



The 2/4 Association

Sea Horse

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

May 2009

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President's Message

Our 22nd annual reunion is now history and I think I can honestly say that, overall, the history of our Association will count it as unquestionably outstanding. A number of years ago, we celebrated the ground-breaking of the 2/4 Monument on the grounds of the Marine Corps Museum. This year, included in our festivities, we dedicated the Monument and that added a "once-in-a-lifetime" uniqueness to this reunion. Grandly planned and grandly executed – not just the dedication, but the entire reunion.

On behalf of the Association, I want to offer my deep and sincere congratulations to both the reunion committee and the dedication committee for a job very, very well done.

At the same time, however, as your president and, I hope you know, as your friend, I must also offer my personal and deeply felt apologies to those of you who were affected by the problem with the banquet buses. To ignore it, in my opinion, would be highly insensitive, to say the least. I know I speak for the reunion committee on this, as well.

Everyone who attended has, I'm sure, come away from it with his or her personal highlights. I wish there were a way to give each of you the opportunity to tell us all about those. Since that's just not possible, forgive me for presuming to use my "president's letter" to tell you mine. I think my highlight serves to underscore what makes every reunion special – reuniting with our friends.

After more than 40 years, I was finally reunited with one truly admirable man and outstanding Marine. This friend had left the peacetime Marine Corps as a Sergeant. When the Vietnam War broke out, he reenlisted as a private and, when I met him, he had worked his way back up to Sergeant again. Andy Austin and I, since we made contact again, have delighted in harassing him about the fact that he was almost impossible to wake up for his watch at night. No Marine ever passes up the opportunity to harass another but, in all honesty, I believe that was a compliment. He was so secure in his faith in his brothers that he could sleep like the dead and never worry that we were covering his back. He was severely wounded at Dai Do and, as happened in those days, we lost touch. I was profoundly delighted to be able to take his hand over dinner one evening and tell him, face-to-face, how good it was to see him again. God bless you, John Cordsen. And thank you, Arlene Cordsen, for your personal dedication to the Marine you have loved all these years. God bless all of you Marine – and Navy – wives who have devoted yourselves to your men all these years.

Second – and I know there is full agreement on this – I want to thank Lt. Col. Wilcox, SgtMaj Massey, Sgt. Belcourt and Sgt. Enos for demonstrating to all of us old-timers that OUR battalion is clearly in good hands. I offer the four of you the same – highest – compliment I offered to General Mundy.....you are four awesome riflemen.
Peter Schlesiona

2-4 MONUMENT DEDICATION AND 2009 REUNION A HUGE SUCCESS

A Memorial Service with the Chaplain of the Marine Corps, Rear Admiral Baker and our own Randy Kingston as speakers...A Monument Dedication Ceremony with General Paul X. Kelley as Guest of Honor, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Wilcox as Emcee, Sgt Major Mark Massey and a 2/4 Color Guard plus music by a Brass Quintet from the President's Own Marine Corps Band.... A banquet with General Carl E. Mundy as Guest of Honor.... A record number of 2/4 Association members attending....And to top it all off, Steve Wilson was awarded the Bronze Star w/V for saving his Platoon Leader's life 41 years ago....Talk about a weekend to remember.... And these were merely the highlights....We had it all.

It is not possible to cover all these events in one article or one edition, but I'll try. Attendees will be talking about these events for years to come.

Admiral Baker's sermon was inspirational and Randy Kingston touched our hearts with his story.

In keeping with a major theme of our Monument—the passing down of traditions from one generation to the next – the oldest living Commanding Officer, Gen Kelley, and the present Commanding Officer of 2/4, LtCol Wilcox keynoted the Dedication Ceremony. Sgt Major Mark Massey explained the symbolism of our Monument: Every Marine is a Rifleman, The Passing Down of Traditions and the Navy/Marine Corps Team at the "grunt" level where the boondocker meets the mud.

Four 4 Star General Officers helped in the celebrations. Two of them were former Commandants and also Commanding Officers of 2/4 (Generals Kelley and Mundy). The third was Gen Al Gray, 29th Commandant of the Corps. The fourth was General James Mattis, Commander, Transformation Forces, and Central Command. Gen Mattis was a Platoon Leader in 2/4 in the 1970s under then LtCol Carl E. Mundy.

Among many other distinguished guests were John Barker, both of MOH recipient LCpl Barker and Judson Fisher, son of legendary Col "Bull" Fisher. Boy Scouts from Troop 2215 served as escorts and ushers. They looked sharp in their "Smokey Bear" hats and uniforms.

