



## GOLF COMPANY 2ND BATTALION 5TH MARINES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Dong Ha - CHU LAI - AN HOA - PHU BAI - HUE CITY

Vol. 15, Issue 3

December 2003

Season's Greetings from the G 2/5 Association!

### DEDICATION

This issue of our Golf 2/5 newsletter is dedicated to two extraordinary Marines: Colonel Mitchell Paige, USMC (Ret) who received the Medal of Honor for heroism and bravery during the battle of Guadalcanal. This newsletter is also dedicated to our brother and fellow Marine/Corpsman, Doc. Coffee who passed away on 26 Nov. 2003. *Rest in Peace - Doc!*

Col. Paige died Nov. 15, 2003 at the age of 85. If you don't know about Col. Paige's exploits (he was a Sgt. at the time of the battle of Guadalcanal), like I didn't, look him up on the internet or check out the book titled: *A Marine Named Mitch*. What he found the courage to do during a massive Japanese attack on the Marine positions on Guadalcanal is beyond belief! *The editor*



L to R: Dennis Studenny, Col. Paige, Barney Barnes

A true Marine hero if ever there was one, Sgt. Mitch Paige received a battlefield promotion to Lieutenant and was awarded the Medal Of Honor for his actions on Guadalcanal, Oct. 26, 1942. Col. Paige passed away this past Nov. 15, 2003. I had the privilege and honor to meet him in Miami a few years back. Like I said, a great Marine and a tremendous human being. This newsletter is **Dedicated** to him. Rest In Peace, Sir. - *Barney*

### President's Message - by Barney Barnes

Greetings Marines,

Hope this newsletter finds each and every one of you well, though I know that is not the case at all.

First and foremost, we, the Golf 2/5 Family, need to remember two of our very own, Gerald Hall, and Doc Ron Coffee. We need to keep them and their families in our prayers and thoughts during these most trying of times.

This past Veterans Day, I marched / rode in the Tulsa Veterans Day Parade and attended a luncheon after the Parade at Post # One of the American Legion here in Tulsa. One of our Congressmen was the guest speaker and he told of the plight of the WW II Veteran. We are currently losing the WW II Vets at the rate of over a thousand a year. Between them and the Korean Vets loses, my / our generation, Nam Vets, now make up the highest percentage of veterans in the USA. I believe it is now a 1 - 3 ratio. Don't know if any of you think this way, but I find strength in those numbers. Strength to change the plight of our long neglected veterans, yes, strength to even change what is wrong with our system and make this country a better place for all of

us. If we don't do it, who will?

One other thing that I would like to touch base with you on, before we get down to some business matters that are of importance to us all, is our Black Marine Brothers. For whatever reason, though we have located some of our African American Marines, I have, or we have failed to get them active in our ÓBand Of Brothers.Ó To try and rectify this concern, I have asked one of our newest members, Richard Lee, (3rd Plt. 1968) who I met for the very first time in DC this past August at the Marine Honor Society Tribute for General Pace, to see if he could make some in-roads with our missing Black Marines and see if he could come up with a solution to this quandary. I have also asked Rich, as I do all of our first time attendees to any of our functions to write a few words about what it was like attending the first time (which he has done and appears later in the newsletter).

Now on to the business at hand. There are two items of Association Business that we need to address and find solutions to. Number one, and I don't know of any other way to say this, and I will not ÓSugar CoatÓ it, but we have some of our members that have been delinquent in the paying of their dues to our Association, some as far back as to the very beginning of our forming, seven years ago. If you add up the numbers, you come up with a figure of well over \$600, which when you take into consideration that the money received from the paying of our dues, \$25 the first year, \$10 each year after, is the only source of income we have as an Association. Not preaching here, just stating facts, for I know many of us give more than our \$10 a year. But the bottom line is simply this, you guys that are behind, need to step up to the plate, and you need to do the right thing.

The second item we need to address is the Treasury Position, itself. Lance has asked to be able to step down from the position, because of the present Financial Laws in his home state, California. I have asked Lance to go into detail about it in his treasurer report in this newsletter, since Finance is not in the realm of my expertise. I have though, over the last couple of months solicited our membership for either a volunteer to take the position or a solution to the problem itself. To date, have received zero, zilch, nada, volunteers or solutions to the Treasury Position, other than Larry Ortiz replying that he would do it if nobody else spoke up. That is honorable on Larry's behalf, but he also resides in California, which brings us back to the Financial Law problem. Something has got to be done. Here is your chance. Speak up.

With that said, I hope each and every one of you have a most joyous holiday season.

Semper Fi,

Barney

*Note: As Barney stated above, we have about 200 Golf 2/5ers on our membership roster now. Of these almost 200 members, approximately 130 are dues paying members. Of these 130 members, we have 11 members who are \$40 to \$70 in arrears which means they have not paid dues in 4 to 7 years. There are 5 more members who haven't paid their dues in 3 years and some who have never paid.*

*In the last couple of years, Barney has led an effort to contact more of our 2/5 brothers and we have found many. Many of these newly found brothers make up the remaining 70 who have not sent in their dues (although, several have).*

*All of you have been receiving newsletters whether or not you've paid your dues. We hope you find the newsletter of interest, of value, and a way to reconnect with your Marine brothers. As we've stated in the past, the Association is truly a non-profit organization but we do need funds to keep operating. The largest expense is the newsletter. Association dues also enable our bi-yearly reunions and help pay for some of those costs.*

*If you'd like to join, a handy membership is on the back of each newsletter!*

*Again, none of the officers are paid from Association fundsÑwe all do our respective jobs voluntarily to keep the Association going. If you find being a part of the Association of value to you, please send in your membership duesÑthe editor.*

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Hey Marines!

I would like to thank the 90+ percent of you that have sent your dues in this past year and hope that next year we can get everyone to help. The Treasury is once again looking good; we will be ready for the next reunion and can continue to send out newsletters. We have a number of members that are five years behind in their dues. I am going to have to reclassify them from active Member to just on the roster unless they become current. This means they will not get all the newsletters each year. I know these mean a lot to most of us and I hate to cut those unpaid members out but as I tell you every time, dues are the Association's only means of funds so please send them in if you haven't.

