



# GOLF COMPANY 2ND BATTALION 5TH MARINES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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

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November 2004

### President's Message – by Barney Barnes

"HAPPY HALLOWEEN" Marines. Hope this finds all of you well and good.

Here it is almost November, and I'm still cutting my grass! Was that not the best time in DC or what? Thanks to MIKE ERVIN for all his hard work in putting it together. And a big heart felt THANKS to Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, our own General Pete Pace and wife, Lynne, for hosting all of us at his home for "HAPPY HOUR". Thank you Sir, that



Lt. Pete & Lynne Pace

was the highlight of the Reunion for us, your graciousness not only broke the ice for those who had never met you, but also guaranteed that the reunion got off on the right foot. If you missed it, you missed a Great Time. By all accounts, it was in terms of Marines showing up, our most attended function to date; we had almost 50 Marines attend. Thanks men! I hope each and every one of you had a great time. I have asked, like I always do, for the new Marines who attended to say a few words about experiencing their first reunion for this newsletter. Let me just say a big "THANKS" to all the first time attendees, this is what it's all about, reaching out to our Marines who have yet to make one of our events.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that I wanted to include the letters that I have received from one of our brothers, Ruben Garza, who has fallen on hard times and is currently incarcerated at the Federal Correctional Institution in Texarkana, Texas. Ruben has given me permission to include his letters to me and I have chosen to provide excerpts from said letters, because of

space limitations. Bottom line for us, Ruben is indeed one of US and we need to keep him in our thoughts and prayers. Ruben was a member of 1st Platoon from June, 1966 – July, 1967.

"My brother and Marine Barney,

Thank you for your most well received letter and warm welcome into the G 2/5 Association. And thank you for reaching out to me; I feel a sense of belonging. Do you know how good it feels to actually receive a letter or something through the mail? It is a blessing.

I have been in prison for five plus years of a 27 year sentence for Drug Conspiracy. There is no parole in the Federal System for drug offenders at this time. Can I still be a member even if I am in prison? I am very sorry for what I did to end up in prison. I take no pride in it. I feel very shameful. I would rather be in Iraq fighting along side those Marines than to be here in prison. I really mean that.

I lost my wife of 30 years, she divorced me. I don't hold a grudge nor am I bitter. I am a Christian and being close to God has been my mainstay. I have a son and a daughter and I thank God for them both, my son Ruben is my only contact with the outside world. I also have four beautiful granddaughters that I have yet to see or hold in my arms.

I don't want you to feel sorry for me. In no way is this a sob story either. I am not a career offender; this is my first time in prison. I made a terrible mistake. Prison life is extremely hard. I will be 58 on Nov.19. I suffer from PTSD and am also on the Agent Orange list. I thank God for taking care of me. I pray on my knees daily and trust Jesus Christ to watch over me. I try to stay active in prison., I jog, lift weights, run up and down stairs, to maintain my stamina and conditioning – a Marine never gives up.

Thank you fellow Marine Barnes for taking your precious time to read this letter. Please write back. May the Lord richly bless you and your family.

Semper Fidelis,  
Ruben Garza

PS: "The glory of the Lord shall be thy rear guard . . ." ISAIH 58 – 7

OK men, as I see it, we have one of our own here that is indeed in need of whatever help and support we can provide. Will you please take the time to, if nothing else just drop Ruben a line or two. I have applied for a visitors permit and if I am ap-

proved as an official visitor, I am going to drive down and visit Ruben. You may contact him at this address:

RUBEN GARZA  
REG. NO. & QTRS. 65722-079 "F" Unit  
Federal Correctional Institution  
P O Box 7000  
Texarkana, Texas 75505-7000

In closing, let me just say that I thank each one of you that saw fit to allow me to act as the President of our Golf 2/5 Association two years ago and again have asked me to stay on in that capacity, as well as the other officers, I might add. We, the other officers, are only carrying forward the jobs that those before us started way back when. I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve as President of our / your association. May we each do our part to allow our Association to not only grow, but reach out and touch those of our Brothers that we have had no contact with since we left Nam.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Marines. Love you guys!

Semper Fi,  
Barney

**Golf 2/5 Reunion, Washington, D.C., Sept. 24 – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004**  
**by Larry Ortiz**

As Barney reported, the bi-annual G 2/5 reunion was a major success with probably the largest turnout of any reunion. We had a large number of first-timers from the '66 – '67 timeframe. It was great to meet the guys many of us have corresponded with via e-mail for quite awhile and be able to put a face with the name.

The planning of this reunion has been underway for almost two years since our last reunion in Branson, MO in 2002. A lot of effort goes into planning and making all the arrangements for a reunion and as Barney has also said, all who attended are grateful to Mike Ervin for taking care of all the hotel arrangements and the conference room for our Association meeting on Sat. the 25<sup>th</sup>. (Mike has written a more detailed account as the Reunion chairman that appears later in the newsletter).

