



"Fox Tracks"

Fox2/5 Association
Vietnam, Iraq,
Afghanistan, All Eras
Newsletter –February 2012



From the President:

It's not too early to begin planning for this year's reunion in Nashville. Now that the holiday season is over, and you have had time to recover, you can fill out the registration form Donna has thoughtfully provided at the end of this newsletter and get things rolling!

Just after the Reno reunion, where we had chosen New Orleans for the next site (and then along came Katrina!) I had spoken with Jeff Brown about the possibility of getting someone from the VA to come and address the membership about the benefits they may have waiting for them especially as many of our number were reaching retirement. Needless to say that was overtaken by events.

The fact remains that many if not most of us are in that phase of our lives when such information can be necessary if not vital. I myself can attest to that and so I want to pass along some personal experience such that you can match it up with your own and together we can inform our brothers as to what to expect.

All my adult life I have been under the medical care of the Navy (and on a few memorable occasions the Army) my experience with civilian medical care was limited to a broken arm at age five and being stitched up a couple of times by the team doctor in college. So when I turned 65 and moved to Pensacola I entered a whole new world of medicine.

I can say that everything I have ever heard about VA medicine has been bad. I have found through personal experience that that is absolutely false. I have been treated very competently and professionally. The equal to anything I ever received at either Bethesda or Walter Reed. I say that as a man who has had just about everything that can happen to the human body and still remain vertical.

Here is the problem. The care available is uneven and depends on where you live. In my case the VA facility is brand new...but...it is only a clinic incapable of extensive care...that is provided 180 or more miles away in Bolixi Mississippi.

Here's the point...many of you are eligible for VA medical care and you need to take the time to look into it...AND...since this is the political season press your political candidates on elder care in general and VA issues in particular. It's in your best interest!

Semper Fi,
Tom



NASHVILLE

This edition of the newsletter will focus on the 2012 reunion in Nashville.

First tidbit is on the weather. September Avg. Hi 82.8 and Avg. low 61.2.

The daily mean temp is 72.0

Second tidbit is that the Tennessee State Fair will be just ending as we begin. Possibly something to do for early arrivals.

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Military Civil War History of Nashville include the Battle of Nashville, Battle of Stones River and the Battle of Franklin. Below is a synopsis of the Battle of Nashville:

The **Battle of Nashville** was a two-day battle in the [Franklin-Nashville Campaign](#) that represented the end of large-scale fighting in the [Western Theater](#) of the [American Civil War](#). It was fought at [Nashville, Tennessee](#), on December 15–16, 1864, between the [Confederate Army of Tennessee](#) under [Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood](#) and Federal forces under [Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas](#). In one of the largest victories achieved by the [Union Army](#) during the war, Thomas attacked and routed Hood's army, largely destroying it as an effective fighting force



From JD Moore;

There are only seven months until Nashville. Please send in your forms to Sam and Donna as soon as possible. Mine are going in this week. These are needed for event planning.

There will be a vote for a new 2nd Vice President, so keep that in mind if there is someone you would like to see represent you.

Don't forget like at every reunion there will be a vote for the next reunion site on the east coast. If you have a place in mind take a few minutes do some research and make a presentation at the meeting.

Please keep our younger brothers in your prayers as the continue to rotate in and out of harms way.

As of printing we have lost a fine Marine, brother, and a guy that loved Fox 2/5. Ted had been fighting health issues for many years. I remember at the reunion in D.C. he could hardly get around and was in a great deal of pain, but that did not stop him from coming. In Cody he could hardly chew or swallow what little food he could eat, Ted was there! I hope I can follow his example. We always ended our conversation. "Ted, I love you brother".

Semper Fi,
JD



From Bobby Smith;

I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well.

We are a little over seven months away from the reunion and if you haven't made reservations now is the time. We need everyone to get your form sent in so Donna can have an idea on the numbers. Get you roster out and start calling some of your buddies and let's get motivated and make this the biggest and best reunion ever.

Everyone present will have a vote on where we will go in two years time. Remember that if you have city in mind for 2014 get the info together and bring it to Nashville. Handouts at the meeting might be a good idea.

The Applebee's bar and restaurant that is in the hotel is going away but didn't ask what was replacing it but I know that the food will be just as great as Applebee's. Just remember if you don't want the in house restaurant there are several across the street from the parking lot. I say this because when my wife and I travel we don't like to eat at the same place.

For those who want check to out the sites before you get there go to www.radisson.com/nashville.