You will not be getting dues notices until we figure out a way around our problem. For the past 10 years I have had a joint account with the Association under my Social Security Number but now they (the State of Cal) want the group to have its own number (Taxpayer Identification Number). That means I cannot deposit checks made out to G 2/5. This is getting much too regulated for me and I have asked our President to try to find someone to take over the duties of Secretary - Treasurer. I love you guys, but 10 years is enough. I will send out the dues notices as soon as a replacement is found. It's been great being part of the group and keeping it afloat when everyone seemed too busy. As the late Bob Hope would say, "Thanks for the memories."

Semper Fi,

Lance Machamer



#### The Marines Prayer

*Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose in deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold. If I am inclined to doubt; steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again. Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer. Amen.*

Note: Thanks to Tony Cartlidge for providing. . .

#### Upcoming Formations

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#### **Battle of HU? City Memorial - 2004**

**From:** "Chaplain (LT Dundas)" [dundassl@hue-city.navy.mil](mailto:dundassl@hue-city.navy.mil)

**Dear Battle of Hu City Veterans and Friends,**

The dates for the 2004 Battle of Hu City Memorial have been set. The Memorial will be held the weekend of Friday 30 January to Sunday 1 February 2004 at Naval Station Mayport, Florida. Hard copy invitations should be in the mail come October. Please feel free to publicize the dates in any of your organization newsletters or publications. Also, feel free to send this to other HU CITY vets via e-mail.

Last year's event was great, the remarks made by General Peter Pace and the presence of so many veterans and friends was incredible.

Major General Ray Smith (A/1/1) has graciously accepted our invitation to be the speaker for this year's event. We will follow the same basic format, Golf Tourney on Friday afternoon, Reception at Bogies Friday night, picnic and ship tours on Saturday, and Memorial Service on Sunday. Unfortunately I will not be able to be there this year as I will be back up at the Marine Corps Security Force Battalion in Norfolk by then. My relief though is Chaplain Paul Rumery, currently serving with the Seabees who is a former USMC Staff Sergeant. RP1 Enlow, my trustee assistant and great friend of the HU Vets is now at NAS Jax and we're still waiting on a relief.

The contact info for the Chaplain office on HU CITY has changed. Our new phone number is 904-270-6500. I share the line with the Ship Secretary and Command Career Counselor. The e-mail address which will carry over to Chaplain Rumery is [chaplain@hue-city.navy.mil](mailto:chaplain@hue-city.navy.mil) the web site for the ship is now [www.hue-city.navy.mil](http://www.hue-city.navy.mil).

Mayport Comfort Inn 904-249-0313 (the choice of many vets year after year, always good with discounts); Mayport Best Western: 904-435-3500; Mayport Navy Lodge 904-270-3964 (must be authorized active/retiree space available); Mayport VOQ/BOQ 904-270-5423 (must be authorized active/retiree space available).

I'll be getting the invitations ready before I leave in October, please feel free to send this around and publish the dates. If you know vets or if you have changes to your info let me know. I'll make sure our mailing list is as accurate as possible.

I know that Captain Young, Command Master Chief Dubiel and our new Executive Officer, LCDR Cooke are all looking forward to the coming Memorial Weekend.

Many blessings and Semper Fidelis,

Chaplain Steve Dundas

Lt Steve Dundas, CHC USNR

Office of the Chaplain

USS HU CITY CG-66

FPO AA 34091-1186

904-270-6500; DSN 960-6500; Cell 904-568-0557

*Note: As Chaplain Dundas stated above, the Comfort Inn is the usual hotel booked by the Marines attending the Hu? City Memorial. After last year's memorial, many who stayed at the Comfort Inn expressed major dissatisfaction with the place (particularly the wives who attended). This year, the primary motel will be the Mayport Best Western: 904-435-3500 or Toll Free at: 866-355-3116 which will be offering a rate of \$71 for the reunion. Remember to tell them you will be there for the Hu City Memorial to get the better rate!*

### **GOLF 2/5 Reunion - 2004, by Mike Ervin (Association VP and 2004 Reunion Chairman)**

**When:** 2004 Golf 2/5 Association Reunion is set for 24th, 25th, and 26th of September 2004!

**Where:** Washington D.C.



**Hotel:** Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington VA 22202 (703-271-5226). (There is also a Crystal City Marriott across the street and down about a block. However, We'll be at the "Crystal Gateway Marriott".)

Daily Group Rate is \$99.00 plus applicable taxes.

Parking is \$8.00 per day.

25 Rooms have been reserved with more available the faster reservations are made. Cut off date for this rate is 01Sep04. Standard room is with King-size bed. When making reservations, please specify sleeping requirements and whether you want 'Smoking' or 'Non-Smoking' accommodations.

This hotel is centrally located to Reagan National Airport via the subway (METRO) which is 1 stop north of the Airport at (Crystal City) on either the Blue or Yellow line. You detrain at Crystal City, ride up first escalator into Crystal City Underground, turn right at first main corridor, follow to end, turn left and walk into Crystal City Marriott. Check in is to the left.

The hotel also has transportation to and from the airport.

The hotel is connected to Crystal City Underground which is a labyrinth of businesses, shops, and restaurants that take up approximately 5 blocks north to south and approximately 2 blocks east and west. The subway (METRO) can ferry you most any place you'd like to go from as far south as Springfield, as far north as Beltsville which connects to the MARC System if you want to see the Orioles at Camden Yard Baltimore, as far west as Shady Grove, and as far east as Lanham. For a view of the system, click on <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/local/longterm/metro/>.

For those of you who want to search for a different agenda, try [www.bigfoot.com](http://www.bigfoot.com), select yellow pages, use "Hotel" and the

criteria with Arlington, Virginia as location and scan thru the various choices.

