



# THE SCOOP SHEET

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

Issue 23

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

Spring 2007



## 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

Well Marines of the First Marine Aircraft Wing Association (Vietnam Service): When you receive this newsletter we will be less than 90 days from our Reunion in Branson. This Association has been notorious, no, make that infamous, for late registration. It seems that everyone waits to see who is going before they commit to a Reunion. As always, this may be our last Reunion. One never knows when the last one will occur since we are a "Last Man's club." With only 35 people with rooms reserved at the "Settle Inn", it just may be the last one. (notice I said people, not rooms) Without the minor resources we receive from dues and PX sales at the Reunion we don't have the necessary monies to function until the next possible Reunion. If we don't have participation at this Reunion with the guarantees that have been made to the hotel, shows and the Reunion Brats, we will be bankrupt. That is a fact, not a threat. We have always operated on a minimal margin.

Now that you've heard the bad cop here's the good cop information. I know I have used notorious and infamous regarding registrations for reunions for this Association. It is a phenomenon I will never understand. I personally look forward to every reunion. Why? Because I spend time with Marines, the best friends a man can have. I always meet new friends at reunions. It has become a part of my life forever and should be part of yours because we will never stop being Marines. Even at Heaven's gate we will be Marines. I know this will make eight years that I have served as your Association President and will serve two more if asked. We have lots of fun activities planned. Although I have never been to Branson the Ozarks are beautiful and we should be there before the weather gets too hot. Not that it won't be warm but I don't think it will be as hot as it was in Jacksonville, NC in 2001. I am looking forward to seeing Ed. Aki and his family, Rob Waters and his family my great friend and superb Door Gunner "Swampy Lejeune and Donna. For that matter every individual I have met in this Association and those of whom I have yet to meet. I would like to send a Message to the Slagle brothers to attend. It's been a long time "Father" Art and Lou. I do hope my very good friends Bill and Mary Welch make it too. I cherish every moment I can spend time with my friends, there families and since I am still President I guess I can say "My Marines" You all mean a lot to me so please attend and not regret seeing some friends for ...who knows the last time. We all are near 60 and above so let's make all our reunions special.

We have received very few applications for Scholarships too. No one has sent in a nomination for any Association Officers so I guess the Association will run itself just like a magic show.....Smoke and Mirrors, that's how we'll wow them. Only a few Members have chimed in on my comments about becoming a special chapter of the MCAA. I would like to know from the Membership how to continue this organization without participation. Branson is supposed to be an outstanding destination for Veterans, in spite of the fact it requires flying into Springfield Missouri or Kansas City and renting a car to drive to Branson. Linda Irvine of the Reunion Brats has suggested that the money saved by flying into Kansas City instead of Springfield would probably pay for the rental car. So this is it. Get off your butts, reserve a room and send in your Registration fees. Yes, things become more expensive each and every Reunion. When I was a in 7th grade, candy bars were still a nickel and pizza was 15 cents a slice in New York. Well, candy bars are 0.75 to \$1.00 and pizza is \$2.00 a slice now. Get over it, it isn't the 50's, 60's or 70's anymore. Participate!!! Be a Member that cares! You never know when you see an old friend and Marine for the last time. I will be 60 in December and I know I am one of the younger Members. Life is short, so get out and enjoy it. Come to the Reunion.

I need help to place our wreath on "The Wall" on Memorial day, Call me or email me. Thanks.

*Semper Fidelis*  
*Phil Beckerich III*  
*Association President*

yw37@optonline.net

## 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

### Electronic Scoop

Any 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 Phil Beckerich at yw37@optonline.net and Al Frater at teanal@verizon.net . **THE SCOOP CAN BE ACCESSED FROM THE WEB SITE**  
**WWW.FIRSTMAW.HOMESTEAD.COM**

After this SCOOP 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 Memorial Day and 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..

## EDITORS NOTES

Please email me any articles or noteworthy events about our members and Association (electronic pictures accepted). All articles and pictures become property of the association and cannot be returned.  
Al Frater teanal@verizon.net

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I have not received any emails or comments regarding this idea please email me at yw37@optonline.net Hence I am repeating last issues food for thought. One of the options for the future of this Association is to become a special chapter of the Marine Corps Aviation Association. This will permit the Association to exist as the membership continues to diminish with time. The choice seems that we either open up membership or become a chapter of a larger organization.

