



1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES

1ST MARINE DIVISION

VIETNAM 1965 - 1971



2011 Reunion, Washington, D. C.

Newsletter date
April, 2011

Final Opportunity

This is the last notice you will receive before the 2011 reunion. It is getting very close to the 2011 DC reunion (August 27-30). If you are planning on attending you must have your registration in by July 22 and that is only a few weeks away!!

The final reunion schedule is as follows:

- *Saturday 08/27/2011*
Registration starts at 1500
- *Sunday 08/28/2011*
Battalion Auction 1300
Battalion Dinner 1800
- *Monday 08/29/2011*
Marine Corps Museum
0900-1600 (Lunch included)
- *Tuesday 08/30/2011*
Battalion Business Meeting
0930-1030
WWII, Vietnam, Korea Memorials and Arlington Cemetery
1300-1930 (Dinner included)
Graveside Ceremony at Col Bell's Grave at 1830

Besides the events planned there are a ton of things to do in the DC area. We have designed these events to include the history of the Marine Corps and particularly the history of our battalion. We have tried to make this a family event where you can showcase your service to your entire family. We want everyone to enjoy themselves!!

The Marine Corps Museum has just completed a 40% expansion. It now has artifacts from the entire history of the United States Marine Corps displayed. The main part of the Vietnam display has you coming out of the back of a CH-46 onto Hill 881S. They have used photographs to get the scenery absolutely correct! If you feel a little warm coming out onto the "hill" it is because they

have the temperature a bit warmer to fully recapture the experience. Yes, the Chosin one is cold, but neither is to the extreme the real things were. I have been to the museum at least 7-8 times and still cannot get enough.

The World War II, Korea and Vietnam Memorials are a truly emotional experience. Within sight are the Capitol, Washington Memorial, Lincoln Memorial and the White House. Regardless of politics it is an experience you will always cherish. Arlington Cemetery is right across the river. You will get to see the Tomb of the Unknowns, Women's Memorial, Arlington House, JFK Grave Site, Iwo Jima Memorial and more. The view from the from the Arlington House over the Potomac River and Federal Mall are awe inspiring. The reunion will be concluded with a ceremony by Col Bell's grave side. We hope his wife, Hilda, will be at the reunion. His grave is, very fittingly, near the Iwo Jima Memorial.

Shirts will be given to all veterans who attend at least one of the events. Everyone attending the reunion will receive a 1/1 Vietnam neck lanyard and ID tag holder. Included with it will be a belt clip reel with the 1/1 logo.

We will be honored to make arrangements for anyone with **special needs**. Please mark your reunion registration. Due to the amount of people coming to the reunion **special requests**, other than arrangements for people with special needs, are very difficult to execute. If we can accommodate you without taking from the group we will but do not feel

offended if we cannot. "Pop up" items have ripple effects on plans that were made months ago.

We ask all to follow certain guidelines during the reunion. First please be on time for events both coming to and leaving. Ride the same bus back and forth (we don't want to lose anyone!!). The Battalion Dinner is a coat and tie event. If you do not dress appropriately you will not be allowed to attend. There will be no refunds if you do not comply. We dress this way as a token of respect to the active duty Marines supporting us at the dinner and to each other.

Again we sincerely hope you have a great time. **Remember now is the time to register for the reunion and make your hotel reservations!**

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the reunion.

S/F
Fugi

The Reunion After This One

The Reunion Committee has received two proposals for the 2013 Reunion. They are:

- Las Vegas— August 2013
By Bob Jackson (B 65-66)
- New Orleans— August 2013
By John Keeling (C 68-69)

This will be voted on at the business meeting on Tuesday at 0930, August 30, 2011. Procedure is detailed at <http://www.1stbn1stmarines.org/reunion/procedures.htm>.

Joe Fulginiti and Roger O'Brien are resigning from the executive committee. The positions to be filled are Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation and Member at Large of the Executive Committee. Both positions require a considerable amount of work and business expertise.

REVISIT REASONS TO COME TO THE 1/1 REUNION—beside the fact that we are getting old

Military Reunions - Not Just for Marines Anymore

OK, it has been over 40 years and you have never been to a reunion. You may have thought about it but in deciding between traveling to a reunion of your battalion or that vacation with the family, the family vacation won out. I think your priorities are just fine. But, it doesn't have to be either or.

This year, 1st Bn 1st Marines is meeting in our nation's capital. So why not vacation in Washington DC this year? You can reconnect with your band of brothers while the Missus and family visit the Smithsonian museums, shop and dine in Georgetown or nearby Alexandria, visit the Supreme Court or the Capitol, take a DUCK tour, or explore George Washington's mansion at Mt. Vernon. You couldn't do justice to all the museums if you had a month. These include the Museum of the American Indian, the National Gallery of Art, the Air & Space Museum, the National Portrait Gallery and the International Spy Museum. For history buffs, you can go to Ford's Theater and see where Lincoln was shot then go across the street to see his death bed. You can spend a day on the Mall, our nation's front yard, visiting the many memorials including those honoring Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and FDR. With a little advance preparation with your local congressman or senator you can arrange a tour of the White House.

