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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>

Spring 2024

Issue 61



Embassy Suites for Reunion in June

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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 1<sup>st</sup> MAW Association- Vietnam Service

First let me wish you all a Happy New year. Two years and here we are. Our 2024 reunion will be held in New Orleans at the Embassy Suites June 13th– June 16th 2024. Included in this issue of the Scoop is all the information you will need to hopefully attend. Any questions please feel free to call me.

2023 was not a very good year for me. My wife of 55 years passed away on July 1st 2023. Claudette was my soul Mate and I miss her very much. I do know she is in a better place, but life without her will be very difficult to say the least. I will continue to live every day with her memory and when god says it is my time to join her I will be ready. Until then I will survive. Marines always do.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in New Orleans. Be safe in your travels and God Bless

Semper Fi. Bernie LaPira



## 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: 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:teanal330@gmail.com) and please cc Frank Arce at [frankpaco69@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.



## Marine aviator chosen as next assistant commandant of the Corps



The White House has named its choice for the next assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, but a blockade by one senator on top military nominees means it's unclear when he would take that job.

The Senate received the nomination of career aviator Lt. Gen. Christopher Mahoney to be the No. 2 Marine on Tuesday, according to a congressional website that tracks nominations.

A native of South Weymouth, Massachusetts, Mahoney has flown more than 5,000 hours, in the A-6, F-5, F-18 and F-35, according to his official bio.

When Mahoney was a colonel in charge of Marine Aircraft Group 12 in 2013, one of his sergeants said in a Marine press release about a motivational run the officer led, "I'll go anywhere with him. He's the person you want in the front calling the shots."

As a general officer, Mahoney has served as the deputy commander of Marine Forces Pacific, director of strategy and plans at Headquarters Marine Corps, deputy commander of U.S. Forces Japan and commanding general of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

Now the deputy commandant for programs and resources, Mahoney is the top budget officer in the Marine Corps. He has worked to allocate the Marine Corps' money as the service has pursued the ambitious restructuring plan called Force Design 2030. The funding has come in large part from divestments of older platforms and systems, though Marine leaders have said the "divest to invest" approach has now reached its limit.

## Marine Corps Balls

Rob Waters and Anne attended the 248th Marine Corps Ball hosted by the Low Country Veterans association Held on November 18th 2023 at the historic Lyceum Hall, MCRD Parris Island



Group shot at Rob's Table



Rob and Anne at the cake

Al Frater attended 248th marine Corps Ball hosted by the Gooney Bird Detachment of the Marine Corps League







## 2024 New Orleans Reunion Itinerary

**Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, From 5:30 to 10pm Registration**, Camaraderie/Socializing and distribution of Polo shirts ordered. Some PX stuff to purchase. (Possibly updated changes to the itinerary).

**5:30 to 7pm Managers Complimentary** reception with drinks and hors d'oeuvres in the Main Lobby courtyard (every night!)

**Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, From 6:30 to 10am Daily Free Breakfast Main Lobby courtyard Area** (everyday!). After Breakfast, Free Time, to play tourist and site see, or the pool is open, on first floor (use room key to enter). Check out the National World War II Museum (open 9 to 5) only blocks from our hotel. Don't forget to take your veterans ID for discounted entry! (9-minute walk).

**6:15pm sharp be at the docks for the "Paddlewheel Steamboat Natchez"** (400 Toulouse St. and the River) behind the Lighthouse Ticket booth, under a pavilion style canopy **Check in with Jerry** (25-minute walk or 10 minutes by Taxi/Uber) boarding starts at 6:30pm sharp and we need to board as a group, for our evening Jazz and Dinner Cruise on the mighty Mississippi River. This 2-hour adventure will give you a whole new view of the New Orleans skyline and provide a little relaxation and a buffet meal, with live Jazz Band on the front deck on a beautiful evening. Disembarking at approximately 9:30pm, will give the brave (or foolish) souls an opportunity to check out the French Quarters after dark. Or just call it a day and taxi, Uber, 25-minute walk, tram (close to hotel) or rick sha, back to the hotel.

**Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, From 6:30 to 10am Daily Free Breakfast Main Lobby courtyard area.**

**10am to Noon National Business Meeting & Officer Elections** (All attending Members only) in the Prytania Room.

**Noon to 5pm Free time**

**6pm** in the Fontainebleau rooms 3 & 4 **Reunion Banquet**  
**Remembrance Memorial Service, Plated Dinner, and Guest Speaker**

**Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, From 6:30 to 10am Daily Free Breakfast Main Lobby courtyard area.**  
Hotel check-out is 11am

**"Safe travels, Smooth Sailing, Fair Winds and Following Seas" "Semper Fidelis."**



**REUNION 2024**  
New Orleans Registration Form  
**FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION VIETNAM SERVICE**  
**Thursday June 13th thru Sunday June 16, 2024**

MEMBER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NICKNAME/CALL SIGN (for name tag use) \_\_\_\_\_

IN COUNTRY YEAR/UNIT (i.e. 67-68 VMFA-323) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

(For Confirmation of Receipt)

NAME OF GUESTS ATTENDING WITH MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAME (s) (for name tags) \_\_\_\_\_

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY Who? (Name & number) \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:** Friday Evening Jazz and Casual Dinner Cruise on the Mississippi River and our Saturday Evening Plated (4 course) BANQUET Dinner (all tax & service included)

**Choose (one per)**  
**Banquet** Champagne Chicken, French chicken breast crème sauce with saffron rice & baby vegetables \_\_\_\_\_  
**Entrée's** Pork Loin Pan seared honey creole sauce with sweet potatoes and roasted broccoli \_\_\_\_\_  
Salmon Pan seared with roasted sweet potatoes, rosemary maple drizzle and roasted asparagus \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING REUNION \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 235.00 (per person) Total Reunion Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional BLUE REUNION SHIRTS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00 (each) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Circle size(s) M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ 2XL \_\_\_ 3XL \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN **Monday May 13th** (THIS IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH & FINALIZE SHIRT ORDERS, MEALS, TRIPS, FUNCTIONS, NAME TAGS etc.) After this date some functions may not be available  
**A \$50. 00 LATE FEE WILL BE INCURRED AFTER the Deadline Date**

(MAKE, CHECKS or MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: **FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION**  
PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS (and Registration Form)  
TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

**Mail to: FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION**  
**c/o TREASURER, JERRY SERGEANT**  
**6321 Auburn Ave**  
**Bradenton, FL 34207**

**NOTE:** Room rates of \$159 + tax, have been negotiated (these rates are applicable 3 days before and after event)  
\*\* If Driving, a **parking rate of \$48.00 + tax per day** will be charged. \*\*

**Room rates are in effect until May 20, 2024, only.** (After this date rooms will go to \$271. + tax)

**For hotel reservations, contact: Embassy Suites New Orleans Reservation desk at: 800-774-1500 When answered tell them our group code is: CES90G**

Street Address for those driving is: 315 Julia Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

## Scholarship Requirements and Details

The First Marine Aircraft Wing Association, Vietnam Service will award up to five scholarships of \$500 each during Reunion 2024.

**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 an 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 applicants 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 May 10th, 2024**

**Mail To:**

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



# 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](mailto: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

Reunion 2017 San Diego