## TAPS (NO REPORT)

## 2007 REUNION

Applications are included in this Scoop.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Information in this SCOOP

## Vietnam Files

### BATTLE OF CHU LAI

On August 18, 1965, the U.S. Marine Corps launched the first major military operation of the Vietnam War named "Operation Starlight." The objective was to surprise the 1st Viet Cong Regiment which had gathered for an attack on the Chu Lai Marine Air Base, fifty miles south of DaNang. The 1st V.C. Regiment had established their base of operations on the Van Tuong Peninsula 8 miles southeast of the Chu Lai Marine Air Base, Skyhawks and Phantoms of VMA-342 and VMFA-513. The Marine Corps command decision was made to preempt the planned attack on the Air Base by attacking the enemy forces on their own ground. Operation Starlight included the 7th Marine Regiment, with ground operations to include the 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines; 2nd Bn., 4th Marines; K Btry., 4th Bn., 12th Marines; 3rd BN., 7th Marines, including M-48 tanks. Air operations would include Marine Corps fighter aircraft from MAG-11 flying out of DaNang, MAG-12 flying from the Chu Lai Marine Air Base. The Marine units on the ground would be further supported by U.S. Naval gunfire from offshore ships, and UH-34D helicopters from HMM Squadrons 261 and 361. Operation Starlight would include land and sea approaches, and take the Marines through several villages, including Au Cuong and Nam Yen. By the end of the battle, 45 Marines had been killed, with over 200 wounded. Enemy forces sustained major casualties with well over 600 confirmed killed. Two Medals of Honor were awarded, the first of the Vietnam War.



## PX News

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The PX is up and running with some real good items. All the items that you are able to purchase at the reunions now can be purchased online from our own PX. We are looking to add new items all the time, so if you know of a good item to include that would be a good seller, please let me know.

You can purchase by paying with a check or though Paypal.

Here are some items that we have in stock now.



These are just a few of the many items that you can get online from the First Marine Aircraft Wing Association Vietnam Service PX. Support your PX and make an order today.

We will also have the items for sale at the reunion in Branson.

Log on to the website: <http://www.1stmaw.com/> choose the Post Exchange link and do your shopping at home.

Any questions or remarks, please email me at [top@wamarinesmc.us](mailto:top@wamarinesmc.us).

Semper Fi  
Top (Wayne Cook)  
First MAW Assoc VNS PX MGR

## 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 Polo Shirt and Hospitality room stocked w/ snacks, beverages and cocktails throughout the weekend will be included the registration fees. Tentative itinerary will be (we always adapt and overcome):*

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

*Registration and Hospitality Room opens  
7-10 pm Show- #1 Hit's of the 60's\*\**

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

*9-4 pm City & Marine Corps Legacy Museum Tour\*\*  
6:45-11 pm Branson Belle Dinner Show and Cruise\*\*  
China Beach Night following return from Show*

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

*9-11 am Business Meeting  
6-12 pm Banquet Dinner and Dance*

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

*10:30-12 pm 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.

### Show Information

*\*\*Note show costs not included in registration fees*

**#1 Hits of the 60's** *As part of a new generation of Branson Shows that offer up Magic, Acrobatics, Irish Song & Dance, Decade Themes from the 50's, 60's & 70's, Classical Music, Big Band Jazz as well as Broadway Shows and Show Tunes, #1 HITS OF THE 60's is two hours of High Energy, Non-Stop Singing and Dancing featuring 12 of the finest Singer/Actor/Dancers & Musicians to be found ANYWHERE!*

**Showboat Branson Belle** *- Cruise on beautiful Table Rock Lake and you enjoy a fantastic dinner. This is Branson's most popular show offering a patriotic theme and a variety of top entertainment!*

**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**

**Phone: (360)663-2521 Email: [Info@TheReunionBRAT.com](mailto:Info@TheReunionBRAT.com)**

## REGISTRATION FORM

**YES SIGN ME UP FOR THE FRIST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSN VIETNAM SERVICE  
2007 REUNION!!!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NICKNAME/CALL SIGN \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR/UNIT (ie 67-68 MAG 11) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF YOUR GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_

BANQUET MEAL SELECTION: BEEF \_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN \_\_\_\_\_ VEGETARIAN \_\_\_\_\_

SHIRT SIZE (S) S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
(NOTE NO SIZE CHANGES ONCE ORDERED)

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: \_\_\_\_\_

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY \_\_\_\_\_

IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION? YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_

### REGISTRATION FEES

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_ x \$127 = \_\_\_\_\_  
(Saturday Banquet & farewell brunch fees are included)

OPTIONAL #1 HITS OF THE 60'S SHOW # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$22 = \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/MARINE MUSEUM TOUR # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$21 = \_\_\_\_\_

BRANSON BELL DINNER SHOWBOAT # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$59 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 28, 2007**

PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS AND MADE PAYABLE TO:

### **THE REUNION BRAT**

50721 State Hwy 410 E  
Greenwater, WA 98022  
(360)663-2521

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Confirmation of Registration and Itinerary will be sent out by June 10, 2007 A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable. Call the Settle Inn 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 Reunion to receive your group rate of \$64 a night, plus tax. These prices are available 3 days prior to and after your event should you choose to extend your stay. For photos of Settle Inn visit [www.bransonsettleinn.com](http://www.bransonsettleinn.com) We'll see you soon in beautiful Branson Missouri !!

# Vietnam Photos



### **SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

The First MAW Association will award five scholarships of \$500 each during Reunion '07. 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, 2006.  
-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:
  1. What the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Means to Me.
  2. What the Marine Corps War Memorial Means to Me.
  3. How I plan to use my education to aide society
  4. Why I support our Marines who are in harms way

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 March 15, 2007.

Mail the essay to:

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



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.