



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

Issue 22

www.firstmaw.homestead.com

Winter 2006



**REUNION '07
Branson, MO
June 28-July 1, 2007**

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

To: ALMARFIRSTMAWASSOCIATION
From: Association President
Subj: Presidents Message

Dear members of the First Marine Aircraft Wing Association (Vietnam Service) I would first of all extend my best wishes for the Holiday season and a prosperous New Year. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza or what ever the most important thing is family during this time of the year. Please remember those serving in harms way who cannot be with their families this Christmas, New Year or whatever. Boy, I hate trying to be politically correct. Please remember to register for your rooms in Branson ASAP and to send your reunion application in soon. The sooner we get an accurate estimate of number of members and guests attending the sooner we can make adjustments if needed.

The information for the Scholarship program/application is included in this issue. Please have your sons, daughters or Grandchildren apply promptly. Thanks to "DOC" Jackson.

In this issue you will find a number of pictures from the Museum of the Marine Corps. What a fantastic place of honor and history for Marines of every generation and it is still expanding. There is also a copy of the certificate certifying the purchase of our brick for Semper Fidelis Memorial Park, pictures too. The Museum is free to the public relying upon donations and sales at the bookstore, Mess Hall and Tun tavern. This letter is short and sweet, reserve your rooms, send in applications for the reunion and scholarships. While you're at it find a new member or reinstate an old one. Lastly, I would like to personally thank Frank (Paco) Arce and Bill Fitzgerald for their assistance with placing our wreath on "The Wall". In spite of being an Aviator I cannot be at two places at once. The pictures of the Museum of the Marine Corps were proudly taken by "Paco" and myself. I've made a Command decision to send an issue to everyone on the mailing list even those who are not paid up members. Consider this a reminder and wake up call to re-join the association. Please join us at our reunion in Branson, you will have fun and renew friendships. Once you are delinquent on your dues for more than two issues of the Scoop you will be dropped from the mailing list until you activate your membership. If you choose not too may you have fair winds and a following sea.

Semper Fidelis..... Yours in Patriotism. Philip L. Beckerich III Association President

yw37@optonline.net



MEMBERSHIP NOTES

DUES RENEWALS

So far this year, the dues renewal rate continues to be **very** good! You guys are doing a great job! Please keep it up, and a **Thank You** goes out to all of you.. Later this year, the reminders will go out for the Life Members who are on the installment plan (a good deal!). But if this means YOU, you can help by sending in your installment payment ahead of time to save us some work.

FMAW SEABAG

Electronic Scoop

Any members who desires to receive their "Scoop" electronically in order to reduce mailing and publishing costs please contact Wayne Cook at wayco@comcast.net and please cc Phil Beckerich at yw37@optonline.net and Al Frater at teanal@verizon.net . **THE SCOOP CAN BE ACCESSED FROM THE WEB SITE**

WWW.FIRSTMAW.HOMESTEAD.COM

After this SCOOP 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 Memorial Day and 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..

EDITORS NOTES

Please email me any articles or noteworthy events about our members and Association (electronic pictures accepted). All articles and pictures become property of the association and cannot be returned.
Al Frater teanal@verizon.net

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I have not received any emails or comments regarding this idea please email me at yw37@optonline.net Hence I am repeating last issues food for thought. One of the options for the future of this Association is to become a special chapter of the Marine Corps Aviation Association. This will permit the Association to exist as the membership continues to diminish with time. The choice seems that we either open up membership or become a chapter of a larger organization.

TAPS (NO REPORT)

2007 REUNION

Applications are included in this Scoop.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Information in this SCOOP

Vietnam Files

40 YEARS AGO-VIETNAM- DECEMBER 1966

December 1, 1966 saw VMFA-121 arrive at the Marine Air Base in Chu Lai from Iwakuni Japan, and VMFA-223 rotate back to Iwakuni Japan.

On December 3rd the 4/503d Infantry, U.S. Army, departed I Corps Tactical Zone for the III Corps Tactical Zone, having been relieved by 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines.