At the banquet General Mundy's speech was inspirational and famed song writer and singer, Danny O'Flarhety, sang a song he wrote in honor of the "Magnificent Bastards."

All during the weekend Ken Johnson and two "Wounded Warrior" cameramen taped all the activities, and two volunteers, JoAnna McDonald and Martha Miller, conducted oral history interviews.

TRULY A REUNION WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER
BGen Bill Weise



Sgt. Maj. Mark Massey~ Lt.Col Andrew Wilcox

Bob Bliss ~ Chuck Kelley

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qp-XxA9ozo> Created by Chuck Kelley

2009 BUSINESS MEETING

Meeting called to order 0900, 2 May 2009

Reports:

Association finances reported and approved by voice vote.

By-Laws Committee:

Reported that this committee is just getting started on updating the by-laws. Nothing to report at this time. No vote required.

Membership Committee:

As of 25 April 2009 -

32 Annual Members...340 Life Members....5 Associate Members...84 Active Duty Members

Membership Chair reported that he has approx. 30 applications still being processed.

It was also announced that active duty personnel would be required to pay reduced rate dues effective 1 July 2009. This was supported by the battalion.

Welfare Committee:

Chair has been vacant for some time. It was announced that Bob Mercer has volunteered to head this committee.

No other committee reports.

Other Business:

(1) Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2010 reunion - Tabled due to apparent conflict in requirements for new committee members. Will be resolved by the Board and the current Committee Chair. (*)

(2) Awards Program - Question was raised about the current program insofar as giving appropriate acknowledgement of "Fallen Heroes" (specifically posthumous MOH recipients). Tabled for further discussion and recommendations from the Board. (*)

(3) Internal Awards - Point was raised that the Association currently has no internal awards program for "above and beyond" services to the Association. Tabled for further discussion and recommendations by the Board. (*)

(4) Proposed that all future reunions have a specific "theme". Proposal seconded and approved by voice vote.

(5) Information Only announcements:

a. The board will be investigating methods to allow for all-member electronic voting in the future, as opposed to voting by only members in attendance at one or another reunion.

b. The battalion has appointed (also noted that he volunteered) an official liaison to the Association - 1stLt Anthony DeVuono.

c. The Association has made firm contact with a Family Group (families of active-duty 2/4 Marines from Gulf 1 to present). We have also provided info about the group to our liaison so that current families can be invited to participate with them.

Meeting was closed at 1015.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter W. Schlesiona

PLEASE NOTE: The following is from my personal notes and memory. I had forgotten to pick up the audio tape of the meeting at the end of the reunion. I will certainly have the tape before the next newsletter. If I have forgotten anything, I will include it in that newsletter



Boy Scout Troop 2215-Sgt Maj.Massey

Former Commandant P.X. Kelley



Rear Admiral Alan T. Baker, CHC, USN 16th Chaplain of the Marine Corps. Welcome Home Hugs

News from the CO~

The Magnificent Bastards continued their aggressive predeployment training plan February through April.

Most of the Marines in the Battalion Landing Team (BLT) were involved in the Special Operations Training Group (SOTG) courses during February and March. These courses train our Marines in the peculiarities of their particular raid profile; helicopter raid, mechanized raid, motor raid, Tactical Recovery Aircraft Personnel (TRAP), reconnaissance and surveillance, etc.

In late March the BLT deployed to 29-Palms to conduct our Alternate Mission Rehearsal Exercise (AMRX). This event marks the highlight of our training and focused extensively on live fire. The Marines performed magnificently firing millions of rounds of ammo and integrating all supporting arms; tanks, artillery, mortars, and aircraft. We had some challenges with gale force winds and sandstorms, but managed to prevail.

The next few weeks are focused on annual training requirements and small unit training. We will conduct a BLT Counter-Insurgency (COIN) field exercise 28 May – 4 June here in Camp Pendleton. This training will focus on the non kinetic skills; language, culture, engagement, presence, battlefield circulation, etc.

This summer the BLT will embark on amphibious shipping three times to get our predeployment qualifications. Those dates are below:

29 June-10 July: First at sea period

20 July-3 August: Second at sea period

10 Aug-21 August: Third at sea period

Our predeployment leave is scheduled for 28 August – 13 Sept with our MEU deployment scheduled for the window of 19-21 Sept and returning late April/May 2010.

Thank you for your continued support of our Marines.

