



GOLF COMPANY 2ND BATTALION 5TH MARINES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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

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Editor Comments by Larry Ortiz

I hope this first issue of the Golf 2/5 Newsletter for 2006 finds all our *Band of Brothers*, their families and loved ones in good health and good spirits.

The major news event for this issue is the Hué City Memorial held in April this year and as in the past, our Association President and *Hué City Memorial Correspondent*, Barney Barnes has provided an eloquent write-up of that event. As Barney explains, some of the family members of a couple of Golf's Hué City KIAs attended and were warmly received by the crew of the USS Hué City and the Golf 2/5 vets who attended the Memorial. We're fortunate to have some write-ups from these family members who have been gracious enough to share their thoughts and feelings with us about their experience.



Sue Warner-Bean & Jeff Bean
At Hué City Memorial

Also in this issue, Vince Montoro, our 2006 Reunion chairman, provides us with an update on the arrangements for our forthcoming bi-annual Golf 2/5 reunion to be held at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina from Wednesday 20 September 06 through Sunday 24 September 2006. We hope as many of our vets as possible make an effort to attend. It's always a great time to visit with those whom you shared life and death experiences and to renew the bonds forged under those most difficult situations.

As I work on this issue of the Newsletter, it's been nine months already since I've been in Paris—hard to believe. Melba and our little dog joined me in January and both have settled into the Paris life style very well. Still a lot to learn with a new job but being here has provided a good opportunity to visit and explore so many things I've only read about in books. The history of Europe and France since both were first settled is one of one war after another. So for someone who enjoys history, like me, it's been very interesting. We've had the opportunity to visit

several battlefields from both the First and Second World Wars such as Chateau Thierry and Belleau Wood (both major WWI battles) that involved U.S. Marines (2/5 participated in these battles). In fact, Belleau Wood was where the Germans christened the Marines with the name of *Devil Dogs* because of their courage and tenacity in attacking the Germans in their well built and heavily armed defensive positions while the Marines attacked head-on and after several attempts drove the Germans out of Belleau Wood unfortunately at a high cost in Marine lives.

On this trip we had the opportunity to visit one of the U. S. Cemeteries in the area that is beautifully maintained by the United States. There is a U. S. caretaker in charge of maintaining the cemetery and in a couple of minutes after talking to this man, he was able to find in his database the exact cemetery and plot where Melba's uncle is buried. Her uncle was killed in WWII on Aug. 27, 1944 after D-Day. No one in her family ever knew exactly where he was buried and within two minutes of asking the question, we had the exact location—amazing! Melba never knew her uncle as he had been killed before she was born but it was still an emotional experience to find out those details. We found out he is buried in St. James Cemetery near Brittany which is in the area of the D-Day landings at Normandy.

Speaking of Normandy, we had an opportunity to visit there recently and visited Utah Beach and Pointe du Hoc which is an area right between Utah and Omaha Beaches. "It was a nearly 100-meter-high cliff, with perpendicular sides jutting out into the Channel. There were six 155mm cannon in heavily reinforced concrete bunkers that were capable of hitting either beach with their big shells. On the outermost edge of the cliff, the Germans had an elaborate, well-protected outpost, where the spotters had a perfect view and could call back coordinates to the gunners at the 155s" (*From "World War II History Info" home page*). Two-hundred twenty-five Army Rangers scaled the cliffs on their objective to knock out the big guns. When they made it to the top of the cliff they found that the guns had been moved because of the heavy air and naval bombardment of this German position prior to D-Day.

The Rangers continued with their mission and found 5 of the 6 guns about a mile back from the beach—undefended! All 5 guns were destroyed by the Rangers with thermite grenades. Later, the Rangers found the ammo dump for the guns which was also undefended and destroyed that as well. Later the 6th gun was also found and destroyed.

The Rangers had to hold out for 2½ days after they landed before they were reinforced. Of the 225 Rangers on the mission there were 135 casualties with 80 KIAs. An incredible accom-

plishment at a high cost—reminds me of the first couple of days in Hué City.

The area, I'm not sure how large an area, around Pointe du Hoc has actually been given to the U. S. by France to maintain as a memorial. The German bunkers and some of the enormous craters from the continual and heavy bombardment of this area by Allied planes and naval guns still looks like a "moonscape" very much the same as it did after Pointe du Hoc was taken 60 plus years ago. It was an incredibly fortified German position with some of the reinforced concrete walls and roofs of the bunkers about 8 to 10 ft. thick. Quite an emotional experience especially when you can relate to their experience on a personal basis having gone through something similar in *the Nam* in general and Hué City in particular.

We hope to be able to explore Normandy and the D-Day Beaches in more detail in the near future and find the cemetery where Melba's uncle is buried.

I'm finally back on line and can be reached at the following email address: LSO.vngrunt@yahoo.com. If you have any news items you think would be of interest to the G 2/5 Association or for the Newsletter or just want to say hi, please email me.

