

## From the President: J.D. Moore

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and has made it through the winter storms OK. The reunion in Gettysburg is only eight months away so please submit your registration form to Donna as soon as you can. From all I have heard this is a great place for a military reunion.

On a special note to our members, especially our Union II veterans, Marianne Kelsey Orestis and her husband have accepted our invitation to be our guest at this years reunion. Marianne is the sister of Lt. Straughan D. Kelsey who was killed in action during Union II. She is looking forward to meeting the men that served with her brother.

I just returned from the memorial service at the USS Hue City, in Mayport, FL. We had a meeting during the weekend and formed the Hue City Veterans Association. The primary goal of this association is to raise funds to erect a memorial monument to honor the 142 Marines and Sailors killed in action during the battle of Hue City. This monument will be erected at the Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va. Any of our members who fought in Hue City are eligible to join. Those interested in joining can contact Nick Warr at: "nicholas@stonehillproductions.com". Those without email can contact me and I will forward your address to him.

Don't forget to bring your ideas and information for our 2016 reunion on the west coast. Until later, be safe and hope for a early spring.

**Semper Fi, JD**

## "Fox Tracks" Fox2/5 Association Vietnam Era Veterans Newsletter Winter 2014

### Reunion 2014

**The Gettysburg area is loaded with great sites like this in addition to the battlefield.**

#### Eisenhower National Historic Site

is the home and farm of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Located adjacent to the Gettysburg Battlefield, the farm served the President as a weekend retreat and a meeting place for world leaders. With its peaceful setting and view of South Mountain, it was a much needed respite from Washington and a backdrop for efforts to reduce Cold War tensions.



### Gettysburg Battle Facts:

The Battle of Gettysburg started without the knowledge or consent of either army commander -- Lee or Meade

More than one-third of all known photographs of dead soldiers on Civil War battlefields were recorded at Gettysburg

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought on some of the hottest days of the summer. The hottest time of the month, nearly 90 degrees, was right during Pickett's Charge on July 3rd.

General Lee lost 23 battle flags in Pickett's Charge -- more than he had lost in the previous 14 months combined.

## Inside this issue:

-From the President -Reunion Notes	<b>1</b>
-From our Vice Presidents -Silver Star Omissions -Corporal Grunt -"Wall" Web Site	<b>2</b>
-Miscellaneous Business -From the Co-Editor -Contacts ; Officers/Staff -Info. Re; Nashville Photos	<b>3</b>
-Gettysburg Information	<b>4</b>
-Reunion With First Platoon Commander -Hue City Memorial 2014	<b>5</b>
-Mayport Photo -VA Help In Our "Infirm" Years	<b>6</b>
-Untitled Poem -Quotes -PX -"Gunny Says"	<b>7</b>
-Women In Combat-Part II -Thank You & Update From Captain Jones	<b>8</b>
-Navy Corpsman Silver Star Recipients	<b>9</b>
-Where have you gone Michael Robinson -Bits & Pieces on the Reunion	<b>10</b>
-Reunion Registration Form	

**Fox 2/5 Assoc. Reunion Oct. 8th - 12th, 2014**

\*\*\*\*\*

@

**The Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center**

\*

**The Aspire Gettysburg Hotel**

**2632 Emmitsburg Rd**

**Gettysburg, Pa 7325**

**717-334-2755**

**-www.eisenhower.com**



**From Bobby Smith; 1st V.P.**

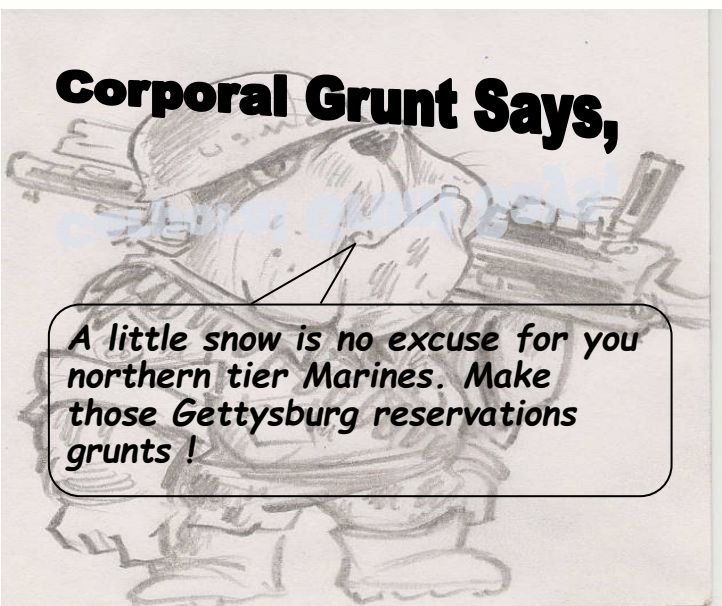
I hope the newsletter finds everyone doing well. Especially as we navigate the aging process.

