can confirm he is a stand up guy, a good Marine and can be counted on when things are tough. If you do not know Brent, make it a point at one of our reunions to make his acquaintance. You never know when he may show up at your doorstep.

Colonel Dave Brown one of our former Company Commander's wrote the book "BattleLines" with the assistance of his daughter Tiffany. The book captured some of the highlights of Fox Company, over their five years of fighting in Vietnam. Brent's book captures what the men went through after Vietnam. He doesn't mention many names but for the most part he has written about you.

I would send you my copy to read but I am expecting Brent to show up one day soon at my doorstep and I will need the book for him to autograph.

Please forward this e-mail to anyone I may have missed or to anyone that you think may benefit from reading it.

Semper Fidelis;
Tony Marengo

http://www.bookstandpublishing.com/book_details/Winning_the_War_Within

Good day...

I am Melinda Suenram and I am trying to locate someone that may know my Father Nicholas J. Lendino. He served in the US Marines from 1966-1970 and spent 1967-1668 including the Tet Offensive in Vietnam as a Lance Corporal machine gunner. He received 3 Purple Hearts along with numerous other medals and ribbons.

My Father suffers from PTSD worse than anyone I know. His condition has had a profound effect on our family for all these years.

He is finally getting ready to retire and hopefully will receive the Veteran benefits, disability and help he so desperately needs. He should not have been working this long.

I really would like to know what he had to go through in Vietnam so I can better understand his lack of faith or quality of existence. I have an idea but nothing that has been told to me specifically.

My son had asked if his Papa believed in God and I told him yes not really knowing. When I asked my father he stated that he does not believe in a personal God like I do, one that cares about him. My heart broke when I heard that. I guess I am just looking for someone that can explain to me what he had to go through and why he feels the way he does. Perhaps an easy direction for me to guide him so he may get the benefits he deserves.

Melinda Suenram

NOTE: Anyone who knows or knows of Nicholas Lendino, please contact his daughter, Melinda Suenram, with any insight you can provide at the following email address;

msuenram@futurecareinc.com

MEDAL OF HONOR

On Dec. 9, 1861, Iowa Sen. James W. Grimes introduced S. No. 82 in the United States Senate, a bill designed to “promote the efficiency of the Navy” by authorizing the production and distribution of “medals of honor.” The bill was passed Dec. 21, 1861, authorizing 200 such medals be produced “which shall be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen and marines as shall distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other seamanlike qualities during the present war (Civil War).” President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill and the Navy Medal of Honor was born.
Gunnery Sergeant Sam E. Jones  USMC Retired, passed away at his home today, November 01, 2010 at 1130 am.

Sam was one of the meanest, cantankerous Gunnery Sergeants (Gy. Sgt.) in the Marine Corps that always had every Marine's welfare and concern at heart. He just never tried to show it. He was a professional Gy. Sgt. that not only took care of the Marines in his charge but the Company Commander and Officer's as well.

I remember leaving Vietnam the first time in 1967 and saying to myself "If I ever see that man again it will be to soon". We have been the very best of friends since that day and lived only 30 to 40 minutes away from each other. My children always addressed him as Uncle Sam. When they were small he and Margaret would take them to the amusement park. Sam from time to time would give them a little grief.

He never faulted or complained about anything in his life that did not work out. He just would say "I have no one to blame but myself."

When I took him to the Veterans Administration Hospital last Tuesday for a scheduled appointment the doctor said to Sam "That is a good friend you have there". Sam replied "Ah, he's been a thorn in my side for a long time'. Or maybe it was a lower part of his anatomy he was referring too, I was afraid to inquire further.

I always thought the Marine Corps made a mistake in not making Sam a Gy. Sgt. E-9. Never heard of it? He would have been the first and the Marine Corps would have gained a lot of mileage from making that appointment. He could have thought so many Staff Sergeants what it meant to be a Gy. Sgt.

He was also the Master of "One Liners" and Yogi Berra quotes could not hold a candle to "Old Gunny Sam's" sayings.

I recall in 1966, when Fox Company 2/5 was reassigned from Hill 35 to the Chi Lai Airfield (Vietnam) to provide security. Our 2nd Lieutenant (LT) Executive Officer (XO) had a negligent discharge with a 12 GA shotgun and blew a hole though the top of a general purpose tent about the size of a pie. Gy. Jones ran into the tent looked at the Lt. who was in shock and excruciating pain because the butt of the shotgun was resting on his groin. Sam yelled out to the LT. "Is it cleared now Lt.?" To make matters worst the company had received an admonishment from the other 2nd LT. that was acting Company Commander during the morning formation about negligent discharges. Needless to say the XO and Gy. Sam had a Love /Hate relationship thereafter.

