



# GOLF COMPANY 2ND BATTALION 5TH MARINES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



*Dong Ha - Chu Lai - An Hoa - Phu Bai - Hue City*

Vol. 2, Issue 1

December 2007

*Merry Christmas!*

### Editor Comments by Larry Ortiz

Greetings fellow Marines! I can't believe it's already December and this is the first newsletter of the year. Well, due to the fact there was no material to work with to prepare a newsletter for the majority of the year, I have a great deal now including write-ups from Sue Warner-Bean and Cindy Humphrey who traveled with Chuck Meadows in March back to *the Nam* with Chuck's *Peace Trees Vietnam* organization. Sue and Cindy made the journey to honor their brothers (David Warner and Gerald C. Kinny) who were both KIAs in Hue City. Pres. Barney provided some information on this year's Hue City Memorial held in April as well as a nice write-up from Jon Espenes. And as you all are probably aware, G 2/5's own Gen. Peter Pace retired this past October after 40 years of service to our country and we have some write-ups from some of the G 2/5 Marines who were fortunate to have attended his retirement ceremony as well as the change of command for the incoming Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

We also have an update on the 2008 reunion scheduled for Las Vegas from Jack O'Rourke, our 2008 reunion chairman.

Another difficulty in getting a newsletter out this year was due to the fact that our paying membership has taken a dramatic drop from our usual 100 or so paying members. There's been a lot of debate as to whether or not a hard copy should be mailed out but we've determined we have sufficient funds for this one issue this year. Our secretary/treasurer, Rick Mack, provides a report on the financial situation of the Association.

We have also learned from Hector's son, (Maj. Quintana - USMC) that Hector Quintana of 2nd platoon passed away in mid-November. I, like I'm sure the rest of you who were there on the morning of August 19, 1968, will never forget being out on that Operation (although I have forgotten the name of the Op.). We had set in the night before and the company was stretched out across a long distance and some of the company was separated by a tree line from the rest of the company. Dawn was just breaking and we were saddling up to move out when a shot rang out. Of course we all hit the deck only to discover that a Marine who had only recently joined us in the field heard some movement on the other side of the tree line and was so jumpy he didn't know there were Marines on the other side of the tree line and just fired blindly. Unfortunately, Hector, as I recall, was hit in the chest. He was medevaced pretty quickly and we were all glad to hear that he survived.

I know we were all impacted when another Marine was wounded or even worse when any of our brother Marines was

killed—but being wounded or killed by “friendly-fire” (what a misnomer that is) was devastating.

I don't know what caused Hector's death at this time but am glad to know he recovered from his wound and went on to live his life and raise a family. Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Hector Quintana.

And lastly, Melba and I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2008!

Semper Fi,  
Larry S. Ortiz

### President's Message by Barney Barnes

Greetings Marines,

It's a rain free (for once) beautiful Saturday, July 14 as I write this (*yes, Barney did write this in July . . .*). I trust all is well with you and your families. My new granddaughter, Karly Danielle Kitchen is three weeks old today and Mona and I are getting used to having another grandchild to spoil. . . .

This July, also marks the 40th Anniversary of my becoming a 0311 and in just a few months I would go to Nam and join a group of guys who would go on to secure our own little place in the long history of the Fifth Marine Regiment.

Ahhh yes, July, 1967 or the **SUMMER OF LOVE** as they called it back then. You remember the phrase coined by one,

Timothy Leary, "Tune In, Turn On Drop Out". Well, while most of "Young America" was spending that summer, crusing, listening to cool sounds on the radio, hanging out at the beach, the drive-in, or partaking in other



assorted pleasures of the day, I was preparing to leave the ranks of my first MOS in the Corps, 2142 Tanker, and become an 0311. I was at the Marine Corps Supply Depot in Albany, Georgia and instead of heading to Panama City Beach like we did on most weekends; I was headed to Camp Lejeune for another round of Advanced Infantry Training. I think the only thing different was that we were issued M-14's instead of the M-1 that they still used in ITR. Becoming an 0311 remains to this day,

the best thing that ever happened to this old Alabama Hillbilly as far as my Marine Corps career went. The bonds built and shared by "GRUNTS" in Combat are some of the strongest ever formed and I truly cherish that feeling, that knowing, that this bond we share as brothers, is as strong today as it was so many years ago.

But, that was then, this is now, still, it seems as if only yesterday.

Our Association is starting to, in my opinion, grow and reach out, not in terms of membership numbers but in terms of reaching out to others and trying to be that bridge between the past and the present. Many of our membership have gone above and beyond in doing so. As your Association president I just want to say Thank You for all that have gone that extra mile, to make a difference in the lives of others, your efforts speak volumes about not only each of you, but to the real essence of what our association is about and trying to accomplish.

A few months back, we again attended the annual Hué City Memorial Weekend and except for the event when our favorite Lieutenant was the guest speaker, this group of attendees might have been the largest to attend yet. We are starting to get our other brothers that were not in Hué City to attend and to me; this is what it's all about...that we attend not because we are Hué City vets but simply because we want to honor our fallen brothers from that battle.



**Barney Barnes and Gen. Pace at Gen. Pace's Retirement Reception**

Elsewhere in this newsletter, others will be reporting on that event. I just want to thank each of our Golf 2/5 members and their families for attending. To the best of my knowledge this is a list of those who attended and if I have left anyone out, I humbly apologize. It would be remiss of me if I at least didn't mention Mike & Wanda Copeland and Mike & Pat Ervin who again brought their RV's down and set up camp and allowed us who stayed over through Monday to join them for a meal and fellowship on Sunday evening. Thanks guys...I wouldn't mind ya'll making this a tradition.

Those attending were as follows:

*Lester Tully and Ramona Dale Grogan*

*Rob and Eileen Rice Family (Justin, Matthew & Meghan)*

*Bailey and Jessica Tully - Lester's other grandkids.*

*Bill and Reba Rogers*

*Dick and Mary Lahan*

*Buck and Sheila Dyer,*

*John and Maureen Boiros*

*Joe and Janice Rowe*

*Bob and Sue Lauver*

*Joe and Kathy Snead*

*Mike and Wanda Copeland*

*Mike and Pat Ervin*

*Dylan and Erin Belt*

*Bob and Leeann Setlak*

*Mike and Cheryl Stallings*

*Bob & Lee Shinkle & Granddaughter, Felicia*

*Cliff and Pat Sutton*

*Cliffs Daughter, Father & Mother & grand kids*

*Sue Warner-Bean*

*Marci (Warner) Williams*

*Cindy Humphrey*

*Doc Bruce Gant*

*Rich Durrum*

*Ron Rawlings*

*Danny Cholewa*

*Jon Espenes*

*Ben and Deanna Gerow and son*

*Kevin English*

*Col. Chuck Meadows*

*Tony Carlidge*

*Jack Field*

Until we meet again..."Happy Trails To You . . ."

