

68th Family Reunion in Washington DC: 14-20 August 2023 • Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, Arlington, VA



Overlooks the Air Force Memorial and the Pentagon. Already have reservations for the Evening Parade at 8th and I. More details to follow later

ASSOCIATION CONTACT INFORMATION

P.O. Box 466 * Lisbon, Ohio 44432-0466 215-822-9094 * rogerbacon45@yahoo.com

- 68th Annual Family Reunion, 14-20 August 2023, Washington, DC -

President's Message

As we close out the year, I am so grateful for the excellent year the Association had. You, the members, continue to step up and support this great Association. We had a very successful and significant reunion in San Diego. We had a great time celebrating the 80th anniversary of the activation of the Third Marine Division. On the exact date at the exact location, Camp Elliott, now called Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, the Third Marine Division Commanding General, MajGen Jay Bargeron helped me unveil the plaque that we gave, commemorating the occasion. The plaque was given to Miramar for all the world to see. We had a great lunch in the Officer's club that was opened with the color guard and a Miramar band. The food was excellent and we had nice words from Gen Bargeron. In addition to the nice Association crowd. Miramar Commanding Officer, Col Thomas Bedell and MCRD San Diego Commanding General, BGen Jason



Morris were there. To add to the "star" studded gathering, our own MajGen (ret) David Bice was there. I talked about all of this and more about the reunion in the last CALTRAP, so I'll move on.

We are now focusing on our next reunion. It will be in Washington DC/ Arlington, Aug 14-20, 2023. I already have our reservations for the Evening Parade at 8th and I. More specifics will come out soon. We had to postpone the committee travelling to DC to plan because my doctors told me I could not fly when we were scheduled to fly. Hopefully I can fly by January and we can move this forward. We are very prepared and have some decisions to make. It will be a grand reunion.

We have an amazing leadership team here at the Association. My associates are awesome and provide great leadership, and they are Manager Roger Bacon, Accounting Manager Pat Conroy, CPA, and Judge Advocate

2023-2024 Association Officers

President	Bob North
Vice President	Don Bumgarner
Secretary	Jim Wenzel
Judge Advocate	Ron Thiewes
Sergeant-at-Arms	Joe Deloria
Chaplain	Frankie Harris
Medical Officer	Robert Adams
Chairman (Board of Directors)	Raymond Furlong
Association Manager	G. Roger Bacon
Financial Manager	Pat Conroy
Web Master	Gene Miller

Ron Thiewes, CPA, JD. We have a great board of directors too. It is a real pleasure to work with these people. I also want to thank MajGen (ret) David Bice for his tireless work on our facebook family. This was his idea and it has grown to astronomical proportions.

Roger Bacon and I have been pleading with you to come to the reunions. My current health scare reminds me of how precious life is and to live while we can. I encourage all of you who possibly can, to come to the DC reunion. Let's show them that the Marines have landed.

Also, Roger and I have talked about telling your stories. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to tell your story. Everyone has stories of their time in the Marines. It can be funny, heroic, or whatever. I'm not looking for your life history, but a story. I will start out by telling a funny/goofy story about my second night in Vietnam elsewhere in this CALTRAP.

I'm writing this just prior to Christmas so I hope everyone has a great holiday season. Let's work together to make the new year amazing. I do hope each of you will have a wonderful 2023. Remember we are family here. A big family, but family. I know of many instances where you have reached out to others. War, age and Agent Orange have caused many issues, but we are still here and need to uphold each other. There is a reason we are the strongest remaining "Division Association". It's because you are the best.

Semper Fi,

Robert North, President Third Marine Division Association, Inc.

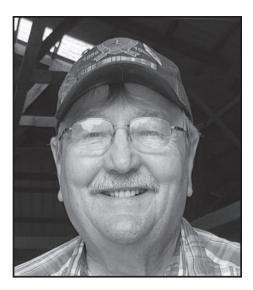
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

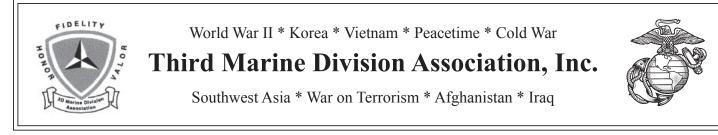
Dear Bob,

It is after considerable soul searching that I must resign as the Association Vice President. I have determined that I am not the right individual to shoulder the responsibility of the President. Hopefully, by notifying you now, you will have time to appoint another member who can better fill the position and spend 2023 getting involved in our organizational needs and prepare to lead us in the future.

My heart has been, and always will be, to support our Association. If you identify another position where I can contribute, I stand ready to serve.

Respectfully, Don Bumgarner





Mr. Don Bumgarner, Vice President Third Marine Division Association

Vice President Bumgarner,

I am saddened to have received your resignation letter. You are a tireless worker for the Association. You love this association and it shows.

While I will accept this resignation, I will also honor your desire to continue serving the Association. In this light, I will recommend you to become a member of the Association Board of Directors at the next Board meeting in Washington DC in August, 2023.

I thank you for your great, long-term service to this Association and to your leadership in the 1/3 Chapter.

I also thank you for your friendship. You are great example of a good Marine and a faithful leader in the Third Marine Division Association.

I wish you the very best.

Semper Fidelis,

Bob North, President Third Marine Division Association

Missing DD214 or Military Records

Get a copy of your DD214 or official military personnel record (OMPF)

Discharged 1998 or earlier:

National Personnel Records Center 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138 MPR.center@nara.gov or www.archives.gov/st-louis Phone: 314-801-0800 Fax: 314-801-9195

Discharged 1999 or later: Commandant of the Marine Corps (MMRP) 2008 Elliot Road Quantico, VA 22134 www.manpower.usmc.mil/ webcenter/portal/MMRP20/ RecordsRequest Phone: 800-268-3710

Source: HQMC, M&RA, Separations & Retirement Branch

<u>PURPLE HEART</u> <u>STAMPS</u> Captain Richard Black encourages all to use the PURPLE HEART stamps when mailing.