Some other hotels close to the Crystal City Marriott are:

- \* Courtyard by Marriott Crystal City, 2899 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arl. VA 800-321-2211
- \* Days Inn Crystal City, 2000 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arl. VA 800-329-7466
- \* Embassy Suite Hotel, 1300 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arl. VA 703-979-9799
- \* Hampton Inn & Suite, Reagan Int'l Airport, 2000 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arl VA 703-418-8181
- \* Holiday Inn, 1489 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arl VA 800-465-4329
- \* Holiday Inn National Airport, 2650 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arl. VA 800-465-4329
- \* Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 800-233-1234

Any one with questions can call Mike Ervin @ 703-354-1473 or email [pandmervin@cox.net](mailto:pandmervin@cox.net).

Further details will be provided in future newsletters in 2004.

Mike Ervin

### **MARINE HONORS SOCIETY TRIBUTE**

#### **for General Peter Pace & General Jim Jones:**

I guess the first thing I need to do is explain what the Marine Honors Society is. To be truthful, I had never heard of such an organization until I was asked to come to the event because I was one of General Pace's Squad Leaders from Vietnam. The Marine Honors Society is an Association, much like our own Golf 2/5, of all Marines who were ever stationed at Marine Barracks, 8TH & I. This was the first time that they had ever tried getting all of their Marines together at one time; heretofore they had always met as Companies, not unlike what we try to do.



L to R: General Jim Jones and General Peter Pace

The mission of the Society is to bestow honor upon military leaders and America's heroes; those dedicated to upholding the values, principals, and traditions of the USMC. Their purpose is to honor Marines, past, present, and future, that might have otherwise gone unrecognized for their contributions and sacrifices. These are individuals and Marine Units alike who have distinguished themselves in a manner that upholds the highest traditions and values of our beloved United States Marine Corps.

The event actually ran from Friday, August 8 through Friday, August 15. We, the Golf 2/5 contingent, most of us anyway, only took part in the Sunday through Thursday Activities. Sunday Night was a BBQ at the host hotel, the swank and expensive, Washington Hilton International, (the same one where President Regan and James Brady were shot by John Hinkley). Those of us who were there spent the first 30 minutes or so trying to avoid running into General Pace since our being there was supposed to be a big surprise and he was not to know we were there until the Dinner Cruise on Tuesday night, so we were told. Well, Stu and Mike Stallings just happened to walk into the room the same time as General Pace. . .can you say ÔBUSTEDÓ!!! I believe Stu told the General that he was in DC visiting an old friend. General Pace was called away for a phone call at the Pentagon, so Mike Ervin, Mike & Wanda Copeland and Mike's Mother, Virginia (what a GREAT lady) Stu, Mike Stallings and I were able to eat and enjoy the festivities.



Golf 2/5ers at Honors Society

L to R Kneeling: Mike Ervin, Mike Copeland, Barney Barnes,

Tony (great T-Shirt) Cartlidge, Mike Stallings

Standing: Dennis Studenney, Richard Lee, Chuck Meadows, Les Tully,

Jim Lewis

Monday was a free day, Mona and I spent most of it trying to find the hotel again, after spending Sunday night with Mike and Pat Ervin. (I have never seen so many one way streets in my life!) Monday night, we went out to eat with the Copeland's and then just kicked back in Mike's room talking with and getting to know Mike's Mom, like I said, one great lady.

Tuesday morning came and I had a call from Richard Lee. The only event he was attending was the Evening Parade on Thursday so we set up a time to meet in the hotel lounge/lobby

later on that afternoon. (I've asked Richard to report on his initial reaction about meeting us after so many, many years elsewhere in this newsletter). Tuesday night came and we all headed down to the Potomac River to enjoy an evening dinner cruise with the 8th and I guys and our own General Pace. Only one small setback, General Pace was not on board - this was the start of some dissension among our troops, including yours truly since our main objective was to spend time with General Pace. That dinner cruise cost us a lot of money and to put it bluntly, the food was definitely not worth what we paid for it.

Wednesday came and Lester, Cheryl, and I went over to Arlington to view and visit the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier. Wednesday night came and we got all dressed up in our Suits, Tuxes, and Gowns and prepared to surprise our beloved General. Only one small problem, because of the surprise factor, we could not attend the "Happy Hour" and had to wait till it was over so as a group we could surprise General Pace. He, General Pace, was taken into a room where he got to meet and greet the 32 MOH recipients and while he was doing that, we all gathered outside the entry door so as he walked out he would literally run smack dab into us. They told the General that if he had a few minutes that there was another group of folks waiting outside the room that they would like for him to meet and greet. And so he did, and as soon as the door opened, he walked through and I just peeked my head around the corner, our eyes met and we made a bee line toward one another. We embraced, and as we did, the rest of the gang came out to greet him. He then went on to introduce us to General Jones, then posed for a photo with all of us and it was off to eat and the ceremony itself.



Barney Barnes and Gen. Pace

The dinning area of the International Hilton has to be the biggest dinning room I have ever seen. There were if my memory

serves me right, about 500 - 600 people in attendance at the Dinner. One of the highlights for me was the 32 MOH Recipients that were there. I wished that they would have taken the time to introduce them one by one and give a ÓbioÓ on them as well.

These great men were escorted by the National Youth Group, ÒTHE YOUNG MARINES.Ó I, as well as most of us Golf guys, were really impressed by these teenagers. The Young Marines were founded in Waterbury, CT back in 1958 and were officially chartered and sponsored by the Marine Corps League in 1965. They are now a world wide organization and here in the US, you'll find Chapters in just about all 50 states. The ones in DC were from throughout the USA and were chosen as the outstanding members of their respective Young Marine Units. Like I said, a fine bunch of young men and young ladies as well. If you would like to learn more about this organization, check out their web site at [www.theyoungmarines.org](http://www.theyoungmarines.org).

The entertainment for the Tribute Dinner was provided by first, our own USMC Drum & Bugle Corps who gave a Patriotic Concert before the meal. After the meal we were entertained by the singing group, ÒHOMELANDÓ a group of veterans that sing all types of music and write some of the best patriotic songs around. They really added to the whole week's festivities.

The award ceremony, in which both General Pace and General Jones gave short but touching remarks, was followed by a speech entitled, Ò9-11Ó it was truly a great speech and a very heart rendering tribute to that dark day. The speaker, JOSH WHEELER, not only wrote the speech but delivered it very emphatically, so much so, to the extent that he was accorded a standing ovation after its completion. Not bad for a young, man wise beyond his years - he's only thirteen years old!



