



THE SCOOP SHEET

Issue 50

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

Summer 2017



Reunion 2017 San Diego Embassy Suites Sept 14-17

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...



I hope 2017 has brought us all peace and health. As this newsletter goes out we will have about 99 days and a wakeup, before Reunion 2017 in San Diego. September 14-17 , 2017 at The Embassy Suites in downtown San Diego by the bay. The hotel offers free buffet breakfast and a happy hour from 1700-1900 with an open bar like we had in New Orleans.

Our visit to MCAS Miramar will begin with a tour of Our Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation Museum where Major General (Ret.) Bob Butcher (our Keynote Speaker for our banquet) will welcome us. I visited the museum in October when I was in San Diego to begin contract negotiations and I was amazed at all the aircraft that has been assembled and displayed. Our memorial service will be at the base chapel where we will Honor our members we left behind and those that have left us too soon. It will be held on Friday September 16 which is also National POW/MIA Day. This will be followed by a tour of VMGR-352 where some may have served many moons ago. We will return back to the hotel to refresh and be ready for our evening dinner cruise on the bay at 1800 by Hornblower Cruises. Saturday morning We will have our national business meeting and elections. Anyone interested in a position or wants to nominate someone for a position should send their request to Al Frater, our Secretary, at least 30 days before. I don't intend to be president for life and plan to step down in DC at our 2019 Reunion where it all began for me .

Saturday evening our banquet will be held across the street at The Harbor House by the bay at 1800 I have requesting a Memorial table at the banquet for a framed 4X6 picture of our past members no longer with us so that they can also celebrate our 29th anniversary! I'm expecting some widows to attend and will join Barbara Packard, our lonely widow that attends with her grand daughter Leah, (a recipient of our Scholarship) in memory of her husband Robert RIP. There is free parking on a first come first served basis across the street from our hotel at a Navy parking lot with proper military ID.

Once again we have a scholarship that seems not be to be used as often as it should be. Only you, our members can have your grand kids apply. Also we can always use pictures and stories for this our Scoop newsletter. Still looking for a membership chairman . Jerry shouldn't be doing it alone. I want to personally Thank Al, for his great work on The Scoop, Dave Hugel for His Many stories of our Air Wing history, Monty for His work in re-establishing our website and Jerry for his dedication to our Association for many Years . Bill Walden has recovered from a serious surgery . Can't keep a good Marine down for long. Great to see you back and enjoying life !This Association has existed for 29 years because of the work of a few of us both past and present and we can always use help in making Us better .

Hope to see all in San Diego soon .

Semper Fi !



MEMBERSHIP NOTES

DUES RENEWALS Membership Renewals

Membership Renewals

Just a reminder to annual members, your dues are now due every January. Please help our association save postage and mail expense by sending in your \$25.00 renewal dues now.

Mail in your check payable to: 1st MAW Vietnam Service, c/o Jerry Sergeant, 603 63rd Ave W. Lot A-10, Bradenton, FL 34207

Any additional questions regarding membership may also be directed to the above address or emailed to: jleesarge@hotmail.com

Jerry Sergeant
Treasury and acting Membership Chairman

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 Al Frater at teanal@optonline.net and please cc Frank Arce at frankpaco69@aol.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..

PX

We only have one item on our PX page the 1st MAW window sticker. If anyone wants something else us know. I will have the window stickers at the reunion for \$2.00. Contact Al Frater at teanal@optonline.net for 201-906-1197or information.

NEW WEB PAGE URL

Our WEB page is now up and running thanks to the effort of Manty Hopey.
<http://firstmaw.homestead.com>

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. Please post any pictures or comments on our group.

Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation continues to honor the families of armed forces members killed in service to our nation.

By David H. Hugel

I recently visited the Gold Star Family monument, inspired by the Hershel “Woody” Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, dedicated last year on Veterans Day in Annapolis, Maryland. The foundation was established in 2012 by WWII Medal of Honor recipient Hershel Williams, known universally as Woody, to recognize the families of all who gave their lives in service to our country. Woody’s goal is to see at least one memorial built in every state.

According to the Foundation’s executive director, Brent Casey, since 2012 20 monuments have been dedicated, the most recent one in late April 2017, with 43 others in various planning stages. The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation provides groups committed to building a memorial with \$5,000 in seed money, detailed architectural plans and technical advice for building a memorial, which are otherwise locally funded by contributions from individuals and organizations. The average cost of constructing each monument excluding the cost of land is \$50,000.00. To hold down the cost of land, monuments are usually located on the grounds of a veteran’s cemetery, park or other property open to the public.