Semper Fi,
Bobby

From Ken Kreader;.....Introducing "Corporal Grunt":

This illustration was courtesy of AC Kreader (my nephew). He is also the artist who drew the "Gunny" on page 5 a number of years ago. Anyway I thought I would try to bring some grunt perspectives and insights to the letter in this section. It can be light hearted or serious. As always I welcome all input. This time we begin with a definition of a Grunt provided by Chris Brown.





"Together then, Together Again"

Fox 2/5 Association
c/o Sam Henderson
4515 US Hwy 50 West Sp # 9
Silver Springs, NV 89429-9382
Mobile: 775-980-9603
Email: deh1262@aol.com

From the Editor,

Ok here's my pitch for making the Nashville reunion a winner. Including Tennessee and the adjacent states there are 71 members. Within a 400 mile drive we have 135 members and if we reach out to 500 miles there is an easy 172 guys. We need to get 100 guys there to beat the Washington DC 2008 reunion.

So no plane rides necessary. A good days ride and you are there in the middle of Opryland.

My drive is about 450 miles coming out of North Carolina I figure it should take us approximately 10-11 hours depending on how long our stops are. I'll be towing my travel trailer as we hope to finish the extended vacation we missed in 2010.

We are anxious for this reunion because we missed everyone in 2010 and desperately wanted to go west to Wyoming and beyond. The Cody trip got us to Kansas City before turning around and heading back. Nashville was one of our camping stops enroute to Cody. Stayed at the KOA which was still recovering from the floods. The campground are about a mile from the Radisson on the same road, Music City Drive. Other campgrounds are in the same area for those who will be roughing it.

See you in September. Let's take the brass ring in 2012 and go over 100. Come one come all.

Semper Fi,

Ken



Fox 2/5 Association

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Note: Anyone interested in any of the above elected/appointed or otherwise defaulted positions listed above don't hesitate to contact our president/vice presidents and express your interest or ideas.

NOTABLE QUOTES

Lt. COL. Raymond G. Davis, Medal of Honor December 1950 @ Fox Hill.

"Davis tramped in among the men, reminding them that although they were surrounded by the enemy, this was not a retreat. He pointed toward the barren heights.

"Fox Company is just over those ridges," he said. "They're surrounded and need our help. They held the road open for us, and now it's our turn to return the favor. Semper fidelis." "

The above quote is from the book "The Last Stand of Fox Company" written by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin. A fantastic read about Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines and their battle to hold Fox Hill and the pass to allow the breakout from the Chosin Reservoir. Three Medals of Honor were awarded for their "Last Stand" on Fox Hill including William E. Barber the company commander.

It's official; DD-214's are NOW On-line.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following web site for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's on-line: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>





2012 Reunion / Meeting

Fox Company 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division

Radisson Hotel at Opryland

2401 Music Valley Drive

Nashville, TN 37214

(800) 333-3333

Reservation Code: Fox 2/5 Marine Corps (Make though Hotel)

September 16-20, 2012

Room Rate is \$94.00 (w/tax \$110.84)

Single or Double Occupancy

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Reservation made at Radisson _____ or Name of Hotel _____

Checking in Sept _____ 2012 Checking out Sept _____ 2012

How many will be in attendance: _____

Spouse or Guest Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

E-Mail if available: _____

What Year in Viet Nam: _____ Plt: _____

If u can remember

Prices are:

Grand Ole Opry Tuesday 9/18 7:00 pm \$40 x _____ \$ _____ per person

Do you need wheel chair access? Yes No

Banquet (Dinner Buffet) Wed Night 9/19 6:00 p.m. \$45 x _____ \$ _____ per person

Registration Fee: \$10 \$ _____ 10.00 per form

Dues \$20 \$ _____ per year

TOTAL \$ _____

Mail to:

Make Check payable to :

Fox 2/5 Assoc.

Fox 2/5 Assoc.

% Sam Henderson

4515 US Hwy 50 West Sp 9

Silver Springs, NV 89429

DETAILS/RATES/CHARGES:

Guest Rooms: \$94.00 Flat Rate (Single or Double Occupancy) . Each Additional person above double occupancy to a room \$10. Children under 12, free in parents room. Individual Room reservations must be received thirty (30) days prior to arrival accompanied by one (1) days deposit plus tax or guaranteed by major credit card. Deposit are only refundable for cancellations 24 hours prior to arrival

IMPORTANT: READ CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING RESERVATIONS:

For reservations call directly to the hotel by calling, toll free: 1-800-333-3333. Advance reservations can be made **after September 24, 2011.**

Please be sure to tell Reservations that you are with Fox 2/5 Marine Corps



Nashville

Bits, pieces and general in on the city

Tourism

Perhaps the biggest factor in drawing visitors to Nashville is its association with country music. Many visitors to Nashville attend live performances of the [Grand Ole Opry](#), the world's longest running live radio show. The [Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum](#) is another major attraction relating to the popularity of country music. The [Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center](#), the [Opry Mills](#) regional shopping mall and the [General Jackson](#) showboat, are all located in what is known as [Music Valley](#).

