



The 2/4 Association

Sea Horse

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The Second Battalion, Fourth Marines: "Second to None—The Magnificent Bastards"

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November 2009

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## President's Message

A Happy 234<sup>th</sup> Birthday to each and every one you! I don't know exactly when this newsletter will "hit the stands" (or when you will get around to reading it), so I will say that I hope whatever Ball you attended was wonderful, or that the one you will attend will be wonderful.

You will not see another repetition of the Commandant's Birthday message here. I have no doubt that you will see it at least a half-dozen times in other publications and this is already going to be a kind of "busy" newsletter. A link to this year's video, however, is included in this newsletter. It's really terrific, so I urge to you take a look.

You all know that the battalion deployed on 18 September and I know you are keeping our younger brothers in your prayers. I speak for all of us when I say that my Birthday wish is for them all to come back to us safe and sound. You will find herein the addresses you can use if you want to send Care packages to the battalion. I'm sure they'd all enjoy some Christmas packages.

We tend to refer to these Marines as our "younger brothers" and there are certainly a few in the battalion who would be in that age range. But let's be honest here, most of us are of an age where the majority of the battalion's Marines could be our sons and grandsons. It is certainly not the same as having your own son/grandson in harm's way, but I imagine all of us are feeling at least a little of the anxiety that our parents felt when we were off fighting in our wars. Moreover, our own fathers and grandfathers may have never been in combat themselves, as most of us have. We have a pretty good idea of what that's all about. Jungles in our wars, sandbox today – it doesn't matter. The human element of combat has not changed since cavemen threw rocks and sticks at each other (Marine cavemen just got rocks and sticks, Recon Marine cavemen got the elite weapons – long sticks with pointy rocks tied to one end).

I have no doubt that the Corps will make sure our younger brothers get their share of this Birthday celebration. I offer all of them – on behalf of us all – a slight paraphrase of one stanza from our Hymn.....Here's health (and safety) to you and to our Corps, which we are proud to serve! OoRah, Grunts!

Peter W. Schlesiona  
President

## News from the CO~

Families and Friends,

The Battalion Landing Team (BLT) just completed a very successful 10-day MAREX (Marine Exercise) with battalion units training simultaneously with indigenous forces in both East Timor and Indonesia. BLT Marines from the USS Rushmore and USS Cleveland trained in Indonesia while BLT Marines on the USS Bonhomme Richard trained in East Timor. Recon cross-decked to the Cleveland and conducted all training in Indonesia.

Marines training in Indonesia participated in jungle instruction that included eating a python, cobra and iguana; most actually enjoyed it! The jungle was hot, humid and offered challenging terrain. When not in the jungle training, Marines off the Cleveland and Rushmore conducted live fire and maneuver training and Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP) with the KORMARS (Indonesian Marines). Our Recon platoon conducted an arduous multi-day patrolling package with a KORMAR recon platoon in the Kalikatak training area. We found the KORMARS to be very professional, disciplined and highly motivated. US Marines also participated in numerous COMREL (community relations) projects. Many of the BLT Marines made new friends in places such as Selogiri, Kalikatak, and Baluran Indonesia.

East Timor offered some exceptional training opportunities for those BLT Marines embarked on the BHR. Head Quarters & Service Company participated in a robust patrolling package in Manatuto. They also conducted numerous COMREL projects including painting a school, providing water and food and getting beat by the local kids in soccer! Weapons Company trained side-by-side with the Australian Army in a hyper-real counterinsurgency exercise that included the willing participation of the residents of Gleno, East Timor. When not in Gleno, Weapons Company rotated to Manatuto, East Timor to conduct Military Operations Urban Terrain (MOUT) in an old, abandoned prison; it proved an ideal location for urban training and the Aussies proved to be a cunning and clever opponent. Easy Co conducted a joint jungle patrolling package in Seisal with the Australian Army and FFDTL (East Timoran Army). Easy Co's corpsman also saw and treated many of the local villagers that lived near the training site and passed out MREs and water.

The BLT's next stop is Thailand and Singapore, where the Marines will get some well deserved liberty. The BHR will be in Phuket, Thailand and the Cleveland and Rushmore will be in Singapore.

