



Fox 2/5 Association Vietnam

Fox Company 2nd Bn 5th
Marines

Semper Fidelis

January 2009

From the President:

Tom Martin

Congratulations and well done to all who worked so hard to make this year's reunion the largest, most event filled and fun since we started doing these things! Special thanks are due to Sam and Donna for another superb organizational job, Thanks to Mike Downs for arranging a memorable evening at 8th & I, to Dave Brown for arranging the dinner speaker, and Tom Morris for getting Jim Webb to come join us at the business meeting. It was a great way for Chris Brown to depart as our President after four productive years. Ken Kreader and his newsletter remains the glue that holds us together.

Welcome aboard to our two new vice presidents. JD Moore and Bobby Smith I will be counting on them to get the word out to all our members via e-mail and phone calls. I figure if we share the load and each take a portion of the roster we can get to all our guys with a personal invite to the next reunion at Cody Wyoming. I have been in contact with both and, with the work already done by Donna we are well on the way to a successful reunion in Cody. I was struck by the changes we have under gone in the past twenty odd years since this thing of ours began. Quite obvious are the physical changes, but more so in the attitudes exhibited, the ease of association with one another and generally an air of satisfaction, and I might add accomplishment. We are I think "at ease" with ourselves and the world we live in, confident in our long held beliefs, sure of decisions made long ago, and yes even vindicated by history.

Twenty years prior to the initial meetings that resulted in our organization, and the subsequent reunions, we stood in the rice paddies, the jungle canopy and in the streets of Hue. We stood in the way of what was then the seemingly inevitable spread of communism across the globe. Cuba had fallen not six years earlier, the Caribbean, indeed all of South America it seemed was under attack by communist subversive forces. The Berlin Wall had recently been constructed and the race to control space was very hot and very much in doubt.

Twenty years ago, at half time in our lives, we were emerging from what had been for most of us, if not all, a traumatic time. Of the men and women of our generation we were the ones who had chosen to defend the nation during a period of great national turmoil and danger. We were the ones who fought the "unpopular" war. We were the ones who answered President Kennedy's call to "support any friend and oppose any foe in defense of liberty". We were also, unique in American history, the only American warriors to be greeted by our fellow citizens, upon our return, with indifference at best and open hostility in all too many cases.

That things had changed for us, and much to the better, came home to me as I addressed the membership at the dinner. Almost exactly twenty years before, at a hotel within shouting distance of the one we were in, I had addressed the same dinner. The feelings I expressed at that time I expressed again at this year's dinner. Recounting the extraordinary accomplishments and unrivaled heroism of the "men in this room" and voicing my utter contempt for those who had mocked and derided us during that painful time I again pointed to the audience and said "Ya done good...ya done real good" as I had twenty years before.

After the dinner a number of men approached me to offer compliments and thanks for the things I said and I appreciated that and thanked them in turn. But there was a dramatic difference over all in the tone and attitude of those who approached me.

Twenty years before in that other hotel ball room I had followed a succession of speakers to the podium who made remarks, entirely appropriate, lamenting the men lost and the hardships endured. None had addressed what to me was the other side of our story of Fox 2/5 in Vietnam and that was that as a military unit we had inflicted enormous losses on the enemy. Or as I indelicately put it at the time "We kicked ass from the DMZ to An Hoa to Hue City and back again". At the time it brought a roar of approval from the men present and their loved ones and when I concluded with the "Ya done good" part they were on their feet cheering. That the same line drew applause, but not the cheering, foot stomping response it did twenty years ago brought home the thoughts I expressed earlier. We know we "done good" we no longer have to have someone tells us we did.

I pledge to you my best efforts as your new president. I appreciate your confidence and support and I will do my best to justify it. Please contact me with your thoughts and ideas on how we can better serve the membership. Ken is at work on the e-mail version of the newsletter which we hope will significantly improve our information sharing. You can always get me at foxthreeactual@aol.com.

Semper Fi,
Tom

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Fox 2/5 Electronic Newsletter

In order to save costs on
printing and postage we
would like to send the
newsletter via email.

Please email Donna with
your current email address.

Go to page 4 and fill
your pre-registration
form out and send in
asap.