One last piece of "big" news, Golf Company's own Lt. Bill Rogers, my first platoon commander in *the Nam*, was recently married—for the first time! Bill reports, "My 87 year old father performed the ceremony here in Earle." Bill sent me some photos that are included in the newsletter and also reports, "Needless to say, my getting married sent shock waves throughout Eastern Arkansas."



Bill & Reba Rogers
Wedding Day, 21 February 2006

I got a good laugh after I read that but thought he was a little modest. I'm sure Bill's nuptials sent shock waves at least throughout the whole of the Eastern US if not throughout the whole country ☺! With all sincerity, I, and on behalf of the Golf 2/5 Association offer our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to our friend Bill and his lovely wife Reba and wish them many many years of happiness!

Semper Fi,

Larry S. Ortiz

Hué City Memorial Report – Barney Barnes

Greeting Marines,

I trust this beautiful Spring finds y'all well and in good spirits. After a week of temps in the mid 90's, I do believe that old Mother Nature just did away with Spring here in Oklahoma and

went right into Summer. If so, it's going to be a "Long Hot Summer!"

With the HUÉ CITY MEMORIAL WEEKEND only two weeks removed as this is written, **I would like to dedicate this Newsletter to SUE WARNER-BEAN & CINDY HUMPHREY and to the memory of their brothers, DAVID WARNER & GERALD KINNY.** It would be remiss of me, if I didn't also dedicate this Newsletter to the rest of those gentle heroes who paid the supreme price in Hué, CLYDE CARTER, ALPHONSO HOLMON, HORRACE HOWARD, DONALD KIRKHAM, GLEN LUCAS, JOHN WINTER,, JOHN ROWDEN, TONY THREEET, EDDIE HARRIS, JOHN LEWIS, ALBERT DANDRIDGE, RAMON JUARDO, PAUL STASKO, RON KUSTABORDER, BILL ADAMS, ALLEN MCCALL, BOB MURPHY, and JOE SINKEWICZ.

It's been 38 years now and I still think of those guys almost daily. Who knows what they might have accomplished in life, the families they might have had, the lives they might have led. As a survivor I know, but for the grace of GOD. I believe it is our solemn duty to always remember the courage, bravery, honor and dedication displayed by these young heroes as they laid down their lives for their fellow Marines. Their sacrifice's cannot and should not be forgotten.

The annual Hué City Memorial Weekend, marking the 38th Anniversary of the battle for Hué City was held on April 7 - 9 at the Mayport Naval Station near Jacksonville, FL. Even though it was again held in April instead of the actual date of the Anniversary, Jan.31, this Memorial Weekend, both in terms of number of attendees and also the participation of the Navy, was one of the better, if not the best of the Memorial Weekend's that the Navy has hosted. And though having it in April, somewhat distracts from the actual date, especially for the Memorial Service, weather wise, you couldn't ask for much better than what we have experienced the last two years. From the "Ice Breaker / Happy Hour" at Bogey's on Friday night till the conclusion of the Memorial Service on Sunday afternoon, the Naval personnel aboard OUR ship, went above and beyond in making us old veterans and our wives feel SPECIAL.

For me, this Memorial Weekend was special because it afforded me the opportunity to finally meet the sisters of two of our KIA Brothers, Sue Warner-Bean sister of David Warner, KIA Feb.17 and Cindy Humphrey, sister of Gerald Kinny, KIA Jan.31. It was indeed an honor and a privilege meeting and getting to know these fine ladies over the course of the weekend. It is my sincere hope that this weekend offered the both of them some semblance of not only closure, but also the feeling of true care and concern that we, the Golf 2/5 Family, hold for not only them, but the family members of all of our Brothers lost in that hell known as "The Nam." I might also add that Sue has further endeared herself to us by the song that she wrote, sang, recorded and dedicated to us, "You Were There."

Sue went above & beyond in doing that and I told her that to the best of my knowledge, no one has ever honored us like that. And while she goes out of the way to let us know she is not a singer, one listen to the soulful and heartfelt words as they are delivered by her, pretty much dispels that thought. It's the real deal! "HUÉ" to go Sue...Thank You!! I have asked Larry to include the words of Sue's tribute to us in this newsletter.

This Memorial Weekend was also a chance for us old-timers to meet and get to know some of our brothers attending a Golf

2/5 function for the first time. Those making their first appearance after all these years were Richard "Pete" Peterson, who was the Skipper's radio Man in Hué City. Pete attended with his wife Ruth and brought his photo album along from Hué for us to look at. Thanks Pete, it's always nice to journey back in time through conversation and looking at photos. Jim Wagner (AKA Waggs) who was part of the 1/5 BLT and worked out of the Navy Boat Ramp in Hué City was present as well. Jim is the Marine who has shared with us many, many photos of Hué that most of us have never seen before. Thanks Jim.