Our Bastard Marines were exceptional ambassadors to the people of East Timor and Indonesia. They engaged with the locals, eating the local cuisine, learning of the culture, bartering and making some new friends. I couldn't be more pleased with their performance and professionalism. They are certainly keeping the tradition of the *Magnificent Bastards* alive!

Colonel Andrew G Wilcox

**Contact Addresses for the Battalion while Deployed:**

The Marines are aboard three ships. Here is the unit/ship breakdown:

**Cleveland:** Fox Co., CAAT B from Weapons Co, ACE, Combat Engineers.

**Rushmore:** Golf Co., H&S CO Detachment 2, Tanks, AAVs, Combat Logistics Bn. 11

**Bonhomme Richard:** Echo Co, Weapons, H&S Co., Alpha Battery, Recon.

<b>Deployed Mailing Addresses (for personal use only when the unit is underway):</b>			
Command Element	USS Bonhomme Richard	USS Cleveland	USS Rushmore
Ground Combat Element	11TH MEU CE (SECTION)	11TH MEU CE DET 1 (SECTION)	11TH MEU CE DET 2 (SECTION)
Aviation Combat Element	UNIT 42520	UNIT 42521	UNIT 42522
Combat Logistics Element	FPO AP 96610-2520	FPO AP 96610-2521	FPO AP 96610-2522

For example, something you might want to send to a Golf Co. Marine would look like this:

(Marine's Name), USS Rushmore, 11<sup>th</sup> MEU, Combat Element, Golf Co., 42522, FPO AP 96610-2522.

Yeah, there are some acronyms that don't mean squat to us old-timers and, as you can see, there is no Hotel Co. (sorry Hotel vets - truly). And, the Battalion Padre says pogeey-bait is always welcome. Suggestions: snacks, but avoid stuff, like chocolate anything, that can melt en-route and snacks that are real salty. Baby-wipes, tobacco, hard candy, mints like Tic-Tacs, - heck, you guys remember the stuff we craved in 'Nam. ~Peter

Here are some other websites relevant to the battalion while they are deployed:

<http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/DIV/5MAR/2BN4/FamilyReadiness/familyreadiness.asp>

<http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/div/5mar/2bn4/familyreadiness/contact.asp>

**2009 USMC CMC Birthday Message and Video (Link)**

<http://www.marines.mil/units/hqmc/cmc/Pages/default.aspx>

**HEALTH AND WELFARE OFFICER:**

**Bob Mercer**, introduced himself in our last newsletter as our current **Health and Welfare Officer** for the Association. I urge you to keep in touch with Bob. Please let him know if you hear of any Association member who may have health or other problems.

Many of us are getting on in years and are experiencing problems associated with just plain getting older or something more serious. We don't want to lose touch when maybe all that brother may need is a sympathetic ear or some words of encouragement.

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## 2/4 Assn. Website~

Alright, you bastards!

The 2/4 website is back up and running!

At the moment, you will not see all of the bells and whistles that were in the original. We concentrated on re-building the "core" materials.

New stuff will be added in the future by incoming webmaster Tom Arcuri. [devildog@tuntavern.us](mailto:devildog@tuntavern.us)

I'm sure you will all join me in a hearty "Thanks for all you've done" to outgoing webmaster Jim Mazy. Former president, roster manager, membership chair AND webmaster - Jim did it all. Deep, deep thanks to you, Jim.

Here's the link to the new website - Enjoy!

<http://www.2ndbn4thmarines.com/>

Beginning in February, future copies of the Newsletter can be downloaded from the website.

Members who would like hard copies mailed to them are required to pay an annual fee of \$10.00 to defray the costs of printing and postage.

Also, please remember that the Association operates on a fiscal calendar (July 1, 20xx to June 30, 20xy). Annual dues and hard-copy mailing fees should be sent, by 30 June of each year, to our Treasurer at:

**2/4 Association**  
**PO Box 6511**  
**Concord, NC 28027**

S/F,  
Peter Schlesiona

## Association Master Roster~

The Association roster is riddled with missing or no longer valid e-mail addresses. While we recognize that some of these members may not have internet and e-mail access, we would like to clean up as many bad e-mail addresses as possible. If you know any of the following people and are in contact with them, please ask them to contact me at 303-652-0681 or (preferably) send me an e-mail at [charlievons@comcast.net](mailto:charlievons@comcast.net).