Civil War history is important to the city's tourism industry. Sites pertaining to the [Battle of Nashville](#) and the nearby [Battle of Franklin](#) and [Battle of Stones River](#) can be seen, along with several well-preserved antebellum plantation houses such as Belle Meade Plantation, Carnton plantation in Franklin, and Belmont Mansion.^[24]

Nashville has several arts centers and museums, including the [Frist Center for the Visual Arts](#), [Cheekwood Botanical](#)

Culture

Much of the city's cultural life versity community. Particularly groups of critics and writers [bilt University](#) in the early twen-
[Agrarians](#).

Popular destinations include the former being a reconstruc-
latter being a semi-restored
[State Museum](#); and [The Parthe-](#)
nal [Parthenon](#) in Athens. The
the oldest working state capitol
[Hermitage](#) is one of the older
lic.

Dining

Although best known for its mu-
countless dining destinations.
local cuisine include [hot chicken](#), [hot fish](#), [barbecue](#), and [meat and three](#).

Sports

Nashville hosted a team called the Nashville Rebels which participated in the 1938 [American Football League](#), and two [Arena Football League](#) teams named the [Nashville Kats](#): one that ran from 1997–2001 until they were sold to Atlanta and renamed as the [Georgia Force](#); and another expansion franchise that competed from 2005–2007.

Nashville has many professional sports teams, most notably the Nashville Predators of the National Hockey League and the Tennessee Titans of the National Football League. Several other pro sports teams also call Nashville home, as does the [NCAA college football Music City Bowl](#). Nashville is also home to the [Fairgrounds Speedway](#), a [NASCAR](#) Whelen All-American Series racetrack.

Major annual events

Tennessee State Fair held in September at the State Fairgrounds.
The State Fair lasts nine days and includes rides, exhibits, rodeos,
tractor pulls, and numerous other shows and attractions. Fair dates are
Sept. 7-16. More information at tennesseestatefair.org/



has revolved around its large uni-
significant in this respect were two
who were associated with [Vander-](#)
tieth century: the [Fugitives](#) and the

[Fort Nashborough](#) and [Fort Negley](#),
tion of the original settlement, the
Civil War battle fort; the [Tennessee](#)
[non](#), a full-scale replica of the origi-
[Tennessee State Capitol](#) is one of
buildings in the nation, while [The](#)
presidential homes open to the pub-

sic, Nashville is a city filled with
Some of the more popular types of





The Raddison Hotel
2401 Music Valley Drive
Nashville, Tn 37214

The hotel is located on the corner of Music Valley Drive and Macgoveck Pile @ exit 12 on 155, Briley Parkway. Some pics of the hotel facility below;



Other Accomodations:

Motels:

There are a number of other motels within walking distance of the Radisson should anyone prefer other accommodations.; The Countryside Lodge Motel, Fairfield Inn, Best Western, Courtyard at Nashville and the Comfort Inn. These are all in the immediate area.

Camping:

Within 1.5 miles on Music Valley Drive and the following RV campgrounds;

Nashville Yogi Bear Jellystone

2572 Music Valley Drive, Nashville, TN 37214-1003 ,(615) 889-4225 ()

Two Rivers Campground

2616 Music Valley Drive, Nashville, TN 37214-1299 ,(615) 883-8559 ()

Nashville KOA

2626 Music Valley Drive, Nashville, TN 37214 ,(615) 889-0282 ()

Restaurants:

The Raddison in house restaurant is the **Opry Backstage Grill**.

Serving a breakfast buffet from 6:30-10:00 for \$10.00. Then lunches and dinners from the menu.

Across the street is a **Cracker Barrel** and on the opposite side of the hotel is a **Shoney's**.

Other walking distance eatery's/fastfood:

Caney Fork River Valley Grille is an authentic casual Southern and camp-style restaurant

John A's is casual dining with entertainment opens days 3pm.