A few days before heading to D.C. for the reunion, the e-mails were flying fast and furious (thanks to our Information Director, Tony Cartlidge for keeping everyone well informed). The word was being spread that a very extraordinary function had been arranged with Gen. Peter. Pace (the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff). We learned that Lt. Pace (as he prefers to be called by the Nam vets he served with) and his wife, Lynne, were hosting a reception for all the G 2/5'ers in attendance at the reunion at his residence at Ft. Myers, VA overlooking the Potomac and Washington. When I first read the e-mail, I was dumbfounded and not certain I was really reading what I was reading. I mean, here's one of the most important people in the United States military taking the time out from his busy schedule (what an understatement that is) to host a reception for a bunch of old Nam grunts. What was even more incredulous is that's just what he (Gen. Pace) did!

We met in the lobby of the hotel around 1800 to try and determine how many vehicles there were and if there were enough

to ferry everyone over to Ft. Myers. Well, in classic Marine style, it turned into one major "cluster f - - -." What for a few minutes seemed well organized turned into chaos and cars were leaving with some empty seats and without clear directions. A group of us also took the Metro to a station near Ft. Myers to be picked up after other loads of people had been dropped off. For a while we thought we had been forgotten and were going to have to pick up a taxi from the Metro stop but Mike and a couple of other drivers picked us up and we got there "*fashionably late.*"

The reception was set up in the backyard of Lt. Pace's home with a lavish and beautifully presented variety of delicious finger foods, veggies, fruits and desserts. There was also an open bar to satisfy the thirstiest Marine! It turned out to be a very pleasant balmy Sept. evening—just perfect for a backyard party.



**Melba Ortiz, Lt. Pace, Larry Ortiz**

It was a time for visiting with friends and meeting some of our first-timers and many of the wives who also attended. Lt. Pace and his wife graciously greeted everyone and he had arranged for photographers to record the evening's event.

We were also fortunate to have our sister, Terry Studenny, wife of Dennis "Stu" Studenny who recently passed away this past June, join us for the reunion. She and Stu have been such an integral part of the G 2/5 Association since it's inception that it would have not been the same had she not been there. She is and always will be a part of our true Band of Brothers.



**Terry Studenny and Lt. Pace**



In addition to the Marines and their wives who attended, it was an extra special evening for me because my wife Melba and I were going to meet the family of a good friend and fellow Marine who was in my gun team in Nam, Clyde Carter, who was KIA the first day of the battle of Hue City. We met via the internet, thanks to our G 2/5 website, about five years ago and have spoken by telephone about the circumstances of Clyde's death and many times over the ensuing years. Shortly before G 2/5 went into Hue City, Clyde had been reassigned to 2nd platoon and was in Mike Copeland's gun team that first day in Hue. Both Clyde's sisters, Carol Shi and Pat Brown as well as Pat's husband, Jerry, took the opportunity to join us at the reunion to meet many of the Marines who knew and had served with their brother. It was a real pleasure and honor to meet my friend's family. (Pat & Jerry share their thoughts on the reunion later in the newsletter)



L to R: Carol Shi, Lt. Pace, Pat Brown, Jerry Brown  
Family of Clyde Carter

Despite the lavish spread provided for us, I only managed to nibble on a few things during the entire evening. I was so excited seeing so many of my Nam brothers, meeting Clyde's family and actually being at Gen. Pace's home—it was almost too overwhelming. I guess the best way to describe it was like being in a state of euphoria—it was an incredible feeling. I couldn't attribute that euphoric feeling to too much to drink as I only drank one beer the entire evening. For several weeks after that evening, I would think back to that night and that same euphoria would return. I didn't understand why until I started receiving some of the comments from many of the first-timers. We've received many comments from our first-timers and the common theme through all the comments was how much the reception hosted by Lt. Pace meant to everyone. (All the comments received appear later in the newsletter). However, one of the comments in particular, by Tom Marshall, helped me finally understand why that reception, that evening, was so incredible for me. Tom wrote, "I will always consider Gen. Pace's reception as a 'welcome home gathering' for each of us." Tom nailed it for me—it was the welcome home that we all deserved but never received—until the evening of Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004! I will be eternally grateful to Lt. Pace, his wife and his staff for treating us with such kindness and respect. It wasn't only an evening of *hanging* with your Nam brothers, and Gen. Pace, it was an evening of healing for all of us who were lucky enough to attend.

Lt. Pace's Aide-de-Camp, LCDR Kerry Kuykendall, also graciously sent me two complete sets of the photos taken during the evening as well as two CDs with the digital photos that will be posted on the website. I promised LCDR Kuykendall that I would mail the photos to all who attended as there are still a few grunts that don't have computers and I'm sure all in attendance would want their photos with *our* Lt. Pace.

