



THE SCOOP SHEET

Issue 46

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

Summer 2015



Much better than what we had 50 years ago



Reunion 2015 in Pensacola Beach



Hampton INN Pensacola Beach

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...



As we approach fall , I pray that all is well with you and yours and that everyone had a great summer . Reunion 2015 , being in the books as one of our best ever in 27 years !

I want to personally thank all the members and family that attended and made this a very memorable reunion. It is always a bit sad when we must part ways until reunion 2017 and have to say ' See You later ' but ... God willing we'll be back again. I also want to thank ' Frenchy ' Norm La Fontaine for being our point man and opening so many doors at NAS Pensacola Beach , the museum and also their memorial and bell tower and especially for his introduction to our keynote speaker Captain Ben Cascio. Great job Marine. special thanks to G Man Lt. Col. David Glassman for his help since last year when I first visited Pensacola to sign our contracts .

It was also my honor to present our VP Bill Walden with a Lifetime Achievement award for his many years of faithful service to our association and The Presidents Award to Jerry Sargent and Al Frater for their dedication and hard work. Please keep up the great work Marines. Our hotel The Hampton Inn, opened doors for us at every turn. We shall return !

Our tour of NAS brought back memories to some of our members that walked those grounds many moons ago. We were greeted by the XO and so many Marine and Navy personnel, but a very special thanks to Master Chief Carl Harris who gave us the grand tour. It was great watching our founding father Rob Waters and our VP Bill Walden explaining to the instructors and students how it was done in the old Corps ! They now use tablets and computers to avoid an unexpected explosion and other mishaps, right Rob ! We had a slight mishap when the first trolley driver dropped off the first group at the museum instead of the school where the second trolley went, but all went well as the first group got a special tour of the museum by a Marine Lt. Col. WW II Pilot and 1st MAW Nam . My special moment was seeing their September 11th Memorial. I lost 3 partners and a good friend and a childhood classmate of my daughter. May they all also RIP. Also a Marine shout out to Maj. Ken Morrow and Sgt. Maj. Stacy Pruitt for Their help.

Our memorial service was as always very touching as our members read the names and stories behind their names and the memorial bell tower was rung by Dan Lindemann after every name. May they all RIP. Special thanks to Chaplin Lt. Eric Melvin for his blessings and also for blessing our meal at our banquet .

Our China Beach BBQ was delicious especially being it was our first ever China Beach Nite by the beach . Our banquet again was the best as everything was perfect (except for the USMC Color Guard that got stuck in traffic and never made it). Our keynote speaker Captain Ben Cascio's slide show and his sharing his fateful night was a memory that will last forever in my mind. We Marine air wingers have many heroes' but he is one of our best ever! Congratulations again to our grand daughter Leah Keihl on again receiving our scholarship. Her dad Robert and mom Barbara Packard attended many reunions and though your gone my friend you still have a seat among us as you watch your baby become our Lady! She is studying to become our first coroner. God bless you and yours forever and continue to make us proud !

D J Mike made a new meaning to DJ's .

Our board was re elected to another term and for your vote of confidence in me and our board, I thank you. Term of office for President was supposed to be 3 terms as voted back in PI in '97 but no records exist to prove that matter so it was voted that I be Pres. until Reunion 2017 when another vote will be taken. We have now begun to record everything and try to locate other Sect. notes from other business meetings in the past. We voted for Reunion 2017 to be in San Diego (plans for Oct. 2017) and DC for Reunion 2019. We left the membership meeting with no one volunteering to be in charge of membership. Top resigned and we need someone to help in reestablishing our memberships. We already have our website up and running again thanks to Our Member, Monty Hopey?

This association has survived for 27 years thanks to a lot of hard work by all our former and present board members and many volunteers including our ladies but to continue to perform as a professional organization, We need members to step up and say ' I'll do it '. We receive numerous e-mails from members asking where's my membership card or why isn't the website running and to this I say ' Please help Us ' . We can't continue to ask 5 people to run an organization without membership help. Also please help Al in posting Your stories and pictures for The Scoop and Monty on our website <http://firstmaw.homestead.com/>. We seem to receive from very few but mostly from our historian Dave Hugel We have a lot of History to share Marines . Jerry is handling both treasure and membership and that's not right. Al and I will try to get our membership records back in shape. If you are reading this and haven't paid your dues, this might be your last chance to read The Scoop. We are not perfect but we are trying our best! ' We're looking for a Few Good Men Again ' Is what I read on a flyer stapled on a tree on the West Wall of Our Viet Nam Veterans Memorial ' The Wall ' in 1987 written by our founding father Rob Waters ! We still are !!!