The U.S. Administration disclosed that 9 to 10 billion dollars more is needed to pay the cost of prosecuting the war in Vietnam in the current fiscal year.

Marine Corps Sgt. Robert E. O'Malley was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Johnson for his actions during Operation STARLIGHT (August 1965). Sgt. O'Malley was the first Marine recipient of the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.

“For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the communist {Viet Cong} forces at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Squad Leader in Company I, Third Battalion, Third Marines, Third Marine Division {Reinforced} near An Cuong 2, South Vietnam, on 18 August 1965. While leading his squad in the assault against a strongly entrenched enemy force, his unit came under intense small arms fire. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Corporal O'Malley raced across an open rice paddy to a trench line where the enemy forces were located. Jumping into the trench, he attacked the Viet Cong with his rifle and grenades, and singly killed eight of the enemy. He then led his squad to the assistance of an adjacent Marine unit which was suffering heavy casualties. Continuing to press forward, he reloaded his weapon and fired with telling effect into the enemy emplacement. He personally assisted in the evacuation of several wounded Marines, and again regrouping the remnants of his squad, he returned to the point of the heaviest fighting. Ordered to an evacuation point by an officer, Corporal O'Malley gathered his besieged and badly wounded squad, and boldly led them under fire to a helicopter for withdrawal. Although three times wounded in this encounter, and facing imminent death from a fanatic and determined enemy, he steadfastly refused evacuation and continued to cover his squad's boarding of the helicopter while, from an exposed position, he delivered fire against the enemy until his wounded men were evacuated. Only then, with his last mission accomplished, did he permit himself to be removed from the battlefield. By his valor, leadership, and courageous efforts in behalf of his comrades, he served as an inspiration to all who observed him, and reflected the highest credit upon the Marine Corps and the U.S. Naval Service.”

On December 19th, elements of HMM-262 arrived at DaNang from ConUS. The 11th Motor Transport Battalion, the 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Company, and VMO-3 arrived at DaNang from ConUS.

The Marine KIA count for December 1966 totaled 160, bringing the total Marine Corps KIA list since January 1962 to 2,160. The 1966 Marine Corps KIAs totaled 1857. The Command Chronologies of all units deployed in Vietnam give detailed accounts of all operations and events during December 1966.

PX Items

Note from the PX Manager: I have been working on putting up our items on the web for order. Some issues have come up to keep me from completing that task. I hope to have this done by the end of the summer. At that time you will be able to go online and order whatever item you see that is in stock. The only way we can do this currently is by check or Paypal. I am investigating other ways as I can find them. Some software actually allows for credit card use for a monthly fee. I have found this to be on the expensive side where we pay just for what we use with Paypal. If you know of a way to do this, please shoot me an email so that we can get this implemented.

I will have some of the items listed below that will be in the PX. Remember, if you order something and it comes in a size, and color, make sure you list that on ordering. (actually, I have batteries coming for my crystal ball <g>)



Natural Death \$18 Blue, red, green First MAW Logo\$18 Pilots, air crew, combat Burgundy, green, navy, red
air crew, EGA SH: \$1.80

Hat Doobers \$3, S&H \$0.50; FMAW Challenge Coin \$7 SH: \$0.80

Checks need to be made out to First MAW Association-Vietnam Service. Send payments to

First Marine Air Wing Association-Vietnam Service PX 19605 SE 23rd Street Sammamish, WA 98075

Check out the First MAW Association-Vietnam Service PX

- http://1stmaw.wamarinesmc.us/mawpx/index.php?main_page=index



First Marine Aircraft Wing Association (Vietnam Service) Reunion

June 28-July 1, 2007

~~ *Branson, Missouri* ~~

To be held at the Settle Inn Resort and Conference Center, 3850 Green Mountain Dr., Branson Missouri. Room rates are only \$64 per night, plus tax and include a deluxe continental breakfast each morning! Themed Jacuzzi Suites are available at just \$99 a night plus tax! Parking at the hotel is free! Commemorative Polo Shirt and Hospitality room stocked w/ snacks, beverages and cocktails throughout the weekend will be included the registration fees. Tentative itinerary will be (we always adapt and overcome):

