



GOLF COMPANY 2ND BATTALION 5TH MARINES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Dong Ha - Chu Lai - An Hoa - Phu Bai - Hué City

Vol. 22, Issue 2

December 2006

Merry Christmas!

President's Message by Barney Barnes

Greetings Marines,

As this is written Saturday, Dec. 9, it's a cold but sunny morning here in T-Town (Tulsa) with temps in the single digits, and still snow on the ground from the 10 - 12 inches that fell last weekend. I trust that this finds you all in great spirits and good health. May I also at this time, on behalf of the other officers of our Golf 2/5 Association too, wish each and everyone of you a "VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY & JOUOUS NEW YEAR."

It's been a good year for us (Golf 2/5). We enjoyed, probably in terms of not only numbers but also in things planned for us to do, our best Reunion ever at Myrtle Beach, SC. (THANKS, Vince...you done good, Bro!!) It was attended by, if my count is right, by close to 80 Marines, family and friends. It was again, a time to meet, greet and remember those days of yesterday with several of our brothers who had never attended one of our reunions. Thank You, Harry Rhodes, Jack O'Rourke, George Doucette, Glenn Sloan, Rudy Hoffman, John Boiros, Ray Quist, Lew Kaslow, and Bob Shinkle . . . if I missed any other new guys, I apologize. I sincerely hope that each of you enjoyed yourselves, made new friends, and discovered that we are all family, regardless of what years we served in Nam.



*Some of the Golf 2/5 Vets who spelled out
"Golf 2/5 USMC" in the Myrtle Beach sand*

Our next Reunion will be held in Las Vegas sometime in Sept. of 2008, with our own former Golf Company CO, Jack O'Rourke, being the lead person. But before then, we still have our annual Hué City Memorial Weekend hosted by the officers and crew of our ship, USS Hué City, at the Mayport Naval Station just outside of Jacksonville, Florida. This is just not for Hué

City Vets but for any and all Marines who want to pay tribute to those who paid the supreme price for serving our country. May 11 - 13, 2007 are the dates this year. I know, it does kind of detract from having it on the actual day of the opening of the battle, but the weather should be great. Please come and join us if you can. The Navy really does a great job at hosting this.

As Roy and Dale Rogers used to say, "Happy Trails to you until we meet again."

Love you, guys...S/F Barney

Myrtle Beach, S.C 2006 Reunion Report, by Vince Montoro

Hello Grunts and Gals!!

CAN I GET YOUR ATTENTION ONE MORE TIME!!
Whew!!

First I would like to start off saying, "Thank You" for allowing me to put together this year's reunion. I had a great time doing it while the whole time thinking about the pleasure that it would bring to all those in attendance. But in hindsight I just lit the fuse while it was you the members of Golf 2/5 that made the bang.

I'd like to take this time to personally thank the Board members for their support in covering the outstanding amount due on the bus trip as well as the Meet and Greet buffet provided. I'd like to thank Barney and the membership for the tee shirt, Jessie Lyon for the hat, Alphabet for showing up being as we went through Boot Camp, ITR, Nam and home together. It was great seeing him and Laura. To Deuce and Ronnie for the card sent to my home. It was great to have this reunion bring out all the first timers. Thanks Deuce! And to all the other first-timers, I would like to extend special thanks. To Col. Meadows for attending and bringing Cindy Humphrey to this reunion—it was great meeting and talking to both of you.

And a big Thank You goes out to all of you for accepting my mother as part of the Golf 2/5 Family. She hasn't stopped talking about her experience with all of you as she had a WONDERFUL time.

Hope that those of you that received the basket from the Aquarium experienced a great time. To those that won the \$25.00 gift cert. from Margaritaville, hope your experience was just as rewarding. (Salt..Salt..Salt if you saw the bottle drop) There was someone who I can't remember when I asked if they had any special diet requirements for the dinner e-mailed back stating the only requirement he had was Food and plenty of it. Hope he got plenty of it! As I hope everyone enjoyed the Association dinner at Caroline's. To the person that coordinates the

next reunion—if you plan any type of bus trip don't let Limey pick the Breakfast destination. Ha-Ha! Those that didn't go to PI can e-mail Limey to get the story on that one.

In closing I sat and listened as most of you told stories of your time spent in Nam and it helped me to have a better insight

on the happenings within Golf Co. both before, during and after I left. It helped me to know that a lot of you went through the same feelings, hardships, highs and lows. I wasn't alone in the way that I felt. You are all truly a great band of Brothers which I am proud to be a part of.



Vince and Jan Montoro

Again my wife and I would like to thank all of you for great company and time we all had.

