

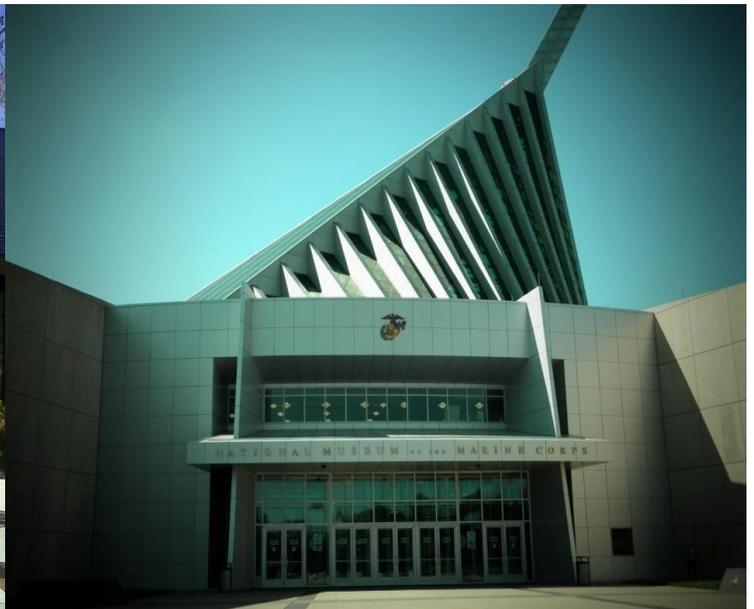


THE SCOOP SHEET

Issue 40

*Information For And About Members Of The First
Marine Aircraft Wing Association – Vietnam Service*
www.1stmaw.com

Winter 2011



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...



As We enter 2012 , Our 24th Year , I and Our Executive Board want to wish All Our Members and Their Family A Year Full of Peace, Health, Happiness and Lots of Love.

My thanks to our members for their vote of confidence in myself and our executive board ! 2013 saw us meet in Crystal city for our 15th reunion at The DoubleTree. The quantity was not as we had wished for, but the quality was great and we made money. Our huge hospitality room with a large outdoor terrace was a big hit. The hotel staff was excellent. Our thanks also go to Chaplain, LT Paul A. Hyder for our memorial ceremony at the Chapel. It was very moving as we remembered our members no longer with us . Thanks also to the staff at the USMC Museum. The comedy show and dinner on our China Beach Night was nicely received by the members that attended and watching Bill Walden's video memories from past reunions brought back some good memories. Our thanks to Mr Joe Bless and the Young Marines from the DC area for being our Color Guard at our banquet.

It was my honor and pleasure presenting the scholarship checks to our kids Kaitlyn Bozzello , Zach Waters and Leah Kehl , two that I have watched grow from little kids to a young woman and man. congratulations and keep making us proud! Our thanks also to Anne Waters and Kaitlyn for being our guest speakers. You were great and congrats again to Dave Hugel and Wayne Cook on your awards! Keep up the good work .

My apology for dropping the ball on certain items like our group picture and program, but live and learn. Already working on next years reunion, Our 25th anniversary is in New Orleans . I strongly believe that it will be our finest reunion!

In Oct., after our reunion , I attended the NMCC meeting in DC and made some important HQ Marine Corps connections for the future. The April meeting will be held at the Pentagon. Would appreciate 1 more member to join me at that meeting. date TBA

Finally I got our reservations for USMC Birthday - Vet Day and 30th anniversary of The Wall weekend. The Sun 11-11 and Mon 11-12 are My Reserve, but we can change days as we feel necessary. First come , first served and then we can add more rooms. I'm sure we can get rid of these rooms . The hotel will sell out for those dates. I'm arriving on Thursday 11-8. The Jefferson room was again given to us free as our hospitality room. We can cut our cake there (Need Sword). Also a wreath for the Wall. Need input ASAP so I can send back contract

SEMPER FI !!!

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

DUES RENEWALS

Please send in your yearly dues of \$25.00. Send them to:

First Marine Aircraft Wing Association—Vietnam Service
c/o Wayne Cook—Membership
19605 SE 23rd Street
Sammamish, WA 98075

Any questions contact Wayne Cook 425-313-0348 or wayco@comcast.net. Subject should say First maw.

ELECTRONIC SCOOP

The Electronic Scoop list is growing. Any other 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 Frank Arce at frankpaco69@aol.com and Al Frater at teanal@optonline.net. THE SCOOP CAN BE ACCESSED FROM THE WEB SITE **WWW.1stMAW.COM**. 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 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..