Thursday June 28th

*Registration and Hospitality Room opens
7-10 pm Show- #1 Hit's of the 60's***

Friday June 29th

*9-4 pm City & Marine Corps Legacy Museum Tour**
6:45-11 pm Branson Belle Dinner Show and Cruise**
China Beach Night following return from Show*

Saturday June 30th

*9-11 am Business Meeting
6-12 pm Banquet Dinner and Dance*

Sunday July 1st

10:30-12 pm Farewell Brunch

Call the Settle Inn Resort and Conference Center at 1-800-677-6906 no later than May 28, 2007 to make your hotel reservations. Be sure to mention you are with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Association Reunion to get the group rates. Rates are available 3 days before and 3 days after should you choose to extend you stay.

Show Information

***Note show costs not included in registration fees*

***#1 Hits of the 60's** As part of a new generation of Branson Shows that offer up Magic, Acrobatics, Irish Song & Dance, Decade Themes from the 50's, 60's & 70's, Classical Music, Big Band Jazz as well as Broadway Shows and Show Tunes, #1 HITS OF THE 60's is two hours of High Energy, Non-Stop Singing and Dancing featuring 12 of the finest Singer/Actor/Dancers & Musicians to be found ANYWHERE!*

***Showboat Branson Belle**- Cruise on beautiful Table Rock Lake and you enjoy a fantastic dinner. This is Branson's most popular show offering a patriotic theme and a variety of top entertainment!*

COME JOIN US AS WE SHARE OLD MEMORIES AND MAKE NEW ONES!!!

For More Information:

Contact Phil Beckerich

Phone: (914)461-3476 Email: yw37@optonline.net

Or

Contact: The Reunion BRAT

Phone: (360)663-2521 Email: Info@TheReunionBRAT.com

REGISTRATION FORM

**YES SIGN ME UP FOR THE FRIST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSN VIETNAM SERVICE
2007 REUNION!!!**

NAME _____

NICKNAME/CALL SIGN _____

YEAR/UNIT (ie 67-68 MAG 11) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF YOUR GUESTS _____

BANQUET MEAL SELECTION: BEEF _____ CHICKEN _____ VEGETARIAN _____

SHIRT SIZE (S) S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ OTHER _____
(NOTE NO SIZE CHANGES ONCE ORDERED)

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION? YES: _____ NO: _____

REGISTRATION FEES

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING	_____	x	\$127	=	_____
OPTIONAL #1 HITS OF THE 60'S SHOW #	_____	x	\$22	=	_____
CITY/MARINE MUSEUM TOUR #	_____	x	\$21	=	_____
BRANSON BELL DINNER SHOWBOAT #	_____	x	\$59	=	_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED				=	_____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 28, 2007

PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS AND MADE PAYABLE TO:

THE REUNION BRAT
50721 State Hwy 410 E
Greenwater, WA 98022
(360)663-2521

Confirmation of Registration and Itinerary will be sent out by June 10, 2007 A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable. Call the Settle Inn at 1-800-677-6906 no later than May 28, 2007 to make your hotel reservations. Be sure to mention you are with the 1st Marine Reunion to receive your group rate of \$64 a night, plus tax. These prices are available 3 days prior to and after your event should you choose to extend your stay. For photos of Settle Inn visit [www.need site here](#)
We'll see you soon in beautiful Branson Missouri !!