Love you, guys...S/F Barney

### **A Different Wall**

***Honoring Cpl David Warner, USMC Golf 2/5, KIA 2-17-68***

***by Sue Warner-Bean***

It was two years ago, near a field in Hué City, when I finally realized I had it all backwards. My brother David Warner, a Golf 2/5 Marine, was killed there in February, 1968. In the years since his death I had wanted more than anything to make *him* proud of me. Suddenly I understood that David surely wants *me* to be proud of *him*. I had a lot of catching up to do.

Turn the clock back to 2003. For many years I hadn't talked about David or his service. Finally I grew curious, and with the help of the internet found the Golf 2/5 Association and Chuck Meadows. It was through Chuck that I connected with Peace-Trees Vietnam, a non-profit organization that removes unexploded ordnance and does community restoration in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. And it was *with* Chuck that I traveled to Vietnam two years ago and visited Hué City.

Even then I wanted to do something to honor David's memory. I invited friends to contribute to a Kindergarten that Peace-Trees would build in his name. But I have a bad habit of taking a "ready-fire-aim" approach to things, and this was no different: I thought a fundraising goal of \$3,000 would be sufficient; the real cost of construction turned out to be closer to \$11,000 – a bargain for a Kindergarten, but a daunting difference.



But miracles do indeed happen, and through the extraordinary generosity of friends, family, and brothers-in-arms – **including the Golf 2/5 Association and other veterans who served in Hué City** – we reached the goal. In summer of 2006 PeaceTrees cleared six pieces of unexploded ordnance from the new schoolyard and started construction. In autumn the David Warner Kindergarten became a reality.

Fast forward to March 2007, when I had the privilege of returning to Vietnam with Chuck Meadows, Cindy Humphrey, Bruce Gant and twelve other PeaceTrees travelers to dedicate the little school in David's honor.

March 22 would have been David's sixty-first birthday. We arose that morning in Dong Ha and drove Highway 8 to Khe Sanh, then continued on small roads another 45 minutes up into the hills near the Laotian border. The Kindergarten is located in the tiny mountain village of A Xing, an area populated mostly by ethnic minority Montagnards.

As we got closer to the school we passed through a cloud of yellow butterflies, then - there it was! The little building is just beautiful, and the kids themselves are *oh-my-gosh-the-cutest-things-I've-ever-seen*, ages three to six with bright faces and heart-melting smiles.



Chuck Meadows, Sue Warner-Bean (center) and Group

An official dedication ceremony was held inside the classroom with the kids, teachers, dignitaries and visitors. We made speeches; the children sang for us; and we shared gifts, including toys and new school uniforms.

When the ceremony was over we planted trees in the bare schoolyard. These were dedication trees, **planted in remembrance of many of David's Golf 2/5 brothers**. It's a wonderful feeling to have the little school surrounded by a memorial grove. We dug and staked and tamped together along with people from the local village, placing memorial cards at the base of every tree and photographing each one. There were lots of memories, lots of love, and lots of healing planted in the schoolyard that day.

Being in A Xing, being able to see the results of so many people's gifts and efforts, was both humbling and exhilarating. I wish everyone who was part of the project – donors, supporters, encouragers – could have been there to share in the celebration.

When I stood at that field in Hué City two years ago, it was almost as if I heard my brother say two things: "I've been wait-

ing for you," and "Remember me." **With the help of the Golf 2/5 Association and others**, David *is* being remembered, and honored. For my part, I am overjoyed that David's name is now inscribed not just on the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall, but on the wall of a building where a new generation is growing, learning, laughing – a place of peace, possibility, and hope.

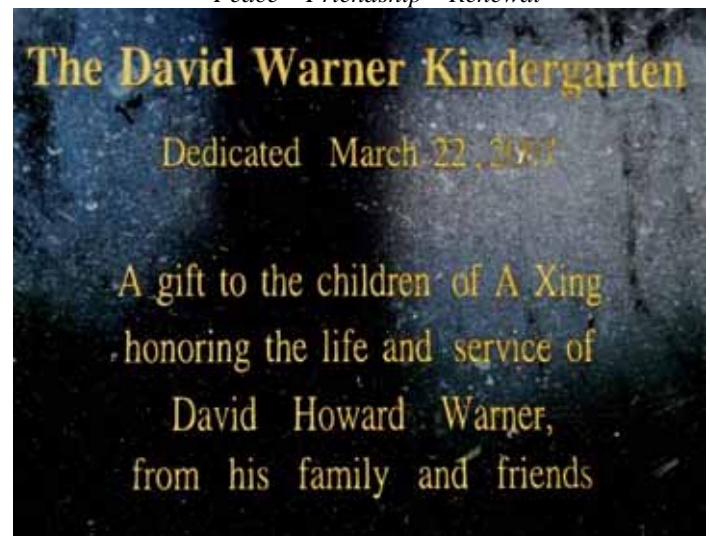
The dedication plaque on the Kindergarten wall reads:

*The David Warner Kindergarten  
Dedicated March 22, 2007*

*A gift to the children of A Xing  
honoring the life and service of David Howard Warner  
from his family and friends*

*"If we are to have real peace, we must begin with the children"  
– Gandhi*

*Built in partnership with PeaceTrees Vietnam  
Peace – Friendship – Renewal*



When I visited that field in Hué City again this March, it was my turn to say "I'm back again, David, and we will *always* remember you." To every one of the amazing donors who made the Kindergarten a reality, and to the Marines who served with David and are now part of the Golf 2/5 Association, thank you, from the bottom of my heart. I'm proud of David, and I'm proud of you. Your compassion is touching lives. It has profoundly touched mine.

Semper Fi.

Sue

#### My Trip to Vietnam March 15 thru March 30, 2007

*by Cindy Humphrey*

In March of 2007 I honored my brother and his brothers of Golf 2/5 by going to Vietnam – of course it was made extra special by the special group of Peace Trees Vietnam. There were five Vietnam Vets in all: Chuck Meadows, Joe Yencich, both of Golf 2/5; Bruce Gant, Navy Corpsman who was with Golf and other companies during the battle at Hué; Jim Sanders, who was a 101st Airborne helicopter machine gunner in Vietnam; and Jack Imbers, who was in the Navy during Vietnam War. Also,

there were two sisters of Golf 2/5 Marines killed at Hué City (Sue Warner-Bean and myself), and Stacey, who is a sister of an Army soldier killed in Vietnam. Joe brought his son and Jim brought his wife. Needless to say we ended up being a tight-knit group (out of our 16 person group there were 10 of us that had a tie to the Vietnam War). To make things a bit more special, we were joined by one of our soon-to-be military persons of today – Sue's friend Bill, an airline pilot who recently joined the Air Force.

