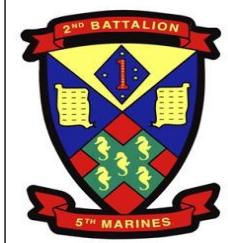




**"Fox Tracks"**  
**Fox2/5 Association**  
**Vietnam Era Veterans**  
**Newsletter**  
**Fall-Reunion 2014**



**From the President: J.D. Moore**

What a great reunion we had in Gettysburg. At least 75 members with a total of more than 140. John and Jennifer, Captain Graham's son and daughter; Marianne and Chris Orestis, Lt. Kelsey's Sister and nephew, and Charles Miller the brother of James Miller all attended the reunion. It was such an honor to have these family members at the reunion.

The officers and members found it necessary to make some unscheduled changes in the office of Secretary/Treasurer. Judie Kreader was elected the Secretary/Treasurer of the Association by an unanimous vote. John Robertson was also unanimously elected as Second Vice President. Judie and John will make great officers to lead us in the future. I would like to thank Dennis Cadigan, Judie, Ken, Forrest, Marlene and all the other members for stepping up during these troubling times. Having strong roots this outfit came through at quick time going forward. I would also like to thank Dwight Anderson for bringing the Belleau Wood art work from France. With his help we raised \$1000 for the Association.

San Diego was selected as the city for our 2016 reunion. We have several members in place, Tony Moreno, Forrest, and Rich Horner. This will make life much easier for Judie and Ken next year when they go out to San Diego to conduct the pre reunion business.

There was discussion to skip the west coast and go to New Orleans. After some debate it was voted on to go to San Diego in 2016 and New Orleans in 2018.

Marlene and I would like to wish all the best during this holiday season. Once again thanks to all for stepping up and supporting our association and myself.

Semper Fi:

**JD**

**Inside this issue:**

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# Happy Birthday

# Fox 2/5 Marines



Happy 239th !

Cake photo courtesy of Maddie Brown-Facebook

**News Flash - PX is Open**

The PX is open for business at a new location.

For those who did not know it was closed we had to relocate inventory to North Carolina. Our apologies to current and new members for not being able to have PX items at the reunion.

Please direct all order to Sec'y/Treas Judie Kreader.

**First Time Reunion Attendees:**

Pete Stivers 1969  
Roger Parker 1969

*This list isn't even close to being complete as we didn't keep a record. If it was your first reunion in Gettysburg we'd like to recognize you. Contact Ken or myself.*

**The editors**

**A Change In VP's**

Due to health issues Bobby Smith has relinquished his role as 1st VP. Many thanks to Bobby for all of his contributions to our organization.

Forrest Towe has stepped into Bobby's place as 1st VP. John Robertson was nominated and accepted the 2nd VP position



## **From Forrest Towe; 1st V.P.**

What a Great Reunion we had In Gettysburg, This proves that through even the hard times that we went thru some 48 years ago that we still pull together in the time of need. We will be having our next Reunion in San Diego in 2016 this will be the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Viet Nam and what a better place to have a reunion then in a town that some of us ( Hollywood Marines ) Started our Journey that brought this band of brothers together. If anyone had any ideas of what they would like to do when we are there please let us know. I would like to thank all who stepped up and made the Gettysburg's a Great reunion.

Semper Fi, Forrest

### **Veterans Day**

A thoughtful and well spoken salute to vets by Bill Ullman.  
11/10/14

Happy Veterans Day to all of you that have served this great country we call THE USA. May you proudly walk among your fellow citizens knowing it is you that made it possible for them to enjoy the many freedoms and liberties provided in this wonderful land we call home.

And for those Marines among you...

**HAPPY 239th BIRTHDAY!!**

Semper Fi, Bill Ullman

## **From John Robertson; 2nd V.P.**

First and foremost I want to thank Fox 2/5 association for selecting me as the 2nd vice president. I will strive to promote this organization and maximize our reunion experience. As time goes by and we all get older our numbers start to diminish therefore, it's important to keep connected. I've had a preliminary discussion with Tony Moreno concerning the San Diego reunion. This reunion has the potential to be one of our most memorable . The close proximity to Camp Pendleton coupled with Fox 2/5 staged there offers us the opportunity to directly commune with these Marines.

It was so nice seeing everybody at Gettysburg we had a wonderful four days to bad we have to wait two years to do it again. I want to personally thank all those that contributed to our reunion, you make these events successful with your unselfish hard work.

