



THE SCOOP SHEET

Information For And About Members Of The First Marine Aircraft Wing Association – Vietnam Service

Issue 52

<http://firstmaw.homestead.com>

Spring 2018



REUNION 2019 June 13-16 2019



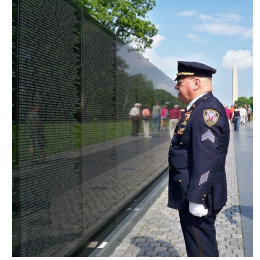
Al Frater with Alan Schwartz both former VMFA323 Marines in front of one of our former birds on the USS Intrepid. Good reunion



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President	Frank Arce
Vice President	Bill Walden
Secretary	Al Frater
Treasurer	Jerry Sergeant



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

Semper Fi Marines and Family

As we start our 30th anniversary, I pray that all of you and yours are in good health. Reunion 2019, our 31st anniversary, has been signed and I await our hotel to open our registration after July 1, 2018 as they cannot make reservations over 1 year in advance. Embassy Suites in Crystal City, Va. June 13-16, 2019 which happens to be Fathers day weekend. It would be great if we all invited our children and grand kids to join us one time! Single and double rooms are \$149.00 and price is good from June 10-19 free shuttle service from Reagan International and also the metro station and other places in Crystal City. Managers welcome open bar from 1700-1900 daily and free buffet breakfast! Registration on Thursday June 13 will be in the hotel lobby bar as we did in San Diego. Friday 0900 we will be doing a Tour of either The Pentagon, which is right across from our hotel, for possible lunch with our Commandant and or Sgt. Major (maybe have them order 50 Yard seats for the evening parade) or a tour of our USMC Museum. I will be working on The Pentagon Tour ASAP. followed at 1800 with The evening parade at Marine Corps HQ, 8th & I. Saturday Business meeting at 1000-1200. Our banquet at 1800-2200 will be held 3 blocks away at The Doubletree with shuttle service available to those that need a ride.

I will be stepping down as your President at our next business meeting in DC. It will have been 10 years since I was elected in Parris Island in 2009, where it all began for me and all of you Marines and family. I believe it is time for another Marine to step up and take over our Association as President. Nominations should be submitted before our reunion and are always available for any position on our board. Being A Charter Member and having attended every reunion, I believe I have served us well. It has been my honor to serve you as President and having followed very big shoes of Rob Waters, our founder and our other past Presidents, Joe Amant and Phil Beckerich, I have tried my best to plan great reunions. I always believe that quality and not quantity is most Important to a successful reunion. After all the reunions I planned, I was told by many of you 'Great Job Paco' and I said 'we did a great Job'. If it was only me a hand full of us, we would have opened our bottle of 1988 Dom Perignon and our Association would end but to you our members and family that continue to support and attend I say thank you. I pray that I have served you with honor and I intend to continue to support and help in any way I can !

SEMPER FIDELIS !

Frank Arce

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

DUES RENEWALS Membership Renewals

Membership Renewals

Just a reminder to annual members, your dues are now due every January.

Please help our association save postage and mail expense by sending in your \$25.00 renewal dues now.

Mail in your check payable to: 1st MAW Vietnam Service, c/o Jerry Sergeant, 603 63rd Ave W. Lot A-10, Bradenton, FL 34207

Any additional questions regarding membership may also be directed to the above address or emailed to: jleesarge@hotmail.com

Jerry Sergeant
Treasury and acting Membership Chairman

ELECTRONIC SCOOP

The Electronic Scoop list is growing. Any other members who desires to receive their "Scoop" electronically in order to reduce mailing and publishing costs please contact Al Frater at teanal@optonline.net and please cc Frank Arce at frankpaco69@aol.com. Those members who have requested an electronic SCOOP will be removed from the mailing list as requested.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED - UPDATE

Volunteers are always welcomed for Veterans day at the wall. For those who live near Quantico VA and the National Museum of the Marine Corps The Heritage Foundation is seeking tour Guides for the Museum. Training will be provided. Contact the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation at 703-640-7965..

PX

Check out our PX page If anyone wants something let us know. Contact Al Frater at teanal@optonline.net for 201-906-1197 for information.

NEW WEB PAGE URL

Our WEB page is now up and running thanks to the effort of Monty Hopey.
<http://firstmaw.homestead.com>

1st MAW NOW ON FACEBOOK

We are now moving to the modern age and have a Group on FACEBOOK. If you are a FACEBOOK user please join our Group. at "**First Marine Air wing Association - Vietnam Service**". If you are not a FACEBOOK member, join FACEBOOK and our Group. Information and photos will continue to be posted on our group. Please post any pictures or comments on our group.