William Abbs	Raymond Andrews	Bobby Beene
James Bare	Dale Barnes	R. Barrett
Gene Beeber	Arthur Brill, Jr.	Larry Neely
William O'Connor III	E(Frank) Corney	John Palio
Joseph Edgell	Jose Espinosa	Ronald Taylor
Roy Fisher	Mike Gavlick	Donald Gregg, Sr.
Daniel Guzman	Alex Harper	Michael Milbert
Judson Hilton, Jr.	John Hollars	Tom Hood
Bill Hoover	Dennis Jackson	James Jacobs
Charles Jaques	Dale Johanson	Carl Kreger
William Krueger	Alvin Macko	Harry Manion
Gary Mason	John McCormack	James McDonough
Bill Meditz	Gilbert Mendoza	Robert Mitchell
Juan Moreno	Merrill Morris	Robert Murrin
William Papianou	Nicholas Passarella	John Payne
Budd Pedersen	Richard Pippin	Roger Pittman
John Pollak	George Rogers	Daniel Ross
John Russell	Melvin Malnar	Hayward Sawyer

Edward Grygorcewicz  
Michael Single  
Charles Streeter  
Thomas Scott  
Gary Waters

Marvin Seyfer  
Joseph Stein  
Edward Strohmeier  
Anthony Trejo, Sr.  
Thomas Wright

Thomas Ingalls  
Terry Stevens  
Roy Sutphin  
Michael Vassallo  
Russell Tanner

I do have postal addresses and I will take that route eventually – but you can see that your help may save a LOT of time doing a mass mailing.

## **LOST MEMBERS:**

The following members have dropped out of sight. Both Postal and e-mail addresses are no longer valid. If you know these members, please ask them to contact us so that we can update our records:

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David Randle	WA	Life
Ned Lundquist	MN	Annual
James Barnhart	FL	Annual
Keith Walls	WV	Life
Robert Gaff	PA	Life
Albert Clark, Jr.	DE	Life
Delbert Ligon	NC	Life
John Walsh	AZ	Life
Paul Sager	PA	Life
Mike Castle	SD	Life
James Stahl	AZ	Life
Peter Shirk	FL	Annual
William Conner III	IL	Life

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## **MEMBER NEEDING ASSISTANCE:**

Member Jim Lowery is attempting to gather evidence of a connection between exposure to Agent Orange and urinary bladder cancer. If you have any information that may be of help to Jim, please contact him at:

1338 Avenida Pantera  
San Marcos, CA 92069  
Email: [james.lowery@med.navy.med](mailto:james.lowery@med.navy.med)  
(760) 295-7324 or cell (760-419-8371)

## **SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS:**

Terri Crow, wife of Life Member Michael, wrote to us with the following information:

### **Vet Wives:**

“This is a group of women who are married, mothers, daughters, girlfriends or widows of veterans. We offer support, understanding, help and a shoulder to lean on. I've belonged to this group since 1997 and the support of others who are dealing with the same issues as I have was and is a life saver. Please feel free to pass this on. Those who want to join must be approved by either the owner or one on the moderators. This group is for women only”.

Link is: <http://www.angelfire.com/ok/VetWives/Homepage.html>

In addition, she provided another website regarding “Vets Helping Vets”: <http://tmkc.netfirms.com>

The site provides various information and assistance with things like navigating the DVA process, available resources, etc

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## **PUBLICITY OFFICER:**

Board member Dick Morris has taken over the Association Publicity duties from long-time Officer Phil Ciafola. Phil has decided to

move into his long-delayed retirement years. I wish him all the very best and thank him for all of his services over the years. I also wish Dick all the best and thank him for stepping into this role.

## JERABEK CHALLENGE:

Gold Star Marine Mom Rita Jerabek (Pfc Ryan Jerabek, USMC 2/4 KIA 6 Apr 2004 Operation Iraqi Freedom, Ramadi, Iraq) sent us the following report on the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Jerabek Challenge Run. The Association made a minor contribution by lending the Jerabeks our 2/4 Flag for their event CP. As you will read, there were two 2/4 flags at the event.

This was our best event ever...1500 participants which includes our "companion runs" in the International Zone of Baghdad, Iraq, the crew of the USS Green Bay running at Camp Pendleton with General Magnus (retired Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps) and a group of Airmen at Dyess Airbase, Abilene, TX. (*Pres comment – the uniqueness of having companion runs has been of interest to Leatherneck magazine, which may cover the event in 2010*).