On the following day, Mike Ervin arranged for a conference room to have our Association meeting and the election of officers as well as three speakers: Bill Buchanan, author of *Full Circle*, Paulette Box, a Clinical Nurse Specialist who works in the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team, and Col. John Bates. The good Col. is a more *senior* Marine, shall I say as he was in *the Nam* in the '66 – '67 timeframe as an enlisted grunt and is still in the Corps. Col. Bates talked about the current state of



Col. John Bates - USMC

affairs of the Marine Corps and reassured us all that the leadership of the Corps is in capable hands and that today's Marines are as capable, well-trained and equipped, committed and as dedicated as ever there were throughout the proud and glorious history of our Marine Corps! OOOOORRRRAH! All I can add is that Col. Bates is one *helluva squared-away Marine!* During Col. Bates' presentation, he called several of the Association Officers to the front of the conference room and recognized us for our efforts in keeping the Association going and rewarded us by giving us each an MRE. Thank you, Col. Bates!

During the business meeting, there was much discussion relative to the financial state of the Association. A motion was made to increase the yearly dues from \$10 to \$20 and the motion was unanimously passed. So, beginning in January 2005 when dues notices are sent out, you can expect to see an increase.



L to R: Barney Barnes, Lt. Pete & Mona Barnes

I'll let Mike Ervin fill in some more details on the reunion but want to end my comments by acknowledging him again for all he did to get this organized as well as Barney Barnes who was instrumental in working with Lt. Pace to host the reception for us.

Another common theme through the comments received from the first-timers is how much they enjoyed seeing their brothers again for the first time in over 36 years. The bonds forged way back then are still there. Nevertheless, reunions stir up all those feelings that most of us have tried so hard to bury. I know for some of our brothers, they don't feel that they can deal with all the emotions that they know will be stirred up and have decided the timing is not yet right to join us at a reunion—and we all respect everyone's feelings and decision. But, as I was recently corresponding with one Marine who feels that way, in many ways it is difficult to stir up those emotions but, at least for me, the reunions are also very healing and cathartic. I do want to encourage all our brothers, when the timing is right for you, to join us at the next reunion and share in the camaraderie with your fellow Marines.

Semper Fi,

Larry S. Ortiz

#### **2004 Reunion, by Mike Ervin**

This year the reunion was held on the 24th, 25th, and 26th of September in Washington, DC at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. Based on the overall group requirements, the Association chose this location because of just that: location. It provided easy access to the Nation's Capital, public transportation systems, Ronald Reagan National Airport, Old Town Alexandria, and many other surrounding sites, which draws global tourism.

We were all treated to a nice surprise the evening of 24Sep04: General Pace had requested our presence for Happy Hour at his quarters in Ft. Myer, VA. He and his wonderful wife, Lynne, with the help of the sharpest Mess Marines in the Corps put on a real feed. I use the term Mess Marines lightly



because there weren't any there I'd want to mess with! Pete said there'd be lots of finger food. I'm not sure exactly how many guests attended but those that did would have had to camp out for several days to

**Chief Photographer: Mamie Mae Burke & Friend**

consume all that was provided.

Pictures were epidemic. I fell in love with the photographer. And, just to show you the pull 4 Stars has: the General had all the group pictures develop-ed and distribut-ed to us before we left. We need to somehow show our apprec-iation. I thought maybe we could ask Secretary of Defense to keep the General in place for another couple of tours. We all owe a special thanks to "Our Lieutenant" and his bride for their hospitality. Thank you, Sir!

A general Association meeting was held on the 25th in the "J" Salon of the Grand Ball Room. Arrangements had been



made to seat 60 people. There was standing room only and, in some cases, sitting-on-the-floor room only. The room was packed. And it stayed that way for much of the 5 plus hours we

**Barney Barnes (Assoc. Pres) & Mike Ervin (VP)  
Addressing the members at the Association Meeting**

held our position. We eventually got run out because of subsequent activities.

Golf 2/5 Association had, without a doubt, the best turnout of any reunion to date. As we all know, each of us arrived in Vietnam at different times and, that being the case, we each had our own challenges depending on the weather, TAO, and enemy buildup. And we developed different friendships some of which continued through time.

This reunion brought together time segments of G 2/5. We had Marines who deployed to Vietnam with the Regiment: when it first arrived in Chu Lai; some who made the trip to Dong Ha and the "D"; many to the early days of An Hoa and the Coal Mines; others who remembered the flight to Phu Bai and the eventual march back to An Hoa; and still others of later campaigns.

This was a first! I know when Barney Barnes, the Association President, asked for a show of hands for 1st time attendees, I think half the house went up. And this was interesting to say the least! I say that because one of the difficulties the Association has had is trying to correct a misunderstanding that these reunions were only for the Hue City vets. I think this reunion proved that idea to be erroneous once and for all. I'm not sure of the exact count but, between the Association members, their significant others and together with a couple of guests, we had about 65 people (at least at the dinner).

Business matters went first. Officers were elected: all current officers were reelected. Questions of dues and delinquent members were entertained. The President will address this issue by formal announcement. And subsequent reunion location(s) were brought up. As you can see from the email (vote) taken, Myrtle Beach was the eventual winner for the 2006 Reunion. Once all orders of business were attended, we were held in check with several very informative guest speakers.