SEMPER FI MARINES !

Frank Arce



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 Jerry Sergeant—Membership
5282 Ousterhout Drive
Sterling, MI 48659

Any questions contact Jerry Sergeant jleesarge@hotmail.com. 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 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 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 Frank Arce 646-752-0447 or email him at frankpaco69@aol.com

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.

Reunion 2015

Reunion 2015 was one of our best. Pensacola Beach was beautiful and the Hampton inn was very accommodating to us. All of you that trained in NAS Memphis remember our facilities, all of the training is now done in the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Pensacola. This is a 70,000 square foot building which is as nice as any college facilities. The students learn by computer and have very little hands on until they get to their B School. We were given a tour of the facility by the CO. We visited each area and were able to go into the classrooms and speak to the students. In each area the Marine instructors explained their role and how training is now done.

After we left the Training Center we toured the Naval Air Museum. This is a first class museum and has every plane the Navy and Marine Corps ever used. There were some former Pilot giving talks and they do have a theater that runs a 45 minute video that unfortunately we did not have enough time to stay for. Hopefully many of us may have an opportunity to Return.

We then went to our annual Memorial ceremony led by a chaplain in a Pensacola Veterans area where there is a replica of the Vietnam Wall.

Saturday evening we had our banquet at the hotel which also went very well. Our guest speaker was Capt. Ben Casio who was a pilot in Vietnam. Who's talk was very expiring for all of us that served in Vietnam.



Vietnam Wall Replica in Pensacola

Reunion Photos



On the Bus



Naval Museum



At the Museum



At the Museum



At the Museum



At the Banquet



Memorial Ceremony



Memorial Ceremony



Our Guest Speaker Capt. Ben Cascio



Award to Jerry Sergeant, Al Frater, and Bill Walden



At the Naval Museum



**Speaking to the students in
NATTC**



This is what a modern classroom



Waiting to enter the next classroom



Hearing about modern training



A few of the Marine Instructors



An intro to the museum

UH-34D Seahorse That Saw Combat in Vietnam, Scheduled For Display at Marine Corps Museum By David H. Hugel

In November 2013 the Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 Veterans Association formally donated the helicopter they had painstakingly restored to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. (See Winter 2014 issue of The Scoop Sheet)

The helicopter, which had multiple tours in Vietnam with different squadrons between 1965 and 1969, flew with HMM-361 from August until December 1965. During a conversation with the museum's aviation curator, Ben Kristy, I asked how the aircraft would be displayed. He said that the decision was made to exhibit it in a setting during Operation Starlight near Van Tuong village, 12 miles south of Chu Lai, because it was the first regimental size offensive by Marines of the Vietnam War.

In describing the exhibit setting, Kristy said it represents Landing Zone Blue where the helicopter transported Marines from Hotel Company 2/4 on August 18, 1965. The exhibit will include nine figures, a pilot, co-pilot main hatch gunner, and port side gunner in the helicopter, with a three member M-60 crew, M-14 rifleman and Navy corpsman on the ground as the helicopter is leaving the LZ. The aircraft will have white lettering and the YN-19 markings it had when it was donated to the museum.

The exhibit will be located in the glass-enclosed atrium known as "Leatherneck Gallery," replacing the HRS-1, Korean era helicopter currently there. Because the helicopters cannot be moved until a wall is broken out for access to the new exhibit space beyond the wall, the exhibit is not expected to open until between January and March 2016.



Sikorsky UH-34D
OPERATION STARLITE



A preliminary concept sketch of the YN-19 exhibit during Operation Starlight, that is subject to future revisions before it opens. In addition to the UH-34 D helicopter that will bear the white letters of HMM-361 with the number YN-19 on the aircraft's nose, the exhibit depicts a number of Marines who have just disembarked the helicopter as it leaves the LZ.

YN-19, the UH-34D Seahorse helicopter restored by the Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 Veterans Association, flies into the National Museum of the Marine Corps on November 8, 2013. It will be the center of the new exhibit scheduled to open in early 2016.



**First Marine Aircraft Wing Association –
Vietnam Service**
5282 Ousterhout Drive
Sterling, MI 48659

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.