



# THE SCOOP SHEET

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

Issue 20

[www.firstmaw.com](http://www.firstmaw.com)

Summer, 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): Please accept my apologies for the absence of a newsletter since prior to our last reunion. There has been a multitude of complications preventing the publication of any issue. For one , it doesn't appear by magic, smoke and mirrors or any other form of trickery, illusion or centrifuge. Someone has to do the work, receive the articles, put it in a format , bring it to a printer, attach mailing labels and bring same to the Post Office for mailing. Wayne Cook had and has volunteered to do what he can. But, he has been on the mend and this will be his first newsletter.

Ms. Linda Irvine of the "Reunion Brats" is helping to put together a "Flyer" regarding next years reunion in Branson Missouri. By the way , your Association has rooms in Branson for the economical cost of \$64.00 per night including a continental breakfast. Your reunion fee will include a T-shirt too. However we will need commitments, the sooner the better. Remember, hotel reservations can be cancelled but special room rates cannot last forever, when they are gone they are gone.

At the 2003 reunion in New Orleans the membership collected \$354.00 for a brick to be purchased at the Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico. This brick has been purchased and will be lining the pathways of Semper Fidelis Memorial Park. For those members who have donated to the Museum, expect an invitation to attend the dedication this 10 November 2006. I have requested that the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation seat members, who indicate so on their reply, be seated in the same location.

Anyone who can or knows someone who has the time and skill to put together a Quarterly Scoop newsletter please step up to the plate. I do not possess the skills and I still have four more years of work before I can retire.

Lastly, and as always please , in whatever way you pray or worship remember all of servicemen and women in uniform but especially our Marines. My late friend Al Morey's son Andrew is expected to deploy in August. God speed to all our Marines.

Yours in Patriotism.  
Semper Fidelis

Philip L. Beckerich III  
Association President



## 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

#### FIRST CLASS, MAC! - UPDATE

As stated in the last issue, we are not using Bulk Rate Mail for our mailings. A couple of our Members have volunteered to look into reducing our mailing costs. As things develop on this, we will keep you posted. In the mean time, Thanks to you who have stepped forward.

#### VOLUNTEER NEEDED - UPDATE

We are in need of someone that has experience in putting out a newsletter. Currently, I (Wayne Cook) have taken on too much and I will need to have someone else take this on. If you are interested, check with Phil to get things rolling. If you need a copy of MS Publisher to do the work, I will get a copy for you.

#### SICK BAY

Top (aka Wayne Cook) has just recovered from surgery on colon cancer. Things look very good, looks like they got all the critters in there.

#### OPEN 'ER UP?

On page 5, there is a letter from Jack Vanko, who is chairing our committee to investigate the opening up of our ranks to others form more current conflicts. Keep in mind this is a committee to check into this. You are welcome to voice your views and support or objections.

#### THE VIETNAM FILES

A number of you with e-mail have asked us about e-mails that have been received recently from "info@thevietnamfiles.com." Here is the "scoop" on this as we know it. "A way back" when, the Marine Corps Historical Center answered requests for unit Command Chronologies (like a monthly report) and other unit records by accessing microfilm and printing it. A large effort was made, but these unit records, files and other documents were eventually put into a computerized format such that CD Rom disks could be made. Now when a request is received, the requester gets a CD Rom disk. There is still a wait, but nothing like it was when everything was strictly "paper" and is still free of charge. Apparently a commercial enterprise has taken all of this computerized information, and uploaded it to their own system. It has a website where the information can be accessed by home computer and downloaded for a fee. If any one has any experience with this enterprise, we'd like to hear from you, and in the meantime, we will check it out.

#### TAPS

Phil Beckerich lost his father on 4/5/06. He was 82, he served with the 5th Air Force during WWII.

#### 2007 Reunion

**Information on the next reunion is on page 7, the application will be forthcoming and also will be on the website if you want to get it in early.**

## 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  
 Pilots, air crew, combat  
 air crew, EGA  
 SH: \$1.50



First MAW Logo ....\$18  
 Burgandy, green, navy, red  
 SH: \$1.50



Hat Doobers	\$5	FMAW Challenge Coin	\$7
SH:	\$0.50	SH:	\$060



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

Look for the Online PX soon.

**FIRSTMAW SEABAG (Continued)**

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**1st MAW Association-Vietnam Service**

From: Jack Vanko March 20, 2006  
To: Membership Committee

Minutes from meeting concerning opening up membership to other than Vietnam Service

Attending: Jack Vanko, Joe Amant, Dieter Liepert, Rob Milburn. Date: 25 Feb. 2006

It was agreed by those in attendance that this Committee has been appointed and assembled for the purpose of evaluating options and to make subsequent recommendations to the Board of Directors on the subject of opening up the Association Membership to others beyond our current Membership Category Requirements.

It was agreed that a fixed recommendation is that, despite any future Membership requirements changes, if any, the organization would stay as the "First Marine Aircraft Wing Association".

The Committee will explain to the general Membership, via the Newsletter, what our current Membership requirements are.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the following four Membership requirement options are being considered for recommendation at this time:

1. A-Direct combat service in First Marine Aircraft Wing operations.  
B-Direct support of FMAW combat operations.  
C-Related support of FMAW combat operations.
2. Out of the operational theater, but documented service in units that directly supported FMAW combat operations.
3. All personnel who served with FMAW regardless of time period served (much like the First and Third Marine Division Associations).
4. Membership would still be limited to only those Marine Corps, Naval, and other US and Allied military personnel who served in, or served in a support capacity for the FMAW, Except those discharged or separated from military service under conditions other than an "Honorable" character of service.

The committee discussed methods of documenting and verifying FMAW service, or support service for Membership eligibility for any future Membership requirement changes, and has not decided on any recommendations at this time. This topic will remain for future discussion and recommendations.

It was further agreed that the Committee will disseminate the information contained in this document to the general Membership via the next edition of the Association Newsletter. Further, it was agreed that the Committee will convene for another session after this information is published.

Cordially;

Jack Vanko  
Chairman

## **SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

The First MAW Association will award five scholarships of \$500 each during Reunion '05. 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, 2005.  
-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:

Topics will be announced prior to the next reunion

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 August 15, 2005. Mail the essay to:

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



**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 Tshirt and Hospitality room stocked w/ snacks, beverages and cocktails throughout the weekend will be included the registration fees. Tentative itinerary will be:*

**Thursday June 28<sup>th</sup>**

*Registration and Hospitality Room opens*

**Friday June 29<sup>th</sup>**

*Optional Tours TBD*

*China Beach Night*

**Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Business Meeting*

*Banquet Dinner and Dance*

**Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup>**

*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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

***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](mailto:yw37@optonline.net)***

***Or***

***Contact: The Reunion BRAT***



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.