Semper Fi,

Vince (e-mail: usmcvm@enter.net)

Editor Comments by Larry Ortiz

Greetings fellow Marines! It's hard to believe I've been in Paris for almost a year and a half now. As beautiful a city Paris is, there still *ain't* no place on earth like **the great U. S. of A!** Melba and I did make it back home in September and had a chance to visit with the family and our daughter and her husband and our beautiful granddaughter who just turned one in August. We were also able to attend the Golf 2/5 reunion held this year in Myrtle Beach, S. C. Having organized the reunion in Branson, MO a few years ago, I know that it's a whole lot of work so I and the Association Officers want to thank Vince Montoro for his hard work in organizing a very successful reunion! I believe we haven't had a turnout this big in many many years and may in fact be the largest turnout which included several *new guys* as well. Barney identified all the first-timers and we're fortunate to have some articles from several of these individuals: Robert "Bob" Shinkle, George 'Spider' Doucette, Cindy Humphrey, sister of Gerald Kinny and John Boiros. It's always gratifying to me to have this input for the newsletter because I find it extremely interesting to read about their experience at the reunion and their reasons for coming and for having stayed away for so many years. We all deal with our *Nam* experience in our own individual way and as I've written before, I know I wouldn't have come as far as I think I have in being able to deal with *the Nam* if it weren't for so many of my Marine *Nam* Brothers. There's still that immediate understanding and comfort we share with each other that no one else that didn't experience what we did, can understand.

Our hotel was right on the beach which was convenient for those hardy enough for early morning strolls on the beach and other beach activities. Vince arranged for a hospitality suite which was well stocked with snacks and drinks. At anytime

during the day you could go over there and hang out and catch up with your old friends and meet a lot of the new guys. This is the second reunion where we had a great turnout from the *Chu Lai Guys* who were in *the Nam* when G 2/5 first went over.

Thanks to Ron Johnson who organized a golf outing, some of us got to play a round or two of golf. Dale Roberts and I played with Ron, Jack O'Rourke and Glen Sloan. Unfortunately no one in our group had an exceptional round—actually it was quite the opposite but we had a great time and I really appreciated the opportunity to hang out with some of the *Chu Lai Guys* and get to know them a little better.

The Association group dinner was held on Friday night at a local eatery named Caroline's. It wasn't a 4 star restaurant but the chow was good and everyone got their fill. The service was very friendly and courteous—some of that real Southern hospitality. There were a couple of impromptu speeches from some of the guys. Bob Gross got up to speak and presented Billy Tant a photo enlargement of the recent set of four stamps of four USMC decorated heroes issued by the U.S. Postal Service. It was a nice tribute by Bob to his friend.

In the May newsletter I had asked for any of the members to send any USMC tee-shirts they could spare to my cousin, Kathy McLendon, who had volunteered to make a USMC Tee-Shirt Quilt. Well, there was absolutely zero response until Pat Ervin enquired about the status a couple of months prior to the reunion. As a result of Pat's inquiry, a mass e-mail was sent by Tony C. asking for tee-shirts to be sent to my cousin in Albuquerque. She needed twelve tee-shirts to make the quilt. This time there were results. However, only a total of 8 tee-shirts were sent and fortunately one that had some graphics on both sides so she was able to make a smaller quilt than she had planned with the 9 tee-shirts. Thanks to our Prez, Barney Barnes who sent several and to the others who sent in the others. The result was this beautiful piece of art below!

During the dinner, Pat Ervin and several of the other wives were still busy selling raffle tickets for the USMC quilt and other raffle items. A 'silent auction' had been set up in the hos-



pitality room on the first day of the reunion for many items that had been donated. Since I arrived a day later than originally planned and I was bringing the quilt, it was originally decided to have that included in the silent auction as well with a top price of \$250. Once I showed the quilt I suggested that the quilt be a separate raffle item as I believed there would be a lot of interest in it and as a raffle item, more people would have a chance of winning it rather than

someone bidding the top price and thereby precluding anyone else from having a chance at it.

Pat Ervin provided the final results on the raffle: "Thought you might be interested in the Raffle Winner names for the newsletter:

- Marine T-shirt Quilt - Ben Gerow

- Eastern Shore Basket w/Goodies - Barney Barnes
- Other Winners: Jan Montoro, John Resnick, Steve Peitsmeyer, Jeanette Mott, Bev Gross, Sharon Roberts, Dan Cholewa, Horace Sutton, and Samantha Mack

Total amount made for auction and raffle was \$1850 thanks to your cousin."



A heartfelt thank you to Pat Ervin for the terrific job she and the other wives did on the raffle. And also a heartfelt **THANK YOU** with lots of love to my very talented cousin Kathy McLendon (at left) for making and donating the beautiful quilt! Of the \$1,850 collected for the Association, probably \$1,500 was attributable to the quilt alone. It was a lot of work and the love that went into making the quilt showed beautifully in the finished product.