From Bobby Smith:

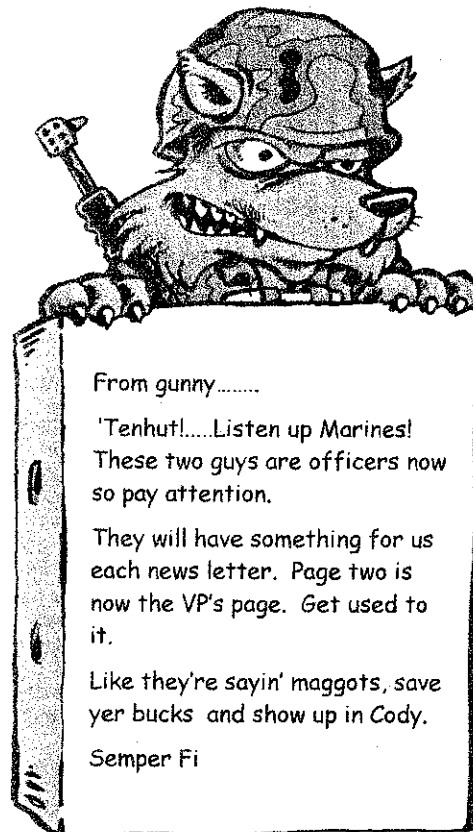
It has been about six months since our reunion in DC and I am already making plans for July 2010 for Cody, WY. I want everyone to start making plans to make the trip to Cody. I know it won't be as easy to get to as getting to DC but I know that if you want to spend some quality time with some great guys then getting there won't be a problem. For those of you who have never made a reunion but always say that I am going to the next one. Now this is the next one so figure the cost and start saving your coke cans or the other cans that you empty. I would like to see 2010 reunion bigger than this last one.

My grandson and I went up early to visit the DC sites. This was his first trip to DC and he really had a great time. He said the highlight of the trip was the

Friday night parade at 8th & I. He will be graduating from high school in June and figured that this would be his last reunion with me. He has made about 6 reunions with me and some of you guys have really impressed him. In between reunions he would ask me if I have heard from Roger, Chris Tom, Sam and Donna and a few others.

On November 12th he joined the Marines for five years active duty to be guaranteed aviation mechanics. He also told me that if he was stationed in the US in July 2010 he was going to Cody with me. On June 7th he and I will be going to Vietnam with Vietnam Battlefield Tours and if anyone would like to travel with us please let me know.

Semper Fi
Bobby



From JD Moore;

I would like to thank everyone for giving Bobby Smith and I the opportunity to serve Fox 2/5 as your Vice Presidents.

Our first mission from Tom is to contact every member in this great organization. Tom wants us to make contact with everyone possible and let them know that we are here for them. The new year has begun and it is my goal to begin the task of contacting members in Florida and then will branch out from there.

A brother of mine told me that at his first reunion I ignored him and he almost left. He later told me this and I am so thankful he did. What an eye opener. We all get in our own groups and sometimes don't notice one of our own sitting alone and uncomfortable. Let us not forget the first time we came to a reunion. I thought everyone would have long hair and peace buttons.

I will be hosting a mini-reunion in Orlando, Florida next summer (summer 2009). We have had great mini-reunions in the past. Anyone that can come is more than welcome. A date will come together soon and be announced.

Put back a few bucks each month as Marlene and I do and we will see you all in Cody.

Semper Fi: JD



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c/o Sam Henderson
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Email: deh1262@aol.com

"Together Then, Together Again"

Fox 2/5 Association

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919-718-5911 kenkre1212@msn.com
Locator: Chris Brown 9 Alister Circle, E. Northport NY 11731
613-624-1779 fox2alpha@hotmail.com
Trea/Secy: Sam & Donna Henderson (addresses this page top left)
Sage Advisor: Dan Albritton, 9767 Meyers Road, Benton AR 72015
501-794-3637 albritton501@scglobal.net

From the editor:

The 2008 D.C. reunion was a success as they all have. I've been to nine, I think, and I have never failed to learn something new about my short time in Vietnam and Fox 2/5 in particular.

As the locations are unique so is the experience. I expect that moving back west we should pick some new attendees especially going to a northwest location. Cody, Wyoming.

Just a footnote, my retirement is the end of February and I will start working on our electronic version of the newsletter for those who can receive them via email.

Semper Fi!

Ken



.....
From Paul Trenn.....(one of several)....

When in England, at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of 'empire building' by George Bush.

He answered by saying, 'Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return.'

You could have heard a pin drop.

Semper Fi Brothers,

My name is Merle Jeffries sometimes know as Igor of the 106's. I was with the 106 mm Recoilless Rifle platoon in Nam in 1969. (and early '70). I have recently been trying to find anyone from the 2nd Battalion/5th Marines who were also "in country" in 1969. I've located a few of the gang, but with your help I'll have enough contacts to better plan a reunion for 2009.

I'm sorta laid up for a while as I recover from a back surgery, so I'm doing all the computer work I can while I have the down time. A few others and I have sorta kicked around Vegas near the last weekend of **Aug, 2009**.

You will be kept advised as to when and where **our great event** will take place. Whether you are interested in attending or not, PLEASE contact me with some current information. I'm sure someone at the reunion will be asking about you. Be sure to include any information on ANYONE who was with us in Nam during 1969, who might also know someone, who might know someone, who....You get the idea!

Dust off the photo album, and sharpen your memory. Send me ANY address!