There were other times when the Gy. would fire off one of his quips, like the time one of my men was passing by our "Hooch" in An Hoa, and Sam yelled to the trooper go get me so and so. The trooper said to Sam "Where can I find him'. Sam shot back and said "Heck, If I knew where he was I would get him myself".

Another time we were at the DMZ a fire base know as Con Thien. We had a 2nd Lt. reporting in to Fox Company, Captain Burgett. At that moment we experienced some enemy incoming mortar rounds. Sam grabbed the Captain and pulled him into the fox-hole Sam had dug. The Lt asked the "Gy., where is my hole" The Gy. replied "Lt. you are standing in it. All you have to do is take the dirt out of it".

There are many more quotes or "One Liners but I think you can see what I mean.

Sam was always fair in dealing with anyone. In combat he tried to maintain his game face but in his heart he was affected by everyone of the losses we sustained. While at the DMZ Sam was shot in the shoulder and never mentioned anything. Late that night when everyone was secured back at the Fire Base he distributed what food and water remaining at the Command Post to the platoons and then had his wound tended too.

Until his last breath he was concerned for his wife Margaret and wanted her to be taken care of. He did so by passing on the first day of the month so government entitlements would not be forfeited by passing earlier.

I will sorely miss my "Old Friend" and I hope he does not tick off Saint Peter before it is my turn to report for duty. I know Sam will have everything organized up there, an assigned rack for all of us that served with Sam or knew him.

I will leave it to Donna and Sam Henderson, our Fox 2/5 secretaries to notify all that I have not listed in this e-mail and to list Margaret Jones' address for those that may want to send her a condolence card.

Sam Jones was a great Marine and a great friend. May he rest in peace.
states to East each time we met. We have also always selected the next site by vote of those attending the current reunion. In other words if you made the effort to attend then (with the exception of the general section of the country) you got to pick the next site.

A suggestion was made that we use the time between the reunions (say the first year) to conduct a vote of the entire membership by e-mail/snail mail and then announce the winner in the Newsletter about a year ahead of time. That would allow time to set up the reunion and see to it that the entire membership got a say in the selection. By vote of the membership then present we elected to go with the selection by those attending the reunion. Yet another reason to make every effort to attend!

In an effort to bring some semblance of good order and discipline to the administration of this outfit by those you have selected to the various “Officer” billets we will be drafting proposed “duties” for each Office. You are encouraged to submit ideas as to who should be doing what on behalf of the Association.

I’ll end this communication on a personal note by thanking all those who expressed their concern as to my welfare. I was indeed not up to par and apologize for a rather weak presentation at the dinner. In my own defense it seems I did have an inner ear infection (again!) so I had some difficulty remaining upright at times. A bottle of antibiotics later, courtesy of my “sawbones” and I am much better!

J.D., Bobby, and I are eager to hear from each of you so gather your ideas and let us know what you think!

Semper Fi,

Tom

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From Dwight Anderson
Omaha Beach, France

Ken
I am writing this letter for your next newsletter. I hope you can include it. I served with Fox 2/5 in 1st Plt in all of 1969.

I retired after a 30 year career in the infantry as a Command Sergeants Major. I found there is life after the military when I went to work for the American Battle Monuments Commission.

We are the folks that are responsible for all of our WW1/2 overseas cemeteries. After two years in Belgium I was assigned as the Director of the Visitors Center, Normandy American Cemetery at Omaha Beach.

You can check us out at www.abmc.gov. I wish to extend an invite to any former Fox 2/5 alumni that if you find yourself in France and at the cemetery please go to the front desk and make yourself known and ask for me. I will be glad to organize a tour of the cemetery for all. Omaha Beach holds a special place in America’s history and it is a great honor as an old Marine/soldier to serve and represent our nation and honor its hero’s.

Best regards
Dwight Anderson
Director, Visitors Center
Normandy American Cemetery
Omaha Beach, France

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Operation Union II—June 2, 1967

My name is Marianne Kelsey Orestis, the sister of Steve Kelsey, KIA June 2, 1967 in Quang Tin Province. I have written my brother's biography but I feel I am missing something from that fateful and awful day.