L to R: M. Stallings, M. Ervin, T. Cartlidge, J. Rowe, C. Meadows, L. Tully, Gen. Pace, D. Studenny, J. Lewis, B. Barnes & M. Copeland

***You Grunts don't clean up too bad. . . the editor***

Thursday was the final event of the week long activities, ÒTHE EVENING PARADEÓ at Marine Barracks, 8TH & I. General Pace & General Jones were again the honorees at the parade and the stands were packed. Capt. Peter Pace Jr. is the Commanding Officer of B Company at the Barracks and he led his troops flawlessly through their drill. This is quite a show and one to surely take in if you are ever in the DC area.

All in all, with the exception of not getting to spend very much time with General Pace, we probably did penalize ourselves by not letting him know we were coming - but hey, that's the way the Marine Honors Society wanted it. It was a good time and great fellowship amongst those who were there.

Semper Fi,

Barney



Front Row L to R: T. Cartlidge, Joe and Jan Rowe, M. Copeland, B. Barnes  
2nd Row / L-R: C. Meadows & Wife Missy, Wanda Copeland, Virginia Copeland, & Mona.

Back Row L to R: Mike Stallings, Cheryl & Lester Tully, M. Ervin,

General Peter & Lynne Pace, D. Studenny, Jim Lewis & wife Barbara

**Marine Honor Society, by Richard Lee:**

It had been 35 years since I had any contact with any of the Marines of Golf Company, 2/5. Last July, out of the blue, I did a Google search for Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines. When the G/2/5 website came up and I saw the long list of names of Marines that I had served with, it brought me to tears. I opened and read each posting with the eagerness and excitement of a child opening presents on Christmas Day. Some I remembered instantly, others not so well. I remembered Benny Davis, Limey, and a couple of others. Then, suddenly I realized that so many other names were missing. I was one of them. I immediately went in search of my photos which had long been stored somewhere in the house. The search lasted for two days. With photos in hand, I had my son scan them and I attached them to my e-mail to the webmaster announcing that Sgt. Richard D. Lee had survived and was alive and well, and living in Washington, DC.



Several Marines responded to my posting and I learned that they would be in Washington DC in August to attend a special ceremony for General Pace. I was invited to attend but I was nervous and a little apprehensive about meeting them again. My memories of my time with G/2/5 had been fading with each passing year. I recall arriving in Hue City in Mid-February 1968 and leaving on June 2, 1968 by medevac helicopter from the Hai Van Pass after the Marine in front of me tripped a booby trap. Memories of most of everything in between had been lost or replaced with memories from my new life.

I asked my wife of 27 years, Annette, to accompany me. I also invited my best friend Eric (a former Marine) and his wife, Andrenna. I wasn't sure what to expect and if things didn't work out, well, I would have my wife and my own friends to keep me company. As it turned out, we had a wonderful time.

I met some of the guys, Barney Barnes, Mike Ervin, Tony Carlidge, aka Limey, and a few others. As we talked, some of my long lost memories were restored. Limey mentioned an incident that happened during our last days in Hue, when he got hold of some Canadian berets and we all put them on and started acting crazy, giving each other sloppy British-type salutes. A Canadian officer was driving past in a jeep and stopped to reprimand us. It didn't take him long to realize that it wouldn't do any good (after all we had taken Hue City and survived, what was he going to do? Send us to Vietnam?) Finally, he smiled and said "Well, you can at least wear them properly." Then he drove off.

It was a wonderful evening and ended with a parade at the Marine Barracks. I know the evening was supposed to be a special occasion to celebrate the illustrious career of General Pace, but for me, it was a reunion, no it was more than that, it was my long overdue homecoming. I'm sure General Pace will understand.

The highlight of the evening for me, was meeting our Company Commander, Capt. Chuck Meadows. I didn't know that he would be there. I had met him only once in Hue during an intelligence briefing where he informed us that we were outnumbered by a well-trained, well-equipped enemy force and we were short on supplies and ammunition. But the way he said it made you feel sorry for the enemy. That was the only time in Vietnam I ever saw him, that I can recall. I really got to know Capt. Meadows about a week ago from reading the daily company reports called "Chronologies." A couple of days before the reunion, I went to the U.S. Marine Historical Society at the Washington Navy Yard and picked up a copy of the 1968 Chronologies. To my surprise Capt Meadows had recorded just about every detail of what had happened during his tenure as Company Commander. The reports seemed almost alive, they seemed to have feelings. His records helped me relive Hue City, Operation Houston, Bach Ma, and Operation Baxter Garden. More than that, the Chronologies helped me understand just who Capt. C. L. Meadows was. I could tell from the reports that he really cared about his men and he took that responsibility seriously. Yes, we lost some damn good Marines, but without his leadership it would have been a lot worse. So you can imagine how I felt when Barney Barnes introduced me to Capt. Meadows that evening. We shook hands at first, but I had come to know him through the Chronologies and a hand shake just wouldn't do, we needed to embrace, first, as comrades-in-arms and now as friends. We, the Marines of Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines owe him so much. I just thank God that I had a chance to say thank you.

Needless to say, it was a great homecoming for me. I was, however, saddened to hear that very few of my African American brothers participate or keep in touch with other members of G/2/5. I have no excuse myself, but now that I've had a chance to meet and talk with the guys, I'm sorry I took 35 years. Barney Barnes has asked me to take the point and try to bring in some of our missing brothers. He has provided me with several names and addresses. If you have any names, photos, etc., please send them to me and I'll try to contact them and get them involved. And if you're ever in the Washington, DC area, give me a call.

Semper Fi, Richard D. Lee, Sgt/USMC/Ret.