The front side of each monument has a cast bronze Gold Star affixed to it with the engraved inscription “Gold Star Families” below the star. Beside the star the silhouette of an armed forces member cut through the monument saluting, representing the sacrifice of those killed. The inscription “A tribute to Mothers and Fathers and Gold Star Families who sacrificed a Loved One for our Freedom” completes the monument’s front side

On the opposite side of the monument, each community is encouraged to personalize their monument, by incorporating the Foundation’s Core Values of Homeland, Family, Sacrifice and Patriotism into the design. These values are represented by scenes of familiar landmarks, military history, or other images the community believes best represent their local heritage. All images are laser inscribed

The Annapolis Gold Star Family monument sits on a knoll adjacent to the Maryland WWII memorial, overlooking the Severn River and the U. S. Naval Academy in Maryland’s historic capital city.

Individuals or groups interested in building a Gold Star Family monument in their community should visit the foundation’s web site <http://hwwwmohf.org> for details.



Woody Williams, Medal of Honor recipient who fought on Iwo Jima, founded the Medal of Honor Foundation to honor the families of service members killed while serving our country.



Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and other state officials participated in the dedication of the Annapolis Gold Star Family monument on Veterans Day 2016. Woody Williams can be seen in his distinctive Marine Corps League blazer and cap just a few spaces from Governor Hogan



The front side of each monument has a Gold Star affixed to it, under which the words "Gold Star Families" are inscribed beside the hollow silhouette of an armed forces member saluting. The other panels are inscribed with the following words, "A tribute to Mothers and Fathers and Gold Star Families who sacrificed a Loved One for our Freedom."



The other side of the monument incorporates images depicting the Foundation's Core Values of Homeland, Family, Sacrifice and Patriotism. The Annapolis monument features a view of the U.S. Naval Academy, a military family, the Iwo Jima flag raising and the official seal of each military service and a folded American flag.



2017 Reunion San Diego Itinerary

Thursday, September 14th

Hotel check in and registration:

Embassy Suites San Diego Bay Downtown
601 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101
619-239-2400

Hotel Check in time 4pm (1600 hrs.)

Managers Reception Happy Hour 5-7 Open Bar area

Possible 1st MAW Reunion check in table/area Lobby area (ask Desk Clerk)

Friday, September 15th

Hospitality Room hotel's Union Pacific Room

8 am to 8:45am (0800 to 0845 hrs.)

Last minute registrations and shirts

Possible gathering area before a very busy day...

9am (0900 hrs.)

Character Bus Loading and Departure for:

MCAS Miramar & the Flying Leather Neck Historical Museum

11am – 1:30pm (1130-1330 hrs.)

Chapel Memorial & National POW-MIA Service (standing room only)

Followed by a Base BBQ hosted by the **Chaplain & Base Marines**

3pm (1500 hrs.)

Leave MCAS Miramar to return to Hotel

5pm (1700 hrs.)

Bus departs for The Horn Blower Dinner Cruise

If you miss the Bus, taxi to/by 6:15pm (1815 hrs.) to: Grape Street Pier, 1800 N. Harbor Dr.

10pm (2200 hrs.)

Bus returns to Hotel

Saturday, September 16th

10am (1000 hrs.)

National Business Meeting and Officer Elections

Hospitality Room hotel's Union Pacific Room

6pm (1800 hrs.)

Banquet at: Harbor House Restaurant (cash bar)

Walk across street from our hotel at: 831 W. Harbor Drive

Group Photo Session

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Sunday, September 17th

Farewell Breakfast

Hotel Breakfast area

Safe Travels and Blessings until we meet again, Semper Fidelis

REUNION 2017
San Diego, California Registration Form
FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION VIETNAM SERVICE

Thursday, September 14th, Friday 15th, Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th, 2017

MEMBER NAME _____

NICKNAME/CALL SIGN (for use on name tag) _____

YEAR/UNIT (i.e. 67-68 VMFA-323) _____

ADDRESS _____

Contact PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

(For Confirmation of Receipt)

NAME OF GUESTS ATTENDING WITH MEMBER _____

GUEST NAME (s) (for name tags) _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY (Name & number) _____

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES : HOSPITALITY ROOM, Trip to MCAS Miramar Aviation Museum,
China Beach Dinner Cruise and REUNION BANQUET MEAL

NUMBER ATTENDING REUNION ____ X \$165.00 (per person) = \$ _____

NUMBER OF REUNION SHIRTS \$20.00 (each) Circle Size with quantity(s) M__ L__ XL__ 2XL__ 3XL__ (4XL__)

TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED \$ _____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN Monday, August 14th (THIS IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH & FINALIZE SHIRT ORDERS, MEALS, TRIPS, FUNCTIONS, NAME TAGS etc.) After this date some functions or items may not be available, or **LATE FEES MAY BE INCURRED AFTER Monday, August 14th, 2017**

PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:
(MAKE, CHECKS or MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: **FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION**)

FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION
C/O TREASURER, JERRY SERGEANT (phone 989-992-6809 or email jleesarge@hotmail.com)
603 63rd Ave W. Lot A-10
Bradenton, FL 34207

NOTE: Room rates of \$149 + tax(12.5%) have been negotiated with the, Embassy Suites Bay-Downtown.
Reservations must be made by August 14th, 2017 to receive this rate.