Semper Fi,

Lt Col A.G. Wilcox

Bastard-6

2/4 Assn. Website~

To address a lot of questions that were brought up at the reunion, here is the current status of the website.

The main problem has been that the software application on which it runs has not been supported by Microsoft for a while now. While this did not "bring it down" completely, it crippled quite a number of features. As an example, even way-outdated materials cannot be removed or erased.

New software has been secured and the effort is now underway to move everything from the old software to the new. NOTHING will be done to the existing website while the change-over is in process because it would be a waste of time.

There will be a "full court press" to get this all done as quickly as possible. Thanks for your comments and your patience.
Peter Schlesiona

A Reunion Video is in production and will be available soon. The DVD was shot and is being edited by members of the **WOUNDED MARINES CAREERS FOUNDATION**, one of whom served with 2/4 in Iraq. Details on how and where to order the video will be available from Ken Johnson soon. The price will be \$ 48.50 and is not tax deductible, but any further tax deductible donations will be. The foundation is non profit and the money goes toward tuition and expenses.

Marines~

I just received a notice announcing the Veronica Hansen survivor poker night. Veronica is the daughter of Alex Herrera, a member of our Association and a Vietnam veteran. It would be good if you could put the announcement on the website for our members, in the Pleasanton, California area. More info is available at www.veronicahansen.com.

Semper Fi

Jack Petrowsky

Maj. Gen. Jim Livingston

Congratulations to Maj. Gen. Jim Livingston for being inducted into the Citadel's Business Hall of Fame.

THIS IS OUR MAJ.GEN JIM LIVINGSTON. AND WE ARE ALL VERY PROUD. HE'S NOT ONLY A WARRIOR OF THE FIRST ORDER BUT A LEADER IN THE CIVILIAN WORLD. CONGRATATIONS, JIM, FOR A RICHLY DESERVED AWARD.

See story at:

<http://www.charlestonbusiness.com/news/27079-five-local-business-leaders-inducted-into-citadel-rsquo-s-business-hall-of-fame>

<http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events/2008-03-20-jamesLivingston.jsp>

Article by Jay Vargas ~

I want to thank you and the people of Winslow for allowing me to return home to an excellent event during the Vargas Field Dedication ceremony. Seeing so many of my closest friends was the best medicine that I could ever receive as told to my doctors who didn't want me to make the trip. Not many folks in Winslow know except Coach Nasser and now Sue T, that Agent Orange from the battlefields of Vietnam after 34 years has cause cancer in many of my Marines and I. Regardless, I want you all to know that you made my day. I was humbled and honored to return home to a small city that I always brag about. Winslow is the best city in our nation for young men and women to grow up in because of the support of the grown ups at events that range from sports to the educational challenges. I only wish that the young people only knew what they have in being a citizen of Winslow.

I can only leave the students at Winslow High these words--" Believe in yourself, set reasonable goals you can reach, love GOD and your parents, learn to love each other above all else, regardless of who they are or the color of their skin or racial background. If you fall or fail during your life's journey, get up and never give up."

To Art and his baseball players, thank you for the autographed baseball, the engraved crystal but most of all, the privilege you gave me in watching you win a close game 5 to 4. My eyes and heart were both heavy with pride in watching the grandsons/nephews of my past team members. No brag but a fact, it might have been close, but I believe- we could have beaten you!

Go Bulldogs---Jay Vargas

Steven Richard Wilson~

Steve was born December 2, 1946, in Detroit, Michigan. His family relocated to Cocoa, Florida, where he grew up in the shadow of NASA's space program. Steve proudly served with the United States Marine Corps from 1966 to 1969. Afterwards, he graduated from the University of Central Florida with a B.A. in Physical Education, and later got his Masters from the University of Oklahoma.

Steve taught and coached at Palm Bay Jr. High School in Florida, and in 1980 went to work for Aramco in Saudi Arabia. He spent 18 years as a teacher and coach in Dhahran and Abqaiq.

In 1998, Steve returned to the United States and refereed and umpired basketball and baseball in Massachusetts. He relocated to East Tennessee in 2004 and worked for the Veterans' Pre-College Program at the University of Tennessee. In 2006, Steve retired and married his wife, Phyllis. They now live in Lenoir City, Tennessee, near the Great Smoky Mountains, with their blue-tick hound, Sgt. Major.

Steve's only child, Stephanie, lives with her husband, Mike, in Georgia.



P.X Kelly awards Steve Wilson Bronze Star with "V"

D. Jones, S. Wilson, B. Weise, J. Livingston



Keith William Nolan~

I must sadly report to you the untimely passing of Keith William Nolan - our great friend and author of "The Magnificent Bastards: The Joint Army-Marine Defense of Dong Ha, 1968".