BOUGAINVILLE * GUAM * IWO JIMA * VIETNAM * SOUTHWEST ASIA * COLDWAR WAR ON TERRORISM * AFGHANISTAN * IRAQ * PEACETIME Third Marine Division Association, Inc. Post Office Box 466 • Lisbon, OH 44432-0466 (215) 822-9094						
Dear Association Member:						
A lasting tribute to deceased loved ones or friends may be made through a Memorial Donation to the Third Marine Division Association's GENERAL FUND or MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND. To make your Memorial Donation, complete this form, enclose your donation, and mail it to the Association business office. Your donation will be acknowledged, an appropriate notification will be sent to the person you designate below without indicating the amount of the donation, and you will receive a copy. The Third Marine Division Association, Inc., has been granted tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(19) of the IRS Code. All donations are tax deductible.						
Date:						
Association Manager:						
Enclosed is my Memorial Donation of \$						
In Memory of:						
Designated for the THIRD MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION'S						
GENERAL FUND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND						
From:						
Address:						
City: State: 9-Digit ZIP:						
Please send acknowledgement to:						
Name (First Name also, if known):						
Address:						
City: State: 9-Digit ZIP:						
Relationship to Deceased (if applicable):						
(Please retain this form for use at appropriate time)						

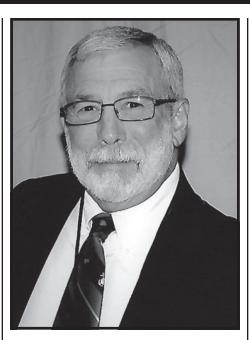
We are attempting to update the e-mail listing of our membership. To assist us please confirm your e-mail by replying to: thirdmarinedivision@gmail.com

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER

How many decisions do we make each day? The number of choices is hard to estimate, but it's higher than you expect. How many have you made today? I have made a lot and it isn't even seven in the morning yet. When the alarm went off this morning, I decided to get out of bed instead of pressing the snooze button. I decided to feed the dog, to make coffee and take a shower. Since I'm retired and live in the country, I decided to dress for working outside on the farm. I chose not to listen (or watch) the morning news; that would have been at least another dreary half-hour or so of updates.

I guess we can all agree that (1) my early morning is insipidly predictable, and that (2) I, like most people make lots of decisions all the time.

In fact, some sources suggest that the average person makes an eye-popping 35,000 choices per day! Assuming that most people spend around seven hours per day sleeping and thus blissfully choice-free, that makes roughly 2,000 decisions per hour, or one decision every two seconds.



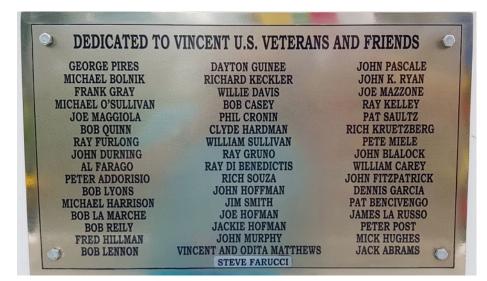
But does this enormous figure really hold up? You just spent about 50 seconds reading my first paragraphs. In theory, you should have made 25 decisions since choosing to read my article. In reality, that number seems counterintuitive, if not outright silly. Chances are, you won't recall making any decision at all during this short space of time. But didn't you make a quick judgement whether or not to carry on reading after the first sentence? (By the way, thanks for sticking with it!) Didn't you decide to ignore an outside noise, or take a sip of coffee, or reposition yourself, scratch, or suppress a yawn?

Granted, it might be rather difficult to put a hard number on these decisions. I do wonder how the estimate of 35,000 choices was derived in the first place. Did some poor research assistant spend a whole day taking note of every minute detail of every fleeting choice that crossed their mind? Furthermore, any estimate will heavily depend on a person's very own definition of decision making.

Where am I going with the above is that everyone has to make decisions. Each of us is important to the "Brotherhood" of our Association. Another year has passed and we are all getting older. Time is precious, so make your decision now to attend our 68th Reunion this August in Washington, DC.

MARINE AFTER RETIREMENT

The picture shows a statue of St. Michael the arch Angel. I raised money to have this made and a plaque with the names of veteran friends that I have helped with my job working for the VA vet center for thirty five years. This statue was made and erected on a Church in the Philippines where I have been toys and gifts to multiple orphanages. Also had donated vestment and garments to young priest. We are blessed with prayers from those who we care for..Vincent Matthews.







3d Marine Division operates as a Stand-In Force in the first island chain to secure, seize, or defend key maritime terrain in order to deny and disrupt adversary actions in support of the Fleet, the Joint Force, and partnered and allied forces.

3rd Marine Division News

U.S. MARINES, JAPAN GROUND SELF-DEFENSE FORCE EXERCISE DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES ACROSS MULTIPLE ISLANDS DURING KEEN SWORD 23

12 DEC 2022 | 2nd Lt. Duncan McClain3rd Marine Division

Okinawa, Japan --

The exercise kicked off with the establishment of three Bilateral Ground Tactical Coordination Centers (BGTCCs) at three different locations in the Nansei Islands where Marines from the 3d Marine Division, 12th Marine Regiment, and 3d Battalion, 12th Marines worked with their JGSDF counterparts to plan and coordinate operations together.

"The BGTCC is similar to a combat operations center where we de-conflict fire missions with the Japanese, as well as collect and exchange data with other units within the Marine Expeditionary Force and Division," said Sgt. Christian Secor, a satellite communications operator with 12th Marine Regiment.

While the BGTCC is a relatively new concept, these bilateral command and control nodes were employed and further developed by 12th Marines and the JGSDF during several exercises over the past year to include Resolute Dragon 22, Keen Edge 22, and Resolute Dragon 21.

"The mission of 12th Marines, particularly here, is to ensure that we can link the significant capabilities of the Japan Self-Defense Force, back to the joint force, and put the U.S. joint force in support of them," said Col. Jonathan N. Sims, commanding officer of 12th Marine Regiment.