613 Halifax Place, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

(301) 350-3447 (h), (202) 418-1104 (w)



**Commanding Officers of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines**

		<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	
LtCol	Thomas M. Hamlin	27 Jul 1970	24 May 1971	Vietnam
LtCol	Frederick D. Leder	15 Jan 1970	26 Jul 1970	Vietnam
LtCol	James T. Bowen	21 Aug 1969	14 Jan 1970	Vietnam
LtCol	James H. Higgins	14 Mar 1969	20 Aug 1969	Vietnam
LtCol	James W. Stemple	1 Aug 1968	13 Mar 1969	Vietnam
Maj	Orlo K. Steele	25 Jul 1968	31 Jul 1968	Vietnam
LtCol	Ernest C. Cheatham Jr.	3 Jan 1968	24 Jul 1968	Vietnam: <a href="#">Hue</a>
LtCol	George C. McNaughton	19 Jul 1967	2 Jan 1968	Vietnam
LtCol	Mallett C. Jackson Jr.	1 Feb 1967	18 Jul 1967	Vietnam
LtCol	William C. Airhart	1 Dec 1966	31 Jan 1967	Vietnam
LtCol	Walter Moore	24 May 1966	30 Nov 1966	Vietnam
LtCol	Robert H. Uskurait	1 Jul 1965	23 May 1966	Okinawa / Vietnam

Thanks to Rich Durrrum for providing the link to this websiteÑsome interesting informationÑthe editor

***Lest We Forget. . .!***

***L/Cpl. Edward Tarver                   KIA 8/12/70***

***S/Sgt. Freddy R. Williams           KIA 8/18/68***

***PFC Robert T. Edwards               KIA 1/13/67***

***Let us also not forget our brave Marines, Soldiers, Airmen***

***and British and Italian allies who have made the ultimate sacrifice on Operation Iraqi Freedom!***

***In Our Thoughts and Prayers***

\* **Nov. 2, 2003 Update on Gerald Hall from his wife, Georgia, to Tony Cartlidge.**

Hi Tony,

Thought I would get you up to date on Gerald. I had to put him back into the VA last Tues. They kept him until Fri. and sent him home with a hospital bed and hospice. I know that I don't like the sound of hospice. One Dr. told him 3 months and they decided chemo wouldn't do any good. After the radiation, where he was walking all around the VA and across the tunnel to CARTI, was finished it was like he never had radiation. His breathing is worse now than it was. He will go back to his cancer Dr. the 12th, and if the infection that was causing the fever is gone, they will decide to give any more chemo or not. We are still praying for our miracle, but if God doesn't grant ours, Gerald and I both know he will be in a better place. It is what we all strive for the day we are born. Thanks for all your prayers and don't stop them coming this way. We love all of you. Gerald and Georgia

*Please continue to keep Gerald & Georgia in your prayers the editor.*

\* **'Doc' Ron Coffee** passed away on Nov. 26, 2003. On behalf of the Golf 2/5 Association, I'd like to express our deepest sympathies to his family and friends and all the 2/5 brother's who knew and loved 'Doc'. *May he rest in peace. . .the editor.*

### **Roll Call**

\* **From Stewart Brown**

Dear Larry:

Y'all are doing a great job with the Golf Newsletter. This is for inclusion if you see fit.

About the last line in the movie about the 7th Cav's battle in the Ia Drang Valley, supposedly quoting the UPI reporter who was there, is to the effect that those of us who have seen war see it every day (or never stop seeing it - you get the idea). While I think that's true, most of us are able to achieve a state where the war is in the back of our mind: the most horrible memories are repressed and not willingly allowed to come to the forefront. We can rock along in that state, which is not exactly peace but is at least a truce, and then something will come along to bring it all back. Don't get me wrong, I also remember our service with pride and I have fond memories about the associations with all our unkempt mob but it's still hard when witnessing the death of buddies comes to mind.

On an occasion a few years ago when I was wrestling with the demons, I wrote to the association. Included were my thoughts and feelings about the death of the G-3 platoon sergeant in Hue', Billy Adams. That was the worst and it wasn't over for that day. Like everybody, I'm thrilled that Hard Corps is in the fold and I look forward to bending an elbow with him at one of our gatherings. He'll recall that a little later in that day, as we moved through a draw below the hill where Billy was killed, a little black squad radioman named Murphy was shot in the heart. His last words were, 'Help me Hard Corps.' Everybody loved Murphy. I was pretty much a basket case that night but the kids, I believe there were about 14 of us left in the platoon, kept things together and I was able to maintain.

I had been successful in not allowing my mind to dwell on those things for years when a couple weeks ago I received an email from a guy who said he grew up with Billy, had seen a note about Billy that I had posted on the Virtual Wall, and just wanted to hear from someone who had served with him and was familiar with the circumstances of his service and his death. His name is Gary Del Carlo in case any of you hear from him. He's retired Army but seems O.K. In one of those 'oh by the way' things, he said he needed to let me know that Billy's Mom had committed suicide in response to the notice of Billy's death. What a kick in the stomach! I could've gone from now on without learning that. Well, the point of this is that it continues to be a kick in the stomach. Years after I thought the war had delivered all the blows it had to dish out another instance of the magnitude of the tragedy it was for all of us and the families of our comrades is brought home.

The August edition of the Newsletter contained stories of a couple of instances in which survivors visited with the families of their deceased buddies. It seemed that a cathartic benefit was derived. Not having the opportunity to visit, I hope for a catharsis from this letter.

Semper Fi,

Stewart R. Brown

*Note: Stewart Brown reported in to Golf to be G3 in early Jan., 1968 at the Truoi Bridge but left there for a school at Da Nang*

*which is where he was when the Tet Offensive commenced, after much difficulty in getting back he took 3rd platoon back over in Hue a day or so after Bill Rogers was wounded. - the editor*

\* **From Richard Mack**

Hello Brother Ortiz .....

Merely wanted to touch base with you regarding your last newsletter (August 2003) and to let you know that I truly enjoyed it.

Of course there isn't one that I haven't enjoyed getting and I wanted to express my thanks to you for all that you are doing on these.

I have had the opportunity to hook up with my M60 Gunner when I was his A-Gunner. Name was Gene "Cowboy" Copus. Believe it or not he just recently moved from the Oklahoma City area and lives a few minutes from Branson.