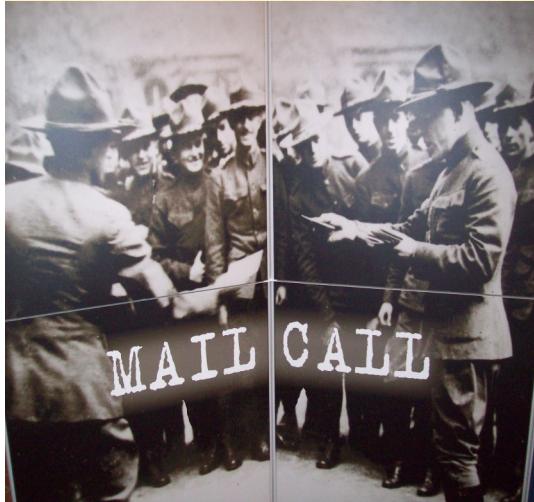
Finally, I hope and pray for some resolve on the financial situation. This organization needs to be made solvent on this issue.

I'm open to all advice criticism and questions you might have for me . Thanks again and Semper Fi brothers and sisters.

John (Roby) Robertson

### **Any Marine's Favorite Part Of The Day**

*Note: Photos are from a traveling exhibit at the Cincinnati Main Public Library called, appropriately, "Mail Call", co-sponsored by the USPS and the Smithsonian.*



The first vertical photo on the left is somewhat hard to make out but the caption under the photo at the exhibit read: "Carrying Christmas packages for his unit, US Marine PFC Loy Conley passes a South Korean farmer using a similar pack. 1953" Talk about dedication to your fellow Marine ! Oh, how important those letters and packages were.

**From the Co-Editor:****What A Reunion..... What A Trip!**

This was my favorite reunion to date and they've all been good. I've been fortunate to have attended most.

What follows is somewhat my personal story but it's much more about the fellowship and brotherhood of Marines past, present and future. I feel compelled to share my experience.

A 2700 mile driving odyssey with my traveling companion, Dwight Anderson (1969 1st Plt.), that started in Louisville, KY and ended in Bedford, VA, before heading home. We were treated by Marines we barely knew to dinner on the first and last of our stops.

In the spirit of Marine camaraderie on our trip I cut way back on my smoking and Dwight cut way back on his political opinions. (Not one cut, black eye, bruise, or broken bone between us!).

Every step along the way was special. A visit to the grave of a fallen squad member in Charleston IL, to our next stop in Chicago to visit my sister and brother-in-law, which could be considered "kind of" Marine related, as they stayed at Dwight's house when they visited France a few years back when Dwight was the director of visitor's services at the Normandy cemetery, four days at the reunion and Gettysburg, Marine Corps Museum in Quantico (spent five hours there), a stay at a motel on Marine Corps base Quantico with 16 other Fox 2/5 'ers, (Dwight and I both got a haircut in Q-Town), Appomattox Courthouse, the national D-Day Memorial in Bedford. None was more special than the reunion.

We had several distinguished guests at the reunion, all in connection with Operation Union II. Those of you who may not be familiar with that operation, it was one of the bloodiest one day battles fought by Marines in Vietnam.

John Graham, Colonel USMC (ret.) and son of Fox Company commander Captain James Graham, posthumous MOH winner on Union II, spoke to our gathering at our Saturday dinner.

Marianne Kelsey-Orestis, the sister of Lt. Straughan Kelsey, 2nd platoon commander who also was KIA during that battle on June 2, 1967 was also in attendance and spoke to our group on Saturday. She has recently published a biography about her brother entitled, "My Brother Stevie: A Marine's Untold Story: Vietnam 1967.

**Cont'd next column**

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**.....Continued from left column**

Though she didn't speak to our group, Fran Gobrecht, recently widowed spouse of John Gobrecht, also attended. John was looking forward to the reunion, particularly since his family resides in nearby Hanover, PA. Unfortunately John died of a heart attack just months before the reunion. Fran was there with her sons and had copies of John's recently published book, "Surviving The Claws Of The Tiger Foxtrot's Fight For Survival In Operation Union II June 2, 1967—Vietnam". We know John would have been pleased to spend time with his brothers.

Speaking of spending time with brothers, I had the opportunity to spend extra time at this reunion getting to know Tony Marengo, Dave Brown and Dennis Cadigan much better; learning of their lives and families and careers.