LOCATOR LIST

There is now an updated locator list. Anyone that sees someone they want to contact, then they need to email Wayne Cook at wayco@comcast.net or call him at 425-313-0348 and he will send the information to that person to contact them.

PX

We have removed the PX page from this issue due to some price changes and that we were getting very few inquiries. However if you want to order any 1st MAW stuff please call Wayne Cook 425-313-0348 or email him at **wayco@comcast.net**

NEW WEB PAGE URL

Our WEB page is now accessed at **WWW.1stmaw.com**. This will make it easier to remember and it will be continually worked on to make it better.

1st MAW NOW ON FACEBOOK

We are now moving to the modern age and have a Group on FACEBOOK. If you are a FACEBOOK user please join our Group at "**First Marine Air wing Association - Vietnam Service**". If you are not a FACEBOOK member, join FACEBOOK and our Group. Information and photos will continue to be posted on our group. Any member may also post comments and photos.

Marine Corps Aviation will celebrate two important anniversaries in 2012 By David H. Hugel

2012 will mark the 100th anniversary of Marine Corps aviation. According to B. Gen. Edwin Simmons, USMC Ret., in his authoritative history of the Marine Corps, Marine First Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham became intrigued with the “aeroplane” in 1911 while stationed at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. After using his own funds to rent and learn to fly a primitive aircraft, he successfully requested assignment to the Navy’s flying school in Annapolis, Maryland. On August 1, 1912, he soloed in a Curtiss seaplane, becoming the first Marine pilot, and fifth Naval Aviator. Others soon joined Cunningham, and the growing Marine Corps fledgling Aeronautical branch. Marine Corps aviation would soon become an integral part of the fabled Air Ground team.

Headquarters Marine Corps plans to commemorate the event, the Marine Corps the historic anniversary with numerous events. The Marine Corps University History Division is in the process of publishing a book tracing the history of Marine Corps aviation over the past 100 years, which will be available to the public through the Government Printing Office. Watch future issues of *The Scoop Sheet* for details on how to purchase the book, or check the GPO web site.

April 15, 2012 also marks the 50th Anniversary of the first deployment of a Marine Corps operational unit to Vietnam. On that date, HMM-362, under the command of Lt. Col. Archie Clapp, flew into Soc Trang, in Vietnam’s Mekong Delta as part of Operation SHUFLY, and soon began operations in support of our South Vietnamese allies.

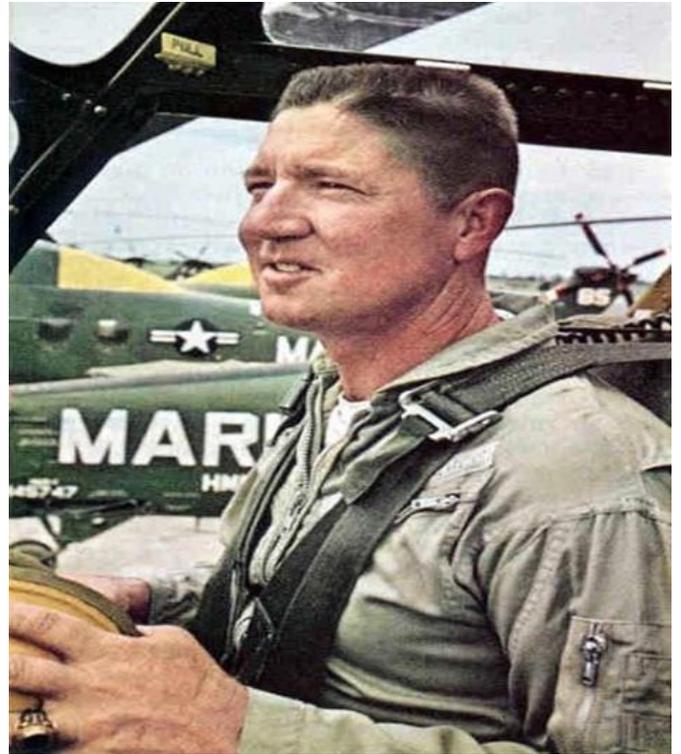
Headquarters Marine Corps is planning a range of activities during the year in recognition of that historic deployment, a schedule of which will appear in future issues of *The Scoop Sheet* as details are confirmed.

This writer has authored two comprehensive articles, scheduled to appear in the April and May 2012 issues of *Leatherneck* magazine, detailing the deployment and early operations at Soc Trang, based on research of official Marine Corps records and interviews with ten of the Marines who served there. A panel discussion featuring four of these Marines will focus on the challenges they faced, the missions they flew and what life was like during those early days of the Vietnam War is scheduled to be held at the National Museum of the Marine Corps next April.