Lisa and I went to Branson a few weeks ago for several days as she wanted to go "somewhere" and suggested Branson. I jumped on that one and mainly because of the memories that I gathered from there (at the 2002 G 2/5 Branson reunion).

Of course it was not the same without G 2/5 there but it was close enough for me. We went at the right time as kids were returning to school that week and there was not hardly the traffic that we experienced.

Needless to say we visited some of the local restaurants where we all visited and I merely looked at Lisa a few times and said how much I miss seeing the guys here. Go figure .....

I would like to submit an article of the Copus reunion I had and I also have a few pics to send that you can choose from to use if you wish. I'll get on it right away but want to know the deadline if possible anyway. I promise to get this to you within a week and won't procrastinate like I usually do .....

Hope all is well with you and yours and take care.

As always .....

"Semper Fi"

Mack

*Note: Mack, thanks for the kind words on the newsletters. Guess you ended up procrastinating after all! We'll look forward to your photos for the next newsletter! the editor.*

### **Follow-Up - Jesse Griego, by Jim Lewis**

My wife Barbara and I went to Colo. Springs and to Pueblo, CO on the 10th. of Oct., '03. Since being recently married, it was time for Barb to meet my side of the family, most of whom live in Colo.

Our first family meeting was just east of Colo. Springs and involved about 28 people from my mom's side of the family. By the way, momma Lewis was able to make the trip to Colo. and was involved in all the family gatherings. A big bbq, horses, games and new additions to the family was a joyous setting. Much fun for all.

The second gathering took place in Pueblo, the town I was raised in after our move from Utah. Again, we had another 30 people from my mom's side of the family, and we had a luncheon at a famous bar and diner near the old CF&I Steel Mill. Most all attending, at one time or another worked in the steel mill, including my mom and dad. The place called Gus's has a 'Dutch Lunch' that is historic and still served with the same style and blue collar working class neighborhood that has been done for over 60 years. A local favorite.

Then, my dad's side of the family had their gathering at a local pizzeria, and there were 35 of the Lewis side there. A good time by all.

Barb now knows the *familia*, and we are both very happy that we live in Florida. After the family stuff, we headed for New Mexico and staying off of I-25, took the scenic route. That time of year, as you all know, was beautiful. Season changing colors were in their glory and we were very quiet during the ride, as it is difficult to express the beauty of the region and this great

country. Amber waves of gold.



L to R: Sgt. Brent Lewis (son of Jim Lewis), Gen. Pace, Jim Lewis

Taken at the Marine Honors Society Tribute

We stayed with friends outside of Santa Fe, and enjoyed being in the hills and a peaceful setting. We had our own guest house and had long walks with the dog. The owner is a retired Director of Photography and has built his own theater. We enjoyed several nights of wonderful films.

Barb and I went into Santa Fe, and went to the National Cemetery. We located Jesse's (Griego's) gravesite and spent about an hour with him. It was a blue sky, sunny, crisp day and Jesse is laid to rest under a large tree that gives him shade in the summer and comfort in the winter. I told Barb the whole story about the day Jesse died and how his death somehow changed us all. We both cried and cried and then just sat by Jesse and listened to the quiet. I told Jesse how much we miss him and how he was so loved by all of us. We then left. He was happy for the visit.

Early Saturday morning, Barb and I went to the Albuquerque Balloon Festival and witnessed the dawn launch. Spectacular! One of the balloons is a USMC balloon, named 'Chesty'. It is Chesty's likeness with a Drill Instructor cover on. My favorite. Uncle Sam was also terrific.

After lunch and a visit with friends in Albuquerque, we went the Griego home for dinner. Henry and Marie are doing well and aging with grace and dignity. Henry smiles from ear to ear and is such a great spirit. He is such a bright man that has keen insight to current events. Mrs. Griego is warm, a great cook, and the anchor to the family. I learned that Mrs. Griego lost a brother in WWII in the Philippines. Then she lost her first born son, Jesse. She is very spiritual and just is grateful for every day. Her sister joined us for dinner, as well as Jesse's brother, sister Aurora and her little daughter. The little daughter is the younger sister of Roberta Griego, Jesse's niece.

The Griego family's courage, love and warmth is never ending. They always ask about the other Marines who served with Jesse and ask for stories about him. If you are ever traveling in the area, they are easy to find and always welcome those who knew their Jesse.

SF/jim lewis

### **2/5 golf by Larry Ortiz**

Ò2/5 golfÓ was the subject of an e-mail I received a few months back. I opened the e-mail and read the following: ÒWhy does this web site not keep current info on the 2/5 golf? I think it's really great you guys want to remember Vietnam but the world has moved on. Or did you not notice? I believe the 2/5 golf is now in Kuwait but would like more info.

Mother of a 2/5 golf PFCÓ

Earlier in the newsletter, Stewart Brown wrote about the proverbial Òkick in the stomachÓ feeling we all experience when unplanned and unanticipated feelings come flooding into our consciousness about our experiences in Vietnam. I know I still experience these feelings and like Stewart, the most painful are those where I remember vividly how too many of my friends were wounded, maimed or killed. I have to say that when I read this e-mail, I felt like I had just been kicked in the stomach. The sentences ÒI think it's really great you guys want to remember Vietnam but the world has moved on. Or did you not notice?Ó were the kick in the stomach. This seemed like such a cruel accusation and this mother (I won't use her name) of a Golf 2/5 PFC, I don't believe, had the remotest idea of what she was saying and what an unfair and cruel statement she was making.

These few sentences she wrote stirred such emotion. My immediate feelings were of anger. I asked myself how could a mother of a Marine be so insensitive to make such an unformed and hurtful statement? Did she really believe that Vietnam Vets deliberately hang on to these feelings about our experiences in Vietnam that bring us all so much pain? Why would we want to

do this? After the feelings of anger subsided a bit, I reasoned that this mother of a Marine who was in Kuwait and very soon would join the US forces in the invasion of Iraq, was feeling so much angst and worry about what may happen to her son. I reasoned she was searching the internet for anything she could find that might provide some information about her son and where he was and she stumbled on to our website.