I spoke with Keith not long ago and he was bravely battling the odds. I am very glad that, last year, the Association sent him a tribute to honor both his friendship and his lasting contribution to the legacy of our battalion. Peter

ALTHOUGH I REALIZE THAT HE WAS IN CONSIDERABLE DISCOMFORT, IT'S REAL SHAME THAT HE IS GONE. BUT FOR HIS INTEREST AND EFFORTS, THE DEEDS AND SACRIFICE OF MANY MARINES AND SOLDIERS WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED - OR REMEMBERED.

I NEVER MET HIM BUT I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT ONE OF THE PROUDEST MOMENTS OF HIS SHORT LIFE WAS BEING INCLUDED IN THE 2/4 REUNION AT PARRIS ISLAND.

RIP KEITH.

SEMPER FIDELIS

Vic Taylor

Keith William Nolan, Vietnam War Author, age 44 of St. Charles passed away February 19, 2009. Loving father of Britt Nolan. Loving son of William F. & Ulla A. Nolan. Loving brother of Erik A. Nolan. Dear friend of Kristin Halbert & Jordan Massey. Loving brother-in-law to Becky & Ed Millinger. Dear uncle of Rachel Millinger. Dear friend of Kelly L. Nolan. Loving nephew, cousin and friend. Memorial Mass will be 10:00 A.M. Saturday February 28, 2009 at St. Joachim Catholic Church in Old Mines, MO 7-8 miles south of Washington State Park on Hwy 21. Memorials may be given to the Anna Britt Nolan Trust in care of First Bank 6211 Mid Rivers Mall Dr. St. Charles, MO 63304 or American Cancer Society in care of Alternative Funeral & Cremation Services 2115 Parkway Dr. St. Peters, MO 63376.

2/4 MEMORIAL BRICK(S) ORDER FORM

You have the unique opportunity to place one or more engraved bricks around the 2d Bn, 4th Marines Monument in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park next to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. The cost is \$330 per brick. (The additional \$30 is to pay for installation costs). If you wish to participate, complete the following;

Your Name (Print in block letters or use address label)

Address	City	State	Zip
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-----I have completed the engraving information on the reverse side

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Total number of bricks ordered _____ X \$330 = _____

Please make check or money order payable to:

2/4 Association Memorial Bricks

Mail your check and this order form to:

2d Bn 4th Marines Memorial Bricks

Post office Box 6511

Concord, NC 28027

NOTE: YOUR ORDER AND PAYMENT WILL BE HELD IN THE 2/4 ASSOCIATION TREASURY UNTIL 194 APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. THEN ALL 194 ORDERS AND ALL PAYMENTS WILL BE SENT TO THE MARINE CORPS HERITAGE FOUNDATION. YOU WILL RECEIVE A PROOF COPY OF YOUR ENGRAVING BEFORE IT IS ENGRAVED ON THE BRICK

BRICK ENGRAVING GUIDELINES:

Each line is 20 characters in length; each brick can contain a total of up to three lines. A character includes all letters, punctuations and spaces. Each line must end with a full word or name (words and names will not be hyphenated and continued on the next line). You may purchase as many bricks as you like. Bricks ordered separately may not be sited next to each other. Please copy this form

if you would like to register more inscriptions. You will receive a proof copy of your inscription before it is engraved on a brick. Please provide contact information below in case we have questions about your inscription(s).

EMAIL

TELEPHONE

INSCRIPTION NUMBER ONE (ALL CAPS, PLEASE)

Line one

Line two

Line three

INSCRIPTION NUMBER TWO (ALL CAPS PLEASE)

Line one

Line two

Line three

INSCRIPTION NUMBER THREE (ALL CAPS PLEASE)

Line one

Line two

Line three

WELFARE OFFICER:

I'm pleased to announce that Bob Mercer has accepted the long-vacant position of Association Welfare Officer.

As such, Bob takes on the task of keeping tabs on members who may be doing poorly (health-wise or in some other difficulties), keeping us (a real sad job, of course) informed about members who have gone on to the Final Formation and, generally, keeping us aware of members who may need our help in one way or another, even if that's just to keep them in our prayers.

Thanks for stepping up to the plate, Bob. It's an important job that has been vacant far too long.

