

# HARBORSITE NEWSLETTER

## IN MEMORIAM

It has been brought to the Association's attention that the following Members have passed away since our last reunion in Safety Harbor, Florida.

<b>LESLIE "FLASH" GORDON</b>	<b>CHARLIE COMPANY</b>	<b>DOD: 10-03-16</b>
<b>BARRY D. WOOD</b>	<b>CHARLIE COMPANY</b>	<b>DOD: 01-07-11</b>
<b>DONALD J. BISHOP</b>	<b>CHARLIE COMPANY</b>	<b>DOD: 04-26-11</b>
<b>RAYMOND K. DAWSON</b>	<b>BRAVO COMPANY</b>	<b>DOD: 12-16-16</b>
<b>JAMES F. DONER</b>	<b>ECHO COMPANY</b>	<b>DOD: 12-21-16</b>

Their names will be proudly recognized and displayed at our next scheduled reunion in Tucson, Arizona. Should any members have information concerning the recent passing of any additional members, please contact Roy Rager at (404) 520-3059

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Happy New Year and "Thank You" to all the Members and wives who attended the Safety Harbor, Florida Reunion. Thanks to those attendees and sponsors, the Association realized a \$6,471 profit, which assists in our Scholarship/Achievement Awards, newsletters and donations to various groups in honor of our recently departed Members.

## SAVE THE DATE

As voted on by the Members in attendance the next scheduled reunion will take place at the Desert Diamond Casino/Hotel, in Tucson, Arizona. The room rates will be \$99.00, which includes a hot buffet breakfast. Bus shuttle service will also be available to and from the Tucson Airport. The reunion committee is in the process of acquiring buses to transport us to the Pima Air and Space Museum and its adjacent neighbor, the infamous "Boneyard". The yard houses numerous aircraft in various stages of rehabilitation and storage. These activities are scheduled for Friday (free day). On Saturday, the hotel buses will provide transportation to and from the San Xavier Mission, which is over four hundred years old. We may also have access to a jump facility in Eloy. (Sandy Reid is working on its feasibility). At the Saturday night banquet we will be scheduling a presentation by pilots of the A-10 "Warthog", which is stationed locally at Monthan Air Force Base. The dates of the event will be starting on the **17<sup>th</sup> of October 2017** and concluding on the **22<sup>nd</sup>**. The Hotel contact phone number is (877) 777-4212, mention 3<sup>RD</sup> Recon. We have blocked 120 rooms per night until the **1st of October 2017**. So book early because the hotel only has 140 rooms. Hope to see you "ALL" at this beautiful location.

## APPOINTMENTS

The position of Sergeant-At-Arms was filled by Ronald J. Dornetta and confirmed by a Membership vote. The position of Historian was appointed to Sylvester "Sy" Yerbich. Both individuals were sworn in by Steve Lowery, Secretary of the Association. Please welcome them to their new positions and give them both your fullest cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert J. Hoover

## VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended the 2016, 3rd Recon Reunion, which was held at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa, in Safety Harbor, Florida. We would also like to thank the hotel for being so friendly, and helpful. Of course this reunion would not have been successful without the help of our reunion committee. I would like to thank Bob Hoover, President, Sandy Hoover, Aggie Heath, Doug Heath, Roy Rager, Cyndie Leigh and Rudy Fontane, reunion chairman. It took a lot of work to make this the reunion we all enjoyed... We could not have done this without the help of our great committee members. Our hats go off to all of you.

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their donations: 5.11 Tactical Gear, Sgt. Grit, Anheuser Busch, and Peppers-Semper Fi Hot Sauce. We would also like to include businessman Paul LaRocco for his generous contribution, which covered our luncheon.

Our memorial service was as usual, a solemn event. Included in the memorial, was the ringing of the bell, which was donated by the late, Fred Ostrum. The service was further dignified by local bagpipers and drummers who also graced us at our banquet. The memories that were remembered will also be forever in our hearts.

Our banquet was a huge success. The banquet hall was filled to capacity where, our chaplain, Ron Thompson, gave the invocation. It was during this time, that I, recognized all current association members, new members, and first time attendees. We were overwhelmed by all the new participants. It was an honor to see so many there.

The hospitality room spoke for itself. One of the most memorable events of the night, came from our first time ever karaoke performances. One of these performances included Ron Thompson, who impersonated Elvis Presley singing, "Don't". Steve Shercliff's singing of various songs, throughout the evening, elated everyone in the room. I do not want to forget to congratulate all of the other performers who blessed us with their talents. Thank you for all the good memories that were made that night.

I would like to thank, our guest speaker, Sgt. Major Rafael A. Candelario for his great motivational speech. His speech was such an inspiration for all who heard it including past, present, and future events of the Marine Corps. Our special occasion event consisted of giving each widow of the deceased members of the association a beautiful rose from the Honor Guard. What a heartfelt moment this was for all of us.

We would like to give a special thanks to all the women who attended the reunion on behalf of their husbands. It is our greatest hope that you will all continue to grace us with your presence at the upcoming reunions. God bless each and every one of you.