For hotel reservations Use Group Code MAR. Contact the Embassy Suites San Diego, Bay Downtown direct at (619) 239-2400 Ask for "Reservations".

Street address: 601 Pacific Hwy, San Diego, CA 92101

Please Note: Parking is valet only at \$46 per day. No self-parking available.

Embassy Suites offers: Free made to order breakfast and complimentary 2 hour nightly reception.

NOTE

Reunion participation is for paid members and registered guests. Membership is available to all qualified individuals. Please check the association's website at www.firstmaw.homestead.com for membership details and application form information.

National Marine Corps Council Meeting Al Frater

On Saturday April 8th I represented the Association at the NMCC meeting in Quantico. Here are the highlights.

Meeting Executive Summary.

- NMCC Spring 17 meeting, held this past Saturday, was well attended and included representatives of most NMCC member organizations. The highlight of the meeting was CMC Gen Neller's talk and discussion on the role female Marines have and are making in the Marine Corps and the reprehensible and often criminal acts by a few, including veteran Marines, to destroy these women through social media. With HQMC-PA assistance, we will be forwarding a package to all NMCC Organizations to assist them in taking action and ensuring these women, who have earned the title "Marine", are treated with the respect and honor they deserve. More to follow.
 - We were also treated to an exceptional briefing and discussion by LtGen Robert Walsh, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command on future Marine Corps combat capabilities and efforts across the Marine Corps to meet emerging threats and demands. SES Gregg Habel, Executive Director, Marine Forces Reserve gave an outstanding briefing on the role the Marine Reserves are making in augmenting real world requirements and deployments among all of the Combatant Commands, and the support the Reserve and assigned AD Marines provide to our communities.
 - Business Meeting included discussions on building a NMCC website, By-Laws review, topics desired for future briefings, and NMCC member organization updates. We also discussed how best to record and distribute NMCC meeting minutes while encouraging and protecting candid and frank discussions—not via on-line means.
 - Marine Corps Association and Foundation President and CEO LtGen Mark Faulkner, USMC (Ret) and Marine Corps League National Commandant Richard Gore both emphasized their respective organizations' goal is to build a stronger relationship with all Marine Corps affiliated organizations and associations
- NMCC Fall 2017 Meeting, 14 October 2017
 - MFR briefing slides attached
- NMCC Contact List attached—please e-mail updates to: biceddf@aol.com
Special thanks to MCA&F for use of facilities and Ms Jeannette Eshoo for admin support.

Exciting New Features Scheduled to Open at the NMMC By David H. Hugel

I have written previous articles for The Scoop Sheet over the past several years, updating 1st MAW Association members on the continuing expansion of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, just outside the main gate of MCB Quantico in Triangle, Virginia.

The final phase of the museum's expansion, designed to double its size by adding 117,000 square feet, began in early 2015. Late last summer, the exterior construction phase was completed when the museum's roof was completed. For those interested in the magnitude of the construction project, in a recent report on the museum expansion project, retired B.Gen Gerald McKay, MCHF principal manager for construction programs, provided the following facts and figures on the quantity of materials used.

- 1,630 pieces of steel (837 tons) to enclose the building
- 11,000 cubic yards of concrete
- 17, 086 feet of pipe for mechanical and plumbing 144,380 pounds of ductwork
- 412, 812 feet of electrical cable.

In his report Gen. McKay also noted that in addition to expanding museum exhibit space, the size of Tun Tavern was doubled, and MCHF offices were relocated to the museum facility.

Even as the exterior walls were being built last spring, two new exhibits went on display for museum visitors in the atrium known as Leatherneck Gallery - a UH-34D Sikorsky Seahorse helicopter that saw extensive combat action in Vietnam and an SBD Dauntless dive bomber, flown by Marine aviators during WWII.

This summer a giant screen theater, an expanded Education Suite featuring a Children's Gallery as well as a Combat Art Gallery are also scheduled to open. According to MCHF president Lt. Gen. Robert Blackman, the long awaited, 369-seat giant screen Medal of Honor theater will feature a 40-minute film created by the MCHF, "We, The Marines", that will immerse viewers in the experience of being a Marine. Viewers will be dazzled by sweeping aerals, touched by emotional close-ups of Marines in training and captivated by battle footage with action packed scenes depicting what Marines do every day to protect our Nation. The state-of-the art Christie Digital Projection System and one of a kind custom sound system will add to the experience, Gen. Blackman noted.