Bob Evans a little further down Music Valley Drive with side-walks on that side of the road.

McDonalds is in the in the Bob Evans vicinity too.

There are other choices in the area but these are the closest.

PX :

The patch has been updated. The '2nd' has been corrected and the 'cigarette' was added back. The new patches are available now.

Hats

(red or black w/patch) \$15

Patches 4" \$5

Patches 12" \$25

All prices include shipping.



Shopping;

Mall

The Opry Mills shopping mall (huge) is within a 1.5 mile drive and there may be a shuttle from the Raddison.

Grocery

Kmart Supercenter. Exit 14a on 155. Gallitin Rd **Kroger** and **Food Lion** are on Rte 70 east off of 155 exit 8. About four miles south.

There is a gas station convenience store behind the hotel on Music Valley Drive.





2nd Battalion, 5th Marines News:

From the Battalion Buzz Newsletter Oct/Nov 2011 which can be found on the website, <http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/5thmarregt/2-5/>. Go to this website to read the entire newsletter plus up to date info. On the 1st Mar Div and it's many units.

2/5 Families and Friends,

It has been a busy, productive month for the Marines and Sailors of 2d Battalion, 5th Marines. Our 14-day training event at Fort Hunter Liggett was an outstanding opportunity for the battalion to train in individual and collective skills from the fire team to the company level. We not only achieved all of our objectives for training but did it safely. This is a sign of a well-disciplined professional unit and we returned with increased confidence in our ability to fight as a unit.

I hope each of you who attended enjoyed our celebration of the 236th Marine Corps Birthday. We were honored by Sergeant Major Gorchewski's presence as he honored the service and sacrifice of our families and Marines in his remarks. I want to express my appreciation for the generosity of the many organizations that helped defray the costs of the ball through donations. We appreciate the support these organizations so freely provide.

With those events behind us we look forward to pausing to give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this country. Thanksgiving is another opportunity for us to reflect on why we serve and the sacrifices many have made to preserve the freedoms we enjoy. It is also an opportunity for us to commit ourselves once again to passing those freedoms down to future generations and to those of our generation who are denied basic freedoms endowed to all.

I look forward to seeing you at the predeployment briefs in December. Your Marines and Sailors will be required to attend and I hope each of you will take the time to participate with them. Please bring your questions and concerns. If you have a concern, chances are someone else shares it so don't hesitate to ask questions and allow us to address them. I continue to encourage you to work on your Family Care Plans with your Marine or Sailor so we can complete them prior to going on pre-deployment leave.

Sergeant Major Solari and I are honored to serve in this storied battalion. We have seen the hard work and dedication your Marines have put into the aggressive training we have completed over the last few months and our confidence in their capabilities is high. That confidence is rooted in the knowledge that our families are strong and prepared for the challenges service in the Marine Corps brings.

Thank you for the strength you bring to this battalion.

Semper fidelis and Retreat Hell!!

LtCol Jason S. D. Perry



2/5 History

The 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines was initially formed in July 1914 and immediately sailed to the Caribbean due to political turmoil in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The battalion returned to the United States in late 1914. In June 1917, the battalion sailed for France with its present regiment. During World War I, the battalion participated in the Battle of Belleau Wood, Soisson, and the Meuse-Argonne Campaign. For these actions, the battalion was twice awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Palm and once with Gold Star. The FOURRAGERE, representing these awards, and is worn today by members of the battalion.

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines participated in the post-war occupation of Germany and returned to the United States in August 1919. In 1920, at Quantico, Virginia, the battalion was ordered to guard U.S. mail trains. During this period, it also participated in reenactments of Civil War battles. The battalion was sent to Nicaragua in 1927 to fight bandits and supervised the 1928 national elections there.

At Quantico from 1934 on, the battalion participated in numerous exercises contributing to the development of the Marine Corps Amphibious Doctrine. In 1941 2nd Battalion 5th Marines joined the newly formed 1st Marine Division at New River, North Carolina. The 1st Marine Division departed the East Coast in 1942 and has never returned. During World War II, that battalion fought at Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester, Peleliu, and Okinawa. After the war, the battalion served on occupation duty in North China until 1947.

In July 1950, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines sailed from Camp Pendleton, California, to Pusan, Korea. In August, the battalion fought at the Pusan Perimeter. The battalion participated in the landing at Inchon, the liberation of Seoul, the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, and the defense of the East Central and Western Fronts. From July 1953 to February 1955, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines assisted in the defense of the Korean de-militarized zone after which it returned to Camp Pendleton.