Our Peace Trees Vietnam group experienced the many friendly people of Vietnam, especially of the southern and central part of the country. We were fortunate to have dined in places serving us the tastiest food that the country had to offer - spring rolls of many delicious varieties; hot Pho, the beef noodle soup which can only be described as "yummy"; fried noodles; sweet french fries; and fresh and sometimes unusual fruit. We even had the experience of going to the "Snake Bar" and I gave into peer pressure ("Come on Cindy, if you are a Golf 2/5'r you have to drink the snake blood!") – so thanks to Bruce Gant and not much help from Sue Warner-Bean either, I downed a half shot of snake blood mixed with a half shot of vodka (and had to follow with a huge gulp of beer to kill the taste). There was much to do and see, and everywhere we went the children showed up and gave us the biggest smiles (both on their faces and ours).

Going on this trip gave me the opportunity to fly into Da Nang (the same place Jerry would have flown into Vietnam); drive by PhuLoc (where Jerry spent Christmas 1967); drive through Phu Bai (where Jerry spent the day before his death); stay in HoiAn, where I could stand on my hotel balcony and look towards the AnHoa area in the distance (where Jerry and Golf 2/5 spent much time with the risk of landmines and booby traps, and where they lost too many of their fellow Marines); and spend three days in Hué where he died. All these places allowed me a time to reflect and feel how my brother may have felt – only I did not have to be afraid for or defend my life as he did.

On our first day in Hué, Chuck Meadows took me, Sue, and Bruce on a trip to trace the steps of Golf 2/5's first day in Hué – we ended up at the sidewalk where my brother was killed and was retrieved by Chuck. We also went to the railroad station so I could take a picture for Barney at his request, and then to the area where Sue's brother and John (Jack) Lewis died. The next day, Sue and I walked to my brother's death site again (and Kirkham and Lucas' death site) and I came away knowing that somehow my brother's, Lucas', and Kirkham's sacrifice of life somewhat prevented many more of Golf 2/5 being killed, since that is when Chuck decided to retreat. I came to the conclusion that had Golf 2/5 not retreated, in looking at the half block they had left to go to the Citadel gate, they would have been out in the open and exposed to heavy machine gun attack from many NVA positioned atop the Citadel gate, along the Citadel wall and all around the moat area. In knowing how Marines are, I feel my brother would have wanted it this way – his life in return for the safety of many more of his Marine brothers.



**Chuck Meadows, Cindy Humphrey, Jerry's Tree and Bruce Gant**

Our last night in Hué, at about 11:30pm, I asked Chuck to walk with me to the center of the bridge over the Perfume River so I could take my little "Memorial Picture Packet To My Brother" and drop it into the Perfume River. In this packet I enclosed pictures for my brother: pictures of his parents and siblings and myself; and some of his wonderful Marines of Golf 2/5 – his other family. We found a big rock and put it into the plastic envelope and I let it drop into the water. The next day, I briefly felt saddened at the idea of leaving Hué, but also felt a sense of peace with my brother's fate. Prior to this, for all these years I felt frustrated, sad, and angry at his death. I left knowing that of all the places that I had visited in Vietnam, Hué was one of the most beautiful and friendly places for Jerry's spirit to be.

In meeting the Vietnamese people of the southern and central part of Vietnam, I came away knowing that they did appreciate our great Marines, soldiers, airmen, and sailors for the many types of sacrifices they made. The people in these regions were so friendly and showed much love and admiration to us once they heard we were from the USA. This feeling they have for us Americans can only be from the impression left behind during that sad and costly part of history known as the Vietnam War.

This welcome from these Vietnamese brought me peace in knowing that at least Jerry did not die in vain for a "senseless war" and that his life was not a "wasted life". I grew up hearing those words and do not believe they are fitting words to honor such honorable men. Those who died in Vietnam and those who returned are deserving of much more honorable words – words like "USA #1" and "thank you for your service to our country and theirs" and "you guys are awesome"; and just a plain and simple "thank you for what you did"..... oh, and we cannot leave out "Semper Fi".

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

*Cindy K. Humphrey*



## "The Hué City Memorial - My Reconnection with G2/5"

by Jon Espenes

While on patrol in the area of Phu Loc 6, I spotted what appeared to be a grenade lying within a foot of me in moderately tall grass. I drew my K-bar and bent over the device carefully pushing the grass to the side to better expose the unexploded munition to my view. Before I could react further there was the familiar ping of the spoon, followed almost simultaneously by a dull pop. The devastating events of the afternoon of September 15th, 1968 brought a conclusion to my tour of duty in Vietnam. Until the late 1970's, my last contact with anyone from Golf 2/5 had been with Sergeant Major Chapman when he visited me at the Marble Mountain medical facility.



Lt. Jon Espenes

On a Sunday morning in a hotel room in Port Washington, Wisconsin, I picked up a Milwaukee telephone book and started scrolling through it. I was struck by a recollection that Dennis Musta was from the Milwaukee area. I continued rapidly paging through the directory until I came upon a D. Musta. Sure enough, "I thought", I have found the right name.

I called the number and first spoke with his wife and she affirmed that her husband had been in the Marine Corps. With that I announced that I served with him while in Vietnam. Later that day my wife Barbara and I met up with Dennis and his family. Dennis always carried pictures of his bride and kids in Vietnam and shared them with everyone. It was nice to meet his family in person having only known them through photographs prior to this day. My wife and I had a wonderful afternoon visiting with Dennis and his family. Somehow I lost track of the Musta family following my divorce.

My next encounter with Golf 2/5 was at Center House, at 8th & I Streets in the early summer of 1989. A TBS Classmate was the XO at the Marine Barracks and following the Evening Parade, he invited our Classmates to Center house for a "sarsaparilla" or two. I remember sitting in along the back wall of the bar area and I was having a great time..."a really grrreat time"!

As I was swapping lies and embellishing sea stories with the rest of my Classmates a gentleman who was sitting at the bar turns around and looks at me, points, and utters repeatedly the words "YOU! YOU! YOU!!!!"

Looking back at him I was stunned – it was Peter Pace! Lt Pace was now a Colonel and the CO of the Barracks. I had not seen nor heard of him since shortly after the battle at La Thap One on the 18th of August 1968.

Years had passed since the day I met Lt Pace. My recollection is that our meeting occurred on or about the 10th of August 1968, in a "hooch" inside the An Hoa Compound. I recall walking into the "hooch" and introducing myself to those present. I then reached into a refrigerator without asking and helped myself to one of Pete's beers; and, as if that were not enough, I then proceeded to borrow \$5.00 bucks from him because I was

virtually penniless at that time having spent all my last pay check getting from the States to An Hoa. My pay records never caught up with me while I was in Vietnam. Consequently I never had opportunity to repay him (or to return the beers).

Those actions had bothered me for several years, and I often wondered if he remembered our meeting. I was embarrassed that I had taken his beer without asking and then borrowed money from him, all without thanking him or repaying the five dollars.