The Association business meeting was held on Saturday morning with a good turnout. Rick Mack gave a status on paid members which is only about 90 guys. At the 2004 reunion the dues were raised from \$10 a year to \$20. Since the dues were raised, paying membership has fallen and we don't know if that's a direct result of the dues increase or other reasons. There was also a lot of discussion about what the members get for paying their dues. The answer of course is the newsletter. (There were a few comments from the group that were complimentary of the newsletter which I greatly appreciated.) The dues collected and money made on the raffles held at the last two reunions go totally to the operation of the Association to pay for the printing and mailing of the newsletter, some monies for the bi-annual reunions and other miscellaneous operating expenses as none of the officers are paid for their work in running the organization. Also, the costs of maintaining the website are paid for totally by Tom Hohmann, our webmaster.

There was a discussion about possibly sending out an official G 2/5 tee-shirt or ball cap as a gift for joining the Association. It was also discussed that if we were to send a tee shirt or ball cap (or something else), the cost of either item plus packaging and shipping would essentially eat up the amount paid in dues with only a couple of dollars ending up in the treasury. Nothing was decided at that time but when we have a better idea on costs for any official G2/5 item, we'll advise everyone in a forthcoming newsletter.

Barney opened up the floor for nominations for Association Officers for the next two years. A motion was made from the floor to reinstate the current Association officers. The motion was seconded and endorsed by the members unanimously.

The current status of the website was also discussed at the meeting. The suggestion was brought up to look into the possibility of creating our own G 2/5 website. A couple of our Association Officers who have experience with creating, maintaining and updating websites, Tony C. and Rick Mack, took the action to work on this project. If we have any other website experts out there who have the time and ability to help out with the maintenance of the website, please contact Barney Barnes ASAP.



L. to R.: Billy Tant, Chuck Meadows, Melba Ortiz, Larry Ortiz and Barney Barnes

As I've also written before, my goal since I became the editor has been to send at least four newsletters per year. I've only succeeded in three per year and this is the first year I've only been able to issue two newsletters for only one reason: lack of material for more newsletters. As I say in almost every newsletter, I welcome any and all articles from any of our members. And not only from our vets, but from their wives or children (as we've had in the past) and our extended G 2/5 family who are relatives or friends of any G 2/5 vets.

In closing, I want to wish the extended Golf 2/5 family a very Merry and Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Semper Fi,
Larry S. Ortiz

REUNION Comments by George Doucette

A few years ago Barney Barnes contacted me and re-introduced himself as my squad leader from Vietnam/Hué City. At first I was disbelieving, you see I have no recall of my fellow Marines from Vietnam, even after spending two straight years there. There are almost no memories of people--only the fire fights and Hué City.

Barney told me about the G 2/5 get-togethers every two years. I thought, why would I want to relive that War and why would I want to hang out with a bunch of old Marines talking about who knows what? Besides, I didn't even know them. Well, after pages of E-mails, some calls (and broken promises on my part) I finally decided to go to "Reunion Myrtle Beach 2006". I was hoping to maybe get some closure on the war (I remembered it as a fun little war) and possibly get some of my memories back.

So with great doubt and more than a little apprehension I went to a strange place to meet strangers. I hedged my bet by taking my security blanket—my wife Ron.

It felt a little odd to be called a "first timer" until I went to the "Meet and Greet". Everyone seemed to know everyone, they were all busy catching up on all the news since the last reunion, or the last one they had attended. Surprise! They weren't the strangers, I was! If you ever walked into a place where everyone knew everyone and no one knew you, you know how I felt! However, I've always been outgoing, so Ron and I went around the room introducing ourselves, and the tables turned again--all

these strangers already knew me, where I'd been, what I'd done, who I'd hung around with, even the field name I'd forgotten was mine.



L. to R.: George "Spider" Doucette, Ronalee Doucette and Barney Barnes

After talking and listening for a while I decided it wasn't as bad as I had feared. No, I did not regain any old memories, I still don't know who these guys are, but I do know we tasted the same dirt at the same time and that was a comfort to my soul. Even so, the next day I hid in my bunker (hotel room), still fearing that I was surrounded by the same uncaring random assortment of people who had been around me for the last 30 years. About that time Barney called and asked me to meet him at the meet/greet room.

When I left the bunker I guess I thought it would just be to talk to Barney, but there were other guys there, guys who were glad to see me. People drifting in and out, talking about the upcoming dinner, talking about themselves, sometimes talking about that distant past. Gradually I realized that I really was relaxed, my fears had retreated, I felt as if I really did have a whole new group of friends. Something I haven't had in many long years. When the time came to return home I found I wasn't ready to give them up yet.

Looking back, I wish I had done this year's ago. And to those Marines who are looking at coming to their first reunion, I can only say "just do it!", and I promise you will not regret it. Maybe, like me, you won't find what you think you're looking for, instead maybe you'll find something you didn't know you were missing.