The first guest speaker was Bill Buchanan. Bill has written a book titled *Full Circle* and it's based on the chronology of Golf 2/5 as it entered the Vietnam Theater. He spoke a little bit about



the challenges he faced in compiling the work but pressed more towards inviting other people to put their memories to paper. He mentioned that we may all not be writers including him-self but just the fact of writing about the past stimu-

(Lt.) Bill Buchanan, Author of *Full Circle*

lates growth and sometimes healing. I found it interesting listening to Bill enumerate his life experiences outside the Corps (FBI) especially when he talked about investigating terrorist activities back in the early 80s.

Paulette Box was the second guest speaker. Ms. Box is a Clinical Nurse Specialist and works in the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team. When I first approached Paulette about speaking she was overwhelmed. She believes outreach forums like this serve a basic good because many people, who may not normally listen, sit up and take notice. She spoke on the general topic



Paulette Box

of how the Government and the VA are gearing up for the returning Vets of the Iraqi War. She also spoke eloquently on the connectivity between exposure to constant combat and how it affects each warrior differently. I saw several people in the audience easing forward listening to her soft voice. I will have to apologize for not having a microphone. Paulette was extremely pleased with the feedback she received from all of you. If you'd like to contact Ms. Box for information, please call her at 202-745-8000, Ext 6557. I'm sure she will be more than willing to help.

Most notable speaker was Colonel John Bates (Active). He addressed issues currently affecting Corps activity. Personally, I don't know what was more notable: the fact that he is an O-6 or that he is an active O-6 from our era. As it turns out, the Colonel knows General Pace very well plus I think he has a specialty that's in short supply. Whatever the combination, it's the dedication of men like this that stir the imagination of the young

recruits. We may never read about men like John Bates but meeting him and seeing him in action leads me to believe it would be an honor to follow. Hand Salute, Sir.

The Association did something different this year: we had a raffle. It started off as a fluke with Pat Ervin, the wife of the Association's VP, knitting a replica of the Flag of the United States and suggesting it be raffled off. One thing led to another and, before you knew it, other items were tendered for raffle. There were several copies of books by Golf 2/5 authors: one by Bill Buchanan, *Full Circle*, and the other by Richard Lee, *Personal Justice*. Mike and Wanda Copeland presented a fine scroll saw replica of the Marine Corps Emblem. Colonel Bates presented us with multiple items, such as: MREs, Marine.Com lanyards, Corps covers, D-rings for keys, etc.

Our extemporaneous Sergeant-at-Arms, Wanda Copeland, was kind enough to chair the seat of Raffle Ticket Seller a.k.a. 'Scalper.' And she did a wonderful job riding shotgun over the cash box too. I'm not sure what sales pitch she used but it had an alluring effect on the overall outcome. She eventually managed to "smooge" more then \$700.00 out the unsuspecting Jar-heads. Wanda - "smooge" - perfectly synonymous! The proceeds from the raffle and sales of T-Shirts just about covered the Association's reunion expenses. Wanda - Mike, thank you from the recesses of my heart (The Evil Twin).

The Association Dinner went off with several hitches and I want to apologize personally to Kathy & Joe Snead. If the members of the Association felt there was a bump-in-the-road with dinner, there was! Nothing about dinner went according to plans. The hotel failed to schedule the dinner. Luckily, I had checked with the restaurant the day before and discovered something amiss. However, it took me until about 3 pm Saturday to determine the problem areas and, with the help of the restaurant manager, was able to make appropriate arrangements. The dinner, although simulating various degrees of a Chinese Fire Drill, was good. Service was questionable at times but the food was good. Kathy...Joe, I owe you!

The Raffle was held at the dinner. Again, Ms. Smoogie scythed her way through the unsuspecting audience drafting winners to pull the next ticket out of the hat. Terry Studenny was the big winner holding two winning tickets one for the \$50 Cash prize. I believe Vern Arndt and his wife had two winners. Mike Stallings won a special prize, an MRE, that he'll cherish the memory. The overall reunion went well. This was my first time organizing an event this size. Those of you who know me personally can attest that past attempts to organize an event in progress usually hinged on a Marine axiom: adjust, adapt, and overcome. This one proved to be no exception. I want to thank: Kevin for chaperoning Paulette Box; Tony for being Tony; Mike & Wanda for knowing my frustration level; Bob & Leanne Setlak for taking time to visit; Barney and Mona for being patient; Pete and Lynne for their hospitality; Master Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Secor for his help; and all the rest of you for showing up. All of you made this reunion a success.

Thank you & Semper Fi,

Mike Ervin

### Upcoming Formations

The subject of where to hold the next G 2/5 reunion was discussed during the membership meeting at the DC reunion. Several locations were discussed with no decision at that time. Vince Montoro advised the membership that he has "connections" at Myrtle Beach, SC and offered to use his "connections" to get us all good room rates.