BRICK



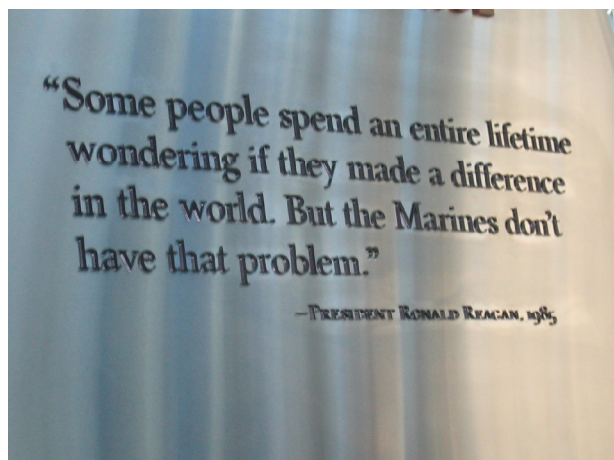
Museum of the Marine Corps



Entrance



Navajo Talkers



President Reagan



F-4U Corsair



AV-8B Harrier



H-19



Bill Fitzgerald and Frank (Paco) Arce



Wreath



Making of Marines



Marine band



F4 Phantom



F4 Corsair

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The First MAW Association will award five scholarships of \$500 each during Reunion '07. To qualify for a scholarship, applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- Be a First MAW Assn. regular member in good standing (i.e., dues are up to date), their spouse, dependent, or direct descendent. Further, the member must have a minimum of one-year membership as of June 1, 2006.
-OR-
- Be a spouse, dependent, or direct descendent of a deceased member of the First MAW Assn.
-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.
- Applicant must be presently enrolled in an accredited college, university, or trade school and 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 Veterans Memorial Means to Me.
 2. What the Marine Corps War Memorial Means to Me.
 3. How I plan to use my education to aide society
 4. Why I support our Marines who are in harms way

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

The essay must be typed. Do not include applicants name on the essay. Attach a separate sheet of paper containing applicant's name, member's name and membership number, address, and phone number.

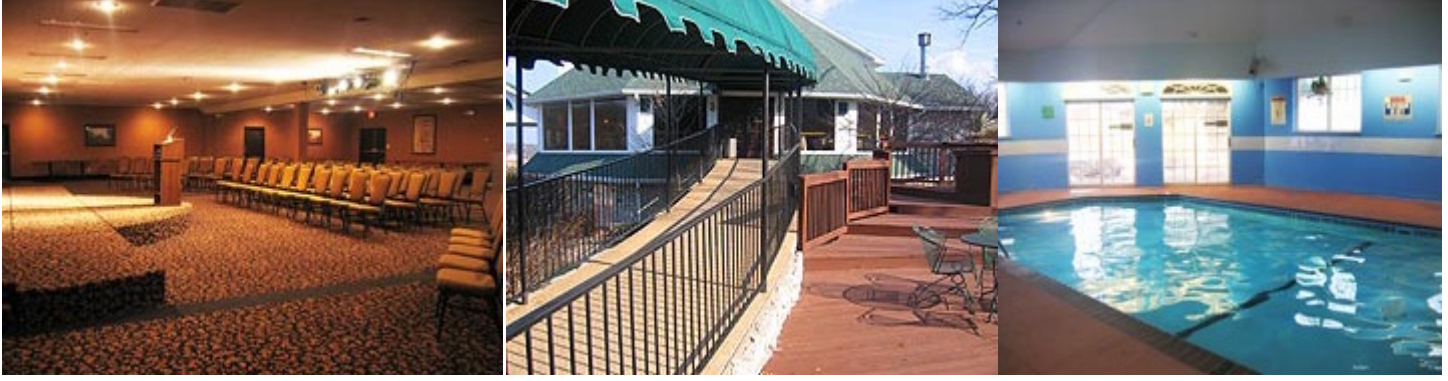
A letter from a counselor or other school official verifying that applicant is currently enrolled. The letter must be on school letterhead.

A copy of student transcripts

The essay must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2007.

Mail the essay to:

First MAW Association – Vietnam Service
PO Box 3532
Allentown, PA 18106-0532



Settle Inn Resort is our location for our 2007 Reunion. It is very nice and centrally located. You can check it out at this URL: <http://www.bransonsettleinn.com>

**First Marine Aircraft Wing Association –
Vietnam Service
PO Box 3532
Allentown, PA 18106-0532**

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.

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