E-mail: RMERCER@COLUMBUS.RR.COM phone: 614-486-8663

I was surfing the net for my old unit 2/4 and read a newsletter. I often wonder what the 'Magnificent Bastards' are up to!
I was with 2/4 Jan 1981 until 1984. I was Service Record Book Chief from 1982-1984.

There is a photo of mine at my website of BLT 2/4 on the USS Guadalcanal LPH-7 coming into Portsmouth England in 1982. After the Falklands War and just after the Operation Northern Wedding Bold Guard 1982. The photo was just before the 21 Guns Salute. We fired 21 Guns (Guad was Flagship) and 21 Guns were returned from South Sea Castle. I got off ship and went to the Bistro Club and drank beer with Royal Marines! <http://pa.photoshelter.com/c/voyagerdave>

I shall continue to keep up on 2/4.

Semper Fidelis,

David F. Benkart, Jr. Dewidius (Latin for David)

TOXIC WATER AT CAMP LEJEUNE~

If you lived/worked at Camp Lejeune in 1987 or earlier, you should register online while this investigation continues.

In the early 1980's, two solvents - both unregulated at the time - were found in two water systems serving the Tarawa Terrace and Hadnot Point areas: TCE and PCE. Certain drinking-water wells were identified as the source and taken out of service. The Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry is determining whether an association exists between exposure to the water and certain adverse health effects.

Upon completion of the research, the Marine Corps will notify those on the registry through direct mail and e-mail.

Go to: www.marines.mil/clsurvey OR www.atsdr.cdc.gov

This is the link to the Active Battalion Newsletter~

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

There is a wealth of information here as well as the Active BN Newsletter "The Bastards Blurb".

If you have trouble finding the Bastards Blurb, please contact **Chaplain Bareng 24/7 @ 949.412.1528 / ryan.bareng@gmail.com**



Holding the **Bastard 500** plaque is 1stLt Jared L. Reddinger, Fox Company Commander, BLT 2/4. F Co. was the recipient of the first award

This was mentioned at the Business Meeting, but now I would like to introduce everyone to our official liaison with the battalion - 1stLt Anthony DeVuono. The bio will speak for itself, but I just want to mention here that he truly did volunteer for the job - and it's been great working with him. Peter



First Lieutenant Anthony J. DeVuono

First Lieutenant DeVuono serves as the Intelligence Officer, Second Battalion, Fourth Marines, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

First Lieutenant DeVuono was born in Urbana, Illinois, on April 26, 1984. He graduated from the Prairie High School, Racine, Wisconsin in May, 2002. He is a 2006 graduate of the United States Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics.

First Lieutenant DeVuono was commissioned in May of 2006 and after completing the Basic Officer Course, Infantry Officers Course, Ground Intelligence Officers Course, and the Scout Sniper Platoon Commanders Course, he was assigned to Second Battalion Fourth Marines, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. From 10 September 2007 through 4 January 2009, he served as the Scout Sniper Platoon Commander for Second Battalion, 4th Marines during Battalion Landing Team 2/4's deployment as the Ground Combat Element with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tony and Cindy DeVuono currently reside in Racine, Wisconsin. He has one younger brother, Douglas J. DeVuono, an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. Ensign DeVuono is currently in flight training at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. Ensign DeVuono is a class of 2008 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. First Lieutenant DeVuono also has two younger sisters, Andrea L. DeVuono and Christina M. DeVuono. Christina DeVuono, is currently a 4/c midshipman at the United States Naval Academy.

First Lieutenant DeVuono is married to the former Amanda Jane Rasmussen of Racine, Wisconsin. First Lieutenant Amanda J. DeVuono is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, at Los Angeles Air Force Base in El Segundo, California. She is a 2006 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and a 2007 graduate of the Air Force Institute of Technology with a Masters Degree in Aerospace Engineering.

As was previously announced, the Association has added two new awards for the battalion. Most of you are familiar with Joe Paul and Jedh Barker - one award has been named for them. We will, however, publish their bios in a subsequent newsletter for those of you who are not familiar with the two Medal of Honor recipients.

The other award was named from SgtMaj Joe Ellis and most of us would not be familiar with him. Sgt Maj Ellis was KIA on 7 February 2007 while serving with 2/4 in Iraq. His bio follows:



Sergeant Major Joseph J. Ellis

Sergeant Major Joseph J. Ellis, 40, of Ashland, Ohio, died on February 7, 2007, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Ellis was assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California.

Joseph Ellis enlisted in the Marines at age 17 after graduating from Ashland High School, devoting himself a career in the military.

