Col James T Bowen
6011 Dassia Way
Oceanside, CA 92056-6935

June 2, 2014

Dear Col. Bowen Sir,

I trust this letter finds you healthy and well. This is a letter I should have written you many years ago. I served with you in Vietnam. In fact, I personally served you as your aid, jeep driver and personal bodyguard from Aug 1969 – Jan 1970 when you were the C.O. of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division in An Hoa, Vietnam.

After 40 years, I began telling my story about the war in Vietnam. I pulled out what few pictures I retained but do have a couple of pictures of you serving there in Vietnam and have begun the process of remembering what happened there, both the good and the bad. I would be interested in meeting with you to share photos, converse, and reminisce about our time spent together there on Hill 65, in the bush of the Arizona Territory and in An Hoa and to document our time served there as combat Marines in Vietnam.

After returning home from the war, I went back to college and then after dealing with anger for four years, got my act together and have had a healthy normal life since. I married my sweetheart I was engaged to when I got home from the war, but that only lasted two years. Ten years later, I remarried and have a wonderful wife, Rita of 32 years, two sons and a granddaughter. We live in the Los Angeles area. I am a software consultant by trade.

I am actively involved with the Hotel 2/5 Vietnam Veteran's annual reunion which is being held in San Diego this year. I would like to invite you to attend our reunion this year being held in San Diego from August 6-10th, 2014. There are about 100+ of us Marines and Corpsmen plus spouses and family from Hotel Company 2/5 that served from 1966-1971 that attends the reunion each year. This year we are touring Camp Pendleton on Thursday, Aug 7, MCRD for a graduation and lunch there on Friday, Aug 8 and then our Annual Dinner on Saturday, Aug 9 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Old Town San Diego where everyone is staying.

If you have any interest in attending with us, I'd be glad to cover all of your expenses with us for you and one additional guest with exception of the Hotel reservations and your transpiration to get here and back home. I'd love to have you as our honored guest at the Saturday evening dinner. We have bus accommodations from our hotel to and from MCRD and Camp Pendleton for our group.

I was sorry to read when I was researching you online to find your address that your wife Bonnie had passed away many years ago now.

Thank you again for serving your country in Vietnam and as a Marine officer. I am very proud of serving under you and beside you in combat. Have you kept in touch with Sgt. Major Williams over these years? I can remember the night the helicopter crashed on our LZ in the Arizona on the rice paddy berm and you and I rescued the two pilots while it was burning and exploding around us!

I hope to hear from you.

Semper Fi,

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