Those of you that could not make the trip to Naval Station Mayport the first weekend of this month missed a great time. Once again we were able to visit with the sailors and tour the ship. We were delighted to find out that the USS Hue City will be around for another 15 years. Also, we were pleased to hear that the USS Hue City will host another ceremony next year around the same time. Pencil that in on your calendars for next year. More information to come on that later.

I guess that I need to put some of the Hue City Vets from 1st platoon on report for not making this trip. When the 2nd & 3rd platoon guys started asking me were the rest of 1st platoon was I told them it only took one person in 1st platoon to equal all of 2nd & 3rd platoon. You know that didn't go over well but all kidding aside we had a good time. Hope to see more vets there next year, including 1st platoon.

We don't have long before the 2014 reunion in Gettysburg, Pa. So start picking up those aluminum cans and make your reservation.

**Semper Fi,  
Bobby**



**Silver Star Update/Omissions**

There were four omissions from our list of Fox Company Marine Silver Star recipients in our last newsletter.

Thanks to Rick Barnes, Mike Downs and Tony Marengo for bringing them to our attention.

Corporal Louis "Rick" Barnes	June 2, 1967
PFC Ronald R. Frasier	February 3, 1968
Staff Sargent James H. McCoy	February 4, 1968
2nd Lt. James B. Scuras	December 20, 1966

We apologize for the oversight. - The editors

*"No people will tamely surrender their Liberties, nor can any be easily subdued, when knowledge is diffused and Virtue is preserved. On the Contrary, when People are universally ignorant, and debauched in their Manners, they will sink under their own weight without the Aid of foreign Invaders."*

**--Samuel Adams, 1775**

**Great "Wall" Website**

All hands,

If you served in Vietnam, or know someone who did, the below database is most useful. You can look up any name and it will come back with details on KIAs, MIAs, and POWs.

I found a good buddy of mine from High School that I knew was killed in Vietnam but did not know where, when or details. I discovered he made sergeant, was in the Americal Division, and was commander of a vehicle that mounted a 106 recoilless rifle and that cause of death was premature detonation of a 106 round and he was killed by the back blast.

The only other reference I had, from a few years back, was "friendly fire". It was NOT friendly fire, but a terrible accident due to mechanical failure (older 106s were notorious for allowing the firing pin in the breach to trigger off when the breach was slammed shut). Or it may have been a cook off.

Check out the database. It is amazing: Here is the DB link <http://www.coffeltdatabase.org/index.htm>

**Semper Fidelis,  
Tony Marengo**



"Together then, Together Again"  
 Fox 2/5 Association  
 c/o Sam Henderson  
 3908 Cypress St.  
 Silver Springs, NV 89429-9394  
 Land Line 775-577-9303  
 Mobile: 775-980-9603  
 Email: deh1262@att.net

### From the Co-Editor:

As Marines go, I'm a short-timer. I joined on a two year enlistment, something the recruiters were somewhat reluctant to point out.

Believe it or not I had a plan... and it worked. I had precious little to do with the fact my plan actually came to fruition. I wanted to serve with the best, hopefully only one tour and come home in one piece. I'm happy to say I did all of those. There was never any real state side duty. I trained, went home on boot leave, trained some more, served with the best company in the Marine Corps in Vietnam, came home and got an early out, as the Marine Corps was beginning to withdraw Marines in late '69 or early '70. Twenty months active duty and I was a civilian again. (I'm sure you career Marines out there have a lengthy list of more descriptive terms for "civilian" !)

What I missed out on was learning enough about the history of our Marine Corps, and in particular, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, (though my DI's did their very best to "educate" me in the ways of Marine Corps history in a limited amount of time.).

Since working on the newsletter it has been an ongoing Fox 2/5 history lesson for me, and something for which I will always be grateful.