It was really great to meet and talked to Jeff Bean, Sue's husband, who accompanied her to Jacksonville along with the Skipper, who much to our great surprise brought along his twin brother Jim. Seems as if this caught most of us completely off guard, for most of us never knew the Skipper had a brother, let alone a twin brother at that. I hope that Jim had a good time "hangin'" out" with us Grunts and will make more of our functions in the future.

The Memorial Service on Sunday was, as it always should be, the highlight of the weekend. Captain Peter Grause and the Navy added some just-right touches that really added to the Service such as escorting the ladies in attendance to their seats by the crew of our ship and also if I'm not mistaken, all of our ships company attended the Memorial service in their "Dress Whites" which really added to the ceremony.

This year's guest speaker was again Col. Myron Harrington Jr., the former CO of Delta 1/5. There was also a large contingent of Vietnamese representing The Hué Association, whose president, Mr. Thai Ty spoke of the sincere "Thanks" that his people have for all the Marines, Navy, and Army personnel who helped liberate their city. But it was Col. Harrington's remarks that really set the tone for the service. If I may, I would like to present a short excerpt of his heart rendering speech:

"Before I go into my remarks I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize two special ladies, sisters of two of our fallen Marine heroes from the battle. Sue Warner-Bean, sister of David Warner, KIA on February 17th and Cyndy Huhphrey, whose brother, Gerald Kinny was KIA on Jan.31st. Both of these gallant Marines served with Colonel Meadows in Golf Company 2/5. Thank you for the honor of your presence with us today.

This weekend, this Memorial Service and especially the opportunity to be in the company of the real heroes of the battle of Hué City has been inspiring. For us, to be together, a group of ordinary men who when called upon did extraordinary things, men who went through some of the most difficult and challenging times in Vietnam, is wonderful. This weekend has provided us with a renewal of our spirits, has fed our souls, it has caused us to stand taller and be extremely proud of our rightful place in Marine Corps history. We have spent time renewing the love and respect we hold for each other, of telling and retelling stories and reminisces of our time together, of sharing our guilt of coming back alive or of how we should or should not have done a certain action and we have talked of and shared memories of our fellow warriors who died in battle. Most importantly this Memorial Service has validated that our humble sacrifice and the ultimate sacrifice of those Marines and Navy Corpsman who fell in Hué was not in vain.

When I remember those who died at Hué and the legion upon legion of warriors who have died throughout our history protecting and preserving our freedom, and who are dying today

for me, for you, and for our country, I am reminded of a poem from WWI by Laurence Binyon which paid tribute to our fallen. I think the words fittingly apply to us today as we think back and remember those who fell at Hué and whose memory we honor today.

"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old, age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn, at the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."

God bless you.

God bless America.

Thank You."

Like I said, very heart rendering...Amen to that!!



(L to R) G 2/5 Golfers: Chuck Meadows, Steve Peitsmeyer, Jim Meadows (Skipper's twin brother), Jeff Bean

Unlike in past years when most of us left shortly after the ceremony on our way back home, a good number of us stayed and extra day and enjoyed a night of "fellowshipping" with great food, stimulating conversation and a little drinking of spirits at the campsite of Mike & Wanda Copeland, who had their fifth wheel camper at the campground right off the beach and located within a few blocks of the Mayport Naval Station. It was a perfect ending to a great weekend. (By the way "Pete", thanks for bringing all that Beer, of course, the next morning, when the local park ranger, sheriff patrol, whatever, showed up at the campsite and informed us that we had been to loud and boisterous the night before, and spotted the three plus cases over by the picnic table . . . little did we know that it was against a city ordinance to have any alcohol in the park. Oh well, we just got a warning and then Mike spent the better part of five to ten minutes telling them all about who we were and what we were doing at the Hué City Memorial Weekend. They had no clue as to how big and how important this event is.)

In closing, I would like to thank all who attended this years Memorial Weekend. I trust that it was enjoyed by all, that your spirits were indeed lifted and that in some way we remembered those who made the supreme sacrifice. And at the end, we can be proud of what we were, what we are and what we will always be...MARINES.

Those attending this years event were: Col. Chuck Meadows & Jim Meadows, Jeff & Sue Warner-Bean, Cyndy Humphrey, Joe & Kathy Snead, Mike & Wanda Copeland, Steve & Julie Peitsmyer, Joe & Janice Rowe, Ron & Ellen Rawlings, Rich & Lisa Durrum, "Pete" & Ruth Peterson, Barney & Mona Barnes, Mike Ervin, Erin Ervin and her fiancé, Dylan, Kevin English,

Bruce Gant, Ron Powers, Glen Freeman, Jesse Lyons, and Jim Wagner.