Meanwhile, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines embarked on the USS New Orleans (LPD 18) and partnered with the JGSDF's Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (ARDB) for an amphibious assault on the island of Tokunoshima. During this operation, the ARDB secured the beach coming from ship-to-shore in amphibious assault vehicles while the U.S. Marines provided reinforced with additional combat power via MV-22B Ospreys.

"We were doing an air assault from the USS New Orleans, but we really demonstrated the capability to get to where we needed to go," said Capt. Connor Keating, a company commander with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines. "The ARDB is a very capable and willing force. We know that if we find ourselves side by side with them we are in a good place."

In a separate training event, another group from the ARDB and 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines inserted via CH-47JA Chinooks and MV-22B Ospreys to secure and defend the remote island of Tsutara. The combined ground forces landed on rocky beaches and traversed the steep terrain within dense jungles to accomplish their mission.

While Keen Sword is designed to strengthen interoperability and combat readiness, there is also a relational component that comes from operating closely with friends, partners, and allies.

"This training allows us work with units and people that prepare us for a real-world deployment," said Sgt. Javier Camilo, a data systems administrator with 12th Marine Regiment. "Being able to work with members of the JGSDF face-to-face helps improve our understanding of the situation and improve communication."

From a broader perspective, the exercise demonstrates a commitment from Japan and the United States to mutual defense and regional security. Keen Sword 23 is part of a biennial exercise series conducted since 1986 that demonstrates the combined capabilities and lethality developed between U.S. military and the Japan Self-Defense Force.

"Every rep and set we can get working with any of our partners is important to us," said Sims. "Conflict will always be an allied effort."

GUNNERY SGT. STEVE CUSHMAN 3RD MARINE DIVISION

CAMP COURTNEY, OKINAWA, Japan – **The 3d Marine Division commemorated its 80th Anniversary** during a battle colors rededication ceremony at Camp Hansen, Okinawa Sept. 14, 2022.

The Division, which earned the nickname "The Fighting Third," was activated at Camp Elliot in San Diego, Sept. 16, 1942.

"We are honored to recognize and celebrate the anniversary of 3d Marine Division and the service and sacrifice of the Marines and Sailors who have stood in these ranks and – war by war, battle by battle, and day by day – built the great legacy of fidelity, honor, and valor that we stand on today," said Maj. Gen. Jay Bargeron, the 3d Marine Division Commanding General, as he addressed an audience featuring hundreds of U.S. Marines and Sailors along with multiple senior leaders from the Japan Self-Defense Force.

Since its inception, the 3d Marine Division has primarily operated in the Indo-Pacific region. During World War II, it fought in the campaigns on Bougainville, Guadalcanal, Guam, and Iwo Jima where many Marines like CWO4 Hershel "Woody" Williams demonstrated extraordinary heroism on the battlefield.

Following World War II, the Division was deactivated Dec. 28, 1945 and then reactivated Jan. 7, 1952. In August 1953, 3d Marine Division arrived in Japan, supporting peace and security throughout the region. In March 1956, the Division moved to Okinawa where it remained as an expeditionary force-in-readiness until 1965.

On May 6, 1965, the 3d Marine Division opened the Marine compound at Da Nang Air Base in Vietnam. The Division subsequently operated combat bases at Da Nang, Phu Bai, Quang Tri and Dong Ha. The Division departed Vietnam in November 1969 and moved to Camp Courtney, Okinawa, where it is presently located. During the Vietnam War alone, 32 Caltrap Marines and Sailors earned the Medal of Honor.

"The troops I commanded in Vietnam [and] the ones that I commanded throughout my career have always been top of the line, well trained, disciplined, motivated, and flexible," said Col. Robert Modrzejewski, who earned the Medal of Honor in Vietnam during one of multiple tours with 3d Marine Division. "Marines are adaptable ... the technology [and] the weapons are more sophisticated [today] ... as far as ability, I can't tell the difference."

The legacy of 3d Marine Division continued on through the Global War on Terrorism, supporting combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"To be a part of The Fighting Third means being mentally strong and physically strong," said Sgt. Apreanna Johnson, an Afghanistan veteran and Chicago native currently serving as the color sergeant and supporting logistics for 4th Marine Regiment. "My specialty may be Supply, but I understand that I am also a Marine rifleman and must always be ready to deploy and fight."

In the midst of emerging threats, the 3d Marine Division continues to play a significant role in the evolution of the Marine Corps – from furthering concepts such as expeditionary advanced base operations to standing up the Corps' first Marine Littoral Regiment.

"We remain a Fight Now force today. We stand ready – along with the rest of III MEF, our Allies and Partners, and the entire Joint Force – from mainland Japan to the Philippines and beyond," Bargeron said. "Together, we operate within range of clear threats to peace and security; and we do so with great confidence – a confidence that is rooted in the commitment we share with our Allies and Partners, in the trust of our fellow Marines and Sailors, and in the legacy forged by those who went before us."

THIRD MARINE DIVISION REHEARSAL FOR 80TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION



Official photos from the Marine Corps

SEP 14, 2022

U.S. Marines with 3d Marine Division pass in review during a battle colors rededication ceremony rehearsal on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, Sept. 13, 2022. The ceremony will commemorate the Division's 80th Anniversary and its legacy of valor, honor, and fidelity. The 3d Marine Division was activated at Camp Elliot, San Diego, Sept. 16, 1942 and has taken part in combat operations from World War II and Vietnam through Iraq and Afghanistan. The current Marines of 3d Marine Division continue to build on this legacy today as a critical part of the stand-in force within the first island chain of the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Taggart)

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND (MSF) APPLICATIONS FOR 2023-2024

The MSF Board of Trustees has announced the application, eligibility requirements, and MSF Plan for the next academic year 2023-2024 are available on the Association website www.caltrap.org. Also please refer to the article in this Caltrap that oulines the applicant's eligibility requirements.