Now, twenty-one years later, fate had presented me the opportunity to reconnect with the past and settle a long overdue debt. I reached into my pocket and I pulled out a "Jackson" and handed it to him. Elated having settled this debt, I told the officers in his command of Pete's valor and courage under fire.

Sadly I lost touch with Pete, but followed the progress of his career through my many visits to Quantico. In the year 2000 I was given an e-mail address for Pete and have remained in contact with him since.

In the fall of 2006, I found myself surfing the internet late one night. Feeling a bit melancholy, I started looking at my TBS Class Website. I noted a link at the bottom of the Memorials Tab that took me to a website named: [thewall-usa](http://thewall-usa.com). As I navigated through the site I found a way to look up names by the date the casualty had occurred. As I scrolled through the Marine casualties for 18th of August 1968 I found that none of the names were familiar to me.

Nearing the end of the list I came upon a recently posed tribute for Michael Robert Witt by Mike Ervin. In that tribute, I recognized the name "Billy Tant"; I read further down the page further and found that Mike Ervin had left an earlier tribute (04 February 2004) where he mentioned Pete now being the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

His reference to "Pete" clearly told me that I had found one of the names of the Marines who had served in our unit. I felt a surge of excitement!

I sat gazing at my computer for a long time debating whether I should try to make contact with Mr. Ervin, or would it be too painful for each of us?

Although not at all convinced, I decided to start writing to relieve the melancholy that was bearing down on my mind. It had been so many years and for reasons unidentifiable, I felt fearful of rekindling a past full of uncertainty and raw emotion. My misgivings were that my past may be more troubling than the feelings of remorse that I had for those who had fallen under my command. The possibility of rejection, or worse yet, the opening of feelings of animosity or hostility for actions taken so many years ago loomed before me.

Finally, my "wanting to know" won and shortly after midnight I sent the following e-mail to Ervin.

*From: Jon Espenes [jespenes@jonespenesco.com]*

*Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2006 12:06 AM*

*To: 'pandmervin@adelphia.net' Subject: Golf 2/5 18 August 1968*

*Dear Mike:*

*I was looking through a website containing info about the names on the Wall. I didn't realize how much info was available and when prompted, I started looking up the names of Marines*

*that were KIA on 18 August 1968. I ran across your recent tribute to one of our fallen brothers and find it almost ironic that you posted your e-mail just a couple of weeks ago.*

*I was there that 18th day of August 1968. It was my third day in the field. I will never forget the bravery of those who fought with us that day nor will I ever forget the horror of seeing my first KIA(S). I was with the first platoon. (The night before the 18th of August, we guarded an "AV" that had thrown a track. That was pretty scary in itself and I found that I knew nothing about an AV.)*

*My best recollection of that day (8-18) is that there were only 13 or 14 of us in our platoon and we lead the way into La Thap 1. I remember the point man trying to walk across an irrigation trough and falling through it. The noise announced our presence to the NVA and the afternoon went to hell in a hand-bag! The guy standing next to me was shot in the arm. Somehow we got the point man off the rails that supported the irrigation trough. We backed off and crossed the narrow, swift channel of water and worked our way up on the banks of the dikes. We attempted to enter the village at least twice as I recall. The first time we entered and found ourselves lying on top of each other in a shallow ditch that recon had told me would be much deeper. We all got the hell out of there and back behind the embankment quickly. But, enough of those recollections for now – I probably have the facts screwed up anyway.*

*Pete Pace told me about a 2/5 reunion four or five years ago. I recognize the name Billy Tant in your tribute to our fallen comrade. He was one of my squad leaders. He liked to sing Rocky-Top all the time! To this day, whenever I hear that song, I trip back in time and recall him singing that tune to some old women and children we encountered while on patrol.*

*I would like to know more information about the men in our company. I was wounded September 15th, 1968 northeast of An Hoa. I never returned to our Unit. I keep in touch with Gen. Pete; usually we exchange e-mails every year on the 18th of August. He is a good man and I am thankful that he heads up the Joint Chiefs. I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend his "swearing-in" ceremony last year. It was truly an honor to be there.*

*Enough for now; if you get this e-mail and want to respond I would be appreciative. If not, I will understand.*

*In closing, please know that I have never forgotten all of the men in Golf 2/5; however, the sad truth is that I don't recall many of their names. Yet, they are and will always be remembered in my prayers; especially those who gave it their all on that hot & sweaty summer day in August, 1968. Take Care & God Bless!*

*Semper Fi*

*Jon Espenes*

*1/Lt USMC Ret'd*

*jespenes@jonespenesco.com*

*PS: If you see or hear from "Tant" – tell him I said Hi! About 30 years ago my wife and I stopped in Milwaukee and visited Dennis Musta, our machine gunner. I haven't heard from him since. I am glad I was able to visit with him and meet his family. He was always showing the guys new pictures of his family while we were in-country.*

Within hours I received a response from Mike, then Barney, Jim Lewis, Joe Rowe, and several others, none of whose names or faces I could remember. I never expected such a warm and welcome response from Marines whom I had known for less than forty days, in a war fought 38 years before.

On November 8th, 2006 my brother, his wife, Mary, and I flew into Reagan National and were met by Mike Ervin. Mike helped us get to the hotel and we spent a wonderful evening together.

I was told about the Hué City event by almost everyone with whom I had communicated, and I knew before Thanksgiving last year that I would attend the Memorial the following spring. As the winter months clicked away, I shared emails and phone calls with several of the Golf 2/5 Marines. One of the nicest Christmas gifts I received last year was a telephone call from Billy Tant. I was deeply moved and honored by his call.

As the time drew near for the Hué City Memorial, I began having second thoughts about attending. My participation in that battle was purely vicarious and made only from a barstool at the Basic School. I was a spectator watching the events unfold on the news.

When I joined 2/5 in August of 1968 I was aware that Golf Company had been one of the key participants and distinguished themselves in the retaking of that city from the enemy.

As welcome as everyone had made me feel up until then, I began having doubts and feelings that I might be skating on thin ice. Since I had not participated in this battle I did not know many of the names of the Marines who fought there, or who died there, and I had no knowledge of the terrain on which the battle was fought, nor the logistics and weapons available to the combatants.

Early in April, I purchased a book entitled "Phase Line Green". The ghastly horror of that battle described in the pages of that book made me more certain that I should not infringe upon this event. "Phase Line Green" left me with the impression that the Marines who fell in Hué City were sanctified; and, those who lived to fight again had honored all Marines. Outsiders did not deserve to trod through the memories of these steadfast heroes, nor should they be allowed to trivialize those to be remembered at this Event.

I spoke of these feelings with Barney and Mike; both assured me that I would not be intruding and that the Memorial was for all Marines. Their kind words, and my desire to reacquaint myself with the Marines of Golf 2/5 won and I told them I would be coming.