Updated History of Marine Combat Correspondents Published By David H. Hugel

Thirty years ago retired Marine Garry Cameron published Last to know... a history of the USMC Combat Correspondents Association (USMCCCA), from it's founding during WWII through the early 1960s.

For the past decade, I played an active role in efforts to update this publication to tell the story of Marine Corps Combat Correspondents and photographers who covered wars, deployments and humanitarian efforts from the Vietnam era through today.

These efforts resulted this spring in the publication of a new book, First to Go, that is available on Amazon. I am proud to have contributed the brief chapter on what I, two other photographers and a Marine combat correspondent were doing during the early days of the Vietnam War to spread the word to the American public about what Marines were doing in support of our Vietnamese allies.



Cpl. Dave Hugel in the field of Vietnam's I Corps on a photo mission covering Marine Corps helicopter operations in support ARVN operations against the Viet Cong during the summer and fall of 1964.



Marine combat correspondent LCpt Dick Dawson at his field desk in the Da Nang photo lab working on a story about a mission in the field he has just returned from of Marine helicopters providing air lift support to our Vietnamese al-

Soc Trang Marines recall their experiences from First Vietnam Deployment By David H. Hugel

History records that on April 15, 1962, the first Marine Corps' first operational unit arrived in Vietnam. It was helicopter squadron HMM-362, known as "Archie's Angels" under the command of Lt. Col. Archie Clapp, that flew into an abandoned WWII airfield near the Mekong Delta village of Soc Trang.

Another component of Task Element 79.3.5, known by the code name SHUFLY, a sub unit of MABS-16 had flown into Soc Trang in Marine transport planes about a week earlier to prepare the airfield for the helicopter squadron's arrival.

In addition to erecting 75 hardback tents, repairing an old hanger and other buildings, the Marines had to improvise to make the airfield operational. Lacking a control tower, Capt. Jim Kizer, SHUFLY's admin officer, commandeered the Task Element's R4D, popped the cockpit's overhead emergency exit, stuck his head out, and using the plane's microphone gave landing instructions to incoming helicopters.

I had interviewed ten of the Marines who served at Soc Trang, including Archie Clapp for an article I wrote that Leatherneck published in April and May 2012, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of that historic deployment to Vietnam. Having done the research and gotten to know several of the participants personally, I offered to moderate a panel discussion featuring four SocTrang Marines (former Captains Tom Hammack, Jim Kizer, Jim Perryman, and Cpl. Joe Eke) as part of a lecture series sponsored by the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.

The lecture held in April 2016, at the NMMC's scuttlebutt theatre, was well received. The audience enjoyed hearing from the panel how operational techniques were developed to accommodate the topographical features they found in Vietnam's mountainous I Corps region, and their personal impressions of the country at the time. Regretfully the presentation, which was accompanied by large screen photos of squadron operations, was not taped for posterity.

Joe Eke, the panel's only enlisted member, left active duty after returning to the states and went on to earn degrees in accounting and law. Tom Hammack, a helicopter pilot went on to a career as a commercial airline pilot. Jim Perryman and Jim Kizer were both career Marines who served additional tours in Vietnam. Perryman ended his military career after serving as the CO. of HMX-1. Jim Kizer's last tour in Vietnam was in 1975, as the C.O. of a squadron that evacuated Americans from Saigon after the fall of the South Vietnam's government.

Since that memorable presentation Jim Perryman passed away in December 2014, and Jim Kizer died during the summer of 2017.



Panel discussion moderator Dave Hugel, a Marine Corps photographer at the DaNang photo lab 1963-64. He has written extensively about Marine Corps operations in Vietnam during the war's early years.



Capt. Jim Kizer was SHUFLY's admin officer



Panel members Capt. Jim Perryman, HMM-362 admin. officer, Capt. Tom Hammack a squadron pilot and assistant intelligence officer, and Cpl. Joe Eke, senior intelligence clerk.

Bill White's Photos



Bill White -MWHG-1 compound with Dogpatch over the wire, taken some-time during 1970.



Bill White3-On the bunker in the compound adjoining Dogpatch with Jim Robinson (Seattle?) before a photo trek up to Hill 327. Where are you, dude?