*(L to R) Ron Rawlings, Steve Peitsmeyer, Kevin English, Rich Durrum, Chuck Meadows, Tony C., Joe Snead
(Kneeling L to R) Mike Ervin, Barney Barnes, Mike Copeland*

Semper Fi, Barney

Hué City Reunion - My Personal Perspective

*by Cindy K. Humphrey - sister of PFC Gerald C. Kinny
killed at Hué City 1-31-68*

Over 2 years ago, while “playing” on my computer I put my brother’s name in on a Google Search, curious to see what information would come up. Much to my amazement, I discovered an article regarding Golf 2/5’s reunion in Hué City, Vietnam. I scrolled down the page and there was my big brother Jerry listed as “Lest we Forget” and “In Memory” thus, I learned he was killed in the Battle at Hué City, Vietnam. I next posted several inquiries, one on Golf 2/5’s website and then a few more on other websites (I am embarrassed to admit it now, but I think I even posted something on an Army website not knowing it was Army – will you new-found brothers ever forgive me?). I received some heartfelt responses, but not from anyone who knew anything about my brother.

In my inflamed curiosity about Jerry, I read several articles on the internet regarding Hué City. After awhile, I got caught up in the daily cycle of life, and never pursued my research any further until I watched a documentary on the Battle of Hué City on the Discovery Station on Veterans’ Day Eve of 2005. I excitedly grabbed pen and paper and jotted down names of commanding officers, planning to once again begin a research project on my computer. Too excited to go to bed and wait for the weekend to begin my research, I posted several inquiries on the computer.

The timing must have been perfect! As you know, Veterans’ Day is November 11th. On 11-13-06, Tony “Limey” Cartridge emailed me to say he would pass the information onto his fellow

Marines. On 11-14-06 Mike Ervin emailed me information as to how to figure out what unit my brother was in by looking at the return address of his letters. I then began an internet relationship with Mike – I pulled out Jerry’s letters home to my Mom. Then I would email Mike information, and he would email me back. Mike emailed me a narrative of his recollection of Hué City.. I read this with great emotion, as I knew my brother was part of this account – the tears suppressed over the years for Jerry began to flow once again.

By 11-21-06, only 10 days after Veteran’s Day, Mike and Tony informed me that they figured out that Chuck Meadows was commander of Jerry’s Golf Company, Chuck had retrieved Jerry after he was hit, and that Chuck let them know that Jerry was in the book “Fire in the Streets” on pages 88-90. On this same date, I received an email from Chuck confirming all this new information; Chuck gave me his phone number and said I was welcome to call him. That weekend, when my son was not home, and with no distractions, I called Chuck. Chuck sounded like such a caring person (which he is!) and recounted the day of 1-31-68. He answered questions I had, and I answered questions he had. When I hung up the phone, I was upset with myself that I did not thank Chuck for risking his life to try to save my brother. Although disappointed my brother was not alive, I was so grateful he did not have to lie in the line of fire for an extended length of time. I was also relieved to know he died instantly and did not lay for any time to suffer until someone came to him. It was also comforting to know someone cared enough about him to risk their life to run to his aide.

The next few months were spent emailing my new friends - I posted a couple of photos in the Golf 2/5 newsletter. Chuck sent me “Fire in the Streets” and I read it, and went on to read two more books about the battle. I received emails from Joe Rowe, Mike Copeland and several others. Some sent pictures which gave me insight into what Jerry’s surroundings would have looked like. Then, Tony and Mike started emailing me about the two upcoming reunions/memorials. I had planned to wait and go to the one in Myrtle Beach this coming September. However, I being rather impatient and quite excited about meeting these guys who gave me insight into my brother’s last months, decided the thing to do would be to attend the reunion in Atlantic Beach, Florida at Mayport Naval Base. This has proved to be the right decision. Three weeks prior to the reunion, Sue Warner-Bean began emailing me, and we became excited with the anticipation of meeting each other at the reunion.

After asking advice on where to fly into, transportation choices from the airport, and where to stay and what to bring to wear – I came to suspect I was to meet a very special bunch of guys. All four (Chuck, Tony, Mike, and Barney) offered transportation to and from the airport. All four suggested the Comfort Inn – they all four mentioned the bar which made me laugh. Tony “Limey” gave me a slight hint of his character when I asked advice on what to wear. Here is an example of Tony’s “what to wear advice” for the picnic: “For the picnic, if you have clothes wear em, bikinis are always appreciated” – I replied back that since I look better in clothes than a bikini, I would wear the clothes. My suspicions of meeting some guys with real character proved true.

A few days before my departure to Florida, I received an email from Barney that he and Mike Ervin would be picking me up at the airport – he sent pictures so I would know what they

looked like. On Friday, April 7th, they proved true to their word and indeed were there to pick me up. We just had to figure out where we were in the airport, which after some confusion of me being in the 2nd floor Ladies' Room, and them waiting outside the 1st floor Ladies' Room, we finally found each other and immediately hugged each other – excited to finally meet in person.

While I was in my room preparing to iron clothes to wear to Bogey's, there was a knock on the door. Normally, I would be cautious about opening the hotel door but felt quite safe in doing so this time. There was Chuck Meadows and Sue-Warner Bean in the flesh! We were all so excited and happy to meet, and of course hugged each other immediately. After swapping cell and room numbers, we set a time to meet for departure to the reception at Bogey's.

