



THE FRAG

2D Recon Battalion Association Newsletter

Greetings Marines, Corpsmen, and Recon Families,

What a crazy year--COVID, hurricanes, murder hornets, riots, elections. What's next? The Zombie Apocalypse?!

Yet, challenges aren't new to us. When we encounter obstacles, we defeat them or bypass them (I still remember some of that tactical stuff). The leadership decided to cancel the reunion due to COVID19 concerns. We conferred again and decided to go forth with the Monument dedication (see page 2)

Due to the prohibitive cost of printing and mailing, the leadership has decided to distribute the FRAG via email and the website. We will print and mail to any members who do not have email.

Times change, events come and go, but one thing doesn't change—the brotherhood of our Association. We are not only surviving, but we are growing in numbers and in our relationship with the active duty Marines.

I am optimistic that we will be able to hold our reunion as usual in 2021. It is scheduled for 25-27 June at Sneads Ferry/Camp Lejeune, NC. More info to follow.

Semper Fi,

Wayne Dillon

Monument Campaign



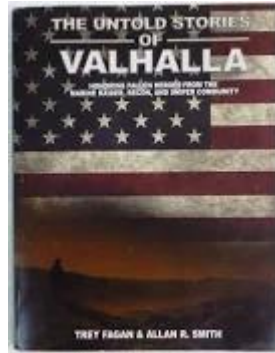
We got it done! Our Memorial to our Fallen Marines and Corpsmen was installed at the National Museum of the Marine Corps on 6 November. The current Commandant, General David Berger, who served as a company commander, operations and logistic officer with 2d Recon honored us with his presence and gave a wonderful speech that addressed the Gold Star families present. He was accompanied by the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Troy Black. Guest of Honor Sgt. Pablo Arroyo, aka “Mr. X,” a Beirut bombing survivor, gave a heartfelt speech. We were surprised when everyone’s favorite, the legendary General Al Gray, 29th Commandant. Gen. Gray showed up unannounced. We were also blessed with the attendance of Col (Ret.) Tony Osterman, whose son, Sean, was killed while serving with Alpha Co. in 2010 in Afghanistan. The performances of the 2d Recon Battalion color guard and firing detail, as well as the Quantico Band were flawless. The appearance and conduct of the active duty Marines and of all who attended was excellent.

Many thanks to those who have made this happen —Steve Shi (Ret.) for coordinating the development; Scott Borngrebe for reconnaissance of the site; Otis Kerr for the graphics you see above; Michael Graham for social media promotion; and to Paul “Dutch” Bertholf for heading up corporate fundraising; Vice President Brian Broadhurst for his creation and donations of gifts for the Guest of Honor; and to Steve O’Hara for raising funds through the raffles and creating the donation site. It couldn’t have happened without your generous contributions! Also, much thanks to Greg and Nadia Gottschling for their donation of the “Eyes and Ears of the Commander” poster at last year’s reunion, and to Col. (Ret.) “Iron Mike” Williams for donating it back to the Association. This was presented to Gen. Berger. Maj. (Ret.) Fred Woodaman, formerly a platoon commander in Bravo Company, serenaded us on the bagpipes, closing with a moving rendition of *Amazing Grace*.

Book Review

The Untold Stories of Valhalla

Trey Fagan and Allan R. Smith



Trey “Osee” Fagan and Allan Smith, both Marines, did an excellent job of not only memorializing fallen Raider, Recon, and Sniper Marines and Corpsmen, they also, in their words, wrote this book to “...inspire young operators to give their absolute best on a daily basis, by learning about those who have went before them, and sacrificed everything.

The Untold Stories of Valhalla details the life, service, and passing of these heroes. Two of these, Chris Zimmerman and John Hayes, were serving with 2d Reconnaissance Battalion at the time of their death.

Proceeds from sales and donations will be disbursed by the Brothers in Arms Foundation to surviving Gold Star Family Members in the forms of:

- Quality of life initiatives for surviving spouses and children
- Grief counseling
- Educational and vocational scholarships
- Assistance with cost of living expenses for those suffering economic hardship
- Travel expenses associated with annual travel to/from memorial sites/ceremonies such as Arlington National Cemetery

This book is a **100% charitable initiative**. It is distributed by Pipe Hitter Media LLC

www.pipehittermedia.com. It may also be found on eBay, Amazon, and other bookseller sites.

Back in the Day



Lou Perullo and Vic Zwolek

Most of you have met one of our “Founding Fathers,” Vic Zwolek, also famous as a college and 1964 Olympic track star (he would have been that guy you hate on a beach run). I was pleased to get a phone call from another Marine, Lou Perullo, who served with Vic during the early years of our unit in 1958. He was gracious enough to send me several photos from that time. Photos, clockwise from upper left:

1. Lou and Vic training with the M1919 Browning machinegun, .30 caliber (30-06)
2. Marines shown are displaying the M1911A1 .45 caliber pistol and M3 submachineguns, aka “grease gun.” This weapon was developed for tank crews during World War II and fired the same .45 cartridge as the pistol. It had a maximum effective range of 100 yards.
3. Inflatable Boat, Small (IBS). No motors in those days!
4. Lou at cold weather training.

In Memoriam



Celebration of Life for Rhonda Seaman



Migdalia and Herm Marrero

The Association recently lost two of our wonderful sisters. Both Rhonda Seaman, the wife of Frank, and Migdalia Marrero, the wife of Herm, went ashore in October. Mrs. Marrero's service was held in Puerto Rico.

I was privileged to attend Rhonda's celebration of life ceremony in western North Carolina, along with hundreds of friends and family including several Association members. They will both be sorely missed.

Supporting our Community

Scholarships



2019 Scholarship Recipient, Lara Hartley

Two scholarships are available to Association members and their dependents. The Larry Ashton Memorial Scholarship, administered by the Ashton family, is dedicated to supporting those who are studying to work as health professionals. The Association administers a general scholarship. The deadline for these scholarships is 15 August. For more information, contact Wayne Dillon at leatherneck75.wd@gmail.com.

Membership

Website Revision



Jason Oliver is our Membership Chairman. Connect with Jason via the following methods:

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