Mike Ervin and Mike Copeland met me up at the Jacksonville Airport. This was the first time I had been back to Jacksonville since I graduated from Aviation Ordinance School in the fall of 1966, and nothing looked the same. They escorted me to their campsite where I enjoyed a remarkable evening with them, Bob Setlak and their wives.

The graciousness of this special group warmed my heart and inspired an outpouring of friendship from myself, and the Marines and their families. I became a member of each family from the time that I was met at the airport, until the time that Mike Ervin delivered me back to the airport the following Monday.

The following day (Friday) I spent working in my hotel room, and reflecting on my emotions from the events of the pre-

vious evening. That evening I met the rest of our group at the "Meet & Greet" at the Club on base; again, I was apprehensive. We arrived early, and I had no idea of what to expect and I hurriedly ordered a double Brandy! My misgivings were cut short before the Brandy could kick in. I was unexpectedly smothered with well wishes, warm greetings, hugs and several kisses all from Marines that I had known for less than 40 days. I sat there awestruck, as never had I expected such kind acceptance. Following the "Meet and Greet" several of us ended the evening with chow at a Golden Corral Restaurant; I found myself thinking, "hmmm these boys like to chow down too!"

Saturday I went aboard the Mayport Naval Base about 1100 hours and joined in on the picnic that was being catered by the crew of the SS Hué City. They are a splendid group of young men and women who proudly serve our Navy. We all enjoyed chatting with the crew. Following their round of golf, the "duffers" slowly made their way from the golf course to the picnic and a good time was enjoyed by all.

That afternoon I discovered that several of the men characterized in the "Book Phase Line Green", were in attendance at the picnic. I felt honored to have been given the opportunity to meet and chat with these remarkable Marines.

Later that afternoon I toured the ship. The weapons, tactics, and capabilities of this ship go beyond imagination. In an unwelcome realization I found that getting around on this vessel was far more challenging than when I had been chauffeured by the Navy on an AKA and LST many years before. (HMMMmmm ... "I don't recall those ladders being so steep and narrow, and the hatches so tiny!")



**L to R—Kneeling: Barney Barnes, Joe Rowe, Mike Copeland, Mike Stallings, Joe Snead & Bob Setlack**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Bill & Reba Rogers, Mona Barnes, J. Field, Janice Rowe, Wanda Copeland, Cheryl Stallings, Pat Ervin, Kathy Snead & LeeAnn Setlak**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Mary and Dick Lahan, Sheila and Buck Dyer, Maureen & John Boiros, M. Ervin, Sue Warner-Bean, Jon Espenes, Erin Belt, Les Tully, Chuck Meadows & Ramona Grogan**

On Saturday evening we again gathered for chow in a local restaurant. Most of our group sat in the outside dining area, and I was privileged to sit with Lt Rogers, his new bride. The highlight of that evening was singing Amazing Grace with the sisters (Sue and Cindy) of our fallen brothers.

Following dinner our group congregated at the Bar and swimming pool in the hotel where most of our group was billeted and closed the evening with drinks, merriment, and other buffoonery. Shortly before the end of the evening, the "Rose" lady appeared with her wares, and I couldn't resist spending some bucks on our ladies. All of the wives that I met, including

Sue and Cindy, were most precious, loving and caring. Our Golf 2/5 Marines did well uniting with these remarkable ladies!

With respect to my fellow Officers, and the events that followed dinner, I found Col Meadows to be one of the quieter members of our group (I must work on that at our next meeting), and as for our Lt. Rogers – Well . . . I have decided that could get into a lot of trouble hanging out with him!

The following morning Sunday May 13th, 2007 we awoke to overcast, rain-threatening skies. I joined the rest of our group for coffee before heading out to attend the Memorial Service. Around 0930 hours our group caravanned to the Navy Base, only to find that the Service was moved into a hanger because of the impending weather.

The first thing that I noticed was how appropriately our group was dressed for this occasion. Nearly all in Golf 2/5 wore a coat and tie, we were an impressively good looking and well mannered band-of-brothers. Regretfully many of the other participants had on golf or "T" shirts and I thought to myself, how honored to be here with our Golf 2/5 Marines. The solemn demeanor and reverent behavior of these Men and their families clearly indicated to all present that they were here to honor those who have gone before us, and to reflect upon blessings and the times that they had shared while in harm's way.

It was certainly a very difficult time for the Marines and family members who lost friends and brothers in Hué City. Being there with the survivors of that battle, with their wives and friends, and with the families who lost loved ones in Hué, stirred sincere feelings of warmth, happiness, and heartfelt contentment shared not only by the Marines, but by all who attended the Memorial Service. When the band play "Eternal Father" there were few dry eyes. I only pray that our fallen brothers know that we, the Marines of Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, have never forgotten their service and the sacrifices they made for America.

Following the Tribute, our hosts, the crew of the USS Hué City, offered an elegant brunch for those attending the Service. Group pictures and a few final chats with old friends were taking place everywhere I looked. A while later I observed the crew mingling with the Marines of Golf 2/5. The rest of the attendees must have weighed anchor.

Looking to the events of that day, it is clear in my mind who really took back the City of Hué from the North Vietnamese. They did not talk much about the battles; instead they spoke of their friends, their families, and recollections of the good times that they had shared, remembering always their absent brothers.

I find it difficult to express my emotions, the sense of honor and the feelings of gratitude that I brought home. This is truly a momentous event. For those who have never attended, I would strongly urge you to join us next year. To the Marines of Golf 2/5, to their wives, their friends, and to the families of our fallen Marines all I can say is "thank you" for sharing this occasion with me.



May God continue to bless each of you, may God hold each of those whom we honored in his loving arms, and may he continue to bless our great country and our beloved Marine Corps.

Semper Fi

Olav Jon Espenes

1/Lt – USMC Retired, G2/5 – An Hoa 1968

### My Wonderful 2nd Experience at the Hué Memorial

*by Cindy K. Humphrey - proud sister of  
PFC Gerald C. Kinny—KIA Hué 1-31-68*

This year's Hué Memorial experience left me with the most overwhelming sense of pride and love for my big brother, Jerry, and my new "extended family" of Golf 2/5!

On Friday morning, as I came down the steps of the Comfort Inn and headed to the lobby for breakfast, I felt exactly as I had felt as a child running to the Christmas tree to see what Santa had left for me! I was so excited and anxious to see who would be at breakfast and could not wait to greet them! I felt this way with every event from that morning on.



**Lynne Pace, Cindy Humphrey and Gen. Pace  
At Gen. Pace Retirement Reception (file photo from JCS Link)**

The following days have made me wonder how it would be if Jerry had not died at Hué. Would I have gone to the Memorial with him and his family to bestow my honor and appreciation to him and to all of you? I think I would have! I truly believe Jerry is looking down on me and all of his Golf 2/5 "Band of Brothers"; and I know he is quite pleased and proud of our new relationship! Truly he must have had a guiding hand in leading me to all of you so he could show off who he spent his last days with! The time we all spend together allows Jerry a chance to brag to me about all of you and his experience as a Marine. Through all of you, I get to know my brother better and feel I am spending time with him also.

