



The Company Runner

Volume I

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Corporate Officers

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Great 2013 Reunion !!

We had a great time in LAS VEGAS !!

Our Second Reunion was a great success. There were 68 Marines in attendance, most with their wives. Counting the Marines present, their wives and the guest we invited, there were 140 people at the banquet Wednesday evening.

Most members arrived Sunday, September 22, 2013. That evening we had a great renewing old friendships and catching up with the Marines that had missed the first reunion. It was great to have our own space and own bar. It was a great start for a great reunion.

Monday morning started with coffee at 9:00 am in the Pebble Beach room. This was my favorite part of the reunion: coffee in the meeting room at 9 o'clock each morning. We had a great time without going into McDonald's or Starbucks to compete with everyone for service or seats. We had coffee brought to our meeting room and that's where everyone met to start each day.

Monday morning Capt. Martin passed out Hotel

Company "challenge coins". The challenge coins had been acquired through Ron and Ellen Sturtevant. Please thank them for their effort in this project. These Challenge Coins commemorate our 50th Anniversary of the landing in Vietnam on 10 April 1965. Captain Robert J. Martin, CO Hotel Company on 10 April 1965 presented a coin to all present at the reunion.

Monday morning we had a refresher course on filing claims with the VA. Mr. Jack Wagar, Veterans Benefits Administration, did a tremendous job. Mr. Wagar went above and beyond by making himself available after his presentation to everyone on a one-on-one basis. He was able to access VA records with his computer and help individuals know the status of their claim. He was able to do what no one had done before: he helped Frank Lemos establish that his records were at the San Diego VA center and they will be transferred to the Seattle VA center near where Frank now lives.

Monday afternoon presented the option of going to the Mob Museum

or sightseeing in Las Vegas. Some free time in Las Vegas is always a good thing. Monday evening it was dinner on your own and once again a cash bar in the Pebble Beach room.

On Tuesday morning was a business meeting for USMC VOA, Inc. A financial report was presented by the CPA, retained by Ted Riccubuo to establishing the financial records and bookkeeping system for the USMC-VOA, Inc. The CPA stated the organization is in good and stable financial condition. Del Williams presented a report on the projects the USMC-VOA, Inc accomplished since the last business meeting.

The most significant business item discussed was the 50th Anniversary Reunion of the landing in Vietnam. Currently there is a committee with six members that volunteered to work on planning and researching the options for this celebration. The committee has asked that each of us give serious thought to what we want to do in 2015 and tell them what that is.

Hotel Company Challenge Coins.

A challenge coin is a small coin or medallion bearing an organization's insignia or emblem and carried by the organization's members.

Challenge coins originated during World War I when American volunteers joined flying squadrons in England. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck and presented them to his unit.

One young pilot placed the medallion in a small leather pouch around his neck. Later the pilot was shot down and forced to land behind enemy lines. The pilot was immediately captured and stripped of all his personal identification, except for the small leather pouch around his neck. He escaped during a bombardment that night. However, he was without personal identification.

With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land and stumbled onto a French outpost. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance. He showed the medal-

lion to his would-be executioners and one of his French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion. The French then allowed the pilot time to verify his identity. When he did, instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

The tradition of military unit "Challenge Coins" that began in World War I, had died off before we served in the Marine Corps. Recently the tradition has been resurrected, so it seemed appropriate for Hotel Company to have a challenge coin to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the 10 April 1965 landing in Vietnam.

We had the coins made with the help of Ellen Sturtevant, wife of Ron Sturtevant. Our Commanding Officer on 10 April 1965, Captain Bob Martin, issued the Challenge Coins to all present at the reunion. Those members of Hotel Company on 10 April 1965 that did not make it to the reunion have been mailed their coins. Every member of Hotel Co., 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment that we can locate will receive their unit challenge coin.



Anyone needing to contact the new Secretary/Treasurer

Charles W. Ward can do so by writing him at P.O. Box 245, Cape Fair, MO. 65624 or call him at 417-538-0145.

Changes in Board of Directors

At the USMC-VOA, Inc. business meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 there were two resignations of Board Members. Ted Riccubono resigned as Secretary/

Treasurer. After Ted announced his resignation, Charles W. Ward volunteered to assume that position and was elected by unanimous vote of those members present. Del Williams resigned as Program

Director. That position was not filled at that time. Executive Director, Paul Salas stated he would assume those duties until the next USMC-VOA, Inc business meeting when an election for that position will take place.