I thought I was through with my brother's story but I am haunted by the fact that someone may know his last words and hope that so long after the massacre someone will remember.

His legacy lives on with his family through my and my sister's children and my grandchildren, one of whom is named Straughan and one is named Steve. His loss is great and he is considered a hero amongst our family and friends.

His memory lives on. With love for your service and respect for your love of country.

Marianne Kelsey Orestis
korestis@suscom-maine.net
REMEMBERING

We were called the rice paddy grunts
Many years ago in the far away land,
Far from where my family grew walnuts,
And dune buggies roared on sand.
I am Joe Schumackatello, PFC.

Ah, Texas, my home sweet home.
Some call it the lone star state,
Others know if for where cattle roam,
Come to the rodeo, but don’t come late.
I am Joe Schumackatello, PFC.

Many moons have passed, yes,
But I still remember whispering
To my Marine buddy, Les,
“Will we ever get out of Nam breathing?”
I am Joe Schumackatello, PFC.

I will not recognize you today,
But I look the same as ever.
At memorial gathering, Fox reunion’s last day.
You call my name, thanks, forever.
I am Joe Schumackatello, PFC

Ken Lee

Michael K. Hedgecock
BORN: August 29, 1948
DIED: August 3, 2010
LOCATION: North Little Rock, AR

Michael K. Hedgecock, 61, of North Little Rock passed away Tuesday, August 3, 2010. He was an engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Mary (Cook) Hedgecock, of North Little Rock; two sons, Brad Hedgecock and wife, Alicia of Panama City, Florida and Rocky Hedgecock, of Conway; daughter, Michelle Hedgecock, of Joplin, Missouri; brother, Pat Hedgecock, of Benton; three sisters, Mary Bland, Martha Kierre, both of North Little Rock and Betty Reader, of Ward; and three grandchildren, Gavin, Braden and Harper Hedgecock.

Characteristics. Your Marine Corps is a young force that provides great value to the Nation.

The average age of a Marine is 25 years old.
Almost half of the enlisted force – 84,830 Marines – is between the ranks of private and lance corporal (pay grades E1- E3). 1
Almost 70 percent of your Marines are on their first enlistment, and some 30,000 have been in uniform for less than a year. 2
The ratio of officers to enlisted Marines is 1:9 – the lowest of all the services. 3
More than 136,000 Marines (67 percent) are in deploying units – what we call the Operating Forces. Nearly 30,000 Marines are forward deployed, forward based, or on training exercises around the world.
For 6.5 percent of the baseline 2010 Defense budget, the Marine Corps provides;
17% of the Nations active ground combat maneuver units
12% of the Nations fixed wing tactical aircraft
19% of the Nations attack helicopters

Naming the Fox 2/5 Association Newsletter

Our “Fox 2/5 Association Newsletter” needs an identity. I have gathered some suggestions which I need to get some feedback on. I don’t want to make a involved process out of the naming and will simply go with the name I get the most positive responses from the membership and pass the top three by the officers and we’re done.

Here they are:

My personal favorites are; Incoming, Fox Tracks, The Skulk and the Sweep.

Ken Kreader

“You cannot exaggerate about the Marines. They are convinced to the point of arrogance, that they are the most ferocious fighters on earth- and the amusing thing about it is that they are.”

Father Kevin Keaney, 1st MarDiv Chaplain, Korean War
During the business meeting we agreed that the younger Fox 2/5 Veterans should be invited aboard. The main question still unanswered is how this is to be done. Please select one of the three options listed below;

1. Do nothing.

2. Invite the younger veterans into our association as it is now with full membership and voting

3. Reorganize Fox 2/5 Association. Fox 2/5 association (HQ) with officers. Chapters i.e. VietNam/ Somila/Iraq/Afghanistan under Fox 2/5 Association. Our association as it stands now would be a Chapter with the other veterans becoming Chapters as new members come aboard. A complete reorganization of the association would be required.

Veterans only have a vote. Please vote by E-mail or U.S. Mail. Send your vote to the following:

E-mail: jdmooreorl@cfl.rr.com (responding by email simply state your Option preference)

U.S. Mail:  J.D. MOORE

8014 Steeplechase Blvd.

Orlando, Fl. 32818 - 8702

Votes must be received by 15 Dec. 2010 to count. Thanks for covering the return postage to keep cost down.

The results and updates will be announced in the next newsletter. Stay safe and say a prayer for our troops.