*Cindy K. Humphrey*

### Hué Memorial Weekend

*by Sue Warner-Bean*

Dear Brothers (and sisters!),

What's better than attending the Hué Memorial weekend? Attending it for the second time! What a rich, humbling, and wonderful three days.

First and foremost there's the joy of seeing old friends and making new ones. When I checked the sign-in roster at the Comfort Inn I felt like a kid at Christmas! It was great to catch up with you all, a joy to hear about your lives and families, and an honor to hear your stories. Thank you especially to those who shared wartime memories and experiences. It is a real gift to be given that kind of window into your lives. I just wish we'd had a whole month to talk instead of just two days!

Several things made this year's reunion particularly memorable for me. First, my sister Marci Williams attended for the first time. Watching you welcome her into the Golf 2/5 family was almost better than being welcomed myself! Second, we had the wonderful surprise of talking with several veterans who remember our brother David. Those memories are a gift too meaningful for words.

At the Friday night reception at Bogey's our G2/5 family honored Cindy Humphrey, Marci and me – the Three Sisters – with beautiful gifts in memory of our brothers: bead necklaces patterned after the Vietnam Service Medal ribbon. It was an unexpected and very moving gesture, and I have been wearing mine proudly as a reminder not just of David, but of *all* my brothers. Thank you so much! (And to the one who's responsible – you know who you are – extra special thanks!)

Finally, to all of you – I am grateful to each and every one of you for making me feel so welcome. I can imagine that some groups might not know quite what to do with a stray sister, someone who's neither a veteran nor a veteran's wife. Not the Golf 2/5 group! You've included me as part of your family – and that means more than I can ever tell you. My brother was proud to serve with you and I'm proud to know you today. You folks are the BEST, and I look forward to joining you again in 2008.

With gratitude, respect and affection,

*And to this, I will say it for Jerry: "Semper Fi"*

Sue,

**From: *The Messy Desk Of The Secretary Treasurer*  
by Rick Mack**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters from your long lost and sickly "keeper of notes and holder of currency". I wish to offer all of you at this time my sincere apology for not submitting anything in the past few newsletters. I can assure you that it was not done intentionally but rather due to various inconveniences that unexpectedly would pop up and illnesses in the family to include myself which just had to take place during the time when our newsletters were being put together. In any case I do hope that you will forgive me for dropping the ball somewhat here.

My gosh, let me see now, where do I begin and I promise that I will try not to bore any of you even though I know you



would lend me an ear out of the kindness of your heart. I would like to add here that all of my contact information is up to date on both the web site and on our newsletters so if any of you need to reach me in an emergency the info you have is good to go. That goes for physical address, email and phone number(s). I have "unlimited service" on my telee so we can make it on my dime if need be and I can call you right back.

Our numbers for dues paying members this year (2007) are "FAR" below the norm with a total of sixty-one (61) at this writing. This is down approximately 50% from last year as I know that our numbers for '06 were somewhere close to 130. I can assure you that I send out at least 200 – 250 notices each year and there is always at least five or less that are returned with no forwarding address and where the rest have gone is beyond my knowledge but they are not returned to me. So if you are close to or speak with another of our member(s) on a basis of some kind you may want to ask them if they remembered to submit their dues for the current year the next time you speak with them. There are times when we forget or misplace the notice and this may surely help us as opposed to hurting our numbers. Without having the exact numbers in front of me I do know that in the past three years we have gone from 167 to 130 and now to an extreme low number of 61. To those who have submitted their dues along with taking an extra step no matter how big or small I wish to express my thanks for what you have done for our association through your actions.

Though our numbers have dropped considerably we did gain a few new members and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome aboard the following: Ed Kirkham, Clyde Mock and Daniel Moore. Ed Kirkham is the father of Doc Kirkham who gave the ultimate sacrifice while going to the aide of our Marines in Hué City. A small tribute to him can be seen on his BIO on our Lest We Forget page on the website. Speaking of the web site I would like to thank both Tom Hohmann and Tony Carlidge for all they have done while working together along with myself for the betterment of the site down the road. We have quite a ways to go yet and a lot of work to do but in the long run we hope to have it dressed up and looking smartly. Between the three of us and all we have going on and being spread about the country we are doing the best we can as time permits. If any of you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact any one of us with your input as it is always welcomed. Thanks Guys.

While I am at the "thank you" podium I would also like to thank all of the officers here as well as the general membership for putting up with my tardiness and inabilities throughout the past during my bouts with medical problems and family situations that took me away from the performance of my duties at various times. I have always considered it an honor and a privilege to be given the opportunity to serve you and our association and yet there have been times when other demands and medical problems took precedence over my duties or I may not have been here to continue on and if anyone is dissatisfied with my service then I would gladly step aside and hand you the keys. In the meantime I will give you all, the best that I have to offer as time and health permits. Never in my life did I ever think I would see the days when I would have to quit working, slow down and live on medications. It's hell getting old – it is for sure. Other than that I will continue to give you my best.

With regards to the following numbers I am submitting I would like to simply add that I do not necessarily go by a fiscal year to include dates such as January 1 to December 31. The below figures are from March 2006 to present.

PLEASE NOTE:

- News letter figures "include" both cost for print & postage.
- This report does not include the cost of this newsletter.
- Supplies include paper, envelopes, printer ink etc.

Newsletters	\$812.29
2006 Reunion Expenses	\$1,300.00
Reunion Income:	\$1,801.00
Contributions	\$200.00
Postage ('07 Dues Notices)	\$78.00
Supplies	\$76.42
Current Balance	\$1,597.11

As a general rule our balance should be in the vicinity of anywhere between \$2,300.00 to \$2,500.00 at this time of the year but with us currently down with dues paying members at only sixty-one you can see the difference. If any of you have any questions at all concerning these figures please feel free to contact me.

It really concerns me that our numbers are down as much as they are this year and I can only hope and pray that it was not because of any wrong doing on my part as I give all of you everything I possibly can and there are times when I feel as though I have slipped and dropped the ball. To all of those that have indeed sent in their dues for '07 I thank you for your continued support.

Please remember to keep our troops around the globe in your thoughts and prayers and a thank you goes out to our own General Peter Pace who gave it his all for so many many years and is about to leave the battlefields. Thank you General for your service to our country. You have made us all proud.

I hope that this newsletter finds all of you in the very best of health and spirits and may God bless and watch over you all.