Our organization is for G 2/5 vets but it has always been open to any G 2/5 vets not only Vietnam Vets. It just happens that G 2/5 vets started our Association and make up its membership.

Clearly, this woman has no comprehension of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The *Harvard Mental Health Letter*, Feb. 1991, edition included an article titled "Post traumatic Stress: Part 1". This article starts out by defining *trauma* "from a Greek root meaning 'wound', is the medical term for any more or less sudden injury or damage to an organism." The article goes on to say that "Just as physical trauma may overwhelm the body's defenses and cause disability or chronic pain, psychological trauma may overwhelm the mind's defenses and cause lasting emotional harm. The diagnosis of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), introduced into the American Psychiatric Association's official diagnostic manual in 1980, is meant to clarify our ideas about that emotional harm and provide some direction for people who study and treat the resulting symptoms. As defined in the manual, a trauma is an event that is outside the range of usual human experience and would be seriously distressing for almost anyone. . . Victims may witness serious violence, suffer the destruction of their homes and communities, or face a threat to their own lives and the lives of family and friends. They are terrified, helpless, and often under extreme physical stress.

In the post-traumatic reaction, which may begin days, weeks, months, or even years later, three types of symptoms emerge. First, victims involuntarily reexperience the traumatic event in the form of intrusive memories, nightmares, and flashbacks during which they feel or even act as though the event were recurring. . . They also suffer when exposed to anything that resembles, recalls, or symbolizes some aspect of the trauma.

This article goes on to describe the symptoms of PTSD like flashbacks, disturbed sleep, depression, amongst many others. I like probably most of us, refused to think that I could possibly have PTSD. But after so many years of painful recurring memories of Vietnam, sleeplessness, depression and physical symptoms of PTSD, I had to do something about it because these uncontrollable feelings began controlling me. As I've written before, I've had *much* counseling over the years and in the last several years have found a counselor who has helped me tremendously. I think that finally after 35 years after I left *the Nam*, I am finally able to deal with these feelings better than I was ever able to previously.

The e-mail message from the G 2/5 mother brought back all the unpleasant and hurtful memories about being a Vietnam vet. After the war ended, if a Nam vet may have been involved in some unlawful incident he made the headlines and received very negative publicity. It seemed that all of us Nam vets were painted with the same negative paint brush and if anyone knew we were Nam vets, we were all suspect and presumed to be unstable, likely to "lose it" at any second and capable of committing some sort of crime at any time. I don't know the statistics of crime in relation to the total Vietnam veteran population. I know many Nam vets and just like Tom Brokaw's highly praised WWII "Greatest Generation" (and justifiably so), the overwhelming majority of Nam vets became responsible, productive citizens after our return.

I, like all the rest of you, was literally taken out of the field when I was out *in the bush* with Golf Co. when my orders came for my rotation back to *the world*. Within a two week period, after having been in *the Nam* for over a year, having been wounded twice, seen more death and destruction and the horrors of war than anyone should, was "plucked" out of the field and deposited back into American society. There was no "decompression" time, no help to make this transition. It was literally that I had to be vigilant every second of every day to try and stay alive and then the next day I was back in *the world* like Vietnam had never happened. How can anyone make that transition without lasting residual negative effects for the rest of their lives?

To answer this mother of a G 2/5 Marine PFC, I, we, know the world has moved on and we have definitely noticed. But please don't trivialize and cavalierly dismiss the trauma we experienced and what that has done to us. My wish for "this mother of a G 2/5 Marine PFC" is that her son comes back home to his loving family and he never has to experience the trauma of war and that his mother never has to experience what that trauma has done to her son.

Semper Fi, Larry Ortiz

### **8 On The Wall Documentary Film by Jim Lewis**

This past Veterans Day, I went to Washington, DC to start production of my documentary film. The subject matter of my film is the Nurses of Vietnam. This past Veterans Day was significant because it marked the 10th. Anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial. The Vietnam Veterans of America hosted this anniversary and the events that commemorated the memorial.

I hired three camera crews and included in the crew, Joe Rowe. I knew the mission I was about to undertake, was not going to

be a walk thru the park. Veterans Day is emotional enough, and being in DC and visiting the 'Wall', is gut wrenching and rewarding all at the same time. Visiting our brothers is part of our creed, but never easy. I always wonder, if I were on the Wall, would you come to see me??? So, I always try to visit all that were with us and didn't come home. Jesse is first on the list.

So with all of the above, I am trying to shoot a film. With the anniversary, many of the nurses of Vietnam would be in attendance. I needed to interview these nurses for the film. Not an easy task. So I really felt I needed a safety net, to not let me fall off the edge of the abyss. I feel it is necessary to peek once in awhile, but as you all know, when it looks back, it is like the eye of the great white shark, black, soulless, terror and death. I did not want to look too deep. So, I hired Joe Rowe to hang onto me. He was certainly one to call upon and rely upon in Vietnam, and would never leave us in a bad spot. His bravery and dedication to his fellow Marines is well documented and portrays what all you fellow Golf 2/5 members exhibited then and now, courage and Semper Fidelis. Joe once again saved my life. He never left me and late at night after working for 15 hours, he was there in my room, talking, making me laugh and bolstering my courage to face the oncoming day. Thank you Joe Rowe. He was my production assistant, interviewer, confidant, gopher, bookkeeper, and friend. And my hero.

The four shooting days were long, hard, emotional and rewarding. The nurses have a whole different perspective on the Vietnam experience. They were only 3 or 4 years older than us, but at that age, there is a big difference in maturity. They were college educated and they were officers. Big differences. And keep in mind, that we did experience the horrors of war, saw horrible wounds and death of our friends, but the Nurses saw it all. Everything funneled thru them. Their stories are beyond imagination. When they left Vietnam, they flew to the states, changed clothes and went home. Not many people even knew that there were American Women in Vietnam. The aftermath of the war, took its toll on our Nurses in so many ways. They fight many of the same battles that we combat veterans do. Common denominators.

The Marine Corps Birthday is always special in DC and being with Joe was even more so.