A few days after the reunion concluded, our Info. Officer, Tony Cartledge, sent an e-mail to the approximately 130 members he has e-mail addresses for asking for votes for the next reunion site. Here are the results from the first round of ballots:

OCEANSIDE – 16 MYRTLE BEACH -13 Santa Fe – 5 San Antonio – 4 KC – 2 Chicago -2

Oceanside and Myrtle Beach were the clear winners in the *primaries*. A second ballot request was sent out by Tony and the results were:

**21-Myrtle Beach, SC and 19 for Oceanside, CA.**

Our next reunion will be in Myrtle Beach, SC—date to be disseminated as soon as it's determined. Further details will be provided in the forthcoming newsletters—the editor.

### Reunion Comments

- **Tom Marshall**—Barney: I would like to take this time to thank you and all who had a part in putting together the Golf 2/5 reunion. This was the first time since I left 2/5 in September of 1966, to see any of the guys that I served with in Viet Nam. In that group were Ted Armijo, Gary Beebe, Ed Benavidez, Ron Johnson, Wally Kubicki, and Larry Hardaway. Did we ever have alot to talk about! Our wives said it was like we just picked up where we left off, 38 years ago. I also had the opportunity to meet new friends from 2/5. I will always consider Gen. Pace's reception as a "welcome home gathering" for each of us. I will look forward to our next reunion with wishes that we will be able to add more to our ranks.
- **Craig Hanson**—I'm glad I came and joined a great group of guys. I hadn't seen John Meeseey for 33 years other than in pictures. Tim and I have stayed in touch, as have John and others from Golf 2/5 over the years, but only in phone calls and Christmas cards with pictures. So that part was good. My first time to Wash. D.C. It was more than I expected I've got to come back for a week with my family. I'm looking forward to the next reunion. I live in Anaheim So. Cal. So Myrtle Beach would be my choice for the next one. I would bring my wife too. The General Peter Pace was a blowout for me. I thought we would be drinking a beer in a Quonset hut somewhere, not his house. That was over the top and made the whole trip worth it for me. What a nice man he is. His wife too. Tell them thanks so very much. I bought a book while there and plan on getting some more. I hadn't read anything about Viet Nam in a long time. Kinda funny how it takes you right back to 20 years old and you remember things like it was yesterday. WOW!!!!
- **Mike Smith**—Barney: Thanks for the chance to comment on the reunion. I was more than a little apprehensive right at the get go but knew that the years may not permit another chance for such a gathering. I cannot describe my feelings as I made my reacquaintance with so many people. My squad leader, my platoon leader, and the rest. Colonel Harvey scooped my wife

and I up to take us over to the General's house, what a class thing from a class man. The get together at General Pace's was a night I will never forget. That man has risen to such a position in the Joint Chiefs and took the time to serve us dinner. Mrs. Pace was moving chairs around so we all could be seated. I have not spent any time with famous people with the exception of GOLF 2/5 but on that night we were made to feel really special. I heard the Generals comments reference his time in Golf, my heart was in my throat. I was and am now still so proud to have made it to become a Marine but the time I spent with a real band of brothers was a watershed time in my life, what we did was what we were ordered to do, We all have that period to look back on and draw from it strength to keep on. My faith in Jesus has helped me bury a lot of the horror, but the honor, courage and tenacity of these men I will never forget. The planning for the reunion and execution of that plan were excellent, my compliments to all the people who made it happen.

- **Larry Hardaway, CPL USMC**—When you're serving in the Marine Corp you can expect to experience every possible emotional high and low, especially training for combat in Viet Nam where it is both physical and emotionally challenging. Once in Nam you quickly realize your inter-dependency on one another for survival; recognizing you are not in control of your destiny and fate will determine what will happen in the coming days and months. You develop a close sense of family with your fellow Marines; they are all that resembles your



*Some of our Chu Lai First-Timers:*

**L to R: Tom Marshall, Ted Armijo, Larry Hardaway, Ron Johnson, Wally Kubicki, Ed Benavidez, Gary Beebe (Larry-thanks for the Photo)**

past civilian life. Then for many of us, you're wounded and suddenly removed from these important people, you have an empty feeling of deserting them, of wondering are they all right and what ever happened to them. Thirty-eight years later you walk into a hotel room in Crystal City, Virginia and experience this great emotional high in seeing these fellow Marines. There is great comfort knowing they endured also and they're all right. There can be nothing more gratifying than seeing, shaking hands and embracing these men that daily put their life on the line to help sustain your survival and knowing they are OK and out of danger also. My first Golf Company

Reunion was this type of an experience. It was closure on a segment of my life that seemed unfinished. It was proof that what I had experienced was also shared by a lot of other people and we are today OK. The reunion was also the beginning of a new segment of my life where we can all enjoy being with each other and know we will never again have to worry about survival in combat.