After graduation from MCRD in October 1984, he attended the Field Radio Operators Course at Field Skills Training School, Camp Pendleton, Ca, where he was promoted to lance corporal upon graduation. After basic skills training, he received orders to remain on staff at the training school as an instructor.

While teaching, Ellis attended several schools and training programs, including the Wire Communications Course, Morse Code Operators Course, NCO Academy, Instructor Orientation Course and Curriculum Developers Course. During his assignment he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of corporal Dec. 2, 1985. He served as an instructor until June 1987.

In June 1987, Ellis reported for duty with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, Okinawa, Japan. While there, he served as a team communicator, company communications NCO and radio supervisor in the battalion communications platoon.

In June of 1988, Ellis received orders back to Camp Pendleton for duty with the School of Infantry, where he served as radio supervisor in the communications platoon. While there, he also served as communications instructor for the Infantry Training Battalion and the recently developed Marine Combat Training Battalion. It was here that he was promoted to sergeant in October 1988.

In January 1990, Ellis transferred to 1st Force Reconnaissance Company at Camp Pendleton. His first assignment was as platoon communications and special equipment NCO for the 6th platoon.

After spending more than a year in the Middle East during the first Gulf War, he returned to Camp Pendleton as a company communications chief. He served a recruiting duty stint in Cleveland, just north of his hometown of Ashland, for three years, and then served a tour in Hawaii as a radio chief and a battalion communications chief.

As he continued to move through the ranks, he served as an infantry school instructor until the start of the Iraq war in 2003, when he returned to Iraq with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines. He was named the battalion's sergeant major in December of 2004.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah, and her three children, of Camp Pendleton; his former wife of 17 years, Traci, of Perrysville; his parents and five siblings. Ellis was buried February 21, 2007, at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Ellis' awards, according to his military biography, include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat distinction and one gold star, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one gold star and the Combat Action Ribbon with one gold star.

**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 to experience in connection 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 1868 in the Bay Area and it has become one of the largest Scottish games in the United States, drawing 40-45,000 for the Labor Day weekend each year. He thought it would be a lot of fun to combine the two events into one "lallapalooza!" 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 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 lowering of our National colors 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 and 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. Friday has been set aside for members to take in the sights around the Bay Area with good public transportation being readily available to take members to San Francisco proper. The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system is located across the highway from our hotel (two mile drive) which offers fast, efficient transportation to many points in the Bay Area. Taxis, buses and street cars are readily available to connect members between the BART stations and places to be visited. While rental cars are available at the various airports, and some attendees will be driving in their own vehicles, it is highly recommended to use the public transportation system as much as possible since traffic can be heavy and parking expensive.

If going into San Francisco ("the City"), it is highly recommended that members take lunch or dinner at the Marines Memorial Club (MMC) at 609 Sutter Street. It has a wonderful library and museum as well as rooms and 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 registration packet will be published later this year, but members may view the anticipated schedule 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!

*** 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 sightseeing in the Bay Area

1500 - 1630 : Business meeting / election of officers at Alameda County Fairgrounds

1630 - 1730 : Memorial service at Alameda County Fairgrounds

The 2/4 Association *Sea Horse*

1800 - 2100 : Evening social (no host bar and 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

1300 - 1700 : Hospitality room open

Saturday (4 September)

0800 - 1830 : Scottish Games at Alameda County Fairgrounds

1800 - 2200 : Annual banquet at Faz Restaurant, Four Points Sheraton - Pleasanton

Sunday (5 September)

0800 - 1830 : Scottish Games at Alameda County Fairgrounds

1930 - 2200 : Hospitality room open

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

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY...

If you are seriously thinking of attending the 2010 reunion, please consider giving our host,

Brooks Wilson, a heads up by cutting this out and mailing it to him at:

2430 Herndon Avenue, Apt. 103

Clovis, California 93611

or contacting him via phone at (559) 298-3094, or via e-mail at brooks@adanceofflight.com .

NAME: _____ NUMBER OF GUESTS: _____

This will help Brooks in his planning for rooms, the social and banquet evenings, tickets for the Scottish Games, etc. Thank you!

Membership Applications for the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association

Can be obtained by contacting the Membership Chairman

Jim Mazy, 6122 Shasta Street, Englewood, FL 34224-8161

Phone: 941 474-9431 Or E-mail: Marine-2-4@comcast.net

Annual membership dues can be mailed to (payable to "2/4 Association") and application to:

Second Battalion, Fourth Marines, Association

P.O. Box 6511

Concord, N.C. 28027