

# Hotel 2/5 Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016

RETREAT HELL

ISSUE SIXTEEN

## Editor's Column

I finished a four week trial during which the crucial question was whether the trial was going to finish before my vacation in Hawaii was to start. I finished the trial with hours to spare and made the flight with my family.

I was able to meet Barry Broman for lunch while there. Barry was on the island for his son's wedding just up the road from where we were staying. One of the points of interest was the Camp Tarawa Memorial at the Parker Ranch where the 5th Marine Division trained for the Iwo Jima invasion

Now two weeks later we have returned home arriving at 4 a.m. this morning.

I have had a lot of emails in the past 6 weeks so if you asked me to do something and I didn't get back to you the trial and following

vacation are to blame. Do not hesitate to remind me with a followup email.

Congratulations to all of you procrastinators. You have waited until the last minute to register for the reunion. You are running out of time. That's right, the clock is ticking. The September 30th deadline for the reunion registration is just around the corner. Unless your registration form is in the mail



today that means you are going to have to register online if you are going to make it.

September 30th is the deadline to register to be included in the 241st Marine

Corps Birthday Ball. There will be dinner and dancing. The Birthday Ball is included in our registration fees. You do not need to register with the Pensacola Marine Corps League. ***Please note that the flyer indicates formal attire. Joe has told me this means coat and tie at a minimum. Capt. Drez wants to remind all of us to wear those ribbons and medals.***

When you register for the reunion be sure and let us know what you want for dinner at the Ball, meat or fish. If you have already registered, please contact Larry to let him know your choice for dinner.

***WE REALLY NEED ALL OF THE REGISTRATIONS BEFORE THE 30TH SO WE CAN GET THE INFO TO THE HOSTS BY THAT DATE.***

Hope to see you all in Pensacola. Semper Fi.  
Jay



Your  
Editor

**If you need to contact me use either:**  
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[hotelcompanyreunion@gmail.com](mailto:hotelcompanyreunion@gmail.com)



Asst Editor in charge of  
everything digital  
Carlie Peterson



## **UPDATE FROM BONNIE WADE MUCIA**

Bonnie awarded her first scholarship this year. It's the John F Wade Vietnam Veteran Memorial Scholarship Fund. It was a \$500 scholarship awarded to a high school senior. He interviewed and wrote a paper on a Vietnam Vet and gave him a proper thank you.

She was also able to get those Purple Heart parking signs installed in her home town.

### **A FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE**

The Korean War, in which the 1st Marine Division fought and won some of its most brutal battles, was not without its humor. During one such conflict a ROK (Republic of Korea) commander, whose unit was fighting along with the Marines, called then Marine Lt. Col. Chesty Puller, to report a major Chinese attack in his sector.

"How many Chinese are attacking you?" asked Puller

"Many, many Chinese!" replied the excited Korean officer.

General Puller asked for another count and got the same answer, "Many, many, many Chinese!"

"#%\$@\*^\$@#!" swore General Puller, "Put my Marine liaison officer on the radio.

In a minute, an American voice came over the air: "Yes sir?"

"Lieutenant," growled Chesty, exactly how many Chinese you got up there?"

"General, we got a whole shitload of Chinese up here!"

"Thank God." exclaimed Puller, "At least there's someone up there who knows how to count."

## **Hotel 2/5 Web Page**

Larry is constantly updating and improving the Hotel web site. Be sure and check it out regularly. Most importantly, send Larry anything you want to appear on the pages. He is looking for photos and articles about Hotel to fill the pages. He can't do it without your submissions.

If your having problems accessing the pages, just contact Larry and he will walk you through it.

**From a blog of Ted Dey at Book My Reunion and Armed Forces Reunions August 2016. We have used his services a number of times and I thought you would enjoy this reunion anecdote.**

This week Armed Forces Reunions is hosting The Chosin Few in San Diego – heroes from the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, a brutal 17-day battle in freezing weather during The Korean War. Their amazing story and how the Tootsie Roll saved the day bears repeating. The First Marine Division, along with elements of two Army regimental combat teams, were completely surrounded by over 120,000 Chinese troops in rugged mountains. In the worst winter in Korean history daytime temperatures averaged five degrees below zero, while nights plunged to minus 35 and lower. Jeep

batteries froze and split. C-rations ran low and cans were frozen solid. If truck engines stopped, their fuel lines froze. 60-millimeter mortars were the most valuable weapon the Marines had to break up wave after wave of Chinese assaults, but the supply of mortar rounds was quickly depleted. Resupply could only come by air and that was spotty in such foul weather.