Well, enough of this rambling. I need to say a huge THANK YOU to Barney and the rest of Golf 2/5 for a wonderful experience, and, by the way, haven't any of you guys ever heard of "Just For Men" hair coloring!?!?!? (*I thought 'Deuce's' hair looked pretty dark compared to lots of the other white-haired guys—now we know why☺. . .the editor*).

God - Country - Corps
Semper Fidelis
George 'Spider' Doucette

"Semper Fi"—(October 1, 2006) by Cindy K. Humphrey

After I attended the Hué City Memorial/Reunion in Florida this past April, I was asked to write something for the Golf 2/5 newsletter. After attending the Golf 2/5 Reunion in Myrtle

Beach in September, I was not asked to do so; however, I feel I must!

It was such a pleasure to once again spend time with Golf 2/5'rs that I had met in April — and quite special to make new acquaintances in my extended family of Golf 2/5. Every day just made a bigger imprint on my heart as to what it means to be part of Golf Company 2nd Battalion 5th Marines Association. After spending time with the Golf 2/5 Marines that my brother spent his last months of life with; in meeting Golf 2/5'rs from before and after Jerry's time, and in getting to see the new Marines at Parris Island — I came away feeling even prouder in knowing that my brother had become a part of something much bigger and more special than anyone on the outside can even begin to comprehend.



Cindy Humphrey on Reunion Trip at Parris Island

I was quite delighted to find a bumper sticker in our grab bag of goodies from the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce — a bumper sticker that says in yellow letters, "Semper Fi — United States Marines". On this very nice sunny Sunday afternoon, I washed my car and was amazed at the loving feelings that came over me as I applied the first bumper sticker I have ever applied to any car I have owned! After attending this past reunion, I now fully understand what "Semper Fi" is all about. I came away from the reunion with the realization that Jerry had a most special bond with his Marine Corps; and even though he did not come home with you all, the bond remains and will always be. It is through this bond that Jerry's spirit will never fade away. To Golf 2/5: I thank you all, and I love you all because of this wonderful sense of pride you have given me.

Cindy Humphrey - proud sister of PFC Gerald C. Kinny and proud sister of Golf 2/5

Cindy K. Humphrey

Note: One comment on Cindy's article, she says she was not asked to write something for this newsletter. Maybe none of us

asked her directly to write something about her first reunion experience but as I always write in each newsletter, I am interested in anything any of our members, their spouses, children, etc. may have to say and want to contribute to the newsletter. I am very pleased Cindy felt she wanted to share some of her feelings about her first reunion with us—thanks, Cindy!

... the editor

MY FIRST REUNION by Robert Shinkle

My name is Robert “Bob” Shinkle, some of you call me German, and on the 20th of Sept. 2006 I attended my first Golf 2/5 Reunion. I didn’t know what to expect when I showed up. Some of you were glad to see me and some were kind of “oh well I don’t remember him”. I was scared shitless about being there because I thought it would open old wounds that I tried for 38 years to keep hidden. From the first day there I heard about firefights that I don’t remember and people that got hit that I didn’t remember, or maybe I had just forgotten. There were a few there that I genuinely remembered and was glad to see. At no time while I was there did I ever bring up the subject of actual combat, I asked about what happened to a few of the guys that I did remember and was told what happened to them. I listened and kind of kept my mouth shut because I was still scared. Most of you were probably the same way at your first reunion and quickly got over it, unfortunately I’m not that way. I have become the type of person that shows up, stands around and doesn’t get involved or keeps his mouth and stories to himself. Some of you talked to me like it was only yesterday that was the last time you saw me, right Grossy? Some didn’t say two words to me the whole time I was there; of course I didn’t help matters either by not coming up to you and introducing myself. I wish I had the head and memory to remember all of you guys but, I don’t. My wife and I had a great time while we were there and she can’t wait until the next reunion, me I’m still kind of reluctant. Why? Because I’m still scared. I wish to hell I knew why, but I don’t. That’s not to say that I won’t be at the next one, I probably will, but I’ll still be scared. As to whether it will open up those old wounds and make the nightmares start all over again I don’t know, only time will tell on that count.