In no particular order I'd like to thank some of the people that have been helping me with my history lessons: Dave Brown, Chris Brown, Tony Marengo, Mike Downs, Mike Hernandez (his memoir is now on our website), Rich Horner, JD Moore, Dave DeGroat, Ken Kreader, Bill Melton, and on and on.

We have a great Association because of members like these.

I'm one lucky old Marine.

**Semper Fidelis,**

**Paul Trenn**



### Fox 2/5 Association

**President** JD Moore 8014 Steeplechase Blvd, Orlando FL 32818  
 407-293-5701 - jdmoooreorl@cfl.rr.com

**1st V. P.** Bobby Smith 1505 Turkey Creek Dr, Livingston TX 77351  
 936-327-8765 - blsmith2j@livingston.net

**2nd V. P.** Forrest Towe, 3449 Halifax Way, Concord CA 92314  
 925-676-5297 alosteagle@hotmail.com

**Co-Editors** Paul Trenn 6409 Barre Rd. Loveland, OH 45140  
 513-608-0043 paultrenn@cinci.rr.com

Ken Kreader 515 S. Plank Rd. Sanford, NC 27330  
 919-718-5911 kenkre1212@msn.com

**Locator:** Chris Brown 9 Alister Circle, E. Northport NY 11731  
 631-499-8739 fox2alpha@gmail.com

**Trea/Sec'y** Sam & Donna Henderson (addresses this page top left)

**Webmaster** Ian Bailey, 139 Violet Ave, Floral Park NY 11001-3022  
 516-328-9718 cplgrunt03@aol.com

**Sage Advisor** Dan Allbritton, 9767 Myers Road, Benton AR 72019-8218  
 501-794-3637—allbritton501@sbcglobal.net

**Fox 2/5 Web site address:** <http://2ndbn5thmarines.com/foxco/>

### Visit our Fox 2/5 web site.

Add a personal profile or update information. Find an old friend. Just have a look around. Our web master, Ian Bailey, (see article on pg. 4), has worked hard at updating the site.

### The Few. The Proud. The Marines.

The words "few" and "pride" proffered in Webster's Dictionary are, respectively: "a small, select group;" and "proper respect for oneself; a sense of one's own dignity or worth; being the best of a class or group."

These statements of meaning apply, you see, because we are, and always will be, **Marines !**

### **VA Dental - Three Year Pilot Program**

The VA has partnered with MetLife and Delta Dental to offer dental insurance. There is much information on the Delta Dental web site, including pricing. "<http://deltadentalvadip.org>" or call toll free 1-855-370-3303.

MetLife didn't offer pricing on the internet but their web address is "[www.metlife.com/VADI](http://www.metlife.com/VADI)" for additional information. Their toll free number is 1-888-310-1681 if you have questions.

Dental work is very expensive. This may be an option for some of our members and their families.



## **Fox 2/5 Vietnam Veterans Association 2014 Reunion - GETTYSBURG, PA**

We will be there at a fabulous time of year. The fall colors should be in full bloom. The weather is warm during the days and cool at night. Besides the obvious battlefield attractions there is much to see and plenty to do. The Apple Harvest Festival (see pg 10) falls during our weekend. There are a number of wineries to visit as well.

The Gettysburg Convention and Visitors Bureau is a super source of information for your visit this fall. Go to **"[www.gettysburg.travel/](http://www.gettysburg.travel/)"** (yes that is the complete address). For those who do not have internet access there will be a welcome package that contains; maps, coupons and lists of things to do as well as where to shop, available when you check in with Donna.



Regarding transportation for those who fly in there is a trolley system with several interconnecting routes to move you about the area. I believe it leaves our hotel once every hour beginning around 8:00am until 9:00pm. When we visited in May there was no charge for this service, however, there may be a nominal charge initiated sometime this year.

The hotel has many amenities including an indoor pool and fitness center. There is free internet too. There is a Deli Market in the hotel.

Adjacent to the hotel are 2 go cart tracks, mini golf and an indoor sports center and more.

Remember that on Friday we have a guided battlefield tour which begins in the morning followed up with a BBQ at 4pm. The menu can be found on page 10.

The National Park Service Museum and Visitor Center is the place to begin your visit to Gettysburg National Military Park. Here visitors will find information on how to visit the park and what to see around Gettysburg. The *Gettysburg Museum of the Civil War*, with 22,000 square feet of exhibit space, features relics of the Battle of Gettysburg and personalities who served in the Civil War, inter-active exhibits, and multi-media presentations that cover the conflict from beginning to end, as well as describe the Battle of Gettysburg and its terrible aftermath. The center also hosts the film, "A New Birth of Freedom", narrated by award winning actor Morgan Freeman and the restored Gettysburg Cyclorama, which depicts the final fury of Gettysburg- "Pickett's Charge".

