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THE SCOOP SHEET

Information For And About Members Of The First Marine Aircraft Wing Association – Vietnam Service
<http://firstmaw.homestead.com>

Summer 2022

Issue 57



REUNION AT HILTON PENSACOLA BEACH



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President	Bernie LaPira
Vice President	Bill Walden
Secretary	Al Frater
Treasurer	Jerry Sergeant



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

Marines of the 1st MAW Association- Vietnam Service
Hope this finds you all well and safe.

It has been a crazy two and half years. The good news is we will be having our 2022 reunion this October from Thursday the 13th to Sunday the 16th. It will be in Pensacola Beach, Florida at the Hilton. All contracts have been signed and we are hoping to have a big turnout.

Those who attended the 2015 reunion in Pensacola Beach at the Hampton Inn will remember how great the chow was. It came from the Hilton. I'm sure it will be just as good.

We have scheduled a full day on Friday. Visits to NAS Pensacola and the Naval Aviation Museum. We will also visit the Vietnam Memorial Wall that is a replica of the Wall in D.C. Ironically it will be the 30th anniversary of the wall in Pensacola. A special thank you to two of our members who will be recognized at our Saturday evening ceremony. They went far and above the call of duty.

As a special bonus, any member who wants to go to the Hilton Pensacola Beach three days before the start of the reunion or stay three days after, will be charged the reunion rate.

All the information on the hotel and registration will be in the Scoop. I hope to see many of you at the reunion. Claudette and I wish you safe travels and God Bless.

Semper Fi
Bernie

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, 6321 Auburn Ave 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 teanal330@gmail.com 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 teanal330@gmail.com for 201-906-1197 for information.

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.



REUNION 2022
Hilton Pensacola Beach, Florida Registration Form
FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION VIETNAM SERVICE
Thursday, October 13th, 14th, and 15th, 2022

MEMBER NAME _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State/Zip** _____

Contact PHONE _____ **EMAIL** _____

(For Confirmation of Receipt)

GUEST Name _____ (for Name tag)

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY (Name & number, *not an attendee*) _____

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES: Thursday night Hospitality & Registration, Friday Naval Aviation Museum & Veterans Memorial Wall and Service, Friday night CHINA BEACH BUFFET and Saturday night REUNION BANQUET BUFFET MEAL
Please advise if there are any restricted dietary items for you or your guest, however, keep in mind, meals are buffet style.

NUMBER ATTENDING REUNION _____ x \$ **220.00 (per person)** = \$ _____

NUMBER FOR SUNDAY'S (Oct. 16th) Optional Farewell Breakfast _____ x \$ **30.00 (per person)** = \$ _____

NUMBER OF REUNION POLO SHIRTS \$ **30.00 (each)** Circle Size with quantity M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2XL ___ 3XL ___

TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED \$ _____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN **Tuesday, September 6th, 2022**

(THIS IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH & FINALIZE SHIRT ORDERS, MEALS, TRIPS, FUNCTIONS, NAME TAGS etc.)

After this date some functions or items may not be available to the registrant

LATE FEES of \$40.00 WILL BE INCURRED AFTER Tuesday, September 13th, 2022

MAKE CHECKS or MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: **FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION - VNS**
(to make Bank Zelle payments call Jerry Sergeant at 989-992-6809)

Mail payments and Registration Form to: FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION-VNS c/o
TREASURER, JERRY SERGEANT
6321 Auburn Ave
Bradenton, FL 34207

Make your room reservations with the: Hilton Pensacola Beach Inn, Florida

NOTE: Room rates of \$199.00 plus tax for Sound Side rooms and \$219.00 plus tax for Gulf Side rooms, have been negotiated with the Hilton Pensacola Beach. **These rates are only valid until September 10, 2022**

For hotel reservations Use Group Code "FMA" phone the: Hilton Pensacola Beach direct at: 866-916-2999
Or if you are computer savvy, use the Hotel reservation link below:

www.my-event.hilton.com/firstmarineaircraftwingassociation/

Check-in 4pm - Check-out 11am

Street Address for those driving is: 12 Via de Luna Drive, Pensacola Beach, FL 32561
Self-parking fees have been waived for members in attendance. **Valet parking is \$25.00 per night.**

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

By David Hugel

One of the first things I learned after arriving at the Marine Corps Air Station, Quantico, VA in August 1961 was that it was home base for HMX-1, the Marine Corps' presidential helicopter squadron. On checking in, I discovered that the hangers for the presidential aircraft were across the street from my barracks, in a highly secure area guarded by armed Marines that only individuals with the highest-level security clearance could freely enter. All others were permitted in the secure area only while on an authorized assignment, under the watchful eye of an armed guard.

I saw the presidential aircraft — nicknamed White Tops for their highly polished dark green body with a white top — from a distance daily, but only had one opportunity to fly in one. The squadron was in the process of issuing new security I.D. badges with color photographs. The photo lab had taken color photos of the majority of squadron personnel, but still needed to photograph those working at the squadron's facility at the Anacostia Naval Air Station in Washington, DC.

I was thrilled to be assigned to take those photos and, with the crew chief, fly up to Washington, D.C. in one of the presidential helicopters. The flight was unlike any I had experienced before or since. There was no comparison between the spartan, noisy interior of the standard HUS-1 helicopter (later redesignated the UH-34D that saw extensive service in Vietnam). In addition to the sound proof upholstered overhead and bulkheads, the White Top had a carpeted deck and was equipped with the wide comfortable Class section of commercial airliners. I also remember three color-coded telephones, which presumably, when used by the president, connected him with the

White House's worldwide communications network. Best of all was the oversized window adjacent to the president's plush seat that provided spectacular views along the Potomac River and the Washington skyline as we approached the Nation's Capital.