I think the reason I don’t remember most of you is because when I got to Nam in Dec. of ‘67 I was told by some of the old timers, don’t make friends and I didn’t. Except for two that I can remember, my team leader Paul and our machine gunner “Pappy”. Well one isn’t here anymore and the other one I was told would be a vegetable the rest of his life. I guess Paul isn’t a vegetable after all, but I didn’t know that and never tried to find out. In my entire 21 years in the Marine Corps I can hold up one hand and tell you how many friends I had. I could never get used to the idea that one minute they were there and the next minute they weren’t, whether they were killed, wounded, or just got transferred. I stood there at that reunion and watched some of you guys hugging and crying with each other and genuinely meant it. I have never been able to get into that kind of stuff and maybe that’s why I was scared and still will be. My daughter has been working with me to try and come around to that way of action. One thing I have learned is how to say I love you, now that is something I can honestly say without hesitation, “I LOVE YOU GUYS”. One person I really have to thank is “Doc Hig-

gins”, if it wasn’t for him I don’t think I would have gone to the reunion, he kept after me until I said yes I will come just to see his ugly butt. Then I started seeing and meeting you guys again for the first time in a long time. I don’t think I have ever been prouder to have served with a bunch of guys as I did with you of Golf Co., 2ndBn. 5th Marines. I hope at the next reunion I can be more talkative and be able to hug and mean it. Until then,

Semper Fi Marines,
Bob Shinkle

First Reunion Comments by John Boiros

Hello my fellow Golf 2/5ers;

My name is John Boiros and I live in Taunton Ma. I was with Golf 2/5, 2nd platoon, in Vietnam from Sept. 1969, until Feb. 22, 1970, when I was medivaced out of the bush. Not a full tour, but that seems to be a pretty common thing with all that was going on at that time. I still count myself as being lucky though, considering we all know people who made the ultimate sacrifice.



John and Maureen Boiros

I would like to talk to you about our assoc.'s reunions. My first one was in 1987, in Washington D.C. It was a memorable reunion, especially with the blizzard. It made for some good stories and great pictures, with the white snow and the black wall. It gave everything a mystical and eerie look. That reunion was huge, we had the whole 2/5 Battalion, it was in D.C., it was Veterans Day, and of course the Wall. It was overwhelming to me, and I stayed away for 19 years.

The strange thing of it all, is that I stayed a member of the Golf 2/5 Assoc. the whole 19 years, always looking forward to the newsletter, reading about the reunions you were having, what was going on with the guys, good news and bad. It actually felt like I was getting to know some of the guys, without having actually met them.

In reality I was just a voyeur, watching from a distance. It was like I was on a one man OP (observation post), hiding in the bush, watching, but never giving myself away. Then in 2001 I bottomed out with my PTSD, and that's a good thing. Now I know who my enemy is, and I'm fighting it. I have great back-up in this battle with PTSD, most of all from my wife Maureen,

my family, friends, and the VA (when they have the money). My point is, my mind was in a different place in 1987, than it is now, and that is why I think I wanted to go to this most recent reunion. Maybe I'll even have an article on PTSD in the future.

This brings me to the present, which is the reunion we just had in Myrtle Beach, S.C, I was a little apprehensive about going. Would I meet fellow Marines that I knew in Vietnam? Would I be accepted by Marines from different eras in Vietnam? I think there were about 50 Marines at the reunion, none that I knew from Vietnam. Talking with them, we learned that some of us overlapped with our time in country. But being in different platoons in Golf Co., our paths hardly crossed, since most of our work at that time was in a squad size unit. But I didn't need to worry. Those 50 Marines were not strangers, they were only friends I hadn't met yet. And that's the truth.

From the get go, it was like a large family reunion and everyone was welcomed with open arms. Rank in the military didn't matter, that was then and this is now. We have all been made equal and brought together by our like experiences.

Sometimes I think, "Gee, I should have gone to some of those other reunions". But this was the right time for me to be hooking up with my fellow Golf 2/5ers.

I'm not going to reiterate everything that went on at this reunion, I'm sure that will be covered in other articles. I just want to reach out to other vets who are on the fringe, who are wondering if they should go to the next reunion. My advice is "Go for it", nothing ventured nothing gained.

Like a lot of you, I went years, decades really, without talking about the war, Vietnam, being wounded. Nothing, I just pretended none of it ever happened. Holding it in only helped the problems to fester and to grow. In the long run the only one fooled was me! But being with my fellow Marines from Golf 2/5 gave my pride back in my military service and pride back in myself. So take a chance.

If you have comments or questions about my experience feel free to contact me at- jfbgrunt@msn.com- or 508-822-7320. Life is short. Hope to see you at the next reunion.

Semper Fi,
John Boiros

Request for more old (or new) USMC Tee Shirts!

My cousin, Kathy McClendon, who made the USMC quilt for the Myrtle Beach reunion has volunteered to make another USMC quilt for a raffle at the 2008 Reunion. She needs at least twelve tee-shirts with USMC emblems or any kind of USMC related graphics. She then cuts the front or back of the tee shirt, depending on where the graphic is and uses the twelve pieces to incorporate into a blanket which can also be used as a nice wall hanging.