I've got this address off of the Internet, and I am making a multi~mailing list. I hope to here from any of you very soon.

Merle L. Jeffries
1030 Lewis Dr.
Kemah, TX 77565
281-334-5154

**2nd Battalion 5th
Marines
1st Marine Division**



(Vietnam Era)

**August 2009 Reunion
Las Vegas, Nevada**

Sponsored by:
The "Road Hunter"
H&S Company 106 MM Recoilless Rifle Squad



Jack L. Jeffries (Igor) 40 years ago and still today!
281-334-5154
mejeff69@comcast.net **We Aim To Please**



2010 Reunion / Meeting
July 19 – 25, 2010

If you think that you might come, please fill out and mail (or email) to Sam.
This is not set in stone.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

How many will be in attendance: _____

Guest Name: _____

E-Mail if available: _____

What Year in Viet Nam: _____ Plt: _____

Registration Fee: _____ per form \$ 10.00

All prices are tentative, subject to change, just to give idea

Trip to Yellowstone (all Day trip)	Thur	\$ 75.00 ??	\$ _____	Per person
Evening Event	Fri	\$ 00.00 ??	\$ _____	Per person
Sat Morning Event	Sat	\$ 00.00 ??	\$ _____	Per person
Banquet per person (Dinner Buffet)	Sat Night	\$ 40.00 ??	\$ _____	Per person
Cost of Transportation to events			\$ _____	Per person
	TOTAL:		\$ _____	Per person

Mail to:
Fox 2/5 Assn.
% Sam Henderson
4312 Wetumpka Hwy
Montgomery, AL 36110-2720+

DETAILS/RATES/CHARGES:

- At Holiday Inn Guest Rooms: \$ 129.00 Flat Rate (1-4 persons per room)
- At Comfort Inn Guest Rooms: \$ 129.00 Flat Rate (1-4 persons per room)
- At Buffalo Bill [cabins] Village: \$ 109.00 One bedroom cabin, \$ 119.00 Two bedroom cabin

Rates do NOT include the 9% tax. Tax is subject to 2008 election results. Client will be notified in the event of any increase/decrease. Rates at the Comfort Inn include continental breakfast, 7-10am. Rates are quoted in US Dollars. This is a negotiated rate and is NOT available through either hotel's national brand toll free number. No additional coupons, promotions or programs are applicable EXCEPT frequent stay programs (Priority Club, Holiday Inn; Guest Privileges, Comfort Inn). Priority Club Meeting Rewards, event planner perks (provided that membership and/or criteria is met).

Submitted by Chris Brown:

Terry Johnson who was Fox Company's skipper in 2002 - 03 during Operation Iraqi Freedom wrote this note to Rich Horner, Fox 2nd platoon commander 67 - 68. Rich found out that Terry was serving in Qatar with his son Randy. He makes several references to Fox Company and like all of us states the serving with Fox 2/5 was the high point of his career.

Chris

Sir,

Thanks very much for the kind and thoughtful note. As always, it is not only a pleasure but an honor to meet and talk with former members of 5th Marines. Having only met Randy a few weeks ago, I was shocked to learn who his father was! Having the privilege of leading Fox 2/5 during 2002-2003 and OIF I was the high-point in my career and an experience I will never forget. Captain Graham's picture and CMH citation hung proudly in my CP at Camp Pendleton, and our fervent desire was that we would, failing all else, uphold the honor and good name of the Company and all who had contributed to its legacy.

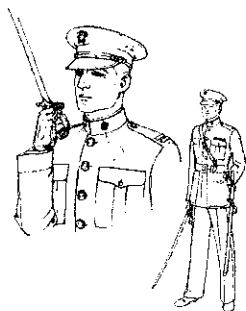
During 2002, prior to the Company's deployment to OIF I, I read several books on the battle for Hue City, and it was both moving and humbling to learn of the incredible valor and sacrifice of so many good Marines.

During 2004, at Quantico, I introduced myself to Gen Downs, as he just happened to be in attendance at the opening ceremony for that year's Command and Staff College. I had never met him before, but recognized him solely from having looked at his picture in several books about Hue City. We didn't have much time to talk, but I wanted to convey, on behalf of the Company, our sincerest respect and admiration for the Company's former members.

I also would be remiss if I did not thank you and all of the former 2/5 Veterans who supported, and continue to support, the current generation of Marines, to include F 2/5. Your support means everything to today's Marine, and speaks volumes of the truly unique Marine brotherhood.

All the best to you and your family sir. As I write this, I am preparing to head back to the United States to be with my family for Christmas, the first in two years. On behalf of all 206 members of F 2/5, class of 2003, I salute you.

Semper Fidelis,
Terry M. Johnson



From the Locater—Chris Brown:

First let me thank everyone involved with the Fox 2/5 Association for the opportunity to be the President of this great group for the past four years. I am not exaggerating when I say it was one of the most meaningful jobs I have had in my lifetime. It was right up there with being a squad leader for Fox Company.