Those of us who have been here before are also a good resource to help those who are here the first time make some itinerary choices. Suffice it to say that you will come away with a resolve to return again.

**See you in October.**

**Ken Kreader**



The pictures sprinkled around the newsletter I took while we were there on our site selection trip. I took them while we were on two self guided tours around the battlefield. I bought the tour cd's, map and book at the Visitor's Center.



## ***Reunion With My First Platoon Commander***



*Left to right are: Rich Cole, Gerry Hall, Jim Huber, Lt. Elmer Maley, Robert E. Lee, Ian Bailey.*

### ***Finding Lt. Maley***

It was a sunny day on November 16, 2013 when five former members of 2nd Bn 5th Marines Fox Company 1st Platoon got together in Wilmington, North Carolina. The occasion was a visit to their first platoon commander in Vietnam: Lt. Elmer "Moe" Maley..

During a previous meeting one of the members of the group mentioned they had the Lt.'s whole name, with middle initial. An internet search was launched and success was theirs. They found a phone number and, when called, it was the Lt.'s wife who answered the phone.

After a brief period, where bona fide's were exchanged, a trip was planned. Addresses, phone numbers and email addresses were exchanged.

The group arrived at the Maley residence about 3:00pm on Saturday November 16, 2013. We were invited inside, everyone was a bit nervous. We soon settled down to animated conversation. We shared what we had been doing for the past 42 years. The last time we saw the Lt. he was a Company Commander of a training company at Camp Geiger. We had photo albums showing how we looked, back in the day. This helped the Lt. place memories on "new" old faces. We talked for about an hour indoors then we went into the backyard where there was a fire pit and coolers filled with beverages. We talked even more.

Mrs. Maley had graciously made a delicious BBQ spread for us. We helped ourselves and ate around the fire. The evening air was cool and clear, there was an almost full moon in the sky. We talked until well after dark. The fire was warm. The Lt. had lots of memories he shared with us. It was interesting to hear his side of our experience together. We served under Lt. Maley for several months before he left us. We were guided by his leadership in places like The Arizona Territory, Football and Go Noi islands, Liberty Bridge and the Que Son mountains. He was a true Marine officer always leading from the front and always putting the needs of his men above his own.

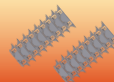
The evening ended with coffee and the best pecan pie I have ever tasted. We shook hands with the Lt. on the porch. We were invited back and we promised we would return. It was a day none of us will ever forget.

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Ian Bailey***

## **2014 - USS HUE CITY - CG66 Remembrance Ceremony Naval Station Mayport - Mayport, FL**

I am sure most of you have seen or at least heard us mention the USS HUE CITY CG-66, a guided missile cruiser that was named after the battle that Fox Company fought in during the 1968 TET Offensive. Christened in 1990 becoming the first and only vessel in our naval fleet named after a battle that took place in Vietnam. Many of us attended the christening and then the commissioning a year later where General Mike Downs was the guest speaker. It also came to our reunion in Baltimore, MD in 1996. During that trip they gave us tours and again held a ceremony on the ship. The ship continues to host a remembrance ceremony whenever they are in port and always around the February 1st anniversary date of the start of that battle. On January 31st through February 2nd of this year the crew of the HUE CITY again hosted a remembrance ceremony. It started with a welcome gathering on the base on the Friday evening and on Saturday they hosted a brunch for the wives of veterans, hosted a golf outing, and later held tours of the ship and capped off the day with a picnic. Then on Sunday morning they held a beautiful remembrance service at the base chapel. Capt. Dan Uhls and his crew did a great job and the weather cooperated and we all had a great time. Fox Company was represented by 14 of our members. There was some talk of taking the ship out of service due to the major repairs needed to keep it in ready condition but Capt. Uhls assured us that the funds to make the repairs are now in the budget and that the USS HUE CITY will continue to sail in service of our country. For those of us that attended we give special thanks to the crew of the vessel for their outstanding job of hosting this event. The same event is being planned for the same weekend in 2015 so if you are interested in attending please let JD Moore know and he will make sure you get on the invitation list. ***Submitted by Chris Brown (see page 6 for picture)***



....from the previous page

## ***Hue City Memorial 2014, Mayport, FL***

*Left to right: Standing: Bobby Smith, Alex Kandic, Kurt Leudtke, Terry Lynch, JD Moore, Pablo Contreras, Richard Smith      Sitting: Tim Ciesinski, Chris Brown*

Once again, many thanks to the crew of the *Hue City* for their hospitality.