If you have an old, or new, USMC tee shirt and can part with it, please send it to:

Kathy McLendon (e-mail: willybenn@msn.com)
11005 McKnight
Albuquerque, NM 87112

If you can mail a tee shirt(s), please e-mail Kathy at the above e-mail address to let her know when to expect it. Even though it's almost two years till the next reunion, making the quilt is extremely labor intensive and takes a lot of time so the sooner she has the 12 shirts and can start, the better. Please send the tee shirts as quickly as possible!

The editor

Lest We Forget...!

***PFC Walter Matejeck
L/Cpl. Glenn McCuaig
PFC Joseph Mermejo***

***KIA 12/4/67
KIA 8/2/67
KIA 3/29/69***

***Let us also not forget our brave Marines, Soldiers, Airmen,
Sailors and allies who have made the ultimate sacrifice on
Operation Iraqi Freedom!***

From The Desk Of The Secretary Treasurer – Rick Mack

Hello Marines. Now that was a catchy title hey? To be honest with you I would be ashamed to let you see exactly what my desk here looks like as the paperwork is piled quite high and things are a bit messy and cluttered. With that in mind I would like to apologize for having been a bit behind lately but I will explain briefly. Just prior to our reunion I came down with an eyesight problem known as macular degeneration and ever since then my



world has been a bit upside down. Both my computer time and television time has declined immensely due to this medical problem however I am getting a bit better as time goes by and after receiving injections into the eye at the VA Hospital in Little Rock Arkansas. So, to make a long story short this problem has put a damper on my vision and therefore I cannot get much done but I'm doing the best I can with all things considered.

I would like to take a moment here to welcome two of our newest members who recently managed to locate us. That being Jon Espenes and Theodore Armijo. Welcome Home Brothers and we are glad to have you amongst us here. While I have a few minutes before my eyes start acting up again I would like to express my sincere thanks to Vince Montoro who did an outstanding job on setting up the 06 reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC. It was indeed very well planned out and the accommodations and festivities were top shelf. Thanks to Vince and his wife for all that you did for us and in my opinion I would have to say that the 06 reunion was without a doubt a success. While I am on the subject of expressing thanks I would also like to extend a hearty thanks to Mike & Pat Ervin and the ladies for all the hard work they did at the reunion with regards to the auctions that

were held for various items that were made available through donations and such.

I am still in the process of working on our tee shirts for both the association and the association reunion version for those that would like to acquire one and I will make this information available to you all as soon as I possibly can. I hope that you will forgive my tardiness on this and a few other things but I am trying to get the eyesight problem fixed first before things get worse and so far so good. I just hope the road to recovering improved eyesight continues. I have so much to be thankful for and at the very least I was able to partially enjoy the time I spent at the reunion and it was great to get together with you again. Names like The Skipper, Chelowa, O'Rourke, Ortiz, Tony C. and others bring a smile to my face as I recount the memories of this past September. I truly enjoyed being able to meet up and spend some time with Cliff Sutton and his family who was in attendance. Cliff and I were both wounded and medic'd during the very same incident and yet it took us a little while to figure out who was who after we had been conversing with each other for a spell. It certainly is a small world when you think about it and it was great to be with Cliff once again after so many years.

Well Marines, its time to close for now as the old eyeballs are hurting a tad more than I wish for them to and I will be headed off to Little Rock once again here within the next week for yet another treatment. Before I close I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you and your loved ones a very happy and joyous holiday season this Christmas and the very best to all of you as we go forward into the New Year.

Semper Fi,
Rick Mack

Upcoming Formations

Hué City Reunion – 2007

From: LT JONATHAN A ROZEMA (USS HUÉ CITY, CHAPLAIN) [mailto: CHAPS@cg66.navy.mil]

Subject: REUNION

The Battle of Hue Memorial will be held this year from May 11th through May 13th and I will be certain to get you an invitation and update your information on our guest list. Thank you for your e-mail and please do not hesitate to ask should you have any other needs or questions.

Very Respectfully,

Chaplain Jon Rozema, LT

USN Command Chaplain

USS HUÉ CITY (CG 66)

FPO AA 34091-1186904-270-6500 (IVICS1603)

Chaplain@cg66.navy.mil

G 2/5 Reunion – 2008

At the Mrytle Beach reunion Association Meeting, the site for the next reunion was discussed. Some of the suggested locations were Seattle, Las Vegas, San Diego. It was decided to have the membership vote on the next reunion location. Within a couple of weeks after the end of the reunion, Tony C. sent out a mass e-mail to all the G 2/5 members he has e-mail addresses for,

which I believe is over 150, asking the membership to suggest reunion locations. After the list of suggested locations was compiled, he sent another e-mail shortly thereafter to vote on one location. Here is the result of the vote:

“Vote count went like this:

LAS VEGAS (13)
SEATTLE (7)
SAN DIEGO (6)
ALBUQUERQUE (4)
HAWAII (3)
OCEANSIDE (2)
ALASKA (1)

Total votes cast: 36”

As you can see, there wasn't a large response from the membership, nevertheless, from the votes received, it was decided that Las Vegas, Nevada will be the site for the **2008 Golf Co. 2/5 reunion**. Jack O'Rourke has volunteered to be the reunion organizer—*thanks Jack!* The date for holding the reunion hasn't been decided yet but will be announced in a forthcoming newsletter and on the website when that is decided.