Bill White5-Sometime in November, Jim Robinson and Lyn Cassedy catching a photo for our 1970 Christmas card to the folks back home, "Merry Christmas from



PX

We now have available Auto window stickers. Anyone interested in purchasing them you can either contact me at 201-907-1197 or email me at teanal@optonline.net or send a check to

Al Frater
524 Sagamore Ave
Teaneck NJ 07666

For all other items contact Frank Arce



Two for \$5.00
Contact Al Frater



\$10.00



All Covers atr \$15.00 they come in Black, Blue, and Green

Reunion 2017

The Association gave out 4 Scholarships

An honorary one time award to Victoria Ippolito niece of member Philip Beckerich III.
Here is her thank you letter

October 15, 2017

Mr. Al Frater
First Marine Aircraft Wing Assoc.
524 Sagamore Ave.
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Dear Mr. Frater,

Thank you for the generous scholarship from the First Marine Aircraft Association. I really appreciate being selected as one of the recipients of your scholarship.

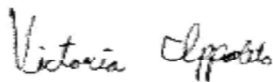
I have loved anything with wings since I was very little. My Uncle Phil bought me a peddle airplane and "bomber" jacket when I was in kindergarten and put one of his insignias on it. I wondered if I peddled fast enough if I could really fly! When I was in 3rd grade, I started having trouble with math. But my uncle told me I would have to be good at math and science to be a pilot and if I did my best he would teach me to fly when I was old enough. I am so glad that my uncle gave me an incentive to do well in math and science because now they are my two favorite subjects.

When I was diagnosed with Narcolepsy in 7th grade, the doctor started listing all the things that it was now unsafe for me to do. I asked the doctor if I could fly a plane. She looked at me strangely and told me that, if I couldn't drive, I certainly couldn't fly a plane.

Without a doubt, if I had not been diagnosed with Narcolepsy, I would have aspired to be a pilot in the Marine Corps. I am currently a part-time student at Buffalo State College although I have not selected a major, I am leaning towards architecture or chemistry. There are a lot of options which are not open to me due to safety concerns.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. I really appreciate your kindness. I promise you I will do my best.

Sincerely,



Victoria Ippolito
1087 Marcia Drive,
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Reunion 2019 is signed and delivered . Our 31st Anniversary !

Embassy Suites Crystal City June 13-16 , 2019 Fathers Day Weekend .

\$149.00 single and double \$159.00 triple and quad .

Price good from June 10-19 , 2019 free shuttle service from Reagan International Airport and also to different places in Crystal City! free breakfast and managers welcome open bar at the lobby bar from 1700-1900 .

Our banquet will be held at the Double Tree, 3 blocks away, being our hotel only has room for 100 for our banquet so we will be shuttled from both hotels for the banquet. We will be working on a possible tour of the Pentagon with possible lunch with our Commandant and or Sgt. Major and possibly have them Order 50 yard line seats for us for the evening parade at 8th & I, Friday evening at 1700 (We will be there) and maybe even join us for our banquet, Saturday Evening at 1800!

Our museum will always be open for us in case the Pentagon doesn't work out! Our hotel registration code will be given to me sometime in June as they can't book reservations before 1 year. We booked 40 rooms but more available with timely notice. The weeks before were about \$20-50 more per night and after we deal with the summer crowds. God Willing , My dream is to have all our members attend with their entire family and celebrate our day together ! as Marines, Only we can make It happen





Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation
"Preserving Marine Aviation For The Future"

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J.-. Epstein

March 1, 2018

John Walsh
4832 Del Mar Avenue
San Diego, CA 92107

Dear Mr. Walsh:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation, I would like to thank you again for your purchase of a Memorial Brick honoring the Marine Corps service and legacy of the First Marine Aircraft Wing in Vietnam.

We have had your 4" by 8" brick engraved as you instructed. A miniature 1" by 3" replica of your brick is enclosed.

These miniatures make a nice paperweight and serve as a constant reminder of your remembrance of a great Marine and your support of the Flying Leathernecks. I'm pleased with the way they turned out and hope you agree.

As you may know, the Board of Directors has decided the brick you ordered will be placed in a Memorial Garden on the museum grounds. The brick will be moved to the entryway of the *Jay W. Hubbard Exhibit Hall* at a later date.

Again, thank you for your commitment to the Flying Leathernecks Aviation Museum. Of course, your support at any time is greatly appreciated.

Semper Fidelis,

B.G. Butcher
B.G. Butcher
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired
Chairman, Board of Directors

Thanks for your support!
SF- Bob



**First Marine Aircraft Wing Association –
Vietnam Service
603 63rd Ave W. Lot A-10,
Bradenton, FL 34207**

We are a fraternal organization of Marines and others who were attached to or supported First MAW units serving in the Vietnam War. The organization was founded in 1986 and incorporated as a not-for-profit entity in New York State in 1988. Our purpose is to reunite members of the First MAW either through scheduled reunions or by means of our newsletter, web site, or other various functions. The organization strives to disseminate information about our history as well as about legislation, entitlements, and welfare involving First MAW members.