Also at the Saturday dinner I had the pleasure of sitting two seats from Margaret Jones and, I believe, two of her daughters.. Margaret's husband Sam was a fixture at our reunions until his death a few years ago. Sam was a Korea and Vietnam veteran. What a classy lady!

I was able to witness my favorite (and personally speaking, best) platoon commander, Doyle Newsom, be unofficially awarded his Purple Heart.... 45 years later. (If anyone has a picture of this event please send it to the editors.)

These words are partly about my personal trip and reunion but more importantly it's about all the Marines I came in contact with along the way and that special bond we all have. It didn't matter if I was speaking to a General, a Sgt. Major, an air wing Marine (can you imagine?), a "retired" PFC or the Marine I spoke with briefly at a traffic light in Hanover, PA. after seeing his Marine bumper sticker. We're all the same.

We're proud and rightfully so. What you see is what you get with a Marine, and we're mighty fortunate to have had that experience

Semper Fidelis, Paul Trenn



## You may be a Vietnam Veteran If . . .

Your boss's first name was his rank.

Your first aerobics class was a mandatory P.T. formation.

Your first portable boom-box radio was the AN/PRC-25.

Your first government-approved diet plan was cold C-rations.

Your first gastronomic adventure was a "Noggie Roll" with Nuoc-Mam sauce.

You remember jungle fatigue trousers split crouch to waist for insistent squatting along a trail.

Your first custom-made personalized jewelry was dog-tags.

You have never forgotten your serial number.

You still roll your sleeves down at night. And remember insets of all sizes buzzing around.

You know that intestinal fortitude isn't a health-food supplement.

You know that "dust-off" is not a miraculous cleaning solvent.

You know the Starlight Scope has nothing to do with astronomy.

You know the difference between rifles and guns.

You know that "Four-Deuce" is not a dice game.

You know that "Deuce-and-a-Half" is not a card game.

You know the difference between "Repeat" and "Say Again."

You know that "Military Intelligence" is a contradiction in terms.

You know that a "Free-Fire Zone" was not the designated smoking area.

You still remember the red dust that turned to red mud in the monsoon.

You know that "Rolling Thunder" is more than an electrical storm.

You know that "Friendly Fire," isn't

You discovered that "Rock 'N Roll" could be belt-fed.

You still remember "Incoming" and wishing you didn't have buttons on your shirt so you could get closer to the ground.

You thought "We Gotta Get Outta This Place" was the new national anthem.

You thought the "Freedom Bird" was mythical . . . until you boarded Flying Tiger Airlines.

You'd rather sit on, than wear, your Flak Jacket. Also makes a good pillow.

You still don't wear underwear on hot, summer days.

You still remember Radio AFN and "Good Morning Vietnam".

You believe Woodstock was a side-show.

You still remember taking your salt tablets daily and the horrendous after-taste of Malaria pills.

You still remember the Stars and Stripes Pacific edition on the ammo box seat over the 55 gallon drum cut in half, and the smell of diesel fumes. And the morning ritual of burning latrines.

You know that nine million men served in the military during the Vietnam war, three million of whom went to the Vietnam theater (and their desertion rate was less than Soldiers and Marines in WW II).

You know that 73 percent of those who died in French Indo-China were American volunteers.

You know that French Indo-China was 12,000 miles away from America and America's Marines and Soldiers performed with a tenacity and quality that may never be truly understood. (Hanoi has admitted that 1.4 million of its soldiers died on the battlefield, compared to 58,000 total U.S. dead.)

You know that frequently the reward for a young man's having gone through the trauma of combat was to be greeted at home by his fellow citizens and peers with studied indifference or outright disgusting hostility.

You know that Marines and Soldiers faced the issues of war and possible death, and then weighed those concerns against obligations to their country and suffered loneliness, disease, and wounds with an often contagious illnesses.

For you, combat is an unpredictable and inexact environment, and you remember moving through the boiling heat with 60 pounds of weapons and gear, causing a typical Marine or Soldier to drop 20 percent of his body weight while in the bush.

You know that mud-filled, regimental, combat bases like An Hoa were not "fun" places where Marines joked about "legendary" giant rats like "Big Al."

You are still amazed, that Marines and Soldiers, barely out of high school, were called up from the cities and the farms to do their year in Hell and then returned without real complaint.

You are still astounded at the willingness of these Marines and Soldiers to risk their lives to save other Marines and Soldiers in peril.