Roll Call

- **Deanna and Ben Gerow – (Winners of the USMC Quilt)**

“Dear Barney:

Ben and I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to put the reunion together. I know a lot of hours were put in by a lot of people. We especially want to thank Vince as he did a great job down to the brochures he got together. That alone is extremely time consuming let alone arranging hotels and a restaurant for our dinner.

We would like you to send on an e-mail if you would thank-ing Ms. McLendon for her hard work on the quilt. She did a beautiful job and a lot of people really wanted the quilt and we were fortunate enough to win it.

Sincerely,”

- **Kathy McLendon (seamstress of the USMC Quilt)**

“Dear Guys,

This was my opportunity to finally say thanks to all the military who served during Viet Nam. I enjoyed making it very much. If you all want one for the next reunion PLEASE send tee-shirts soon. One of your comrades donated some unique tee-shirts (not USMC) for a special quilt for next time. ENJOY.

Kathy”

- **Joe Rowe**

“Hi Larry

It has been awhile. I thought it time, to drop you a line. I trust that all is well with you and your family. I am well, and still enjoying the pictures you sent me, when I first contacted you then went to my first Reunion. I am now in close contact with so many of our brothers.

Over the past few weeks I have been in touch with, Jon Espenes, who was the platoon commander of first platoon, in August of 68. He was hit on the same day as Jim Lewis, August.

18. I remember him well because at that time I was with first platoon for awhile. It might be a good, to mention him in the news letter. I know that Barney and Jim Lewis have written him.



L to R: Sister, Joe Rowe, niece, Gen. P. Pace, Mother and Father of Lt. Travis Fuller, KIA Iraq, 26 Jan. 05

I pray that you will have a wonderful Christmas. I look forward to seeing you soon. I just got a letter about the Hue Reunion that will be held in May. My wife Janice and I plan to go.

I was privileged to see General Pace at a Manorial for Massachusetts Vets killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. He's a great guy. Semper Fi, Joe Rowe"

- **John Rearick Reunion Comments**

"Barney;

Just wanted to say Hi and tell you how much I enjoyed the reunion. My first time since I guess 1987, I'm not sure why it took so long but it did. Being reunited with my last Fire Team after 39 years Jesse Lyons, Ron Powers, Glenn Freeman and me, I don't know the words to describe it, but it was special and the most amazing thing and I'm sure you have felt this, is it was like we just saw each other yesterday. I have to admit reading the newsletter over the years, it seemed like it was a Hue City thing (I Left 3 days before you went in, Glenn Lucas was my squad leader) I realize now that's not the case but it took me awhile. In my mind I realize that those of you who went there, were taught by us that came before you, so now I kind of feel part of it."

John Rearick

- Welcome **Lt. JON ESPENES** to the Association!

In Our Thoughts and Prayers . . .

- **Rick Mack** – is undergoing some serious treatments for Macular Degeneration. We wish Rick a complete and speedy recovery.

Updated E-Mail Addresses & Change of Address

Please let me (LSO.vngrunt@yahoo.com), Rick Mack (semiauto@netins.net) and Tony C. (USMC-Vietnam-Grunt@att.net) if you change your e-mail address or mailing address so we can keep you up to date on G 2/5 news!

the editor

Complete List of Those who Attended the 2006 Reunion:

Chuck Meadows Bainbridge Island, Wa 98110	Barney & Mona Barnes Broken Arrow, Ok 74012
Mike & Pat Ervin Charles Town, WVa 25414	Bob & Leanne Setlak Round Lake, Il 60073
"Pete" & Ruth Peterson Eagle River, Wi 54521	George & Ronalee Doucette Colorado Springs, Co 90916
Ray Quist Stevens Point, Wi 54401	John "Doc" & Joy Higgins Lincoln, Neb 68505
Lewis D Kaslow Bentonville, Ar 72712	Glen E. Freeman Cincinnati, Oh 45176
Ronnie Powers Fenton, Mi 48430	John Rearick South Windsor, Ct 06074
Joe & Kathy Snead Yulee, Fl 32097	Ted & Leila Armijo Denver Co 80219
Ron Johnston Wheeling, Wva 26003	Wally & Janine Kubicki Lagrange Highlands, Il 60525
Ed & Doreen Jones Budd Lake, Nj 07828	John & Maureen Boiros Taunton, Ma 02780
Cliff & Pat Sutton Lumberton, NC 28358	George & Kathy Haught Monaca Pa 15061
Mike & Pat Smith Sailsbury, Md 21804	Dale & Sharon Roberts Bethany, Ok 73008
Dana "Mike" Averill Celebration, Fl 34747	Harry & Gretchen Rhodes Fairfax, Va 22031
Billy Tant Duncanville, Al	Danny Cholewa Hartford, Mi 49057
Glenn Sloan Bluffton, Sc 29909	Jack & Ellie O'rouke North Las Vegas, Nv 89086
Steve & Julie Peitsmeyer Ft. Myers, Fl 33919	Sam & Bev Gaylord Louisville, Ky 40241
Ben & Dee Gerow Guyton, Ga 31312	Bob & Lee Shinkle Kingsland, Ga 31548
Rudy Hoffman Jennerstown, Pa 15547	Richard "Alphabet" Szlachta Revere, Ma 02151
Vince & Jan Montoro Allentown, Pa 18102	Tony & Mary Carlidge Ochlockonee Bay, Fl 32346
Jesse Lyon Staten Island, NY10314	Edward Benavidez Galveston, Tx 77551
Richard Mack Seneca, Mo 64865	Larry & Melba Ortiz Paris, France (temporarily!)
James "Cash" & Sue Cashwell Spartanburg, SC	Cindy Humphrey Darlington, WI
Bob & Bev Gross Springwater, NY	

Final Comments:

I want to thank all those that sent me photos to include in this newsletter, particularly Pat Ervin as I used several of the ones she sent. I also want to apologize if I got anyone's name incorrect. Also in this issue, I tried to include a photo of the person writing each of the articles but unfortunately, I, and no one I contacted, had one of Bob Shinkle. *the editor*



Golf 2/5ers at the Association Meeting



Deanna and Ben Gerow – (Winners of the USMC Quilt)



Sharon and Dale Roberts



L to R: *The Chu Lai Guys*: Ed Benavidez, Jack O'Rourke, Harry Rhodes, Glenn Sloan, Ron Johnson, Wally Kubicki, Ted Armijo



Joe & Kathy Snead



L to R: Jesse Lyon, Glen Freeman, John Rearick, Ed Jones
Front Row: Ronnie Powers



L. to R: R. Szlachta, V. Montoro, J. Boiros, R. Hoffman,
L. "Cash" Cashwel, Front: P. Peterson



L to R Standing: D. Cholewa, G. Haught, L. Ortiz, B. Gerow, B. Tant,
C. Meadows, J. Snead, D. Roberts, Steve Peitsmeyer, R. Mack
L to R Kneeling: Tony C., B. Barnes, B. Gross, R. Jones, B. Setlak
M. Ervin, P. Peterson



L to R: *Some of the G 2/5 Wives:* Mona Barnes, Kathy Snead,

Melba Ortiz, Lee Shinkle, Ronalee Doucette



L to R: Chuck Meadows, Bob Setlak, John Boiros
Maureen Boiros, Leanne Setlak, Cindy Humphrey



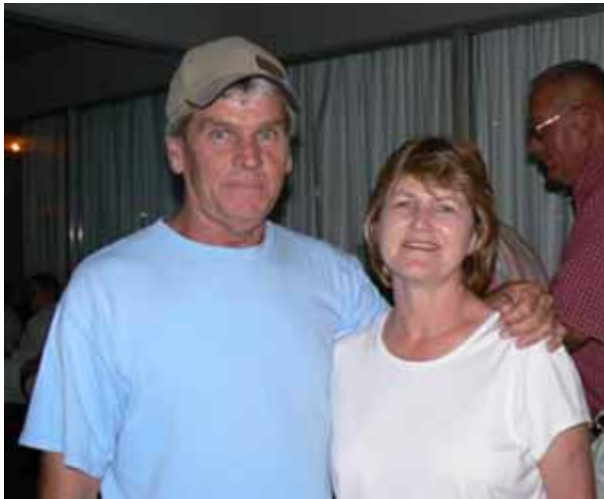
L to R: Dale Roberts, Larry Ortiz, George Haught



Mike and Pat Ervin



L to R: Joy & "Doc" Higgins, Lee Shinkle, Bev & Sam Gaylord



Louis "Cash" and Sue Cashwell



L to R: "Alphabet" Szlachta, Lewis Kaslow, Mike "Dana" Averill

Golf 2/5 Website Address

Log on at: <http://www.2ndbn5thmarines.com>

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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; \$20.00 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 Rick. We want everyone to be a part of the Association.

Mail New Membership Forms to: **G 2/5 Association, c/o Rick Mack, P.O. Box 367, Seneca, MO 64865**

**Golf 2/5 Association
c/o Larry S. Ortiz
P. O. Box 34004
Fullerton, CA 92834-9406**

Address Correction Requested

First Class