I might add that it is also one of the easiest jobs due mainly to the fact that Donna Henderson is really the one who makes everything happen. My suggestion to anyone taking the job is to make sure she is your Treasurer. Donna and Sam are two of my favorite people and I treasure their friendship. Next I would like to congratulate the incoming president, Tom Martin and his two vice presidents, JD Moore and Bobby Smith. Anyone who has ever been involved in any kind of group activity knows that you need good people to make it work and remain a great organization. We now have a great board and coupled with Donna, Sam and the past presidents we will continue the fine traditions that Dan "Arky" Albritton started us on.

I would like to say that the past reunion at Washington DC was again a great success. When we say that keep getting better and better we are not exaggerating. As in past reunions we had many first time attendees and that comes from members reaching out to others to encourage them to attend. Once someone attends they always want to come back.



As you will hear from others the next one is in Cody, WY in 2010 and it looks like we are headed for another great experience. I look forward to visiting Yellowstone and Grand Teton National parks and maybe a rodeo. They have not started to plan it out yet but what ever the board comes up with it has the makings of another great reunion. If anyone has visited the area or knows about it I encourage you to contact Tom and the board as they can use all the suggestions you have. Put the dates on your calendar and start saving your money and continue to urge your buddies to do likewise.

I am not sure how much more I can do to help locate other Fox 2/5 Vietnam era veterans but if you have someone that you are looking for I am always willing to try to help in the search. Never hesitate to contact me via email, letter or call me.

Also note that I am leaving my current employer at the end of the year (2008) so anyone who uses that email or phone should keep that in mind and start using the below contact information.

Semper Fil
Chris Brown
9 Alister Circle
E. Northport, NY 11731
(631) 499-8739
fox2alpha@hotmail.com

New Benefit for Retirees-Less than 20yrs. Service**From Chris Brown:**

I received the attached from Oers Deak, one of our Fox 2/5 brothers. It is information that anyone who is retired via combat related injury should read. Please put it in the next newsletter. Thanks.

From: Oers

Here is the address to the blue background text printout that explains what CRSC "is" Though, it is not yet updated to remove the 20 year active service needed to collect CRSC, it should be updated soon. Here's where you can find the phone and address of where to apply for the benefit. You will not receive any notification of eligibility from anyone. It's up to you to apply. >>> https://iris.va.gov/scripts/iris.cfg/php.exe/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=410

Check out this page on the Internet. It seems to have an update on the CRSC Eligibility we discussed day. Click on <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.R.1585.ENR>



QUOTES -- Note the last one is by Senator James Webb who spoke at the Washington D.C. reunion in August 2008

"I LIKE MARINES, BECAUSE BEING A MARINE IS SERIOUS BUSINESS. WE'RE NOT A SOCIAL CLUB OR A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION AND WE DON'T PRETEND TO BE ONE. WE'RE A BROTHERHOOD OF "WARRIORS" -- NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS, PURE AND SIMPLE. WE ARE IN THE ASS-KICKING BUSINESS, AND UNFORTUNATELY, THESE DAYS BUSINESS IS GOOD.

COLONEL JAMES. M. LOWE, COMMANDER, MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, 2004

"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

"Every morning, I get up, get out of bed, and get on my knees and thank God for waking up in America ... (She is) the light of the world ... A nation of heroes ... The real stars are wearing body armor on top of their battle dress uniforms in 130 degree heat and they do not have stunt doubles to come in for them when the going gets rough and the bullets and the shrapnel start flying. They are the real stars, fighting terrorism and trying to free a nation."

Ben Stein

"If you're going through hell, keep going."

Winston Churchill

"What is a hero? My heroes are the young men who faced the issues of war and possible death, and then weighed those concerns against obligations to their country. Citizen-soldiers, who interrupted their personal and professional lives at their most formative stage, in the timeless phrase of the Confederate Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, 'not for fame of reward, not for place of rank, but in simple obedience to duty, as they understood it."

Senator James Webb (D-VA) & Former Secretary of the Navy

From Tony Marengo.....

A U.S. Navy Corpsman serving with Marines, wrote a wonderful poem and it is re-copied here for you. It is titled

"Bury me Next to a Marine"

Bury me next to a Marine, When my time has come to an end, So I can spend eternity beside my brother and friend

I've served beside them for years And they've inspired me every day. They've never asked for anything, So a debt I can never repay.

None of them served for glory, None for money or fame. But they've served in every clime and place, Heroes with but one name.

No one will ever outdo them, Their honor is never outdone. They will all go down in history, As America's favorite sons.

Marines will never fail you, And their guard will never cease. Please bury me next to a Marine. So I may rest in peace.

HM2(FMF) Robert (Iname?)