The applicant's Sponsor may be a parent, grandparent, great grandparent or the legal guardian of the applicant, OR a recently discharged Veteran, and be a Association member in good standing for at least two (2) consecutive years immediately prior to the date of the first MSF application and continue such membership for the entire period of the applicant's assistance.

This is a post-high school scholarship program for the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of Assn members and recently discharged Marines having served in their career at some point with the Third Marine Division and US Naval Service. The 2023-2024 scholarships awards have been increased - \$1,500 to a maximum of \$2,500 per academic year academic year based solely on financial need but MSF Trustees may increase a scholarship more based on special circumstances. No scholarship will be based upon race, national origin, religion, sex or orientation, disabilities, or course of studies, if the applicant is otherwise qualified.

Scholarships may be awarded for any approved course of study in an accredited college or university, and approved post-high school trade school institution. Applicants must be enrolled in each semester for not less than twelve (12) credit hours. Applicants may also be married. Scholarships will not be given in excess of four (4) years of undergraduate study except for:

- Those undergraduate accredited degree programs where the undergraduate requirement is at least 150 credit hours or five (5) years of undergraduate study for graduation.
- Those postgraduate accredited degree programs where the applicant has been an MSF awardee for three (3) undergraduate years of study and has graduated at the end of the third year.
- The MSF Board of Trustees also amended the Plan as follows: In the event a "Midyear (late) applicant" applies for a spring semester scholarship these amounts shall be reduced by Fifty Percent (50%). This is effective for the current academics year 2022-2023

The MSF was established in 1969 to honor the loss in the Republic of Vietnam on 14 Nov 1967 of Third Marine Division Commanding Officer Major General Bruno A. Hockmuth. To date 838 scholarship awards of \$701,000 have been presented to deserving applicants based solely on financial need. Each year the prestigious LtCol Richard E. Jones USMC (Ret) scholarship in the amount of \$1,200 is also awarded.

The family of LtCol Jones, in memory of his service to his Country, Marine Corps, and the Association generously funds this scholarship annually for the applicant with the greatest financial need.

Donations of any amount may be sent to 3MDA MSF c/o Association Manager PO Box 466 Lisbon, Ohio 44432-0466. In addition, contributions to the scholarship fund can be made on the Association website via Pay Pal, http://www.caltrap.org/3rd_mardivassoc/donations.asp

For questions please contact: MSF Secretary ThirdMarDivAssn@aol.com Semper Fidelis

OELITI

HONORING ALL MARINES

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

"SEMPER FIDELIS"

Paul E. Peterson Wpns. Co. 1st Bat. 9th Mar. January 1955 -- March 1956

Third Marine Division Association Presidents

+Gen. Graves B. Erskine Founder, 1949-53 +LtGen. Edward A. Craig 1953-57 +Col. Chester G. Smith 1957-58 +MajGen. Sidney S. McMath 1958-60 +Thomas W. Stowe 1960-62 +CWO Thomas O. Kelly 1962-64; 1968-69 +Harold J. Melloy 1964-66; 1967-68 +Robert E. Williams 1966-67 +Col. Austin P. Gattis 1969-71 +Roy I. Gerken 1971-73 +Gen. Raymond G. Davis 1973-75 +Charles R Powers 1976-77 +Col. Edward F. Danowitz 1977-79 +Leo A. Farrow 1979-81 +BrigGen James P King 1981-821 Col Warren H. Wiedhahn 1982-84 +Harold K. Noble 1984-86 +SgtMaj M. W. (Bill) Krueger 1986-88 +Col Jerome W. Brown 1988-90 +Joe Garza Jr. 1990-92 LtCol George R. Gay 1992-94 +Harry L. Gardner 1994-96 Capt Ronald R. Burton 1996-98 +Royal Q, Zilliox 1998-00 2nd Lt John H. Rine Jr 2000-02 Deane C. Tavlor. 2002-04 William J, Erwin 2004-07



+Philmore A. Wiley Jr. 2007-09 MajGen Gordon C. Nash 2009-11 Jeffrey A. Dement 2011-13 Peter A. Post 2013-15 MalGen David F. Bice 2015-18 Robert L. North 2018-Present

+Deceased

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND PLAN AMENDED AS OF 11 NOVEMBER 2022

SECTION IV – ELIGIBILITY & COMPLIANCE for Academic Year 2023-2024

To be considered eligible for MSF benefits, an applicant must meet the following specific criteria of eligibility and compliance which may be modified by a vote of a majority of the Trustees only when they deem a special circumstance warrants such action and with the concurrence of the Chairman of the Association's Board of Directors Executive Committee.

- 1. A child, grandchild, great-grandchild or legal dependent of any personnel who lost their lives as a result of hostile enemy action while a member of or attached to a unit of the Third Marine Division in "Military Operations" as defined in 6. below OR
- 2. A child, grandchild, great-grandchild or legal dependent of any honorably discharged personnel deceased or retired having been a member of or attached to a unit of the Third Marine Division in Military Operations whose post service death has been certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs to have been the result of hostile enemy action or other disabilities incurred and were not the result of any misconduct by the veteran. OR
- 3. A child, grandchild, great-grandchild or legal dependent of a deceased member of the Association or the spouse of such member, provided the deceased member had held Association membership for a period of at least two (2) consecutive years immediately prior to his or her death OR
- 4. A child, grandchild, great-grandchild or legal dependent of a living member (sponsor) of the Association, provided the sponsoring member has held Association membership for a period of at least two (2) consecutive years immediately prior to the date of the eligible applicant's first application for assistance OR
- 5. Any personnel who has been recently honorably discharged having been a member of or attached to a unit of the Third Marine Division provided the person has held Association membership for a period of at least two (2) consecutive years immediately prior to the date of the first application, be current on all annual dues payments and who continues his or her membership for the entire period of their financial assistance.
- 6. "Military Operations" is defined as the involvement of any unit of the Third Marine Division in Vietnam, or in military operations designated as Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and in the countries of Southwest Asia defined for this purpose as Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Israel, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Kuwait, Syria, Cyprus and Jordan. Also, military operations conducted by order of the President of the United States anywhere throughout the world.