Semper Fi  
Rick Mack

**SENTINELS OF FREEDOM**

In the quest to find an appropriate retirement gift for General & Mrs. Pace, their public relations officer, Col. Haddock, turned the Golf 2/5 Association officers onto something quite unique: Sentinels of Freedom (SOF). The organization was founded by Mike Conklin who has seen his 3 sons enter combat since 1990 with the youngest returning to "the world" as a disabled veteran. Seeing first hand the struggles these warfighters face, even in a friendly environment, Mr. Conklin began setting into motion what is now the epitome of civic action where many severally disabled veterans find reason to hope for a budding future. An example of this can be found at:

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/94331>

SOF is unique insofar as it places Attitude above Aptitude: if a disabled warfighter wants to move on with his life, SOF is a means to an end. For those individuals accepted as "Sentinels",

SOF provides a 4-year scholarship commitment in two separate areas: education or training. SOF finds sources for free housing, free transportation if required, free furniture, mentors, employment opportunities. Whatever it takes to fully support the Sentinel during their scholarship period.

And this is where we come in. Other than the Association's initial \$1000 gift, several members have chosen to continue donating. We, as Vietnam Veterans, should fully understand the need to support our warfighters even if Vietnam-era America stood by and was ambivalent to ours. In fact, that should be the catalyst which motivates us to become involved. They need us as much as we need them! Remember, Freedom isn't free. It comes at a cost!

For more information about SOF, go to their website at [www.sentinelsoffreedom.org](http://www.sentinelsoffreedom.org). Donations are readily accepted via snail mail as well as electronically.

The following names were the (initial) participants in helping offset the expenditure: Tommy Jayjack, John Rearick, Jon Espenes, The Rebecca Witt Larkin Family, Cindy Humphrey, Sue Warner-Bean, John 'Doc' Higgins, Chuck Meadows, Steve Hancock, Bill Rogers, Barney Barnes, Joe Snead, Tony Cartlidge, George Doucette, Mike Copeland, Mike Stallings, Bob Setlak, Jim Lewis and Mike Ervin. The Association recovered the \$1000 donation and was pleased to be able to forward additional \$\$ donated to SOF. The Association salutes all of you for your support. Furthermore, many of the same supporters have opted to continue funding SOF. If you would like to join them, please contact Mike Ervin for information at 304-728-0189 and/or email him at [pandmervin@comcast.net](mailto:pandmervin@comcast.net).

Mike Ervin, Vice President Golf 2/5 Association

### **Reunited State**

*(for the Marines of Golf 2/5 and the veterans of Hué City)*

*It is a paradox of war  
With which each man contends:  
You take the lives of enemies,  
But give your life for friends.  
So it takes a quiet courage  
For some men to carry on  
When those friends aren't there beside them  
And the enemy is gone.*

*Some have shared their journeys,  
Some have walked alone,  
Some have harbored secret pains  
That only they have known.  
Some have told their stories,  
Some don't want to tell,  
Some have gone to heaven,  
Some still live in hell.*

*You're bound by blood and memories,  
Some shared and some unspoken;  
The bonds forged in the heat of fire  
Are bonds that can't be broken.  
Though forty years have come and gone*

*You find that it's still true:  
That part of you belongs to them,  
And they belong to you.*

*So now you gather every year,  
And every year more come  
To talk about the boys you were  
And the men you have become,  
A reunited brotherhood  
Of tenderness and steel,  
And each one serves the other  
As you laugh and cry and heal.*

*Miles away and years ago,  
Your lives were joined by fate.  
Brothers then, you're brothers still  
In reunited state.*

- Sue Warner-Bean – June 4, 2007

### **The Want of Some and the Love of Many**

**By Mike Ervin**

1300, 30Sep07, 110 Grant Avenue, Ft. Myer, Virginia: General and Mrs. Pace open their backyard to approximately 120 friends, family, and guests of special interest. The event was punctuated by the Golf 2/5 Association presenting Mrs. Lynne Pace with a framed floral print and a book by the same artist. These gifts were in recognition for the \$1000 donation made in her name to a special foundation: Sentinels of Freedom (SOF). Both the General and Mrs. Pace highly recommend SOF. For more information on how our donation is being utilized, please visit: [www.sentinelsoffreedom.org](http://www.sentinelsoffreedom.org).

The following list of names include all known members of the Golf 2/5 family who attended this gathering and/or the formal retirement ceremony: Mr. & Mrs. Barney Barnes, Mr. & Mrs. John Barrios, Sue Warner-Bean, Mr. & Mrs. Doug Blayney, Mr. & Mrs. Tony Cartlidge, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Copeland, Mr. & Mrs. George Doucette, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Ervin, Jon Espenes, Bob Gross & Son, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Hancock & Daughter, John 'Doc' Higgins, Cindy Humphrey, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Jones, (Witt Guest) the Rebecca Witt Larkin Family, (Witt Guest) Mr. & Mrs. Ed Link, Chuck Meadows & Daughter, Bennie 'Doc' Poague, Ron Rawlings, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Rogers, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Rowe, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Setlak, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Snead, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Stallings, Terri Studenny, Billy Tant w/Sister & Friend, Lester Tully, Reid Zachary & Fiancée (Jeanette).



**Front Row: Joe Rowe & Bob Setlack**  
**2nd: Joe Snead, Barney Barnes, Billy Tant, General Pace, Bill Rogers**  
**3rd: Benny "Doc" Poague, George "Deuce" Doucette, Mike Stallings Col**  
**Chuck Meadows, Steve Hancock, Tony C.**  
**4th: Jon Espenes, Ron Rawlings, Bob Lauver, John "Doc" Higgins,**  
**Jim Lewis, Mike Ervin**  
**Last Row: Sgt. Major Reid Zachary, Lester Tully**

1100, 01Oct07, – Summerall Field, Ft. Myer, Virginia – The main cast of characters were present: The President of the United States, Vice President, the SOD, the former SOD, General & Mrs. Pace and family, Admiral & Mrs. Mullen & family, volumes of Secret Service agents, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, a platoon from each branch of the service, the President's Own, the United States Navy Band, about a 1000 guest, not to mention the demonstrators outside the gate on Arlington Boulevard.

The first URL below is comments made by Mr. Bush and Mr. Gates at the ceremony.  
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=47643> .

The URL below is the comments made by General Pace.  
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=47642> .

The URL below is the comments made by the incoming Chairman, Admiral Mullen, to General Pace:  
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=47637> .

The last URL is Admiral Mullen's address to our Armed Forces and their families:  
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=47639> .

General Pace ended his 40 year military career speaking the same words and names he has spoken for the last 39 years: Guido Farinano, Whitey Travers, Freddy Williams, Chubby Hale, Mike Witt, Little Joe Arnold. Later, on 01Oct07, someone would find a small card with 4 silver stars attached placed at The Wall. It was addressed to Guido Farinano and said, "These are yours – not mine. With love and respect, your Platoon Commander, Peter Pace."

Mike Ervin, VP - G 2/5 Assn.