The entire weekend proved to be a very emotional one - both sad and happy – a roller coaster of emotions at times. I was amazed at the show of respect and honor put forth by the Navy - from the personnel who showed up to offer transportation, all the way up to Captain Peter Grause and his wife Robine. Each event of the weekend, and the fellowship afterwards with my new-found Golf 2/5 family was absolutely a wonderful time. Visiting with each other at our supper Friday night (meeting Steve Peitsmeyer who remembered Jerry as a "Nice kid . . . a good kid" and meeting Pete Peterson who helped Chuck retrieve Jerry); Saturday supper at Harry's (sharing laughs and Key Lime Pie and hoping for the rain to stop anytime soon – who would want to see the rain ruin Mike Copeland's hairdo?); lunch at Joe's Crab Shack; meeting Joe Rowe and obtaining a new photo of my brother and some stories from Joe and also having him inform me who the others were in a photo sent home by Jerry; and the steak cookout at Mike and Wanda's campsite will be memories I will forever cherish. Not only were the Golf 2/5 guys the greatest I could have met, but their wives were absolutely beautiful inside and out too! I truly believe them in their statement that I have acquired another set of brothers and sisters – for this I am truly blessed.

Aside from wanting to meet my email pals, I had decided to go to the Hué City Reunion/Memorial to honor the sacrifice of my brother and others who did not come home and to honor the survivors of that great battle. I was overcome with emotion at the Memorial Service when the full realization hit me that Sue and I had also been honored for our brothers' sacrifice, and because we cared enough to honor you great soldiers (*she really means "Marines" – the editor*) of Golf 2/5:

- I was shown honor by having a "Marine escort" pick me up at the airport (Barney & Mike).
- I had the honor of Chuck Meadows searching me out with Sue, to meet me before the reception.
- I had the honor of not having introductions completed before someone would exclaim "I know who she is" and give me a heartfelt hug.
- I had the honor of not being able to buy one single can of pop, let alone a beer or a meal.
- I had the honor of going to the brunch and being seated in the honorable company of Robine Grause, Mrs. Bob (Nancy) Thompson, Mrs. Myron (Ann) Harrington, Josie, and Sue Warner-Bean.

- I had the honor of having to choose which Marine's transportation offer to accept – what a dilemma for a girl to be in!
- I had the most shocking honor of all – to be acknowledged twice during the Memorial Service by Captain Grause and Colonel Harrington. And then to further be honored by having them come to me, along with Colonel Bob and Nancy Thompson, to thank me and receive tearful hugs from Col. Harrington and Col. Bob & Nancy Thompson.
- I had the honor of Mike Ervin and Kevin English having lunch with me prior to my return flight. And the honor of Mike giving me a ride back to the airport.

And last, but not least, I had the honor of being given this "assignment" of writing a piece to put in the Golf 2/5 newsletter.

All this has brought me great comfort in knowing my brother, PFC Gerald C. Kinny, must have been extremely proud to be part of such a great "Band of Brothers." I am truly grateful to all you Golf 2/5'rs for what you did and continue to do. It is a great blessing that you made it home! I can only pray that none of you feel any blame for my brother not coming home; for you gave it your all and nobody could have done better!

You all say Semper Fi, I just want to say, thank you and I love you all!

Cindy K. Humphrey

Hué City Memorial, by Erin Ervin

It was my first time.

I'd never been to a military function before. My military experience has been limited through watching a glorified Top Gun or terrified me in Full Metal Jacket and Apocalypse Now.

I didn't know what to expect.

I've got to give Hollywood credit for trying, but Tinsel Town will never be able to capture the amount of emotion and unequivocal love I encountered during my visit with the Marines of Golf 2/5.

I grew up in small-town Virginia with a father I now realize I did not know very well. I remember loving my Dad, but I didn't know him. I didn't know why he disliked Jane Fonda or what made him anger so easily.

I think I might have some insight now.

I never knew the Battle of Hué City is catalogued in history has the bloodiest of Vietnam. I never knew you were told to "pack light" because you'd be home by dinner. You waited 31 days to get home for dinner. I was horrified by this and asked Barney Barnes what you ate as he told this story. He said, "anything we could kill."

I looked down at my full plate of food and felt guilty for the simple pleasures I know I take for granted.

The past few years I have listened intently and read the detailed accounts of Vietnam my Dad has finally found the courage to verbalize and write about.

I watched him shed tears silently as he opened a framed sketched collage of Vietnam battle scenes my stepmother cautiously gave to him several Christmases ago.

I swell with pride as he wears his Marine insignia on a shirt or hat in public. And my throat catches when I hear him "Hoo-rah" a fellow Marine he doesn't even know.

As I met the surviving Marines of the Battle of Hué City, specifically, the close comrades of Golf 2/5, my Dad, the human jigsaw puzzle, started to snap together. Here you were – the pieces to a past I'd not been a part of and had not met until now. Your stories coincided, highlighted, and actualized so much history I've already heard. At the same time, my heart went out to the innocence you lost at such an early age.