**History:** Tom, Ted, Wally, Ed, and Gary made the beach landing when Golf 2-5 arrived at Chu Lai, VN. Gary was in VN in November of 64 when they built DaNang airstrip as security guard with 3-9. Most of these Marines fought in 1966 in Chu Lai and Quang Tri on Operation Prairie.

- **Marty Steinbach**—I would like to say thanks to all of the Golf 2/5 members that were at the 2004 reunion for a great time. My wife Dianna and I went to the reunion with somewhat mixed feelings since I did not know anyone who was going to be there (Dana Averill had to cancel at the last minute). I did meet two other Marines that served with me in Golf Co., Jim Downer and Vince (Montoro), and it was great to see them after so long a time. However, Barney Barnes, Mike Ervin, John Bates, Bill Buchanan, Vern Arndt, and all of the rest of the members welcomed us very warmly and made us feel like "old salts" in the organization.

Certainly, the highlight of the weekend was the surprise visit to the home of General Pace. Both he and Mrs. Pace were very cordial and extremely kind to open their home to us. Upon returning home, I did some research on the Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff, because I was impressed by this man, his philosophy, and his accomplishments. Through his speeches ran a constant theme of God, Family, Country, and Marine Corps. I slept better that night knowing that this high a caliber of individual was running our military.

I also enjoyed the talks by (Col.) John Bates on the current condition and situation of the Marine Corps, and Bill Buchanan, on his presentation of his book *"Full Circle"*. I ordered my copy and just finished reading it. John Bates, you are one hell of a Marine! I would highly recommend this book for anyone who wants to know the "real deal" about a marine rifle company in Vietnam. I could once again feel the cold monsoon rains and the searing hot, relentless summer sun.

In all, Dianna and I had a wonderful time and a snappy salute to all who were involved in the preparation of this successful reunion. We will be on board for the next one!!

Semper Fidelis,

- **Jerry Brown—Brother-in Law of Clyde Carter**  
To the members of Golf 2/5

We've been asked by several members to say a few words about our experiences at the Reunion. This is a welcome opportunity, because it provides a chance to thank all of you and to let you know how much this experience has meant to us.

Larry (Ortiz) has explained in one of the newsletters how Pat first learned of the Golf 2/5 web site from a Marine at work and how we went from there to eventually find Larry. That in itself is amazing to us. We thought we would be lucky to find just one person who knew something about how Clyde died. We never imagined that an entire network of people ex-

isted who were all connected by the events we wanted to understand.

The reunions came up in our first conversation with Larry and he urged us to come every year afterward. We're glad he did, because it has been a wonderful experience. We came expecting to meet a few more people who knew Clyde and maybe learn a little more about that time in Vietnam. But, it was much more than that. We met a warm and generous group of people who welcomed us like lost family members.

There was one particular moment when everything seemed to come together to give meaning to Clyde's death. It was when we were waiting outside General Pace's home to catch a ride back to the hotel. We had just spent two hours getting acquainted with many of you for the first time. During that evening we glimpsed the deep bonds that have kept you together for thirty-six years. We saw the intensity of the feelings, even in General Pace, and understood that Clyde has a special place in a close-knit family of brothers who remember and honor him for what he did on that bridge years ago. These things were on our minds as we waited for the car and admired the night view across the Potomac. From that vantage point, DC with all its illuminated monuments seemed like a truly special place. And below us in the darkness, we knew, was Arlington Cemetery, the final resting place of thousands of men like you and Clyde who had kept it safe. It made us feel very humble and privileged. (*Photo of the Brown's is on pg. 3*)

- **Pat Brown—Sister of Clyde Carter**

In my memories, Clyde has always been nineteen years old. Much of the regret in losing him is not knowing what kind of man he would have become. What kind of family would he have had? What would our relationship be like? What contribution would he have made to the world? Would we be looking forward to Thanksgiving together? I regret that we couldn't grow old together; that I couldn't be an aunt to his children; laugh and talk about our childhoods. Meeting you has helped with that.

Before, I would sometimes think of you, his friends, and in my mind's eye and you were young too; brave young men with hopes and dreams for the future like Clyde. Then, when I met you there was the realization that today he would be much like you. There were two reactions. First, there was sadness at being reminded of how much both he and I had lost. But then, there was the pleasure of knowing that he would have been a wonderful person. It is such a pleasure for me to have met you and see that you have become the kinds of men that I envisioned for Clyde. You have beautiful, supportive, loving families and the world is a better place because of your bravery – bravery at Hue and bravery in dealing with the pain and suffering afterward. I felt so privileged to be included in your reunion, I felt the love and respect that you felt for Clyde and the warmth and generosity of spirit that you extended to Carol, Jerry and I. I thank you for such a heart-warming experience and I look forward to meeting you again.