## **Did You Know About This VA Benefit ?**

The below describes a VA benefit program paying a substantial amount of money each month for long-term health care for combat vets who served 90 days or more in combat. It's something to keep in mind should the need arise. Since my body parts seem to be breaking down on a regular basis these days, I've printed the info and given it to Marissa just in case.

I am not sure about others but this potentially could be of great benefit to me and family.

This is a great one that is not advertised by the VA.  
***YOU MAY WANT TO KEEP THIS ON FILE !***

\*\*\*\*\*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2006

Secretary Nicholson: VA Reaches Out to Veterans and Spouses

**"Aid and Attendance" an Under-Used Benefit**

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reaching out to inform wartime veterans and surviving spouses of deceased wartime veterans about an under-used, special monthly pension benefit called Aid and Attendance.

"Veterans have earned this benefit by their service to our nation," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson. "We want to ensure that every veteran or surviving spouse who qualifies has the chance to apply."

Although this is not a new program, not everyone is aware of his or her potential eligibility. The Aid and Attendance pension benefit may be available to wartime veterans and surviving spouses who have in-home care or who live in nursing-homes or assisted-living facilities.

Many elderly veterans and surviving spouses whose incomes are above the congressionally mandated legal limit for a VA pension may still be eligible for the special monthly Aid and Attendance benefit if they have large medical expenses, including nursing home expenses, for which they do not receive reimbursement.

To qualify, claimants must be incapable of self support and in need of regular personal assistance.

The basic criteria for the Aid and Attendance benefit include the inability to feed oneself, to dress and undress without assistance, or to take care of one's own bodily needs. People who are bedridden or need help to adjust special prosthetic or orthopedic devices may also be eligible, as well as those who have a physical or mental injury or illness that requires regular assistance to protect them from hazards or dangers in their daily environment.

For a wartime veteran or surviving spouse to qualify for this special monthly pension, the veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, one day of which was during a period of war, and be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Wartime veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980, (October 16, 1981, for officers) must have completed at least 24 continuous months of military service or the period for which they were ordered to active duty.

If all requirements are met, VA determines eligibility for the Aid and Attendance benefit by adjusting for un-reimbursed medical expenses from the veteran's or surviving spouse's total household income. If the remaining income amount falls below the annual income threshold for the Aid and Attendance benefit, VA pays the difference between the claimant's household income and the Aid and Attendance threshold.

The Aid and Attendance income threshold for a veteran without dependents is now \$18,234 annually. The threshold increases to \$21,615 if a veteran has one dependent, and by \$1,866 for each additional dependent. The annual Aid and Attendance threshold for a surviving spouse alone is \$11,715. This threshold increases to \$13,976 if there is one dependent child, and by \$1,866 for each additional child.

Additional information and assistance in applying for the Aid and Attendance benefit may be obtained by calling 1-800-827-1000. Applications may be submitted on-line at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>. Information is also available on the Internet at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or from any local veterans service organization.

***Thanks to Dave DeGroat for sending this in.***

***Please note the issue date of this release. The dollar figures may not be accurate today but this benefit could prove invaluable to our members in the years to come..... The editors***



### **An Untitled Poem**

*Posted by Richard Durrum on the Golf 2/5 Facebook page.*

In the thick of the battle, I felt the pain;  
I thought to myself, this isn't a game.  
I staggered forward and then fell to the ground;  
I tried to holler, but there was barely a sound.

As I lay there, I cried for my mother;  
I thought of my dad and my younger brother.  
I talked to God and said a prayer,  
"Please, somebody help me! Doesn't anyone care?"

I opened my eyes, and whom did I see,  
An angel, a corpsman, who would take care of me.  
His hands were gentle; his voice was clear;  
"You'll make it son, for I am here."

He gave me such comfort that I can never forget;  
Even years later I think of him yet.

They put me on a stretcher and carried me away,  
Back to the aid station, where the doctor would say,  
"You're badly wounded, and we'll do our best."  
"We'll operate on you and then let you rest."