You believe these Marines and Soldiers were some of the finest people you have ever known

*Contributed by Mike "Ski" Malanowski*

## Congratulations Marine Corps Museum !

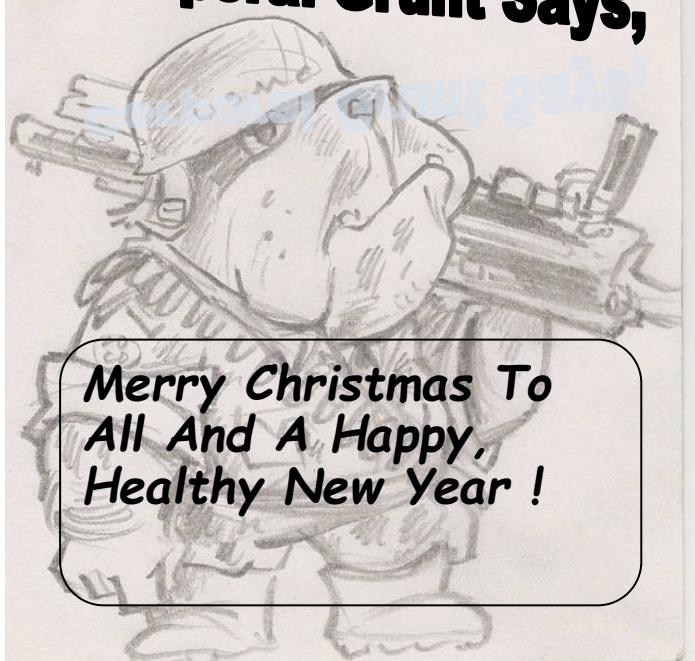
The Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, VA recently welcomed its 4,000,000 visitor in just eight years. For those of us Marines (including myself) who may be "numerically challenged" that's 500,000 per year

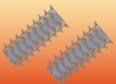
I had the opportunity to visit the museum after our reunion in Gettysburg. If you're ever in the area it's a must-see for every Marine. That's not just my personal opinion. Last month, the readers of the Washington Post named the National Museum of the Marine Corps as the best non-Smithsonian Museum to visit. I'd say that's mighty high praise.

Hat's off to the Marine Corps Heritage Fund and the NMMC for doing such a fine job. And they aren't finished. They will break ground on additions in 2015.

Paul Trenn

## Corporal Grunt Says,





## Belleau Wood Today

The artifacts (slices of tree branches from the actual Belleau Wood battlefield site), donated by Dwight



Anderson at the reunion were a smashing success.

Roughly 20 Marines went home happy with one of these mementos. This was achieved through several means. Dwight gave some to his old squad mates and Lt. Col. Dave Brown. Some were raffled and the last one fetched a hefty price at auction by Lt. Rich Horner. Our treasury was also a winner as a result.

A big thanks to Dwight.



+++++

**Dave Brown, Dwight "Andy" Anderson (donator), and Sam Jimenez receiving their BW relics.**

## Tiffany Medal of Honor

The Tiffany Cross Medal of Honor arose immediately after World War I, as the US Navy decided to recognize via the Medal of Honor one in combat and/or's profession. The was designated as the a new pattern of the form, was designed in 1919. It was to be Marine who "in action involving actual conflict with the enemy, distinguish[es] himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty" and without detriment to his mission.[2] This pendant became the Tiffany Cross.



*"My Marine Corps experience has served me well. Everyone has heard about the pride of the Marines. Through training, both physical and psychological, we were given a very positive feeling about our capabilities. A very high esteem, something more parents should give their children".*

Marine Bob Keeshan (Captain Kangaroo)

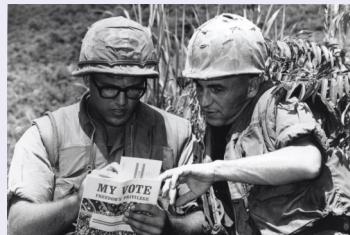
## Hue City 47th Anniversary Tour



Ron Campbell USMC (Ret)  
13198 Centerpointe Way, Suite 202  
Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285  
703-590-1295 \* FAX 703-590-1292

mhtours@miltours.com \* www.miltours.com

## All You '68 Marines



A Marine fills out his absentee ballot for the 1968 presidential election while deployed in Vietnam.