Challenge Coins for the “Forgotten Warriors”

Hotel Company challenge coins were issued to everyone who was present at the reunion and coins have been sent to all Hotel Company members that were not able to attend the reunion. That leaves a very important group of our brothers that will not receive the challenge coin, i.e. the “Forgotten Warriors”, our brothers that died before be-

ing welcomed home by the American people. It has been suggested that every effort be made to send a Challenge Coin to the closest living relative of all the “Forgotten Warriors” from Hotel Company.

If you know how to contact any surviving relative of anyone who is deceased, please forward that information to Del

Williams, 912 Stamp Creek Road., Salem, SC 29676. Phone: 864-944-5961 or email: salemcop@yahoo.com. He will then see that a challenge coin and letter is sent to that relative. Del needs your help in this matter because at the present time he only has a contact for four of the men on the “Forgotten Warriors” poster.

Personalize Your Challenge Coin

Dick Lundquist has offered to engrave your name and your service number on the back of your challenge coin. He asks that you mail the coin to him with a note stating your “name and serial number” and he will put them on the coin as shown below. You are asked to also provide Dick with a self-addressed, stamped envelope with \$0.66 postage on it to return the coin to you once he’s

engraved it.

This is a fantastic deal.



Free engraving on your challenge coin makes it a very per-

sonal challenge coin. We all want to thank Dick for being kind enough to do this. Dick’s address for requesting the engraving is:

Dick
Lundquist
1960 Cliff Lake Road
Suite 129-160
Eagan Mn 55122

612-332-7978

Reunion Banquet Wednesday

The Reunion Banquet was Wednesday evening, September 25, 2013. A detail of five (5) Marines for the Marine Corps Unit assigned to Nellis Air Force Base presented the colors to begin the evening ceremonies. Bob Martin introduced our Guest of Honor, Mrs. Darlene Malloy, widow of MGen Albert E. Milloy, USA (Ret). Mrs. Mallory is a special friend of Mrs. Mary Ann

Olson. Mary Ann Olson, who wrote a special song honoring veterans, entertained us with a special presentation of her music.

We honored three of our members for their service and support of the USMC-VOA during 2013. Richard Melim was named “Member of the Year” and presented with a plaque recognizing his unselfish service. Ron Smith was presented

with an etched acrylic award for his support in helping veterans with their Veterans Administration claims. Ron and Ellen Sturtevant were presented with an etched acrylic award for their support of the 2013 Reunion.

Marvin Wyatt presented a special ceremony recognizing our MIA/POW’s.

It was a great Second Reunion!

My Last VOA Newsletter

This will be the last issue of the USMC-VOA, Inc. newsletter that the current editor will publish.

It is assumed that a newsletter will continue to be published by the USMC-VOA, Inc. but it will not be titled “*Company Runner*”. The title “*Company Runner*” is a trademark of Clarence D. Williams and will

be used by him for other purposes. The current editor is confident that the Executive Director will have a more suitable name for the USMC-VOA, Inc newsletter and wishes him success in his every endeavor.

I have enjoyed editing the USMC-VOA, Inc newsletter from its inception. I had the pleasure of informing you of all the planned activities of the first and second reunions of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines (Vietnam-1965).

Photographs of the Reunion

Richard A Carmer, a fellow Marine, was at the reunion and took some great photos. You can view the photos and order your choice from his website:

www.picturephoenix.com.

There are photos of each day of the reunion. There are excellent photographs of everyone present.

Picture Phoenix
15867 N. 17th Way
Phoenix, AZ 85022
(602)404-1353



Veterans Helping Veterans

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Executive Director
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Rio Rancho, NM 87144

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Once a Marine always a Marine

The express purpose of the USMC VOA, Inc. is to assist the disabled and/or needy veterans of our country and their dependents. As veterans of the Vietnam War we lived through and understand the difficulty, efforts, frustrations and often failure to reestablish a normal life after combat. Our sole purpose is to assist any veteran making that transition from combat duty to civilian life by providing emotional and physical help in obtaining medical and financial benefits he/she are rightly entitled to. The USMC Veteran's Organization of America, Inc. is a section 501 C (3) (19) IRS

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Postage