* DAVID H. HUGEL served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1960-64, including a nine-month tour in Vietnam as a combat photographer with the 1st MAW as part of Operation SHUFLY. He is a life member of the First Marine Aircraft Wing Association- Vietnam Service. Today, he is a freelance writer based near Annapolis, Md.



HMM-362 known as "Archie's Angels" patch



Lt. Col. Archie Clapp Commanding officer of HMM-362 led his squadron into Soc



HMM-362 UH-34 Sikorsky helicopters then known as the HUS-1 during operations at Soc Trang in 1962



USS Princeton from which HMM-363 flew into Soc Trang in April 1962 to become the first operational Marine Corps unit deployed to Vietnam

Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Honors Lt. Gen. Ron Christmas

On Saturday evening October 29, 2011 the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation paid tribute to Lt. Gen. Ron Christmas for his more than 15 years of leadership during the planning, construction and expansion of the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Under his leadership, the MCHF raised 60 million dollars toward constructing the museum, Semper Fidelis Memorial Chapel and Memorial Park Pathways. Prior to assuming leadership of the MCHF, Gen. Christmas had a distinguished 34-year career in the Marine Corps earning many awards and honors including receiving the Navy Cross for his heroic leadership as a captain during the 1968 Tet offensive in the battle for Hue City.

With Gen. Christmas' retirement, the MCHF will continue its efforts to complete the National Museum of the Marine Corps under the leadership of Lt. Gen. Rusty Blackman. Information on how you can purchase a brick to honor yourself, or a friend and for more information on the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and it's mission , visit www.marineheritage.org.



Returning to Vietnam, this time without the flack jacket By David H. Hugel

Last spring an article I wrote appeared in *The Scoop Sheet* featuring a number of photographs a friend of mine Ron Zaczek had taken on his recent tours of Vietnam.

I've been thinking about returning to Vietnam for some time and have discussed the idea with a retired Marine friend whose company, Military Historical Tours, conducts tours of battle sites in Europe, the Pacific and S.E. Asia. We could never work things out, but in early November he told me about a short familiarization trip to Vietnam he was planning for this staff and that he had a couple spaces available. It was an opportunity I couldn't resist and I signed up.

We leave Washington's Dulles Airport December 6th, and return December 18th. It will be a whirlwind tour of Vietnam from Ho Chi Minh City (better know to those of us who served in country as Saigon), to Hanoi with several stops at cities and battle sites along the way, including Da Nang where I served for 9 months back in 1963-64. Gee, I wonder if any of those bar girls I knew are still working their old posts.

I plan on taking a lot of notes and photos that will be the subject of future articles. Information on future tour schedules can be found on the Military Historical Tours web site: www.miltours.com, or by calling their toll free number 800-722-9501.



Cpl Hugel Operation SHUFLY 1963

Reunion 2011

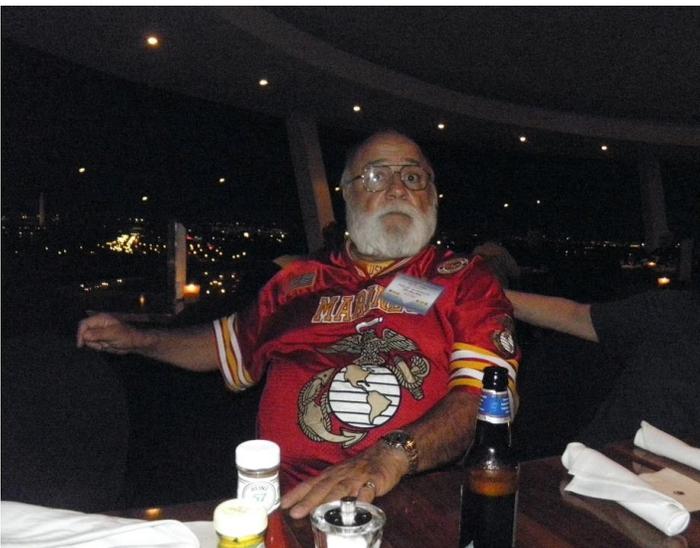
We recently completed Reunion 2011 in Washington DC and had a very good turnout and had a great time. We visited the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, Hosted or annual Hospitality room and of course had our Banquet and our business meeting. Our next reunion will be in 2013 in New Orleans so start getting ready.



Storyteller at Tun Tavern



Scholarship Winners



Phil



Jerry and Cindy Sergeant





**First Marine Aircraft Wing Association –
Vietnam Service
19605 SE 23rd Street
Sammamish, WA 98075**

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.