The Marines' requests for resupply were sent by radio, using the code words for 60mm mortar ammo: "Tootsie Rolls." But the radio operator receiving the request, not having the Marines' code sheets, passed along the need for Tootsie Rolls, of which there were tons at supply bases in Japan. Parachutes bearing pallet-loads of Tootsie Rolls descended on the Marines. Initially befuddled, the troops thawed the frozen Tootsie Rolls in armpits

and their sugar provided instant energy. For many, Tootsie Rolls were their only nourishment for days. Warmed Tootsie Rolls were also used to plug bullet holes in fuel drums, gas tanks, cans and radiators, where they would freeze solid again, sealing the leaks.

After two weeks of utter misery and suffering 3,000 killed in action and 6,000 wounded they reached the sea, demolishing several Chinese divisions along the way. Hundreds credited their very survival to Tootsie Rolls. At every Chosin Few reunion since the war Tootsie Roll Industries has shipped pallets of Tootsie Rolls to the reunion hotel. But ask any Marine and he'll tell you a good Tootsie Roll is a frozen one.

# Hotel Marine with Medal of Honor Recipient

Sonny Heinonen had the honor of meeting and conversing with Hershel "Woody" Williams one of six surviving Medal of Honor recipients of WWII... his was for acts on Iwo Jima. Woody was the guest speaker at the D Day reenactment in Conneaut.

Woody Williams was turned away once from the U.S. military for being too short, he successfully enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in Charleston, West Virginia on May 26, 1943. Woody received his recruit training at MCRD San Diego, California. Upon completion, he was sent to the Camp Elliott training center in San Diego, where he joined the tank training battalion on August 21, 1943. The following month he was transferred to the training center's infantry battalion for instruction as a demolition man and in the use of flamethrowers.

Woody joined the 32nd Replacement Battalion on October 30, 1943, and left for New Caledonia on December 3 aboard the M.S. *Weltey Reden*. In January 1944, he joined the 3rd Marine Division at Guadalcanal, attached to the 1st Battalion, 21st Marines, first to Company C and then to Headquarters Company.

During July and August 1944, he participated in action at Guam, and in October he rejoined Company C.

## Medal of Honor action

His next campaign was at Iwo Jima. Landing on February 21, 1945, Two days later when tanks, trying to open a lane for infantry, encountered a network of reinforced concrete pillboxes, buried mines, and black volcanic sands. Williams went forward alone with his 70-pound flamethrower to attempt the reduction of devastating machine gun fire from the unyielding positions

Covered by only four riflemen, he fought for four hours under terrific enemy small-arms fire and repeatedly returned to his own lines to prepare



demolition charges and obtain serviced flame throwers. He returned to the front, frequently to the rear of hostile emplacements, to wipe out one position after another. At one point, a wisp of smoke alerted him to the air vent of a Japanese bunker, and he approached close enough to put the nozzle of his flamethrower through the hole, killing the occupants. On another occasion, he was charged by enemy riflemen who attempted to stop him with bayonets and he killed them with a burst of flame from his weapon.

These actions occurred on the same day as the flag raisings on Mount Suribachi, although Williams was not able to witness the event. He fought through the remainder of the five-week-long battle and was wounded on March 6, for which he was awarded the Purple Heart.

In September 1945, he returned to the United States and was presented the Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman on October 5, 1945, at the White House.



*D-Day Conneaut is fast becoming America's premier living history event by being the most realistic and educational annual reenactment of D-Day - June 6th, 1944. Since 1999, this annual recreation of the amphibious Allied landings upon the beaches of Normandy, France, has thrilled thousands of spectators. The event occurs within the beautifully kept grounds of Conneaut Township Park, Conneaut, Ohio, and assembles over 1,200 re-enactors from across the United States and Canada. Remarkably, the 250 yard long beach and sloping adjacent terrain closely resemble Omaha Beach in Normandy, France. ( <http://www.ddayohio.us> )*



**Marine Corp League Ball**  
**2nd Bn/5th Marines Reunion**  
*Skopelos New World Landing Menu*

**ENTRE**

- **Grouper Margarita** Crusted Fresh Grouper with Tequila Lime Cream,  
Skopelos Potatoes, Vegetable Medley  
or
- **Certified Angus Rib Eye Steak,** Skopelos Potatoes,  
Vegetable Medley
- Tossed Salad
- Rolls
- Dessert- Birthday Cake
- Coffee, Tea (hot or iced), Water

Cash Bar



# Marine Corps Ball 2016

Saturday, November 5th 6 - 10pm...