This event was our most significant because of the very special involvement of our beloved 2/4 Marines. There were four 2/4 Marines in the Honor Guard ( Sgt. Lucos Enos, Sgt Ryan Belcourt, Sgt Brian McKibben and LCpl Christopher Griswold) accompanied by 1st Lt Tim O'Neal. They were OUTSTANDING!!! They did the best job that I have ever seen for presentation of the Colors. The National Ensign and Battalion Flag with streamers were breathtaking! They ran the entire 4 miles (7 hills in those 4 miles) with the Battalion flag and streamers waving in the breeze. It was truly an honor to have them here!! Many of the 2/4 Marine veterans who came to the reunion (18 from the platoon), told me that it was so very special for them to stand on that stage behind their Battalion flag once again. They were truly moved!

The Jerabek Challenge is named in honor of Pfc Ryan Jerabek, USMC 2/4 KIA 6 Apr 2004 Operation Iraqi Freedom, Ramadi, Iraq. Rita further reported:

The proceeds from the event are donated to the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund and also for grants for teachers in our school district for innovative learning activities or equipment that otherwise cannot be purchased due to school budget cuts. Ryan wanted to be a history teacher after serving as a Marine. The grants that benefit the students are one way that his dream to teach others can carry on. Last year we were able to donate \$10,000 to the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund and \$5,000 for teacher grants.





**Iraq Run Race Start**

**Finish Line**

### **ASSOCIATION FUND-RAISER:**

A number of years ago, I saw the cartoon, below, in my local newspaper. It affected me deeply, so I cut it out and promptly misplaced it. When I found it again several years later, I contacted the copyright holder and paid for permission to reproduce a limited quantity which, over time, I have donated to various veterans' organizations for them to use as fund-raisers. I also contacted the artist and I think it's important to tell you his definition of a "Plugger".

A Plugger is a decent, "heart in the right place" American who plugs along in life doing harm to no one, but doing good wherever he (or she) can.

What you see here is the original artwork. With permission of the copyright holder, a few minor changes were made (for example, the box in the lower right-hand corner has been completely removed).

I have 25 copies left and am offering them for sale to Association members (\$25.00, which includes S/H). All proceeds will be turned over to the Association general fund. The prints are on a heavy-duty parchment paper, very suitable for 10X14 (could be cut to 10X12, if necessary) framing.

Since there are only 25 copies left, these are "first-come, first-served". After the first 25 requests with payment are received, all others will be returned. Because that could potentially amount to a lot of extra work, I cannot ask our Treasurer – Doc Swann – to take on all of that. So please send your requests, with checks payable to me, to:

Peter Schlesiona  
6915 Peppertree Lane  
Niwot, Colorado 80503



A plugger keeps his promise to look up his friends after the war.

## LAYFIELD MEMORIAL:

Gold Star Marine Mom Diane Layfield (L/Cpl Travis Layfield, USMC 2/4 KIA 6 April 2004 Operation Iraqi Freedom, Ramadi, Iraq). The Association was not able to participate in this event – but we were certainly there in spirit.

Our son, Travis, was killed on 6 April 2004, along with 9 other Marines and one Navy Corpsman. There are no words that can touch the devastation we all experienced and continue to experience. We are now Gold Star families – an elite group to which no one wants to belong. Since then, we have met, and are good friends with, all the other Gold Star families, as well as families of the Echo Co, 2/4 group. We try to stay in touch, as we are now all family.

Over the years, on the first Sunday of December, we have held a Christmas candlelight vigil at Travis' gravesite to remember and honor him and the other young men killed that day. We also conduct an anniversary memorial to celebrate their lives.

This year, on the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the new chapter of Blue Star Moms of Alameda County, wanted to conduct a ceremony for Travis. As you will see in the pictures, all of the young men killed that day were honored. What an amazing job these ladies did!

About 175 people attended at the Veteran's Hall in Fremont, CA. Two other Gold Star parents attended – Mark Crowley to celebrate his Marine son Kyle Crowley, and Sandra Aceves to celebrate her Corpsman son Fernando Mendez.