No scholarship will be based upon race, national origin, religion, sex or orientation, disabilities, or course of studies, if the applicant is otherwise qualified.

For questions please contact:

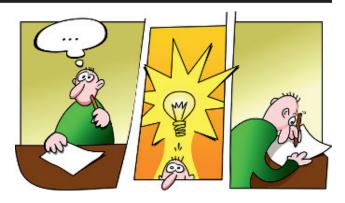
MSF Secretary ThirdMarDivAssn@aol.com Semper Fidelis

THE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND ANNOUNCES NEW TRUSTEES

Victor Navarro joined the Marines in July of 1962/66 and served with the 3rd Recon Bn in Vietnam. I served with the Texas National Guard but retired from the Naval Reserves with 21 years of these combined services. For 33 years in various positions I worked for the US Postal Service and retired. I became a life member of the Association in 1985. Being a former Marine has given me the privilege of meeting some great heroes and forming many lasting friendships. My daughter Vanessa graduated from Texas A&M university thanks to being a past recipient of MSF. Being on the MSF committee will afford me the opportunity to be able to give back in some way, something I will always be grateful for. I served as past chairman of the Corporate Sponsorship Committee and was a past member of the Board of Directors. I am happy to report my lovely wife Teresa and I recently celebrated 51 years of marriage

THIS COLUMN IS FOR YOUR STORIES

STARTING A COLUMN JUST FOR YOU. TELL US YOUR STORIES. NOT LOOKING FOR YOUR LIFE STORY, BUT BRIEF STORIES WHILE YOU WERE IN THE COPRS.



Email them to RLNPLANO@HOTMAIL.COM or ROGERBACON45@YAHOO.COM, or mail them to: **Stories, P.O. Box 466, Lisbon, OH 44432-0466**

A brief story by Bob North.

This is embarrassing. My second night in Vietnam, and my first night in Dong Ha, we came under a rocket attack. My cot was at the end of the tent so I got up and looked outside of my tent to see what was going on. A white phosphorus rocket just exploded nearby and I said to myself, wow, what a beautiful sight. The very next moment I realized what it was and not friendly fire works. I headed for a supposedly protective tent hole/bunker next to our tent. There were five of us living in the tent. When I got to my tents' hole, I found myself on top and totally exposed. I felt stupid, unprepared, etc. The next day, we built the Hilton hotel, with reinforcements and sand bags on top. I think we could have taken a direct hit. We got pretty much nightly attacks after that, so lesson learned.

TO MY FELLOW "DOCS" OF THE 3RD MARINE DIVISION:

AN IVITATION TO YOU...

My name is Alan James. I am a former HM2 who spent the majority of my enlistment in support of various units of the Marine Corps. As an FMF Corpsman, it was my honor to fight alongside members of Bravo Co, 1/3 during the Vietnam War. I sweat and bled along with many fine Marines and Corpsmen and developed a close relationship with many of them that continues to this day...50+ years later.

One of my biggest joys in life has been to reconnect with many of them via an organization founded to do just that. **The Third Marine Division Association** is a large, active group of Marines and Sailors who have served with or been attached to the 3rd Marine Division during all wars and all eras. We are made



up of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, and current active duty personnel. Through annual reunions and newsletters the camaraderie continues.

One of the biggest regrets I have as a former Corpsman is that I didn't maintain contact with those with whom I served. I took lots of pictures of landscapes, weapons and base camps but not enough "faces". Those few pictures I did take of the troops were often not accompanied by "names". I would encourage all of you to not only take pictures, but also record names. It may not seem important to you now, but I guarantee you that in 20 years you will kick yourself for not doing so.

To connect more members, the **3rd Marine Division Association** is encouraging veterans and activeduty men and women who served with the division to join and get their names on our roster. I am asking more Corpsmen to join. By joining you will be welcomed at our annual reunions that take place in various locations across the nation as well as receive our newsletter, the Caltrap.

Membership is affordable and a great investment. The benefit far outweighs the cost of membership. Please visit the association website at www.caltrap.com for more information and a membership application. And, if you email me directly, I will answer questions and assist you in the process.

Again, I can only relate my own experience in regretting that I didn't muster in sooner. I have re-united with many long, lost friends and comrades and maintained friendships over the years as a result of being associated with the **Third Marine Division Association**.

Semper Fi, Alan "Doc" James, HM2 B Co, 1/3, 3rd Marine Division Email: jamesac@charter.net



FROM A DISTANCE

At the edge of Arlington cemetery lying upon a bench under the trees was a man. Semi-conscious with all his worldly possessions heaped around him. It was gray and the rain was drizzling down softly, almost floating to earth. A small number of white crumpled plastic bags were piled around him for support and warmth. From a distance this soul was being watched by this Marine.

I thought to myself, "But for the grace of God, there go I".

I could not determine his age, nor could I see his face very clearly, as it was buried into the bags he held onto, much like clinging to a lifeline. It was sad to see such a disheveled human being lying in the shadows of a monument that emitted such strength and determination. Nonetheless I said or did nothing, nor did I point this man out to anyone at that time.

Across the way just yards away from him was a stone wall that encircled the Cemetery. A large steel gate with a chain on it loomed into the sky. Beyond the gate standing upright there were thousands of white grave markers which represented our nation's heroes. The grass was as green as emeralds, the snow-white markers almost glowed, the trees were lush and glistened with the gently falling rain.

Deep within the cemetery shadowy forms slowly walked among the graves paying their respects. Serenity, as well a deep-feeling of loss overwhelmed me for a moment. I took a picture and walked away from the gray wall with a feeling of emptiness and loss. This could in no way compare to the feeling of peace I had after walking away from the Vietnam Memorial Wall - this was entirely different. This was grim.