When I awoke and opened my eyes  
I was in a hospital, and was I surprised.  
They took care of me so I would get better;  
Back at home my parents read the letter.  
"Your son is fine, and you'll see him soon."  
A lot of joy filled up that room.

I knew in my mind that I'd done my part;  
I wear on my uniform proudly, my Purple Heart.

**-Frank Niader**

**Eight months until the Gettysburg reunion - 2014!**

**PX** The patch has been updated. The '2nd' has been corrected and the 'cigarette' was added back. The new challenge coins available now:

Hats (red or black w/patch) \$15

Patches 4" \$ 5

Patches 12" \$25

Challenge Coin \$10

Shirts \$15 2 for \$25

**All prices include shipping.**

Front and back  
of new chal-  
lenge coin



Gunny Says,



*"Let it be known that he who wears the military order of the Purple Heart has given of his blood in the defense of his homeland and shall forever be revered by his fellow countrymen."*

**--George Washington, 1782**

*"Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence; true friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks and adversity before it is entitled to the appellation."*

**--George Washington, 1783**



## Women In Combat, Part II

However you may feel about Women Marines serving in the infantry, it's a distinct possibility in the coming years. The first three women Marines have successfully completed infantry training at Camp Geiger, NC. Following are excerpts from an article from the Chicago Tribune, November 21st, 2013.

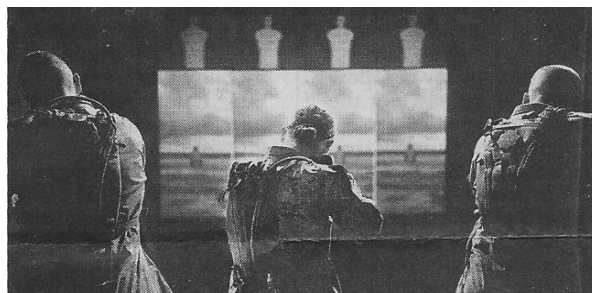
BY DAVID S. CLOUD

Tribune Washington Bureau

**WASHINGTON** The first three women to complete Marine infantry training will graduate Thursday, national symbols of the growing push to integrate women into front line combat units and of the barriers that remain.

The three Marine recruits - Pfc. Julia Carroll, PFC Cristina Fuentes-Montenegro and Pfc. Katie Gorz - completed the 59-day course at Camp Geiger, N.C., that includes a grueling 12.4-mile hike while carrying 85 pounds of gear. But unlike their male counterparts who graduate Thursday, the women will not be assigned to infantry units. They will be placed in staff and support jobs while the Pentagon continues to study how many of the thousands of combat related jobs reserved for men should be opened to both sexes.

Each service has until Jan 1, 2016, to recommend which jobs should remain closed. "We're trying to do this the right way" said Capt. Maureen Krebs, a Marine



SGT. TYLER L. MAIN/MARINES PHOTO

A female Marine practices basic marksmanship alongside male colleagues during infantry training at Camp Geiger, N.C. Fifteen women went through the training at the base.

spokeswoman, explaining the lengthy evaluation process. "We have until 2016 to complete our plan".

Despite the ban, thousands of women have seen combat in recent wars, and hundreds have been wounded and killed, a testament to their growing numbers and to the shifting front lines and guerrilla tactics used by insurgents in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many female soldiers in civil affairs intelligence and other specialized noncombat jobs have been attached to ground units, but they remain excluded from joining the frontline units that train in directly engaging the enemy.

Since combat experience is critical to career advancement, many female soldiers who served in Afghanistan and Iraq say they face difficult decisions about whether to stay in the military if they are not allowed to

compete for such assignments.

Their numbers dwindled as the eight-week course proceeded, both from voluntary withdrawals and failure to complete tasks. Seven remained for the 12.4-mile march Oct. 28, and four completed it. One of the finishers was PFC Harlee "Rambo" Bradford, who told the Marine Corps Times, an independent publication that covers the military: "I finished all of the ... requirements with a stress fracture." But her injury prevented her from graduating from the course, Krebs said.

The three enlisted Marines who completed the training were among the first 15 enlisted women who volunteered to go through the infantry course after boot camp at Parris Island, a Marine base in South Carolina. They had to pass the same physical screening test as men, which includes doing three pull-ups and 50 crunches in two minutes, and running 3 miles in 28 minutes.