My respect and adoration for the courage and bravery you possessed those 30-some years ago choke me to tears. Many sacrificed their lives in death, but you also sacrificed so much because you lived! You carry Hué City with you always.

I lost my only brother in an auto accident in 1997. I cannot imagine losing a Marine brother in combat and wondering if I am to be next.

To the Marines of Golf 2/5: thank you for the honor of your stories, pictures, laughter, hugs, and love. Thank you for being my Father's brother. The Battle of Hué City changed your life. The Memorial for the Battle of Hué City 38 years later has changed mine.

Semper Fi,

Erin Ervin, the proud daughter of Golf 2/5 Marine, Charles Michael Ervin

Letter from the Warner Family (delivered to G 2/5 at the Hué City Memorial)

April, 9, 2006

Dear Hué City Reunion Family,

We are the family members of Corporal David Warner who stood with you during the TET Offensive in February of 1968. We cannot be with you this year, but are eager to know you all and look forward to the possibility of meeting with you next year. We are grateful that David's sister Sue and her husband Jeff can be with you today.

We feel that it is important to share with you some events that have touched and blessed our family.

David packed more joy and life into his 21 years than most people do in 50.

By age six, he and his cousin had figured out how to get out of the second story window of our tall house and climb down the apple tree to gain freedom whenever they wanted. And that was just the beginning.

Using hatchets to build forts in the woods, backpacking in the rain as a young Boy Scout, stringing up rope swings over a 40-foot ravine – it is a wonder that David survived childhood to become a Marine!!

As a teenager he loved fast cars, motorcycles, boating, water-skiing and snow-skiing. On his nineteenth birthday, all he wanted to do was to parachute from a plane – and he loved it. On his Twentieth, he snow-skied and water-skied on the same day then joined the United States Marine Corps.

David's zest and joy for life and action punctuated everything he did.

It has been our family's aspiration to honor David by living our lives with the same *joie d' vie* – that same enthusiasm and appreciation for each day.

Today we thank you all, and honor you for the sacrifices you have made for our country, And we invite you to join us in honoring David and all of your comrades – by living each day with joy.

Warmly,
Marvel and Bob Warner
and Marci Warner Williams

Comments from Sue Warner-Bean (sister of David Warner)

(Barney) You asked me to write something about the Hué City Memorial Weekend for the Golf 2/5 association newsletter. I realize this isn't quite what you had in mind, but I ended up writing a song. As you'll see, it is dedicated to all the Marines in Golf 2/5, and to everyone who served in Hué City (and especially to the wonderful group I met in Florida). Please know that I am not a singer, Barney—give me a piano any day, but never a microphone! But Jeff, my husband, told me that these words needed to be sung directly to my "new brothers," in my own voice. So, that's what I did and I kept the Hué Memorial photos at the keyboard when I played and sang. The vocal result is not pretty, but it is indeed heartfelt.

I'm sending copies of the song to each of the Golf 2/5'ers I met in Florida — I hope that's appropriate. If you think anyone else would want a copy, I can make a few more. In terms of the newsletter, is it sufficient just to print the lyrics? Should I write some sort of an introductory paragraph or two? Let me know what you would like me to do.

I hope this little song can express the deep respect, affection, and gratitude I have for each and every one of you.

Thanks for everything, Barney.

With love,
Sue ("Sis") Warner-Bean

YOU WERE THERE Lyrics & music by Sue Warner-Bean*

*Come and sit with me awhile,
Shed a tear and share a smile.
Tell me all you can
I'll try to understand
You were there
You were there*

*Let me be here by your side,
Bowed with loss and filled with pride.
Share your stories,
I will hear them all, and more
You were there
You were there*

*You were there out of honor
And it's honor you gained
In the hell of that battle
Goals and glory were obtained
You were there out of duty,
For country, wrong or right
But your love for your brothers
Is what kept you in the fight.*

*Tell your sorrows, tell your joys,
Tell of men who once were boys.
And when you share,
I hope you know how much I care
You are here, and
You were there.*

***Note:** WOW! Sue's heartfelt tribute to her brother and to all G 2/5 blows me away. What beautiful lyrics . . . If any of you would like to hear the song sung by Sue, please email our Information Director, Tony Cartlidge and he will be glad to send you the music file—the editor.

Upcoming Formations—Reunion 2006, by Vince Montoro

Where: Myrtle Beach, S.C.
When: Wed. 20 Sept. 06 through Sun. 24 Sept. 06
Hotel: Sea Dip
Address: 2608 N. Ocean Blvd.
Hotel Phone No.: 1-800-334-1467 (ask for Nancy or Jackie)
Group No.: 62726

Hey Guys. Here's the updated information for the reunion.