I wonder now if the man lying on the park bench was a veteran. I wonder if he was lying in wait with his white bags. Longing for the day he could enter the emerald fields of Arlington. Similarities abound in the sad reality of this scene. The rain fell on both the living and the dead, they both slept under the same trees. The future of the heroes though honorable was hopeless in the sense of future.

And so goes the hopelessness, which engulfed this poor soul whose whole life was dependent on the bags he carried. Life's possessions piled haphazardly upon a lonely park bench that he called home. The white markers of Arlington marked the end of life as these heroes knew. The white bags marked the end of a normal life for this one of the millions of veterans of this society. It's a shame, for in a country as great as this all should have hope in the future.

Unfortunately, this is not so and many dreams are buried in the system and lost in the shuffle of life. I am ashamed and should have done more than just look upon this man. I should have cared enough to talk to him, share his burden and if nothing else make sure he was fed even if it was only temporary. We support our brothers at the Wall, we hug them, welcome them home, shake their hand, and go on about our business. But this day at Arlington was not business as usual.

This was a day that this veteran realized his shortcomings. This was a day I will remember vividly for the rest of my life. From this I have gained the knowledge of compassion without practice.

Richard (Boon) Preston 2002

WE NEED SOMEONE TO PLEASE STEP UP AND TAKE OVER THE REUNION JOURNAL. YOU WILL HAVE LOTS OF HELP BUT WE NEED A LEAD. PLEASE CONTACT ME - BOB NORTH (rlnplano@hotmail.com). To be clear, that's: RLNPLANO@HOTMAIL.COM Thank you very much.

WHAT IS THE REUNION JOURNAL

The Reunion Journal is designed to highlight | a battalion, a family member, a business card? multiple information regarding the Association's | Regardless of what it is we honor your wishes.

and Marine Corps, letters from the Commandant, Secretary of Defense and the Navy, Governor of State and Mayor of reunion location. Plus, all dedicated page entries, numerous submissions honoring Marines past and present, business ads of companies loyal to the Marines, etc. And a major article relating to the history of the Third Marine Division.

Anyone can submit an ad, memorian, etc. Would you like to remember a fallen Marine, or a Marine you served with,



For those who have not seen a Journal, it is a professional publication and well received by all. Everyone who attends the reunion or places a submission will receive the journal.

This is another avenue of supporting this wonderful Association as well as promoting your business or honoring those who have meaning to you.

For all of you who through the years have supported this endeavor, THANK YOU.

CALTRAP Advertising Member Assistance

Help your Third Marine Division Association by asking your local businesses, tourist, convention or recreation activities to advertise in the *CALTRAP*. Following is a suggested note to send to potential advertisers. Make copies, attach to the *CALTRAP* Advertising Contract, sign, and send it to those businesses and organizations who might want to advertise in the *CALTRAP*.

If you own a military-related business, please consider spending your advertising dollars here. We support our veterans.

Dear

The Third Marine Division Association's quarterly newsletter, the *CALTRAP*, reaches a worldwide audience of active duty, retired and veteran Marines, Sailors and families. The readers often enjoy travel, leisure, outdoor, and hometown activities along with brand loyalty. Please consider advertising in the *CALTRAP*. A contract agreement is on page 25 for your convenience.



CHAPTER Happenings



TEXAS CHAPTER

The Texas Chapter had our Fall Reunion in Lubbock, Texas, October 13-16, 2022. What a reunion! As several people said, I wish Lubbock was closer. It is in the Texas Panhandle and a long way from most of us. For instance, I had a drive of 557 miles, each way.

As a group, we were all surprised at what all we learned at the museums. We all grew up with Lubbock's own Buddy Holly, who tragically died in a plane crash at 22 years old, that's 22 years of a big, influential life.



We learned that he was influenced by the likes of Hank Williams and Bob Wills. He himself had a great influence on major stars such as John Lennon and Paul McCartney, Elton John, The Rolling Stones, etc.

The Silent Wings Museum exposed us to the surprising roll that gliders played in WWII.



They trained in Lubbock. They moved troops and equipment behind enemy lines in silence. How they operated was very interesting, and the gliders were amazing feats of engineering.

Maybe the most surprising museum was the American Wind Power Museum.





Most of us have seen wind mills our whole life. Some of us have bathed in the water tanks. But what we saw and learned caught us off guard, including how wind mills were used to cut wood, process grain, and perform other chores. The blades on some windmills were able to shift to accommodate the shifting wind. Also in that museum was an incredible working model train layout.



There is a historical relationship between windmills and trains. But the train display was extraordinary. There is 3400 feet of stainless-steel track. The helix, where the trains climb to the upper level, is the largest in the world. They can run 10 trains at the same time over the large layout. There are buildings, houses, crops, hotels, windmills, and a miniature train and village. It was a 4 and ½ year project from design the start.

Our last adventure was the Texas Tech University Vietnam Center and Sam Johnson Vietnam Archives, where they collect and preserve the documentary record of the war in Vietnam.

www.vietnam.ttu.edu for more information.

Continued from page 15



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY The Vietnam Center, Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive, & Museum of the Vietnam War

There was lively discussion as we learned how they have accumulated millions of pages of documents, letters, maps, etc. They wanted to know our experiences in Vietnam. The records are accessible to anyone on line.

We had live music for lunch on both Friday and Saturday. They were very interesting places. Here is one of them. Pictured you see mostly the dance floor with some eating tables. Most of the tables are on the upper level, where hundreds can eat.



The comments about the fellowship time continue to cement the closeness of our Texas Chapter family. We had some extra time to enjoy two of the unusual restaurants, including below at their very large patio dining and nature setting.

We had a great speaker at our informal banquet. He is a retired Marine in Lubbock who does amazing work for veterans in the area. He said he would join the Texas Chapter and meet us in Longview/ Marshall. We will see.

It seemed unanimous that it was one of the best reunions we have had. The distance kept some away. We voted on the Spring reunion to be in Longview/Marshall, April 13-16, 2023.