*Congratulations to our fellow female Marines!  
The editors.*

---

## A Thank You and Update From Capt. Jones

Dear Fox 2/5 Veterans,

Thanks so much for the copy of the Newsletter. We love getting these. I am glad to see the extensive article in there regarding Mr. Rich Horner's visit to the company. We loved having him at Camp Pendleton and the Marines thoroughly enjoyed hearing about his time in the company. Clearly, his actions in Hue were remarkable. I know the Marines loved hearing the story, and he gave us a beautiful set of pictures detailing that story that will remain with the company forever.

We are just completing our second week on Camp Hansen in Okinawa as the Battalion Landing Team for the 31st MEU. As always, we are ready for whatever comes our way. Before we embark on amphibious shipping we will focus on continuing to work on our boat skills and infantry skills here on the island and in the surrounding waters.

Thanks so much for the copy of the newsletter, and please accept my apologies for a tardy reply.

Best wishes and Semper Fidelis,

Capt Jordan P. Jones

"Blackheart 6"





## **Navy Corpsmen Silver Star Recipients**

It is with much embarrassment that we completely overlooked our Navy corpsmen when compiling the Silver Star list in the last newsletter. Our apologies.....again.

The oversight was brought to my attention by my co-editor, Ken Kreader. Following is the list of Fox Company corpsmen to receive the Silver Star in Vietnam:

Thomas S. Donovan    Corpsman Second Class  
KIA                      June 2nd 1967

Dell C. Geise           Corpsman Third Class  
KIA                      January 26th 1967

Andrew C. Rackow    Corpsman Second Class  
KIA                      August 6th 1968

*Tony Marengo shared some personal insight about Corpsman Donovan.*

"I was fortunate to meet so many very good Corpsmen. Doc Donovan was one of them. He was a bit overweight when I first met him and he was assigned to my platoon, the 3rd."

"On his first patrol with 3rd Platoon he was lagging behind. I put a boot in his butt and motivated him into climbing a hill. When we returned to An Hoa he thanked me. He served gallantly from then on saving a number of lives. When Fox Company needed a company Corpsman I reluctantly sent Doc Donovan to the CP thinking he would be safer with the Command Group. On operation Union II he stayed with the wounded and covered Marines with his body firing back with the weapons available. The NVA executed him as well and Captain Graham."

"I wrote a citation for the Navy Cross for his gallant actions. Some time later I had heard that the Navy awards board, or someone along the line, asked why a Navy Corpsman was firing at the enemy. Needless to say, it was fortunate for that person or persons I was not present!"

"Doc Donovan received the Silver Star. Another thing that may have hindered his receiving a Navy Cross was there were at least Five Navy Crosses recommended for Fox Company Marines for Operation Union II on June 2nd, 1967."

From what I was told, June 2nd was Doc's birthday..... if that makes a difference when a man dies?"

*All of us grunts know we owe a great debt of gratitude to our corpsmen brethren.*

*Please let us know if we've overlooked anyone.*  
*The editors*



## **A Salute To Our Fox Company Corpsmen**

THOMAS S. DONOVAN (KIA) Citation: The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Silver Star



Medal (Posthumously) to Thomas S. Donovan (9132355), Hospital Corpsman Second Class, U.S. Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Senior Corpsman with Company F, Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, FIRST Marine Division, in the Republic of Vietnam, on 2 June 1967. During Operation UNION II

DELL C. GEISE (KIA) Citation: The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) to Dell Conley Geise (9177728), Hospital Corpsman Third Class, U.S. Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as a Corpsman with Company F, Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, FIRST Marine Division (Rein.), FMF, in Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 26 January 1967 on Operation Tuscaloosa

RACKOW, ANDREW C. (KIA) Citation: The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) to Andrew C. Rackow (B-407475), Hospital Corpsman Second Class, U.S. Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Senior Corpsman of Company F, Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, FIRST Marine Division, in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam on 6 August 1968, while participating in Operation Mameluke Thrust.





***"Where Have You Gone Michael Robinson?"***

*By Pete Stivers, 1st Platoon May '69-March '70*

My story starts when Fox Company was patrolling all week along the Song Vu Gia River 5 kilometers west from Hill 65. Later in the afternoon we set in by this ville' and everyone dug in. One Marine had to dig a 6'x6'x6' hole because he fell asleep on his watch the night before. If Sgt. T. Byrd knew of it you were at his mercy.