So maybe you have been to a reunion and you remember that at nearly every reunion the hotel was either a renovation construction site or had large posters in the lobby showing renderings of how great the hotel would be some time in the near future (but not while you were staying there). Well, in Washington this coming August, the impossible has happened. We have booked a great

and inexpensive hotel, the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, that has just completed a tasteful and attractive renovation. You will hear no complaints from your loved ones. The hotel has both a comfortable family restaurant on the second level or, for those of more fastidious tastes, a rooftop gourmet venue is available. There is also a large variety of restaurants within walking distance including one of my favorites, Legal Seafood, and the Metro station is nearby giving you access to the entire Washington, DC area.

You have plenty of time to plan this great family adventure if you start today. See you next August!

S/F John Keeling

INCOMING!

Last year I realized it was time to get two things done: One was to visit my brother Terry at The Wall in Washington D.C. and the other was to attend the First Battalion, First Marine Regiment reunion in Philadelphia. With encouragement from my wife Gwynne and my daughters Caitlin and Charlotte I flew out of Seattle optimistic to pay tribute to my younger brother and excited to see comrades I hadn't seen in forty years. My visit to The Wall on that hot August day and the moments I stood staring at my brother's name allowed me to honor him personally along with the other courageous Americans who paid such a terrible price. It was comforting to be in the company of others paying tribute that day as we all honored our fallen family members, friends and comrades. In memory of him I left my brother's and my dog tags including my mother's who served in the Red Cross in Europe during the World War II.

After meeting my former Charlie Company comrades Mike Newton, John Keeling and Joe Fulginiti at the train station in Philadelphia we spent the drive reliving the

chaotic battle on Hill 689 from July 6-8, 1968. Both Mike and John had been wounded and forty years later where a little grayer, but in great shape. Unlike the way popular media tends to portray us, after leaving the Corps in one piece, my friends all went back to school, got married and embarked on successful careers like most Vietnam Veterans. It was comforting to be back in the company of such great guys talking about events as if they had happened yesterday. We laughed, reminisced and shared a few moments of silence as we remembered fallen Marines.

They also enthusiastically recounted trips the previous days to the Liberty Bell and the U.S.S. New Jersey and that night at the reunion dinner Joe, our inspired Master of Ceremonies, invited fellow gyrenes to come forward and speak of their former comrades and commanders. There were a lot of Marines who were suddenly blinking with emotion and clapping their buddy next to them on the back.

To all you Marines from 1/1 who have been waiting for the right time to attend our unit's reunion this is the time. Most of us are still in our prime and most of us need to visit our nation's Capitol and visit our fallen comrades at The Wall. I think we have all felt the pull of reuniting with Marines with whom we have gone to battle. It would be an honor to see you all again and that means you Pat Caldwell.

S/F Will Lomen

Your Contact info:

You are responsible for keeping your address up to date. You can do it online at:

www.1stbn1stmarines.org/dbupdate.htm or email me at dking@1stbn1stmarines.org or call me at 314-544-5464 or send via US Mail to:

Dan King
8608 Vassel Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63123-3408

2011 Washington, DC REUNION REGISTRATION FORM
1ST BATTALION 1ST MARINES VIETNAM 1965-1971
Hyatt Regency, Crystal City, VA
 August 27-30, 2011

Version 2011.n3

General Information:

- Check here if any changes need to be made to the 1/1 database (Redbook)
- Check here to list my name, unit and years on list of registrants on reunion website

Name

Address

City: State: Zip:

Telephone (include area code)

Email

T-Shirt size: Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large

(Check one – shirts only to 1/1 Veteran attending an event below additional shirts may be purchased below)

1/1er's Name Badge: (Name from above will show plus):

Nickname in Vietnam

Company/Unit

Year(s) (i.e. '66-'67)

Guest Badges: (Use back of sheet it more than two)

Name to appear on badge

Relationship (optional)

Name to appear on badge

Relationship (optional)

Name to appear on badge

Relationship (optional)

Additional Shirts:

S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ Total Additional Shirts _____

Activities:

Battalion Dinner _____ @ \$50 each = _____
 (Coat and tie required) (Count)

Marine Corps Museum _____ @ \$50 each = _____
 (Includes lunch & bus transport) (Count)

Arlington/National Mall _____ @ \$50 each = _____
 (Includes dinner & bus transport) (Count)

Additional Shirts _____ @ \$20 each = _____
 (Count)

Additional contribution to 1/1 Reunion fund (optional) = _____

Total enclosed: = _____

Make check out to **1/1 Reunion 2011**. Mail this form and check by **July 22, 2011** to:

1/1 Reunion Committee
335 Braehead Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22401-2211

Any questions?:

Most current information, for

(two separate things that you have to do)

**Reunion Registration Form
AND**

hotel reservation link
(Hyatt Regency, Crystal City at Reagan National Airport)

www.1stBn1stMarines.org/reunion

2011 Reunion Chairman:

Joe "Fuji" Fulginiti
C 1/1 67-68 FO

oneonereunion2011@yahoo.com

CUTOFF for Reunion Registration:
(in committee's hand by midnight)

JULY 22, 2011

«FIRSTNAME» «LASTNAME»
«ADDRESS1»
«ADDRESS2»
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»

1/1 - First of the First
1st Battalion, 1st Marines
Reunion Organization
8608 Vassel Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63123-3408