Interested in joining the Texas chapter? RLNPLANO@HOTMAIL.COM

Semper Fi

1/3 CHAPTER

I'm a Vietnam War Veteran. Here's How Writing My Memoir Has Helped Me Heal By Bill Taylor

I fought in Vietnam for 13 months at the age of 18.

After my tour in Vietnam, I returned home a changed man. And while there was nothing extraordinary about my experience compared with others who had fought, I remain changed by my experiences there.

It's estimated that around 30 percent of Vietnam Veterans have experienced PTSD in their lifetime. The disorder, however, doesn't have to be as a result of war; it can be caused by any traumatic experience. For veterans who have fought in wars, PTSD can be lurking just under the surface and ready to take the place of rational thought. It pushes you into an uncontrollable urge to win the perceived battle. My urges are deep-seated and come from just over a year of constant combat.

I Had to Get My Story Out

When I came home, I knew I had an amazing story to tell. It took me nearly 50 years, but last year, I published my Continued on page 17

Continued from page 16

memoir, On Full Automatic:

Surviving 13 Months in Vietnam. I always knew getting my story down on paper would be a great way to explain to those who have never fought in a war, what it's like to-actually be there. What I didn't expect was that the whole process would be so cathartic.

Here's how writing my book has been healing:

I've Found a Way to Honor the Heroes I Knew in Vietnam

I'm not the hero in my book. People have said to me, "Thank you for your service. You are a hero in my eyes." But I'm thinking, "I'm not the hero. The guys in my book that I wrote about are the heroes. Especially those that gave their all, they are the real heroes." I was just a scared kid and in a lot of ways it was pure luck that brought me home at the end of my tour. Many guys weren't as lucky.



Posing in the rear at Quang Tri



Just south of the DMZ before our battle during Operation Buffalo



In writing my book, I've been able to tell the story of all the men I knew. Many of them lost their lives but writing about them is a way of honoring them. They are back with us forever. My story is their story, and it's finally being told.

I've Helped Other Survivors Process Their Own Experiences

So many veterans come home from war and can't talk about it. They keep their experiences bottled up inside, where they can do real harm. But people respond to shared experiences. When I've talked to other vets who have been through war, our stories just come out automatically. It completes, verifies and justifies something inside us. I've had a lot of feedback from other vets who have read my book and feel that by telling my story, they have found healing too. In a way it's their story, the one they weren't able to tell themselves or to their families.

I've Given Those Who Weren't There a New Understanding of War

On the flip side, many people who haven't experienced war don't know why the vet acts the way they do. They may see erratic behavior in a loved one and not know why their behavior has changed. I've also heard from a lot of readers who in reading the book finally understand. If you haven't experienced it, you just don't know. My book has given people the experience of being there. It has opened their eyes like never before.

I wanted people to know what happened. I wanted to get those memories out of me. And now that it's all out in the open, it's there for everyone to see and experience. When I've traveled to talk at book clubs, I've had some amazing experiences. At times I've had up to 20 people surrounding me asking questions. And that's 20 more people that have a better insight of what veterans have been through.

I've Learned How to Process and Control My Own Emotions

When I first sat down and actually wrote my book, I didn't experience healing immediately. It wasn't until I started going through rounds of editing that the real healing set in. The first time I edited my manuscript, I cried after each story. Then the second time, I cried. Third and fourth times the same thing would happen. But the more I edited the less I would cry. And now I can tell the stories when I speak to crowds of people and for the most part, do not have a problem anymore.

A lot of veterans attend support groups and share their stories. But for those guys who just can't talk about it for whatever reason, writing can be very therapeutic. I'm not suggesting that everyone write a book. And grammar or spelling shouldn't be a concern. A lot of guys are just like me; they went into the military straight from high school. But it's about getting your story out on paper. Once it's there you have a choice. You can save it and share it with your children or grandchildren, or you just tear it up. The important thing is that you got your story out.

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

The Wisconsin Chapter held its Holiday/Christmas meeting on December 10th. 42 member and family attend the meeting, a great trun out. We had a great lunch and two guest speakers Dan Buttery CEO of Milwauke War Menirial and Major Nathan Blackwell USMC CO RECUITING.

Elections were held for the Chapter. Officer elected for 2 year term. President Russ Zess, Vice President - Jorge Calderon, Treasurer - Andy Toth, Secretary - Joe Deloria, SGT at Arms - Ken Voss.

Meeting was adjourn with Russ Zess President



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Members of the New England Chapter are hunkering down this winter, planning for a Spring Meeting. A committee has checked several locations in the southern portion of our area and we are in the process of finding reasonably priced lodging. We are looking at Mystic, CT, a destination previously cancelled due to covid. The Mystic area has many restaurants, a seaport village, aquarium and is a short distance from the Submarine Museum, home of the Nautilus in Groton, CT. Across the Connecticut river from the Sub Base is the Coast Guard Academy. Our meeting is planned for April 15th and all association members are welcome. Final details will be printed in the New England Chapter Newsletter and available online to any Association Member by emailing President Dennis Olson,dgob13@live.com.

ARIZONA CHAPTER

Phoenix Veterans Day Parade, second place vehicle:



We're on Facebook!

Check out our Facebook Group Page. Go online to Facebook, search Third Marine Division Association, click on the Association's Group Page. Ask to join and continue the conversation.

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When you move or when a change of address is contemplated an early notification to our Association Manager will ensure the continuity of the delivery of your Caltrap. To save confusion and extra work, it is requested that anyone on active duty, changing base or going overseas or who expect to be discharged give their permanent home address in the states when filling out their application for membership.

CALTRAP

CALTRAP (USPS 9710) is published quarterly by the Third Marine Division Association, Inc., P.O. Box 466, Lisbon, OH 44432-0466. Telephone: (215) 822-9094. Website: www. caltrap.com. Periodical postage paid at Lansdale, PA, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Third Marine Division Association, Inc., P.O. Box 466, Lisbon, OH 44432-0466.