As it grew dark we all set in by our fox holes and the night began. "Goodnight Chesty" I've got your back! I hope someone's got mine? Around 0300 the company was instructed and ordered to saddle up. Soon we would be moving out and back up to hill 65. All hell and panic started when our 1st platoon radioman, Mike Robinson was not seen, heard, or accounted for. Doc Connely kept bugging me. "Stivers, where's your buddy Robinson?" I didn't have any idea and didn't want to raise my voice so the enemy outside our perimeter could know our location and give away our positions.

I kept asking each Marine I crossed paths with if they had seen Mike. I was checking every hooch and he never came out. Finally we all moved out and reached hill 65 safely. In the Quonset hut I was really flipping out. I wondered what had happened to him, his actual whereabouts and what would be his fate in the end.

Around 0600, still dark outside, here he comes up the main road, yelling and crying, and scared to death the sentries would blow him away. He was dragging all his gear plus his Marine Corps issued sleeping bag. Claiming we had left him behind, he was still crazy mad at us.

Then I heard all the commotion. I saw Robinson at the doorway. Wow it was a big relief to see that he had made it back to hill 65. He kept yelling we left him behind, but I assured him that we checked everywhere but had no luck finding him. He said Papa Son had invited him to sleep down under the hooch in his bomb shelter but failed to tell anyone.

I said, "Mike, thank God you're alive and safe. Stop crying, get yourself squared away Marine. You could have been forced to march to an enemy prison camp tonight instead of Hill 65."

Mike would see more madness in Hong Kong on RR, and on his tour of duty. In 1973 he died in a car accident in Arizona while stationed at 29 Palms.

Lance Corporal Mike Robinson Pamona, California      Joined USMC    Age 17

"Mike Robinson was well liked by his fellow Marines and served Fox Company proudly.".....**Pete Stivers**

**Some final bits and pieces on the reunion...**

**Here's the menu for the BBQ on Friday:**

Delicious Grilled Hamburgers.

100% Beef Hot Dogs

Crispy Fried Chicken

Chuck Wagon Baked Beans

Home-style Potato Salad

Fresh Baked Corn Bread

Assorted Pickles & Olives

Lettuce, Tomato & Onions

Fresh Baked Rolls

Homemade Cookies & Brownies

Refreshing Lemonade & Punch

**50th Festival: October 4, 5 & October 11, 12, 2014**

***The National Apple Harvest Festival***, which is held during the first two full weekends in October, has been celebrating beautiful crafts, great music and wonderful food for forty-nine years. The festival has something for everyone with hundreds of arts and crafts dealers, demonstrations, contests, food stands, and entertainment.

The festival is located in the heart of Pennsylvania Apple country, near historic Gettysburg. Go to [appleharvest.com/](http://appleharvest.com/) for more information.



## 2014 Reunion / Meeting

Fox Company 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marines, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division  
ASPIRE HOTEL & SUITE  
2634-A Emmitsburg Road  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 2014

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ How many will be in attendance: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reservation made \_\_\_\_\_ or Name of Hotel \_\_\_\_\_  
Checking in Oct \_\_\_\_\_ 2014 Checking out Oct \_\_\_\_\_ 2014  
Spouse or Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail if available: \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you need wheel chair access?    Yes    No**

Registration Fee:	\$ 20	\$ _____ 20.00	per form
-\$10 Discount if reservations are made by 9/1/2014	\$ -10	\$ _____	per form
Banquet Dinner Buffet* Sat 11 at 6:00 p.m.	\$40 x _____	\$ _____	per person
Bar-B-Que* Fri 4pm                      TBD	\$30 x _____	\$ _____	per person
Tour Etc. Fri 10am	\$36 x _____	\$ _____	per person
Dues	\$ 20	\$ _____	per year

TOTAL:                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:                      **Make Check payable to                      Fox 2/5 Assoc.**  
Fox 2/5 Assoc.  
% Sam Henderson  
3908 Cypress St  
Silver Springs, NV 89429-9394

### DETAILS/RATES/CHARGES:

#### IMPORTANT: READ CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING RESERVATIONS:

For reservations call directly to the hotel by calling, **1-717-334-2755**

**Room rate is \$99.00 plus tax.**

Please be sure to tell Reservations that you are with **Fox 2/5 Vietnam Veterans**

**CUT OFF DATE TO MAKE RESERVATIONS WITH HOTEL IS: Sept 8, 2014**

**Enter your suggestion here for our 2016 West reunion:** \_\_\_\_\_