We wrapped on Tue. night Nov. 11th. My crew of six, two from Florida, one from Atlanta, one from Baltimore, one woman from Pennsylvania and Joe from Rhode Island did well. We shot over 33 hours of tape, did 57 interviews, 35 of which were with Nurses of Vietnam. Other interviews are with combat wounded Vietnam Veterans and their first contact with a US Nurse. Now the editing process starts. Much to do, but I have the time. I financed this project myself, so I will rent studio/editing time as the budget allows.

I hope one day to invite you all to a viewing of my film. Nothing more I would like to do.

\* I was invited to the Pentagon on Friday, Oct. 7th. and had a very brief meeting with General Pace. I informed him of my mission.

\* At the Women In Military Service Memorial, I met General Wilma Vaught. She granted me an interview. She is the Chairperson and runs the Women's Memorial day-to-day. At the Memorial, Joe and I saw the play; "A Piece Of My Heart". This play was about the Women who served in Vietnam and was well done. The theater company was from Omaha, Nebraska and their theater group is the Blue Barn Theater. Job well done.

\* Diane Carlson Evans, founder, President and Chairperson of the Vietnam Women's Memorial also granted me an interview and was dynamic.

\* Tom Corey, President of Vietnam Veterans of America also did an interview and was dynamic.

\* Had dinner with Marianne Meadows in DC. The daughter of Col. Chuck Meadows is a very busy young lady and it was very gracious of her to meet with me and she escorted me to a great little restaurant near my hotel. It was two fold our dinner. One was to ask for her advice in lighting a stage play that I am writing. And second, just to pay respects to our 'Skipper'. As you all know, the Colonel left on the Marine Corps Birthday for Vietnam, to continue work with his 'Peace Tree' project.

Health and Happy Holidays to you all.

SF/jim lewis

### **Missing In Action**

We have lost touch with the following G 2/5 vets. Their last known city of residence is also provided below. The good news is that after the last newsletter mailing, none were returned for incorrect addresses. If anyone knows their current address, please forward that information to me *the editor*.

- \* Baker, Ferrall L.Ñ Laguna Niguel, CA
- \* Dillenburg, Clyde - St. Joseph, MN
- \* Dima, G. E. - Spokane, WA
- \* Graham, James M. - Gibsonia, PA
- \* Huber, Jim - Charleston, MD
- \* Lippencott, Jeffery - Wilmington, DE
- \* Lucas, Larry - Beattyville, KY
- \* McColloch, James H. - Charleston, SC
- \* McGuinness, John C. - Anthony, FL
- \* Moore, Dave H. - Herndon, VA
- \* Moore, John H. - Payson, AZ
- \* Schaefer, R. A - Walkerton, IN
- \* Sutton Jr., Horace - Lumberton, NC
- \* **\*Tant, William - Tuscaloosa, AL**
- \* Woggin, John A. - Hilton Head, NC

\*Note: ÒBillyÓ Tant has been foundÑsorta'. Received the following from a friend of Billy's:

\* ÒPlease use my Email address if anyone wants to contact Billy Tant from Golf 2/5. Also, the Webmaster forwarded me a message someone sent him saying they had a picture of Cpl. Glenn Lucas that Billy might want. I lost the message in a computer restoration. Please, if you know who it was, have them send it to this Email address.

Anyone who wants to contact Billy through Email, are more than welcome to use my address.Ó

Thank you. Linda Arrowood [LaLaw35@aol.com](mailto:LaLaw35@aol.com)

### **USMC Rules For Gun Fighting:**

1. Bring a gun. Preferably, bring at least two guns. Bring all of your friends who have guns.
2. Anything worth shooting is worth shooting twice. Ammo is cheap. Life is expensive.
3. Only hits count. A close miss is still a miss.
4. If your shooting stance is good, you're probably not moving fast enough nor using cover correctly.
5. Move away from your attacker. Distance is your friend. (Lateral and diagonal movements are preferred.)
6. If you can choose what to bring to a gunfight, bring a long gun and a friend with a long gun.
7. In ten years nobody will remember the details of caliber, stance, or tactics. They will only remember who lived.
8. If you are not shooting, you should be communicating, reloading, and running.
9. Accuracy is relative: most combat shooting standards will be more dependent on "pucker factor" than the inherent accuracy

of the gun.

10. Use a gun that works EVERY TIME.
  11. Someday someone may kill you with your own gun, but they should have to beat you to death with it because it is empty.
  12. Always cheat = always win. The only unfair fight is the one you lose.
  13. Have a plan.
  14. Have a back-up plan, because the first one won't work.
  15. Use cover and concealment as much as possible.
  16. Flank your adversary when possible. Protect yours.
  17. Don't drop your guard.
  18. Always tactically reload and threat scan 360 degrees.
  19. Watch their hands. Hands kill. (In God we trust. Everyone else, keep your hands where I can see them).
  20. Decide to be AGGRESSIVE enough, QUICKLY enough.
  21. The faster you finish the fight, the less shot up you will get.
  22. Be polite. Be professional. But, have a plan to kill everyone you meet.
  23. Be courteous to everyone, friendly to no one.
  24. Do not attend a gunfight with a handgun, the caliber of which does not start with a "4".
- 

Navy Rules for Gun Fighting:

1. Go to Sea
2. Send the Marines
3. Drink Coffee
4. Before the Marines return: Dismantle the ice cream and popcorn machines & put away the steaks.



L to R: M. Stallings, D. Studenny, M. Copeland, 'Limey' Cartlidge, M. Ervin and Gen. Pace. Taken at the Marine Honors Society Tribute

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**Golf 2/5 Association Membership Form: (New Members Only)**

-  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ AKA \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Years Served \_\_\_\_\_ Platoon/Squad \_\_\_\_\_ MOS \_\_\_\_\_

Optional: Wounded /  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$25.00 first year; \$10.00 per year thereafter. If you are on 50% or more disability, just send \$10.00 first year and \$10.00 per year thereafter. If these amounts are a financial hardship, contact Lance. We want everyone to be a part of the Association.

Mail New Membership Forms to: **G 2/5 Association, c/o Lance K. Machamer, 4 Lighthouse Street, #10, Marina del Rey, CA 90292**