The assignment was brief. I quickly set up a tripod mounted with my camera to take color photos of the HMX crew members working at the Anacostia hanger. After completing my assignment, I boarded another White Top for the return flight to Quantico with a new view as we traveled south. The view included a postcard view of Mt. Vernon

just a few hundred feet below. I'm still in awe that I sat in President Kennedy and before him, President Eisenhower's seat.

When I arrived at Quantico in August 1961, HMX began months of vigorous flight-testing of three Sikorsky HSS-2 helicopters as a possible successor to the aging

presidential fleet. Known as the Sea King, the HSS-2 had several safety features lacking in the HUS. Originally built as an anti-submarine warfare aircraft, it had a watertight fuselage and pontoons over the two main landing wheels, allowing it to make emergency water landings. The new aircraft's twin G. E. turbine engines, replaced the single engine HUS, giving pilots a backup in the event an engine failure. In April 1962 the first of four new executive aircraft, officially designated the HSS-2Z, arrived at HMX from Sikorsky. Like their predecessors, the new aircraft, were painted a shiny dark green with white tops, and proudly displayed the word MARINES in large, white letters and, unlike its predecessor, had twin turbo engines, a watertight fuselage and pontoons over the main landing wheels, allowing it to make emergency wa-



Dave with the "White Top"



The attached photo is a very good example. The Marine corporal that LBJ was about to shake hand with when LBJ met with Marines at MCAS , Quantico, in 1963 was the with the Marine admin detachment in Saigon nearly two years later when I toured with and photographed Gen. Greene during his stop there in1964.

Website Page
FirstMAW.Homestead.com

Check out our website, we have updated numerous items on the familiar site and still have several more things to add. To reach the webpage just type in your search bar: first-maw.homestead.com

Thanks to all who have sent in the recent reunion photos, we will soon get another hundred or so up on the site.

We are also asking that you look at the “Locator” section and make sure that your information is listed correctly. Remember the Locator will only list current active members, meaning paid up dues.

Be sure to check the “Last Call Roster” (in the locator section) and if you notice a member that you know has passed, and they are not listed please contact me. The only way that we become informed of a deceased member is via a spouse or family contact. Your assistance here will be extremely helpful.

Just call or email me with what ever details that you can provide, 989-992-6809 or email, jleesarge@hotmail.com use a subject line as “1st MAW”

Semper Fi, Jerry Sergeant



Scholarship Requirements and Details

The First Marine Aircraft Wing Association, Vietnam Service will award up to five scholarships of \$500 each during Reunion 2022.

To qualify for a scholarship, applicants must meet the following qualifications:

Be a First Marine Aircraft Wing Association, Vietnam Service member in good standing (i.e., dues are paid up to date), their spouse, dependent or direct descendent. Further, the member must have a minimum of one-year membership as of (to be announced).

-OR

Be a spouse, dependent, or direct descendent of a deceased member of the First MAW Assn. VN Service

-OR

Be a spouse, dependent, or direct descendent of a Marine or member of another military service, who lost his/her life while serving in Vietnam with the First Marine Aircraft Wing.

-AND

Applicant must be **currently enrolled and attending**, in the accredited college, university, or trade school and be in good academic standing.

Applicant will be required to submit an essay of 300-350 words. The applicant can choose one of the following topics:

1. What the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial means to me.
2. What all Americans can do to solve the energy crisis.
3. How I plan to use my education to aid society.
4. Why I support our Marines in harm's way.

To compete for a scholarship, applicants must submit their essay in accordance with the following instructions:

1. The essay must be typed. **Do not include applicant's name on the essay page.** Attach a cover page with the applicant's name, address, phone number and email address. The cover page must also include the name of the First MAW Assn. VN Service member and membership number, along with the applicant's relationship to the member (spouse, son, daughter, grandchild etc.).
2. Verification from a counselor or other school official confirming that the applicant is enrolled. This letter needs to be on school letterhead.
3. A copy of the student transcripts

The essay and required documents must be post marked no later than **September 13, 2022.**

Mail To:

First Marine Aircraft Wing Association-VN Service
c/o Phil Beckerich III
67 Blue Grouse Drive
Cannon City, CO 81212-9462



HMM 165 1968



From Bob Coghill



From Bob Coghill



From Bob Coghill



General Powell at our Reef

Photos



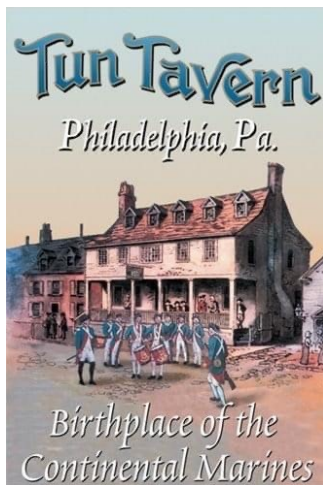
Al Frater on the USS Intrepid in front of VMFA 323 Phantom with Al Schwartz who served together in NAM in 1966.



Christmas 1970 H&MS 11 GSE Da Nang



VMFA 323 in DA Nang



From Marty Halpin



From Marty Halpin



From Marty Halpin

PX

We now have available Auto window stickers and new Challenge coins. Anyone interested in purchasing them you can contact me at 201-907-1197 or email me at teanal330@gmail.com or send a check made out to "First Marine Airwing Association"

Al Frater
524 Sagamore Ave
Teaneck NJ 07666



Two for \$5.00



COINS are \$10.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping





**First Marine Aircraft Wing Association –
Vietnam Service
6321 Auburn Ave
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.