Also the dinner is being held across from the first hotel we were to stay at which is a few blocks down the road. Also I need those going on the Parris Island trip to send their money to Rick and their name and how many are going to me so that I can submit them to Parris Island. I put a \$95 deposit on the bus with the remaining due by Aug. 22. I know I said Sept. 1st deadline, but with the gas thing they need the money by that date so we can still get the bus at the \$950 price I locked into last year. The bus co. is Sunway Charters & tours 6001 S. Kings Hwy. Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29575. If the guys have any questions they can E-Mail me at: usmcvm@enter.net. Looking forward to a great reunion.

Semper Fi,
Vince

Reunion information and Activity Sign-Up Sheet:

- Trip to Parris Island
Name and # in party attending:
1.---?
2.---? etc down the line
- **Day One: Sept.20, 2006 Wednesday**
Freetime: Check In: ? to 4:00 PM or already there. Meet and Greet: 6 PM-? Location: Penthouse Suite above the Hotel Office.
- **Day Two: Sept.21, 2006 Thursday**
Trip to Parris Island, SC
Depart hotel 6 AM- Return ?.
(**Must sign up in advance.** Need to provide Parris Island with the list of each person attending. If your name is not on the list entry will be denied. **Deadline 22 Aug. 2006**)
Approx: \$20.00 Per Person for full bus 50 people.
\$3.50 Per Person for Lunch at the mess hall. Price given at time of booking this trip. Free time for those not going on this trip.
- **Day Three: Sept.22, 2006 Friday**
Free time up until 6:00 PM to take in the sights, shopping for the women, golf for the men, walk the beach, or hang out in the Penthouse Suite.
6:00 PM -? Dinner at Carolinas Restaurant—Casual dress.
Price Per Person is \$15.99. Buffet Style.
Menu: Chicken, Ribs, Fish, Potatoes, Veggies, Desserts, Coffee, Tea and Soda. B.Y.O.B. and Management will get us a keg for \$90.00?
The restaurant will only be reserved for us. Not Open To The Public.
- **Day Four: Sept.23, 2006 Saturday**
Have breakfast, then 10:00 AM attend Association meeting in the Penthouse Suite. After that, more free time. Saturday Eve take in one of the many excellent shows at either Carolina Opry, Legends or Alabama Theater. Groups of 20 or more get discounts. Need to make reservations in advance.
- **Day Five: Sept.24, 2006 Sunday**
Final day. Last chance to tell one more story. Penthouse will be open until check out time.

If there are any ?'s, E-Mail me: usmcvm@enter.net

Semper Fi
Vince

Continue to check the website regularly for updated information on the reunion—the editor

Request for old USMC Tee Shirts!

At the 2004 G 2/5 reunion we held a raffle for many items and it generated a lot of operating cash for the Association and was a big success. I have a cousin, Kathy McClendon who is a very talented craftsperson who has volunteered to make a USMC blanket for the raffle. 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. I've seen some of the blankets she's made and they are pretty incredible.

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

Kathy McClendon (email: willybenn@msn.com)
11005 McKnight
Albuquerque, NM 87112

If you can mail a tee shirt(s), please email Kathy at the above email address to let her know when to expect it. I'm sure the lucky person who wins it at the raffle will be very appreciative. And finally, please send the tee shirts as quickly as possible because making the blanket is labor intensive and takes a lot of time so the sooner she has the 12 shirts and can start, the better (and have it ready for the Sept. reunion).

The editor

Lest We Forget. . .!

<i>L/Cpl. Russel U. West</i>	<i>KIA 5/23/68</i>
<i>Cpl. Ronald Delverde</i>	<i>KIA 8/2/67</i>
<i>Cpl. John W. Jackson</i>	<i>KIA 5/12/67</i>

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

President's Message, by Barney Barnes

Congratulations are in order for our own, "DUKE of EARL, (Earle, Arkansas, that is, *the editor*) AKA William (Bill) Rogers who after many, many, many, years of confirmed bachelorhood, tied the knot back in February. Lieutenant's Pace & Hancock, when told of the good news, both wanted to know who authorized it!! Seriously, Bill, we all wish Reba and you the best.

After receiving a vast majority of "Yes" votes to have this Newsletter done in Color...here it is. I wish we could do them all in Color but our budget just won't allow that, still, we would like to do one when the occasion merits it and I felt that this newsletter certainly met that requirement. I have asked Sue Warner-Bean, Cindy Humphrey, and Erin Ervin to write something about attending their first Hué City Memorial Weekend.

A "Shout Out" to Vince Montoro who is the main man behind our 2006 Reunion in Myrtle Beach and is doing everything he can to make this a great event. Thanks, Vince. The other officers and I have agreed that with the success of the raffle we held in DC, we would like to do it again. So, if you got some items that you would like to donate, let us know and we'll certainly

see to it that they are a part of the raffle. I hope that you are making plans to attend . . . see you there.