The ceremony opened with the Color Guard and Bagpiper. As the tones of "Amazing Grace" filled the hall, chills rose on everyone's skin. Then two members of the Color Guard folded the American flag while explaining the significance of each fold.

My daughter, Tiffany, prepared a beautiful slideshow to honor all of the 11 Heroes, at that moved the audience to tears. After the outstanding luncheon provided by the Blue Star Mothers, people mingled, consoled and exchanged stories about Travis, Kyle and Fernando. And then, in a surprise announcement, we introduced the audience to our grandson, Dylan - the son Travis never knew he had. We had only found out about Dylan 2 ½ years after Travis died. We are blessed to have him and to know that Travis' legacy lives on.

Finally, another Fremont Group, the Quilts of Valor, were introduced and they presented each Gold Star family with gorgeous Americana quilts, in remembrance of our sons.

Such a beautiful celebration of lives cut far too short. We will never forget them!



## 2010 Elections

This is just a reminder to everyone that elections are coming up again next year.

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Sgt-at-Arms

Director (A)

Director (B)

Currently, we have 5 elected directors. However, the by-laws only allow for 2, plus the immediate past president (total of 3). We have researched how the change may have been made and found no record of an all-member vote in favor of changing the number of directors from 2 to 4 (not including immediate past president since that is automatic). Consequently, until the by-laws are re-written (currently in process) and presented to the membership for approval, we are obligated to return to only 2 elected directors.

If anyone has a nomination, please let me know.

My e-mail address is [emmalaoise@msn.com](mailto:emmalaoise@msn.com). My phone is 850-939-3976.

Semper Fidelis,

Pat Burns

Chairmen, 2/4 Nominating Committee

## The following is a letter that was submitted by Barbara Travassos, that was originally in the Sgt Grit magazine:

Yesterday, September 9, 2009, my father, First Sergeant Casey T. Bazewick, USMC (retired), 91, was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he received as a prisoner of war in World War II.

He enlisted before WWII in 1938, after two years in the Marine Corps Reserve. He served with the 4th Marines in Shanghai and on Corregidor in its defense until it fell on May 6, 1942. He became a prisoner of Japan for 39 months -- 92 Garage (Corregidor), Bilibid Prison (Manila), Cabanatuan (Luzon, where 42% died in the first year), H&I Ship Tottori Maru (on deck he watched it nearly sunk by two American torpedoes), and Mukden, Manchuria at a large Mitsubishi factory (three winters, 40-50 below).

The dining room of his nursing home was packed for the impressive ceremony with Marines of all ranks and stripes, active duty and retired, young and old. Four generations of our family were present. Some 50 people attended, including Life Care Center residents.

In the photo below, Captain Mike Rosen, Fort Lewis, WA, pins the Purple Heart Medal on my dad, as I watch. The Purple Heart Certificate was read by Sergeant Major Jenks. A full honor guard from Fort Lewis assisted. In addressing the assembly, Capt. Rosen spoke of how impressed he was when he got my dad's record. "This man has been there, done that, and has the T-shirt." Capt. Rosen and his company's professionalism was impeccable.



In the photo, my dad is wearing a cap made by Sgt Grit with the patch: "Second Battalion, 4th Marines - Second to None - The Magnificent Bastards." He was in E/2/4.

Afterward, as my dad was thanked individually by the many Marines, he remarked, "Look at all that fruit salad!" in reference to the award ribbons they wore.

The event was covered by the Skagit Valley Herald

My dad was also presented with a handwritten letter of thanks and appreciation from Senator Patty Murray (who unfortunately could not attend because Congress was back in session). See attached. A debt of gratitude is owed to Mr. Kim Brown of the Senator's office, who persevered in breaking down bureaucratic barriers in making this award possible.

And my dad was made an honorary member of the Marine Corps League and presented with a certificate.

I prepared considerable material on his military service and the history of the time, which was beautifully displayed by the nursing home. Included were display cases of his medals, ribbons, and service patches. The enthusiasm, generosity, and hard work of the nursing home's staff were outstanding.

Note to Korea vets: In Korea, my dad was Company Gunnery Sergeant of C/1/1 for the Inchon Landing and the retaking of Seoul. He was hospitalized in October 1950, narrowly missing out on Chosin. As a POW in WWII, he had endured three Manchurian winters, north of Korea. I was one and a half; my sister had just been born in July.