*Do you remember getting an absentee ballot ?*

**It all started here just 239 years ago—  
SEMPER FIDELIS**





Dear Fox 2/5 association

my daughter wrote this poem  
and I would like you to put it  
in your flyer.  
She is the daughter of

Sgt. Leslie Sidney Buhrman Jr.  
PO Box 84 523 Main St.  
Robertsdale PA  
16644-0084

Thank You  
Joyce Buhrman

**Note: Samantha Stains neatly printed this poem  
but to save space and paper we've typed it.**

## Soldiers of America

I watched the flag pass by one day,  
it fluttered in the breeze.

A young Marine saluted it,  
then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform,  
so young, so tan, so proud.

With hair cut square and eyes alert,  
he'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him had fallen through the years,  
how many died on foreign soil?  
how many mother's tears?

How many pilots planes got shot down,  
how many died at sea?  
how many foxholes were soldiers graves?  
NO, Freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of taps one night when everything was still,  
I listened to the bugler play

"Congressmen who willfully take actions during wartime that damage morale and undermine the military are saboteurs and should be arrested, exiled, or hanged".

President Abraham Lincoln

## Fox 2/5 Assoc. PX

Prices are inclusive of shipping within the continental U.S. Orders to be directed to Judie Kreader (see page #3)

Hats \$15

Patches 4" \$5

Patches 12" \$25

Challenge coin \$10

Shirts \$15 2 for \$25

**Note: Go to website for views of all PX items.**

Front and back  
of new chal-  
lenge coin



Gunny  
Says,



Reunion 2016  
Sunny San Diego

Be there grunts !

Prepare to get yer feet  
into them yellow foot-  
prints.



SAN DIEGO—

Sgt.Major Edward J. Van Valkenburgh Jr. USMC Ret. Passed away peacefully in his San Carlos home, surrounded by family on August 23, 2014. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary Elizabeth(Hurley) Van Valkenburgh and two daughters Jennifer Prodor (Michael) and Lisa Degler, (Glenn) both of San Diego. He also has three grandchildren: Justin (Alecia), Colin (Jessi) and Stephanie and two great-grandchildren Landon and Cody. Additional family includes his sister, June Thompson of San Ysidro, Thomas Van Valkenburgh (Carol) of Santa Fe, New Mexico and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was born in Newport, Rhode Island and graduated from Chula Vista High School in 1951, then enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Among the sergeant major's awards and decorations are the Silver Star, Purple Heart, Navy Commendation Medal and numerous campaign and other awards. After retiring from the Marine Corps, he drove an 18 wheeler for Reliance Transport. Oh how he loved to drive. Besides the Marines and driving, he loved golf, woodworking and bingo, thus the nick name "Bingo Eddy."

Burial was with full Military Honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery at 12:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the charity of your choice.

**Marines don't die, they just get reassigned to Guard Heaven's Gates.**

---

*Contributed by Tony Marengo, himself a retired USMC Sergeant Major. Following are some of Tony's personal thoughts, and the Marine Corps connection with his old friend.*

I first met Sergeant Major Edward Van Valkenburg in January 1978. We were in Washington DC on a temporary assignment to the Staff Sergeant Selection Board. There were 18 members of the Selection Board but Ed Van Valkenburg stood out among everyone. He was congenial, pleasant and most of all friendly.

We both drove out from California to Washington DC to assist in selecting more than 5,000 potential Marine Staff Sergeants. I think we were destined to meet. When we arrived in Washington we stayed at the same hotel unknowing. We reported to the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps to pay our respects and met upon leaving his office. We struck up a cordial conversation quickly learning about each other. Ed had an impressive display of ribbons. The Silver Star, Bronze Star with combat "V" and Purple Heart among the many other awards. I soon learned we had more in common then either of us realized because we both served with Fox Company 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines in Vietnam but at different times. I served with the company in '66 & '67 and another tour at a later time.

Sgt. Major "Van" or "Gunny Van" as he was affectionately addressed by all that knew him, served as Company Gunnery. His tour of duty came later in 1967 or very early in 1968. He was the Company Gunnery. Sgt. during the Battle for Hue City. He served with many of the men that attend the F 2/5 reunion's that fought during that historic battle. The Company Commander was Captain (Retired General) M.P. Downs, of which he always spoke of in the highest regards as well as the Marines of F 2/5. He will be sorely missed by all that knew him and now is at his last duty station with many of the Marines he served with during his Marine Corps career.