**Gen. Peter Pace, Mrs. Lynne Pace and President Bush**  
**At Gen. Pace's Retirement Ceremony (file photo from JCS Link)**

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

My cousin, Kathy McLendon, 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](mailto: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. There's only about 9 months until the next reunion. I've been making this request ever since the last reunion at Myrtle Beach in Sept. 2006 in every newsletter. So far she's received two tee shirts—a long way from the 12 she needs. Given that the Association is in serious need of cash, the raffle of the quilt at the last reunion netted about \$1,500 so please take the time to mail an old USMC tee shirt to Kathy. And finally, 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...!*

*Sgt. William E. Adams                      KIA 2/26/68*  
*Cpl. Michael D. Hale                        KIA 8/18/68*  
*L/Cpl. Thomas O. Jimenez                KIA 7/30/68*

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

*In Our Thoughts and Prayers . . .*

- **Hector Quintana** — The son of Hector “the Mighty Quinn” Quintana advised some of the officers that Hector passed away in mid-November. Hector was laid to rest and the National Cemetery at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. Hector’s son is a Major in the USMC.  
*On behalf of the Golf 2/5 Association, I would like to extend our sincere sympathies to Major Quintana and the family of Hector Quintana—may he rest in peace—the editor*

**Upcoming Formations**

- **G 2/5 Reunion – 2008 from Jack O’Rourke**  
 I’ve tentatively scheduled the first week after Labor Day, Sept 7th to the 11th. Our base will be the Plaza Hotel at the west end of the Fremont Experience. Rates will be in the 45 to 50.00 range.
  - 9-7—check-in. If you want to play golf at Nellis AFB. Green fee is \$45.00
  - 9-8—Golf and free time to wander.
  - 9-9—leave the hotel about 0830 and go to Boulder Dam for a 2 hour tour. Go to Lake Meade Cruises for a cruise and lunch aboard the Desert Princess. On the way back to the hotel we’ll stop at the Chocolate factory. Return about 4 pm.
  - 9-10—leave the hotel about 1000 for a tour of Nellis AFB and a tentative briefing with The Thunderbirds. Lunch at either the Staff NCO or O Club. Return to the hotel and have our business meeting around 1500.
  - We’ll have a buffet dinner and party at the Marine League between 1800 to 2200.
  - 9-11—departure.

To go anywhere, we will need transportation. That will be an expense. Here's a breakdown:

Golf	\$45.00
Dam Tour	\$83.00
Tour to Nellis and lunch	\$25.00
Dinner at MCL	\$31.00 (includes bus ride)
Total	\$139.00 (without golf)

The room rates are only \$30.00 a night. The Plaza is not a 5 Star but its right at the west end of the Fremont Experience. The rooms are as nice as the ones in Myrtle Beach. The 3rd Mar Div held its reunion there this last June. We’ll be able to sit down and do it in one shift. There were about 300 people at their party.

Everyone will love our League. We have a museum in our hall.

I hope this is useful, Larry.

SEMPER FI, Captjack

- **40th Anniversary Trip to the Nam and Hué City**  
**From Chuck Meadows:** Hi Barney ... Wanted to pass this email from Ed Garr (dear friend of mine who is with Military Historical Tours) to you for your info. I have been back to Vietnam twice with this group. The last time in 1998 for the 30th anniversary tour. LtGen Ron Christmas will definitely be the host for this trip. As Ed Garr mentions, there will be media coverage ... to include and DoD and US Navy media film crew along to record the trip and interview participants for the purposes of historical preservation. This is an added incentive for our Golf brothers to participate. I do not know if General Pete Pace will be a participant on this one.

The dates of the tour are 16-29 February 2008, and the cost is \$2,995 (includes all transportation and food and lodging and fees). Please check out their web site: [www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com). Anyway, maybe you might think this is enough info to pass along to the Golf email list. I would certainly entertain the thought of going on this trip if some of the brothers wanted to participate.

Let me know ... S/F ... Chuck

Chuck, A DOD and US Navy media film crew has inquired about the possibility of accompanying us on the Hué City tour for the purposes of filming the streets where the battle occurred and to interview participants for the purposes of historical preservation.

I have made the necessary inquiries with Vietnam last night to see what requirements our DOD must comply with.

We discussed you coming along with us last month and since you were a key player south of the Perfume I need for you to round up Golf Co 2/5 to make the trek to Vietnam with MHT.

Bob Laramy will be coming and to my understanding Gen. Ron Christmas will possibly be the host.

Please let me know if you can make some phone calls or if you have mail listing we can send out a mailer under your signature to those you think might be interested in coming with us

S/F  
 Gy. (Ed Garr)

## Roll Call

- **John “Doc” Higgins**—reports he’s been in contact for the past few months with the parents of Doc Donald Kirkham (KIA, 31 Jan '68). They really want to hear from anyone who remembers their son. Doc also says that when his parents got Donald's personal effects, his camera was missing. They have no pictures from Vietnam or of their son in Vietnam. If you have any photos of Doc Kirkham or would like to contact the Kirkham's, please email Mr. Kirkham at: [edk@we.rr.com](mailto:edk@we.rr.com) or Mrs. Kirkham at [akikham@wi.rr.com](mailto:akikham@wi.rr.com).  
*On behalf of the Golf 2/5 Association, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Ed and Arline Kirkham to the Golf 2/5 family---the editor.*

## Updated E-Mail Addresses & Change of Address

To All on Email. So far we have had great success in getting out our information to the membership concerning any and all Golf activities. Many have requested additional information, including current items not always covered in the Main Stream Media (MSM). To those who would like more information in their mail box on other items mostly on Veterans issues just let us know.

The one and really only problem we are having is when people change their email address or fail to at least empty their in-box occasionally. This can cause mail to be returned unread, and things of importance to be missed by recipients. So **Please** if you change your email address or are going on Vacation let me know so I can make the adjustment. Going on Vacation I will remove you from the list until requested by you to put you back on (after you return). For those changing email, let me know in advance your new email and I will make the change as soon as I am notified, so you do not miss anything. If you wish to share items with other Golf members, it should have a verifiable source (link to the source) so it can be validated. Many emails sent for sharing cannot be validated, and with all the disinformation, and Hoaxes floating around its not a good idea to pass those along. Also with the assistance of Tom Hohmann, and Rick Mack we are able to make your email change on the membership page, so others looking for you can get in touch. With a bad address they will not be able to make that contact.

V/R S/F Tony C. Comm officer G 2/5 Assoc.

Tony C. ([USMC-Vietnam-Grunt@att.net](mailto:USMC-Vietnam-Grunt@att.net))

Also, please let me ([LSO.vngrunt@yahoo.com](mailto:LSO.vngrunt@yahoo.com)), and Rick Mack ([semiauto@netins.net](mailto:semiauto@netins.net)) if you change your mailing address so we can keep you up to date on G 2/5 news!

*the editor*

## Golf 2/5 Website Address

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

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E-Mail: [USMC-Vietnam-Grunt@att.net](mailto:USMC-Vietnam-Grunt@att.net)

**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**