In 1959, the battalion deployed to Camp Schwab, Okinawa, and then in 1960, relocated to Camp Pendleton. In April 1966, the battalion deployed to the Republic of Vietnam. During the next five years the battalion participated in combat operations in Hue city, Que Son, Phu Bai, Dong Ha and Phu Loc. The battalion returned to Camp Pendleton in 1971, and in 1975 participated in Operation New Arrival, the relocation of Southeast Asian Refugees.

During the next fifteen years, the battalion deployed regularly as part of the Marine Corps Unit Deployment Program. In December 1990, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines sailed for the Persian Gulf and participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines landed in Saudi Arabia and participated in the liberation of Kuwait. During the return transit to the United States, the battalion was diverted to Bangladesh in order to provide humanitarian relief as part of Operation Sea Angel.

Cont'd on page 8



In Memoriam:

Harry Theodore Varena, Born: Jan 1, 1945, Died: Feb 21, 2012,
Fox 2/5 H&S, 2nd Plt 1967 – 1968, Hotel 2/4 1965

Ted will be cremated, some ashes thrown in the ocean where he loved to take the people on his fishing boat. The rest will be in a National Cemetery. If you want to send a card; Family of TED VARENA, 1301 GLENWOOD DR, CONCORD, CA 94518-1513

Ted lived in Oakland, Ca. same as me. I did not know him in Nam. I met him on a fishing trip in 2001 on his boat the "Miss Farralones" out of San Francisco. What we had in common was we were both Fox 2/5. He was seriously wounded on Union II and then again at Hue City in support of Fox 2/5. These wounds in later years would cause him great pain.

Most importantly he was my hunting partner. He was great and nobody I mean nobody could call ducks like Ted. He always told me "I'll call the ducks, you carry the gear."

He loved the Marine Corps and most of all his Fox 2/5 family. He will truly be missed.

Semper Fi, "BU" (Patrick Haley)

I remember Ted and I were comrades in arms and survivors of the Battle of Union II, in South Vietnam. Just two guys out of the many that were wounded, in the numerous Fox Company battles that we participated in. During that time, we were not friends. He was just one of the faces that I remembered after all those many years passing. It wasn't because he was not a good person, because he was! It was because we were War Time Marines, afraid of becoming friends, because we didn't want to lose a friend to the ravages of War.

Both of us attended many of the Fox 2/5 Reunions over the past 20 years, and Ted always made an effort to find me. We always seemed to have many things in common to talk about. Therefore, we were friends from afar the rest of the days, between Reunions.

Ted had a likable personality, and he was a generous person with a good heart. I remember when I attended my first reunion, eighteen plus years ago, and Ted greeted me like he was in charge of the Welcoming Committee. He made me feel special, even though I was shy and reserved. He told me then that he remembered me from the Vietnam War days. Ted had a good memory of those war time events, me not so good.

Thanks to those reunions, we became good friends.

I will truly miss you Ted.

Your Friend and Brother Forever, Jimmy McClintock

Ted, Good sailing! You were a damned fine Jarhead!! May God keep you in His arms and hold you in his flock forever. You are in a better place than we are. Say Hello to my Dad. Dick Anderson, should you pass him by on the road stones of gold!!! GOD BLESS YOU, MARINE!

Best Regards & Semper Fi, David H. ("Andy") Anderson

I didn't know Ted, but he was a MARINE that serve with 2/5 Fox and a brother, and that I will always remember.....

Semper Fi, **Sam (Recon) Jimenez**

2/5 History cont'd from page7.....

In 1993, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines deployed as the Battalion Landing Team for the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operation Capable) and participated in operations in Rwanda and Somalia. In 1995 the Battalion began regular deployments to Okinawa for service as the Battalion Landing Team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) and participated in several operations in East Timor.

In February 2003, the Battalion deployed to Kuwait as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. In March, the Battalion attacked into Iraq, freed the Iraqi people and conducted peacekeeping operations in Muthanna Province until its redeployment in August. The Battalion earned its 14th Presidential Unit Citation for the Operation Iraqi Freedom campaign.

In August of 2004, the Battalion once again deployed to Iraq to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom II in Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines is the most highly decorated battalion in the United States Marine Corps. Its motto comes from its actions at Belleau Wood during WW I. The fleeing French advised the newly arrived Marines to retreat in the face of overwhelming odds. The Battalion's response: "Retreat, Hell!"