Casey Bazewick, Jr.

### Three of our members have passed away~

**Michael Single** (wife = Nichole)  
285 Jaunell Ave.  
Aptos, CA 95003-4219

**Charles Awkerman** (daughter = Paula Snyder)  
79 Courtyard Dr.  
Carlisle, PA. 17013

**Gerrill Beymer** (wife = Barbara)  
10120 S.Cottoncreek Dr.  
Littleton, CO 80130-3842

### From a 2/4 supporter~.

By Michelle Malkin .

Here's a man whose legacy and name you should tell your children about:

They came by ones and twos Friday, quietly slipping into the pews at New Hope Community Church. They smiled at the words honoring a man whose faith made him an inspiration and whose exploits in three wars made him a hero.

And when the last mournful drone of the bagpipes faded, they said goodbye to Col. Kenneth L. Reusser of Milwaukie, the most decorated U.S. Marine Corps aviator in history.

"He was the finest gentleman I've ever met," said Harley Wedel of Fairview, a fellow Korean War veteran. "I'm really going to miss him."

Reusser flew an amazing 253 combat missions in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He was shot down in all three wars - five times in all. He earned two Navy Crosses, four Purple Hearts and two Legions of Merit among his 59 medals.

In 1945, while based in Okinawa, he stripped down his F4U-4 Corsair fighter and intercepted a Japanese observation plane at an altitude much higher than usual. When his guns froze, he flew his fighter into the observation plane, hacking off its tail with his propeller.

In 1950, while serving in the storied "Black Sheep Squadron," he led an attack on a North Korean tank-repair facility at Inchon, and then destroyed an oil tanker - almost blowing himself out of the sky in the process.

During the Vietnam War, Reusser flew helicopters. He was leading a Marine Air Group in a rescue mission, when his own "Huey" was shot down. He needed skin grafts over 35 percent of his badly burned body.

Reusser was born Jan. 27, 1920, the son of a Cloverdale minister. While still a teenager, he became a committed Christian, which remained a big part of his life.

Reusser lived a "Tom Sawyer-ish" existence, Wedel said, jumping off a barn roof to test a parachute, racing motorcycles to help pay for college and earning a pilot's license before WWII broke out.

After retiring from the Marine Corps, he worked for Lockheed Aircraft and the Piasecki Helicopter Corp. In recent years, he remained active in veterans groups.

**2ND BATTALION, 4TH MARINES ASSOCIATION  
2010 REUNION - PLEASANTON, CA  
1-5 SEPTEMBER 2010**

The 2010 reunion will be held in Pleasanton, California, which is located just east of the San Francisco Bay Area in the Livermore Valley. Pleasanton is easily reached via several interstate highways, depending upon which direction you travel, and close to three large airports.

The reason for having the reunion in this location is two-fold. First and foremost, as always, we are afforded the opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with old friends and make new ones in a special "band of brothers" event. Secondly, this year will offer a new and unique venue on Saturday and Sunday to experience a Scottish game in conjunction with the reunion events.

Host Brooks Wilson is a member of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco as well as the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines Association. The Caledonian Club has hosted an annual Scottish gathering and games since 1866 in the Bay Area and it has become one of the largest Scottish games in the United States, drawing 40-45,000 on Labor Day weekend each year. Brooks thought it would be a lot of fun to combine the two events into one "lollapalooza!" Members will get to experience the fun of attending a Scottish heritage event including such things as ethnic foods, lots of folks in period regalia, contests for pipers, drummers, pipe bands, drum majors and athletes, sheep dog exhibitions, Scottish cattle, clan tents where one might begin the search for his or her roots, and two grandstand shows per day to cap the excitement and wonder of it all. Members might even find out what's under a kilt!

Members will discover that the people who attend this fine event are very patriotic and appreciative of our military. Our Association will be recognized at the grandstand shows each day. A special feature at these shows is a Marine Corps Band from Southern California which has been invited to perform along with the many pipe bands. The closing show's massed bands and lowering of our National colors by Marines is definitely a highlight! Not to be forgotten are the many vendors selling their Scottish wares should members be caught up in the swirl of things and desire to take home a remembrance or two.