**Joint Pensacola Marine Corps League & 2nd Battalion 5th Marines Reunion Ball**



*Celebrating 241st Marine Corps Birthday  
Dinner & Dancing  
Formal Attire or Uniform*

**In Honor of deceased J.R. Spears Detachment 066 Members:**

Walter Sullivan

"Doc" Tom Eagles



Iwo Jima 1945



Vietnam 1968



**Ronald Drez - Featured Speaker**

Gonoi Island, Vietnam 1968  
2nd Battallion 5th Marines



Location: New World Landing 600 S. Palafox St., Pensacola, FL 32502

RSVP & Payment by September 30, 2016 Tickets \$45 per person

RSVP: Number of guests, entrée selection, phone number and email address for a Confirmation email. If no email, we need an address to mail your confirmation.

Either visit the Pensacola Marine Corps League Website to make payment and leave info  
or

Payable to MCL 4235 Chezarae Dr., Pensacola, FL 32514  
Contact: Margaret Rogers [teachothers@aol.com](mailto:teachothers@aol.com) 562-964-6550

# 2016 Reunion Info Pensacola, Florida

This year's reunion will be held Nov. 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th, 2016 at the Pensacola Grand Hotel, 200 East Gregory St. Pensacola, FL 32502

The room rate for our group is \$124 per night plus applicable taxes. Your reservation must be made by October 17, 2016 to qualify for the group discount. The discount rate is available for November 2nd through the 7th if you would like to arrive early and/or stay later. Call the hotel directly and make the reservation. The telephone number is 850-433-3336, ext 5526. The group code is "H25". You can not reserve online.

The hotel provides a free airport shuttle 6 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. Parking and internet are complimentary.

There will be an informal get together with the Pensacola Marine Corps League for dinner on Wednesday for those coming in early.

Tentative itinerary is as follows:

## **November 3 Thursday**

Thursday afternoon and evening Registration. We will need some volunteers to man the registration table on Thursday afternoon and evening.

Dinner on your own

19:00 Reception in Hospitality Room

## **November 4 Friday**

Complimentary breakfast in restaurant

Hospitality Room and registration open 09:00

Explore Pensacola on your own.

12:30 Bus transportation to USS Alabama Battleship Museum in Mobile, AL.



Dinner will be served to in the Wardroom of the Ship.

Return to Hotel. Hospitality Room open after hotel return.

## **November 5 Saturday**

Complimentary breakfast in hotel restaurant.

Hospitality room open 09:00.

Company meeting at 9:30 to discuss business items and 2017 reunion in Santa Fe, NM.

Shuttle trolley to the US Navy Aviation Museum and USN Exchange starts running 10:30 – 15:00. Purchases at the exchange are only permitted to those holding a valid Department of Defense ID card.

There is a guided tour of the Museum and Lunch is included.

Evening: Marine Corps Birthday Ball in conjunction with the Pensacola Marine Corps League. Guest speaker will be our own Capt. Ron Drez. See the flyer on the preceding page. Reunion registration fee includes the Ball.

## **November 6**

Breakfast in Hotel Restaurant and Goodbyes.

Hospitality Room closes at 12:00.

HOTEL COMPANY 2/5  
2016 REUNION  
PENSACOLA, FL

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE DATE IS SEPTEMBER 30TH**

REGISTRATION FORM

Marine or Corpsman

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \$155.00

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (ADD \$155) Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

T Shirt size(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15 per shirt) (3X or larger \$20) # shirts \_\_\_\_\_ Total Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL FEE INCLUDED: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_

Marine Corps Birthday Ball included in registration for the reunion.

Dinner Choice:

Marine \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_ Fish \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_ Fish \_\_\_\_\_

Visit the **Hotel** web page and sign up online using your credit card: <http://hotel25vv.org/>

OR

Print this page. Fill in the blanks. Make your CHECK PAYABLE TO Larry D. Tyler and Mail your check and this form to:

Larry D. Tyler  
17242 Sierra Sunrise LN  
Santa Clarita, CA 91387

Please note "Attn: Hotel2/5 Reunion" on the memo of the check