- **Wally Kubicki, Sgt. USMC**—Hello G 2/5er's I would like to thank all my brothers for a great time in Washington DC. A couple of the highlights: Meeting Gen. Pete Pace and having cocktails at his residence was unexpected and unbelievable. For me though, getting together with 7 of my old squad and



platoon brothers that I haven't seen since 1966 (38) years; that made the weekend. What I would like to see at the next reunion, if we could have some type of hospitality room. Then we could all meet and have conversations with all our other brothers from Golf Co. My wife Janine had a great time and made some new friends. She also loved the party at the Gen's house. I tried to convince her that I really did know some important people <smile> Thanks again to all the board members they did a great job. Hope to see all my brothers in 2006. Semper Fi

PS Hello to all my brother Chu Lai vets.

- **Edward Benavidez**—I was one of the 1966 original grunts of Golf Company. For me the reunion was a special occasion. After 38 years six of us met for the first time since 1966. It was really great to meet again. The visit to General Pace's home was a rewarding experience and I enjoyed it very much. The reunion was too short/  
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- **Ron Johnson**—Larry, as you requested, the following are my thoughts about the reunion:

Seven of us former Marines who were with Golf Co. when it left Camp Pendleton with 2/5 in January of 1966 en route to Chu Lai, South Vietnam, via Okinawa, attended the G 2/5 Assoc. reunion in Washington, D. C. in September. Although we have communicated with each other by e-mail for the past 1 + years, and exchanged pictures, we had not seen each other in 38 years.

The reunion was one of the most wonderful experiences of my life. For us "Chu Lai" guys, it was the first time we have attended an association function. We were made to feel very welcome and were promptly advised that it was our association too. I commend the leaders of the association for an excellent job in organizing the reunion and for their genuine effort to expand the membership to, and welcome anyone who has ever served in Golf Co. 2/5.

Seeing guys who I thought about very frequently, for the first time in 38 years, was an overwhelming experience. On reflection, it is amazing how quickly we got back to where we were with each other, picking up on the things we all razzed each other about almost immediately, things you can only do with close, special friends. The wives were wonderful also (my guys all married above themselves!). In no time at all, it seemed as if they were long time friends too. It was such a great experience that some of our guys who couldn't make it, vowed to do so the next time after hearing what a special occasion it was.

One cannot talk about the reunion without mentioning the incredible experience of being guests of General and Mrs. Pace on Friday evening. They were very gracious hosts. It was an evening I will never forget. For me personally, I will always cherish a special moment with General Pace. My son is an Airman First Class (E-3) in the Air Force stationed at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

While standing next to General Pace, I called my son on my cell phone and asked General Pace if he would say hello to

my son. I don't know where I got the nerve (gall) to ask him to do that, but being the wonderful guy he is, he eagerly took the phone and began chatting with my son, thanking him on



*Ron gets his wish . . . !*  
**Ron Johnson with Gen. Pace talking with Ron's son!**

two separate occasions for his service to his country. He even had a picture taken of him standing with me talking to my son (I hope I can get a copy of it). I was awestruck! I couldn't believe it was happening. It was a very emotional moment for me and I will be forever grateful to General Pace for his kindness. It was a wonderful gesture.

I was one proud and euphoric father! But, as stunned as I was, it was nothing compared to the utter shock of the Airman First Class who suddenly found himself on the other end of a phone with none other than the second highest military officer in the U. S. Military, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff! He was in his car at the time with one of his fellow Airmen who told him afterward when my son told him who it was, "I knew you must have been talking to someone awful important because all of a sudden you got a real serious look on your face and you kept saying "yes sir, yes sir...." I simply cannot find words to express the depth of my gratitude for that very special gesture by General Pace.

The comment made by my son's buddy after the phone call should reassure any of us who may be concerned about whether the troops of today are like we were. He said: "You had the Vice Chairman on the phone, why didn't you ask him to get us out of this hellhole!" Words and thoughts of an E-3 from any era!

It was also quite a treat to meet Bill Buchanan and some of the guys mentioned in his book. I was particularly honored to meet "PFC" Bates, a true warrior.

Larry, the reunion was a wonderful and unforgettable experience. I would urge anyone who has ever served in G-2/5 to attend the next reunion. I know our guys will be back---and with reinforcements, including our Commanding Officer, Captain Jack O'Rourke!

Semper Fi my brother, Ron Johnson (G-2-5 1966)

- **Marc Glasgow**—I am writing to thank those that worked hard to enable us to have a reunion. Your effort is most appreciated. It was amazing to reunite with known friends and make some new ones after all these years have passed. On the



whole I thought the guys looked damn good. Some are really lean (Barney) and others not so lean. Until we meet again. Fair winds and Following Seas

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

<b><i>PFC Leo Kotke</i></b>	<b><i>KIA 1/19/69</i></b>
<b><i>L/Cpl. John F. Lewis</i></b>	<b><i>KIA 2/19/68</i></b>
<b><i>PFC Robert D. Murphy</i></b>	<b><i>KIA 2/26/68</i></b>

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

**Special Acknowledgements, the Editor**

I guess there's no mistaking how much this reunion meant to everyone who attended and in particular, the reception held for us all at Lt. Pace's home. We can only imagine how much work went into that by the General and Mrs. Pace and on behalf of the G 2/5 Association, I want to express our most sincere appreciation and gratitude to both of them. Additionally, Lt. Pace's staff went above and beyond to pull this off in such a short time. I also want to recognize LCDR Kerry Kuykendall and the staff for the beautiful spread and the warm and cordial welcome.