Association Web Site: www.caltrap.com

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The price for the card includes postage and handling.



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Aboard

Deloria, William; Stephenson, MI; 3rd Mar, 1st Logistics, 1966-67; Brother of Joe Deloria *** Ferrara, Dominick; Mahwah, NJ; HQ BN, FMF, 1967-68; Ray Furlong ***

Potts, Robert; Olmstead Falls, OH; Wire Co., 5th Comm, 1966-67 *** Birmingham, Gordon;

Sanger, CA; H2/9, 1967; Former Member

IF YOU WANT YOUR CALTRAP SENT TO YOU ELECTRONICALLY INSTEAD OF SNAIL MAIL, EMAIL EITHER: rogerbacon45@yahoo.com OR RLNPLANO@HOTMAIL.COM

INVITATION TO EVERYONE IN THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION FAMILY:

WE HAVE A THIRD MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION FAMILY FULL OF GREAT PEOPLE, FULL OF HEROES, FULL OF BROTHERS-IN-ARMS, FULL OF SUPPORTERS. TO CONTINUE TO BE STRONG, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS THROUGHOUT THIS ASSOCIATION. ANYONE CAN HELP. WHILE WE NEED NEW MEMBERS, WE ALSO NEED OUR EXISTING MEMBERS TO STEP UP AND DO SOMETHING TO HELP SUSTAIN THIS AMAZING ASSOCIATION. CHAPTERS NEED AN INFUSION OF VOLUNTEERISM. CHAPTERS ARE IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER, SUPPORT EACH OTHER.

WE ARE A STRONG ASSOCIATION NOW, BUT WE HAVE TO STAY INVOLVED TO SUSTAIN IT. JUST A LITTLE HELP GOES A LONG WAY. IT IS FULFILLING WORK. EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING. I AM INVITING YOU NOW TO EMAIL ME AT <u>RLNPLANO@HOTMAIL.COM</u>.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SEMPER FI, Bob North, President

Final



Life Member Louis Manes; Milwaukee, WI; HQ3d Pion BN, 1945; Died 9/14/22 ***

Life Member David Yelle; Milwaukee, WI; H&S1/3, 1967-68; Died 7/21/22 ***

Life Member Wilfred Decoursey; Danielson, CT; G3/3, 1954-55; Died 3/27/19 *** Life Member Patrick Brady; Berryville, AR; H2/4, 1967-68; No date given ***

Life Member Michael Jones; Hartford City, IN; G2/9, 1966-67; Died in 2013 ***

Life Member Donald Blanchard; Brandon, MS; H&S4/12, 1945; No date given ***

Formation

Life Member LtCol. William Massey; Fredericksburg, TX; HQ Co/HQBN, 1966-67; Died 9/14/20 ***

> Life Member Richard Wendt; Franklin, WI; A1/9, 1967-68; Died 12/15/22 ***

Life Member Robert Barr; Logansport, IN; A3/3, 1954-56; No date given ***

You may remember my tribute to our second oldest member death, Woody Williams, in the last CALTRAP. This is an official Marine Corps photo:



JUL 3, 2022

CWO4 Hershel "Woody" Williams, the last living Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, was honored at Memorial services in Charleston, W. Va. Family, friends, fellow Marines, and people from all over the country came to pay respects to Woody while he lay in state at the State Capitol Rotunda, July 2 and 3. A State Memorial Service in Woody's honor was held at the State Culture Center Theater the afternoon of July 3. The service included several tributes, to include special remarks by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General David. H. Berger, and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Troy E. Black.

Let us remember those who have gone on before us And let us thank God that such men lived Jheir duty was to serve – your duty is to remember

COLONEL PETER A. WICKWIRE, USMC RETIRED JUNE 4, 1928 – DECEMBER 17, 2022

Colonel Peter A. Wickwire, USMC Retired, was a 1951 graduate of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland to which he was appointed as an enlisted Marine. Upon graduation he was commission a 2nd lieutenant of Marines.

Colonel Wickwire had many assignments as a Marine, including service during the Korean War; as Commanding Officer of the Officer's Candidate School at Quantico, VA; and as Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, SC.

Perhaps most notable was his service as Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion 3rd Marines and Battalion Landing Team 1/3 from October 1966 until July 1967. Among the many battles through which he led his Marines was Operation Buffalo in early July 1967 during which he was awarded the Silver Star for his leadership in the fight against a large force of North Vietnamese Army soldiers attempting to cross trace into South Vietnam.

BLT 1/3 was part of Special Landing Force Alpha, and Colonel Wickwire led the battalion on numerous helicopter and amphibious assault operations throughout I Corps from April to July 1967. During that period BLT 1/3 was awarded two Presidential Unit Citations: One each for Operation Beaver Cage/Union and Operation Buffalo.

Colonel Wickwire demanded a lot of himself as a leader of Marines and expected the same, especially from his officers. He was physically fit, intelligent, tactically proficient, and maintained a command presence whether in the field or in garrison. He possessed a quick wit and had the ability to criticize even himself. When necessary, he used that trait to effectively send whatever message he wanted to convey. While still a major, he took 1/3 to Khe Sanh in October 1966 under Spartan-like conditions, with only infantry weapons and packs. His goal was a light, highly mobile and flexible force and that is what he got. Later, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and retained command of 1/3, Home of The Brave.

Colonel Wickwire was known as "Pete" to his friends and the many others whose life he touched. Those of us who were privileged to serve under him in combat and in peacetime will always remember him as an exemplary, courageous, and respected leader.

God speed, Colonel Wickwire.

ALBERT KALATA

PJ/Roger- today our family received information from the National Personnel Reporting Center. We now have conclusive information on how Albert Kalata died at Bougainville.

The 21st Regiment was likely bivouacked on the beach after coming ashore and Private Albert Kalata died from wounds received during a Japanese bombing raid.

Thanks for the help in pointing us in the right direction. Mike Massimi



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