I have asked Rick Mack to give us a financial report in this newsletter. One thing that jumped out at me and concerns me is the fact that our paid members are down this year. We have had about a third of our guys paying their dues, but with this years count, that is down as well. We have around 300 guys on our roster and less than 100 pay their dues.

Love You, Guys . . .S/F Barney

Roll Call

- **Bill Rogers** – "Dear Larry & Melba, I hope that this finds the both of you well and enjoying the good life in Paris. . . Reba (as in McIntyre) and I have known each other for thirty years—we just never got together. . . We went to Virginia Beach last December to see some Biker friends. While there we went by to visit Gen. & Mrs. Cheatham. In February we drove down to Louisiana to attend the funeral of Mrs. Barrow. Her husband Robert H. Barrow was Commandant from 1979-1983. I have visited them every year for the past twenty years. He is 84 now. Reba also met Gen. Car Mundy (CMC 1991-95), Gen. Robert Johnston (Chuck's good friend) and Gen. Bob Magnus—the current assistant. CMC. I am enclosing a few pics you might like."

Bill, thanks for the note and the photos that I can share with the rest of G 2/5. Again, our best wishes to you and Reba!

The editor



*Gen. & Mrs. E. C. Cheatham & Reba Rogers (Rt.)
December 2005*

In Our Thoughts and Prayers . . .

- **Chuck Meadows** – recently had knee surgery soon after this year's Hué City Memorial. We wish Chuck a complete and speedy recovery.

Updated E-Mail Addresses & Change of Address

A large majority of the G 2/5 Association members are hooked up to the internet and are on our Information Director's, Tony Cartlidge, e-mail list. Those who are on his mailing list know he is a wealth of information on many topics of interest of Association members. He has asked that I remind members who change their e-mail address to e-mail him with your new address. We all change internet providers frequently or change our e-mail addresses due to the spam overload. So, if you'd like to stay connected and receive valuable information on Association issues or other Veterans issues, please e-mail Tony when you have a change in e-mail address. Tony can be reached at: **USMC-Vietnam-Grunt@att.net**.

Also, I, and our Secretary/Treasurer, Rick Mack, would appreciate you letting us know of any changes in your mailing address *the editor*

Missing In Action

We have lost touch with the following G 2/5 vets. Their last known city of residence is also provided below.

- Baker, Ferrall L.—Laguna Niguel, CA
- Caldwell, Fred—Indianapolis, IN
- Crilly III, Thomas J.—Iselin, NJ
- Coltri, Jr., Bruno R.—Lyons, IL
- Delgado, Paul A—Greeley, CO
- Dillenburg, Clyde – St. Joseph, MN
- Dima, G. E. – Spokane, WA
- Faircloth, Michael E.—Deatsville, AL
- Gates, William L.—Gainesville, FL
- Graham, James M. – Gibsonia, PA
- Huber, Jim – Charleston, MD
- Jasper, N. J.—Vinton, CA
- Lippencott, Jeffery – Wilmington, DE
- Lucas, Larry – Beattyville, KY
- Marsden, Richard W.—Camdenton, MO
- McColloch, James H. – Charleston, SC
- McGuiness, John C. – Anthony, FL
- McNeil, Mike A.—Iowa City, IA
- Moore, Dave H. – Herndon, VA
- Moore, John H. – Payson, AZ
- Reglin, Terry—Meridian, ID
- Robinson, Arthur T.—Bronx, NY
- Schaefer, R. A – Walkerton, IN
- Sutton Jr., Horace – Lumberton, NC
- Woggin, John A. – Hilton Head, SC

If anyone has a current address for any of these MIAs, please advise the editor.

Golf 2/5 Website Address

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

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L: Col. Chuck Meadows, R: Richard "Pete" Peterson
Somewhere in "The Nam" (Looks like An Hoa) —THEN!



L: Chuck Meadows, R: Richard "Pete" Peterson
Somewhere at the 2006 Hué City Memorial—NOW!
And neither one looks like they've aged a day since 1968 ☺!



L: Sue Warner-Bean, R: Tony Cartledge
In Front of "Our Ship"—USS HUÉ CITY



USS HUÉ CITY



Taken outside Harry's Seafood, our annual Saturday night meal together.
Kneeling—L-R: Mike Ervin, Barney Barnes, Mike Copeland & Joe Snead
Middle Row—L-R: Steve Peitsmeyer, Cindy Humphrey, Chuck Meadows, &
Sue Warner-Bean
Top Row—L-R: Ron Rawlings, Kevin English, Rich Durrum, & Tony C



L to R: Rich Durrum, Barney Barnes, Ron Rawlings



2/5 Vets at Hue City Memorial
April 2006



Mr. Billy Rogers (middle) with Son Bill and new Daughter in Law, Reba



BEAUTIFUL!!! Colors!



L: Rich Durrum, R: Joe Rowe



"Newer Model" Marine and "Not So New Model" Marine!



At the Picnic
L to R: R. Rawlings, B. Barnes, J. Snead, K. English
P. Peterson and M. Ervin (lower rt)

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