**L to R: LCDR Kerry Kuykendall and Gary Beebe**



**L to R: Lt. Pace acknowledging his staff at the reception**

I also want to thank LCDR Kuykendall for sending me the photos, many of which are included in this newsletter and M/Gy

Secor for getting us all on base. Special thanks goes to Mamie Mae Burke (photo on pg. 4) and the other photographers for their skilled photography which will allow us all to have a memento of a once in a lifetime occasion for all of us fortunate to be there.

**Post Script, the editor**

I've included a lot of photos of the DC reunion in this issue of the newsletter. Please accept my apologies for the Marines not identified on the photos.

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L to R Front Row: Richard Lee, Tom Jayjack, Mike Stallings, Lester Tully, Bob Setlak, Dale Farnham, Lt. Peter Pace, Mike Ervin, Tony Cartlidge, Mario Muñiz, Col. John Bates, Ron Carbone, Thomas Johnson  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Row L to R: Larry Ortiz, Ron Johnson, Mike Copeland, Larry Hardaway, Barney Barnes, Dan Cholewa, Joe Snead, Marty Steinbach, Dale Roberts, Mark Glasgow  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Row L to R: Tom Marshall, Bill Buchanan, Gary Beebe, Paul Lee, Jim Downer, Marty Steinbach, unidentified, Ed Benavidez, Kevin English, Ted Armijo  
 Top Row L to R: Vern Arndt, Jim Kelly, "Doc" Higgins, Craig Hanson, Tom Lumpkin, Vince Montoro, Jesse Lyons,?



L to R Front Row: Tom & Brenda Marshall, Cheryl & Les Tully, Leanne & Bob Setlak, Lynne & Pete Pace, Joy & Doc Higgins, Irma & Mario Muñiz  
 L to R Middle: Vince & Jan Montoro, Wanda & Mike Copeland, Melba Ortiz, Tony Cartlidge, Terry Studenny, Barney Barnes, Mary Pitts, Mona Barnes, Patricia and Ed Benavidez, Joe & Kathy Snead, Ted Armijo  
 L to R Top Row: Vern & Ann Arndt, Dianna & Marty Steinbach, Larry Ortiz, ? ?, Sharon & Dale Roberts





**Battle of Hue City Veterans**  
**Top 2 rows:** Richard Lee, Paul Lee, Jim Kelly, Mike Ervin, Dale Roberts  
**Middle Row:** Mario Muñiz, Mike Stallings, Mike Copeland, Lt. Pace, Barney Barnes, Tony Cartledge  
**Front Row:** Larry Ortiz, Les Tully, Bob Setlak, Doc Higgins, Dan Cholewa



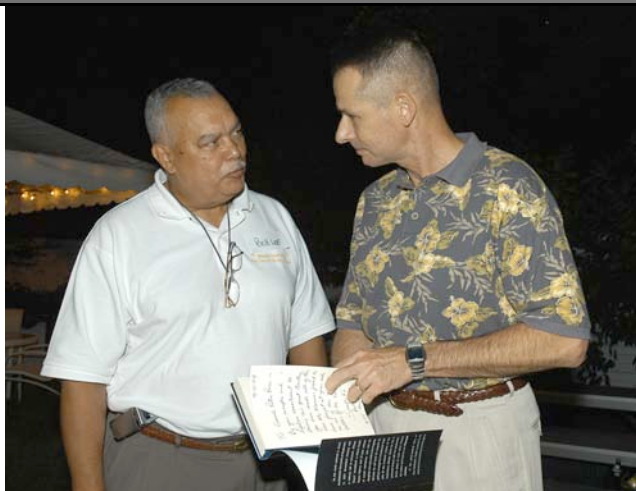
**L to R:** Ted Armijo, Gary Beebe, Lt. Pace, Ed Benavidez



**Marines who served with Lt. Pace in Vietnam, 1968**  
**Top Row L to R:** Jim Kelly, Mike Ervin  
**Middle Row L to R:** Mike Copeland, Lt. Peter Pace, Barney Barnes  
**Bottom Row L to R:** Lester Tully, Bob Setlak, John "Doc" Higgins



**L to R:** Brenda Marshall, Lt. Pace, Tom Marshall



**Richard Lee Presenting his Book, *Personal Justice*, to Lt. Pace**



**L to R:** Ann Arndt, Lt. Pace, Vern Arndt



**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  
7064 Scripps Crescent  
Goleta, CA 93117**

**Address Correction Requested**

**First Class**