

**2nd Battalion, Third Marines
Vietnam Veterans Association**

Annual Newsletter

Wow, time is really flying by, seems like it was just yesterday that we were at our reunion at the Wisconsin Dells. This year our reunion will be at Sam's Town in Las Vegas, Nevada. We have negotiated some pretty reasonable rates for the Hotel. This year, the association will be paying 50% of our Activity Fees for our Association Members who decide to go on the Hoover Dam Tour and the Black Canyon Tour. There is lots of photography opportunities for the photographers in our group - Mountain Goats, Hot Waterfalls, and waterfowl. It is unbelievable what the people building the dam had to undergo during the building of the Dam in the 30's. The guides provide educational information regarding the people building the dam and you can witness the paths people had to take when working at the dam.

Sam's Town provides a 9 Story Atrium for those that want to get away from the noise of the Casino. The Hotel/Casino is off the strip, but for those wanting to experience the Las Vegas strip, Sam's Town provides a shuttle approximately every 1 1/2 hours to Harrah's on the strip or for the trip from the strip to Sam's Town. Unfortunately they stop providing this service around 9 p.m. They do provide Shuttle service from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Hotel/Casino also provides a Bowling Alley and a Theater featuring 7 different movies as well as a horse racing/ betting book for Football and other activities. The Hotel also provides a work out area and a swimming pool for our association members.

Sam's Town also has additional rentals for the disabled. The Hotel/Casino has Scooters for rent at \$100 for three days. For those over 300 pounds, the Hotel/Casino provides a heavy duty scooter for rent at \$105 for three days. For the handicap accessible rooms, they have rooms that have roll in showers or tubs with rails and drop down seats for the tubs, these rooms are based upon availability and do sell out. The Hotel/Casino suggests that if you require an accessible room that these people should book the room as soon as possible.

Shuttle Service from the Airport to Sam's is available at the Las Vegas Airport. I prefer the Super Shuttle. According to Sam's club, the cost will run from \$25 to \$35 to and from the casino.

Remember that the deadline for purchasing shirts or caps for the reunion is July 9, 2015. The deadline for the hotel/casino rooms to be paid to Sam's Town is August 9, 2015 - Looking Forward to seeing you all in Las Vegas.

We are asking your prayers for a long-time member of 2/3 who is battling Cancer. One of classiest Marines in our association, Eddie Wyatt is going through pure hell in his battle against this disease. He has beat the Lung Cancer in his body, but in doing so, the lump on his neck doubled in size. They are now performing radiation on this area and his body hasn't reacted well to this treatment. Your prayers are requested for this Marine.

The following is a brief excerpt from Susan Wyatt:

Today I brought Eddie home from the hospital. This has been a very difficult week to say the least. Eddie's temperature has fluctuated all week and is still doing this now. After I got him home his temp was 100.4...Hopefully he can control it better here at home. I have been keeping a log to show the Doctors. He woke up this morning with very little voice, barely a whisper and the right side of his neck swollen. The Doctors have no clue except to say the only thing they can determine causing all of this is the aggressive treatment. They have done blood cultures, scans, and everything they possibly know to do. They even called in an Infectious Disease Doctor yesterday and he agreed with the Oncologist that he thought it all was related to the treatment. A Doctor brought 5 students in so they could observe what severe mucositis looks like and what Eddie is having to deal with. What is so bad, they want him to go back to Radiation on Monday but are giving him a break from Chemo until the 20th. There is no way I can explain to you how rough this has been. Eddie remains a fighter and is still eating without using his feeding tube. It takes him a lot longer and he coughs throughout the meal but he gets it down. Let's all pray God gives him the strength to remain strong and continue fighting as he continues his treatments.

On a sadder note, we have lost three of our Marine Corp brothers and sisters this year. We have lost Charley Baldwin, Sgt Major Don Aakers wife Claudia Aaker and Ron Sower this year. Rest in Peace.

Message from our President of the Association.

I would first like to thank our Treasurer, Art Ferguson, for his diligence and perseverance in reorganizing our infrastructure over the past (8) eight months. Art's commitment and dedication to this organization are a stellar example for all of us to follow.

Secondly, my gratitude is extended to all of this year's officers for their efforts in demonstrating the utmost respect and exemplary assistance in contributing to the revival of this great organization.

Thirdly, please do not forget that I will be stepping down as President of the Association, based on the membership vote of only (2) two consecutive (1) one year terms for the office of President, which will provide the opportunity for others to become/stay active within our group.

It has been an honor to have had the privilege of serving as your President for the past (2) two years and I look forward to continuing to work together for the best interests of the membership and the Association as the Immediate Past President.

I hope to see everyone in Las Vegas - Semper Fi.

Message from your Vice-President

It seems like time goes by faster and faster. I seems like yesterday we were at the Ho-Chunk and in a few short months we will be together in Las Vegas. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and making new friends. It has been an honor to serve as your Vice-President this past year and I would like to recognize the other officers that have done an outstanding job in guiding our Association. I would also like to recognize our former officers for their efforts and guidance.

Our 2016 reunion is scheduled for the East Coast. We have some ideas to present to the membership in hopes that we can make our reunions even more enjoyable and also very affordable. It is one of my goals to get as many members to our reunions as possible. I can remember a few reunions with 100+ members attending - the more the merrier!!

I would also like to remind members to bring auction items to the reunion. All money raised at the auction goes back to the members to help reduce costs for the membership. I always have a great time at the auctions as I hope everyone else does. Please don't lose all your money at the casino tables - save some for the auction!!

I am looking forward to meeting up with all from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, some of the finest Marines to have ever served their Country and their Corps.

Semper Fi and see you in September.

Dave Smith

Message from your Treasurer

Marines

It has been a busy year for me, however, I have persevered. One of the things that I have changed with the approval of our officers is the Fiscal Year End for our Association. I have changed our Fiscal Year End (FYE) to September 30th. This will allow us to view all of our Income/Expenses that is related to that year, rather than co-mingling prior year data with the current year financial information. I think that we all can agree that most of our activities will occur between October 1st thru September 30th (our accounting cycle). Previously our Fiscal Year End was July 31st (August 1st thru July 31st).

I have also changed our method of accounting to the accrual basis rather than the cash basis with the approval of our officers. This will enable us to accrue Income/Expenses related to the current year. Two things come to mind, people that have paid in advance are liabilities to our association rather than current year income. Another thing that comes to mind is Income from our Auction. This can be estimated and recorded as income before we actually have that income. I can adjust this to actual after the reunion.

Another thing that I have completed is entering the prior year Income/Expenses from our reunion at the Dells for comparison purposes. From what I understand, we shouldn't be making money from our association members. Our goal is to break even.

Since our last reunion, we have picked up 34 new and returning members to our association. This is as of May 16, 2015.

We also need to thank Pat and Harry Hoy for handling the position of Web-Master and Treasurer of our Association for the many years that they served.

Respectively Submitted

Art (Fergy) Ferguson