Our Women's Auxiliary was very instrumental to the reunion, and their time and efforts in raising money for their cause. Thank you ladies for a job well done.

On one last note, I ask that all of our members keep their contact information up-to-date. This will help us to correspond with everyone about upcoming events. We sincerely hope that each of you will make special plans on joining us for another fun-filled reunion in Tucson, Arizona... God bless each and every one of you and God bless AMERICA.

Semper Fi,  
Doug Heath

## BRAVO COMPANY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's the end of another year and for me, it's been 47 years since I served with you men in Vietnam arriving just days before Christmas 1967. It's hard to believe at times, but when we gather together for our now annual reunions, it seems like yesterday, as I know it is for many of you. And that is part of a problem.

This last reunion was a major eye opening experience, for me and others, regarding memories that many of us cannot forget. 47 years on, there are memories that affect all of us in various ways. Some of them have an open and significant effect on us, and our family members. Others are more insidious and lurk in the background, surfacing from time to time to remind us of what we experienced. Some men are in denial while others are reaching out for help.

As your company president, I believe that the Company and Association needs to devote our efforts to helping those members who suffer from PTSD in whatever form it manifests itself in. While there are many groups and organizations that are there to help veterans with PTSD, no one is closer to those who suffer from this than us. We know our former team mates who still relive the past on a regular basis but are afraid to say anything. They need our help, so I would urge everyone to think about this and those we need to help. These men had our backs in the bush, and we need to have their backs today against an equally deadly enemy.

It is my intent to have members of the VA and Veterans organizations present at the next reunion here in AZ. I'm only 1 hour away from Tucson and can make this happen. Feel free to contact me anytime between now and the Reunion. I look forward to seeing you all once more.

Semper Fi,  
Sandy R. Reid, President Bravo Co  
[skytrix@azci.net](mailto:skytrix@azci.net) (C) 520-431-0083

## Delta Newsletter Information

Delta Company had both a wonderful and sad year. We lost four of our brothers during the 2016.

Dave Otto                      Frank Kehr  
Clay Babb                      Ted (Gunny) Williams

I had the honor of going on Recon Patrols with Kehr, Babb and the Gunny during my tour in Vietnam in 1967/1968. By now they have reached their final duty station and are representing Delta Company and the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion honorably. As we all know, we are losing our brothers, at what appears to be, an extremely rapid rate. All the more reason that each of us needs to contact our close brothers as often as possible.

On the brighter side, Delta held a company reunion in Missoula, Montana during the month of June. We invited Marines from the 2nd Force Recon and any members of 3rd Recon who wished to attend. We had a large turnout, and had a wonderful time with the members of 2nd Force. Butch Waddill organized and hosted the event, with many side trips to very interesting places of interest in the Missoula area.

While in Missoula, the company decided to hold our elections there, rather than at the battalion reunion in Safety Harbor, Florida. This was decided because we knew that we were going to have more members in attendance in Montana, than at the reunion in Florida.

The results were as follows:

President	Bill Donnelly
Treasurer	Butch Waddill
Vice President	Al Mizia
Secretary	Dave Estenson
Sergeant at Arms	Tom Hartung
Chaplain	Ron Thompson

At this time, we are looking into a possible company reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 2017. We are in the beginning stages, so there is no further information available at this time. We will keep you informed.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our battalion reunion in Tucson, Arizona in October.

Semper Fi  
Bill Donnelly

Delta Company President

## ECHO REPORT

Greetings and Happy New Year 2017 to all you Recon Marines!

There isn't a week that goes by that I do not reflect on my time in the Corps. Especially my time with 3rd Recon Battalion. It has done me a world of good to attend 3rd Recon Battalion Reunions. At one point in time I was afraid to attend for fear of being triggered and reflecting on the happenings of Viet Nam. It is spending time with the troops at the reunions that you know they understand the feelings generated by war. I encourage everybody to attend when they can.

2016 was a good year, our Battalion was well represented last May when the 3rd Recon Battalion display was installed and dedicated at the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico. We had a great time in Tampa Bay this past September. Karaoke was a great hit. We have a few Buddy Holly's and Elvis's in the Battalion!

SSgt James Wright is now known as James Bear Killer for his heroic action of killing a bear invading his perimeter! Sgt Lupe and his lovely wife Rosie were gracious hosts to me and James Bear Killer prior to the gathering. Sgt. Lupe was honored in June with the Freedom of Valor medal by the Oglala Sioux Tribe at their Annual Veteran's Powwow in Pine Ridge, SD.

On a somber note, we lost Sgt. Donner this year, we will all miss him.  
Make sure to show up in Tucson if at all possible.

If any of you in the Battalion are near SD, I have a 26 acre canyon with room for kids, dogs and horses that I am inviting you to utilize during the months of May and June. Come one come all. I have tipis, a sweat lodge, a cook shack and all the peace and quiet to soothe your soul. All I need is a decent road kill chef!

We look forward to refining a FB page for Echo Company and will keep you posted on the progress. May this New Year bring laughter and joy to you and yours!

Respectfully submitted,

Sgt. Smoke