The games are held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds which is approximately three miles away from the reunion headquarters hotel: Four Points - Sheraton in Pleasanton. Presently there is a block of rooms available offered at \$80 per night plus local taxes. The hotel has a very nice restaurant which will help host our traditional banquet on Saturday evening. There are also a number of good restaurants within walking distance to enjoy, or a short drive will offer even more choices for culinary delights.

Thursday, the Association will conduct its annual meeting, a memorial service and social hour with picnic style dinner in the grandstands of the fairgrounds overlooking a beautiful golf course in the center of the track.

Friday has been set aside for members to take in the sights around the Bay Area as desired. If not driving your own vehicle, it is recommended that you rent a car at one of the airports. This will provide the best means of getting around to the various activities during the reunion period. If traveling to San Francisco ["the City"] at any time, however, it is highly recommended that the Bay Area Rapid Transit System [BART] be used since traffic can be heavy and parking expensive. BART is located across I-580 from our hotel (two mile drive) which offers fast, efficient transportation to many points in the Bay Area.

During your visit it is highly recommended that you take lunch or dinner at the Marines Memorial Club [MMC] at 609 Sutter Street in San Francisco. It has a wonderful library and museum as well as a fine restaurant on the top floor. The MMC is only two blocks from famous Union Square and the Powell Street cable car line.

Hopefully, the information contained herein will whet your appetite to attend what may be the best reunion yet! The daily schedule information is presented below. Brooks, Colleen and the reunion staff eagerly await your arrival and trust you will have as much fun as we will in putting on this wonderful event for you! Registration information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter. Stay tuned!

### **\* SCHEDULE OF EVENTS \***

#### **Wednesday (1 September)**

1200 - 1600: Registration

1200 - 1800: Hospitality room open

#### **Thursday (2 September)**

0900 - 1600: Registration

0900 - 1430: Hospitality room open

0900 - 1430: Open for visiting and / or sightseeing in the Bay Area

1430 - 1520: Board of Directors meeting at Alameda County Fairgrounds

1530 - 1650: Business meeting / election of officers at Alameda County Fairgrounds

1700 - 1750: Memorial service at Alameda County Fairgrounds

1800 - 1900: Evening social (no host bar and light hors d'oeuvres) at Alameda County Fairgrounds

1900 - 2100: Dinner at Alameda County Fairgrounds

#### **Friday (3 September)**

0800 - 2400: Open for sightseeing in the Bay Area

**NOTE:** A visit to the Marines Memorial Club, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for lunch or dinner is highly recommended

1000 - 1200: Hospitality room open

1300 - 1700: Hospitality room open

#### **Saturday (4 September)**

0900 - 1830: Scottish Games at Alameda County Fairgrounds

1930 - 2000: Cocktails at Faz Restaurant [upstairs], Four Points Sheraton - Pleasanton

2000 - 2300: Annual banquet at Faz Restaurant [upstairs], Four Points Sheraton - Pleasanton

#### **Sunday (5 September)**

0900 - 1830: Scottish Games at Alameda County Fairgrounds

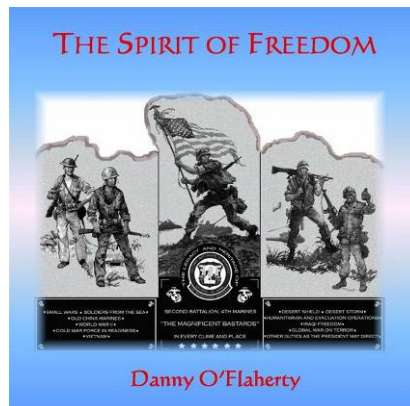
2000 - 2400: Band party at San Ramon Marriott (optional for those loving pipe band music)

#### **Monday (6 September)**

Depart for home or other points of interest

### **Need Advice:**

Do you have anyone that you can show this picture of a Marine Corps Medallion and get its historical meaning? As you can see it has a date on it that goes way back. If so, please contact Jim Kelly at [ksamtuck@att.net](mailto:ksamtuck@att.net)



If there is anyone who would like to purchase the "Spirit of Freedom" CD by Danny O'Flaherty, and do not have computer access, please send your order to: Danny O'Flaherty, P.O. Box 1615, Jasper TX 75951  
You may also call 409-384-5864 to place your order and to pay credit card. If you are paying by check or money order, you can send payment of \$15.00 plus \$2.95 shipping and postage to the address above.