Future exhibits dedicated to Marine Corps history between 1976 to the present are currently under construction with an anticipated opening in 2018, while additional exhibits are on the drawing board for a Marine Corps Sports Gallery, a Hall of Valor, honoring Medal of Honor recipients, and a Gallery for Changing Exhibits to open in the years beyond.



Aerial photo of the NMMC taken late last summer after the new construction was fully undercover. The tall protrusion on the left side of the photo accommodates the large screen for the Medal of Honor Theater.



An artist rendering of an expanded education suite and Children's Gallery that will open this summer.



Artist renderings of new visitor exhibits depicting Marine Corps deployments between 1976 and the present planned to open in 2018.



THEATER LOBBY - FIRST DECK



Interior of the Medal of Honor Theater scheduled to open at the NMMC this summer.

PX

We now have available Auto window stickers. Each one costs \$5.00 including shipping. Anyone interested in purchasing them you can either contact me at 201-907-1197 or email me at teal@optonline.net or send a check to

Al Frater
524 Sagamore Ave



Not yet available but will be soon at \$10.00

Challenge coins at \$10.00, Patches and pins at \$5.00 will also be available soon and will be at the reunion

Marine Laughs



“H“Hack the enemy and demote all their generals to privates.” ack the enemy and demote all their generals to privates.”

Scholarship Requirements and Details

The First Marine Aircraft Wing Association, Vietnam Service will award up to five scholarships of \$500 each during Reunion 2017.

To qualify for a scholarship, applicants must meet the following qualifications:

Be a First Marine Aircraft Wing Association, Vietnam Service member in good standing (i.e., dues are paid up to date), their spouse, dependent or direct descendent. Further, the member must have a minimum of one-year membership as of September 1, 2016.

-OR

Be a spouse, dependent, or direct descendent of a deceased member of the First MAW Assn. VN Service

-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.

-AND

Applicant must be currently **enrolled and attending**, in an accredited college, university, or trade school and be 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:

What the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial means to me.
What all Americans can do to solve the energy crisis.
How I plan to use my education to aid society.
Why I support our Marines in harm's way.

To compete for a scholarship, applicants must submit their essay in accordance with the following instructions:

1. The essay must be typed. **Do not include applicant's name on the essay page.** Attach a cover page with the applicants name, address, phone number and email address. The cover page must also include the name of the First MAW Assn. VN Service member and membership number, along with the applicant's relationship to the member (spouse, son, daughter, grandchild etc.).
2. Verification from a counselor or other school official confirming that the applicant is enrolled. This letter needs to be on school letterhead.
3. A copy of the student transcripts

The essay and required documents must be post marked no later than August 15, 2017.

Mail To:

First Marine Aircraft Wing Association-VN Service

c/o Phil Beckerich III

67 Blue Grouse Drive

Cannon City, CO 81212-9462

Arlington

Our president and myself went to Arlington for the funeral of LT William Ryan an RIO with VMFA 115 who was shot down in 1969. His remains were just recovered. They had a flyover with Ospreys, a Caisson pulled by horses that carried the Casket, a Marine Band, a rifle platoon and a firing team. After the funeral Paco said a few word for the association. We then attended a large reception in honor of LT Ryan.



Frank Arce, Al Frater, and MCL past Commandant Ron Vrablic at Arlington. After the Funeral



Al Frater, Ron Vrablic with Brig. General Stein and his Sgt Major



On May 11, 1969, Ryan was the radar intercept officer of an F-4B aircraft, for the Marine Fighter Attack Force 115, Marine Aircraft Group 13, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, on a combat mission over Savannakhet Province, Laos. While pulling out of a bombing pass, the aircraft was hit by enemy fire. The pilot lost control and called several times for his radar officer to eject, but received no response. The pilot ejected before the aircraft crashed, and other members of the flight only witnessed one parachute leave the aircraft. The location of the crash site precluded a search and recovery effort, but the pilot was rescued. Ryan was declared deceased as of May 11, 1969.

From January 1990 until May 2012, joint teams with the U.S., Lao People's Democratic Republic and Vietnamese Office for Research and Investigative Teams interviewed numerous witnesses to the crash, gathering information regarding where Ryan may have died.

From May 2012 until January 2016, joint teams conducted six excavations of a crash site near Ban Alang Noi, recovering life support items, aircraft wreckage and possible human remains. On Feb. 17, 2016, the remains were sent to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.



**First Marine Aircraft Wing Association –
Vietnam Service
603 63rd Ave W. Lot A-10,
Bradenton, FL 34207**

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.