Hotel 2/5 Vietnam Veterans Website

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BRANSON WAS BEAUTIFUL IN OCTOBER

The 2023 H2/5 Reunion was held October 19-22, 2023 at the Thousand Hills Resort Hotel in Branson Missouri. There were twenty veterans, their spouses, and additional guests in attendance. The reunion was Hosted by Bernie and Kris Stafford. We were blessed with spectacular fall weather. We had an excellent selection of appetizers and drinks to accompany the many telling of war stories, remembering lost brothers, and just getting re-acquainted and bringing each other up to date on our lives during the Thursday Meet and Greet.

VIETNAM VETERAN Reunion After Action Report

On Friday morning, we held the memorial service for our KIA brothers. We played a video that scrolled the names of all of our killed-in -action brothers. We boarded the Branson Belle showboat and cruised the pristine waters of Table Rock Lake enjoying our wonderful lunch while being entertained by a group of singers and a talented magician. On Saturday, we enjoyed individually exploring the little town of Branson , taking in some great music and entertainment.
(Continued on page 2)

IT'S OFFICIAL, H 2/5 SEATTLE REUNION — SEPT 18-22

Larry and Rita Tyler have volunteered to be your hosts at our next reunion in September 2024. Joe Sonderman has decided to rest his knees and travel the world for awhile, so he is taking a bit of time off from the planning but will be in Seattle with us. Don't worry though, Larry has recruited some of us to assist in the planning and execution of this year's reunion in Seattle. It's gong to be a great time being together.

The planning committee is working hard behind the scenes, selecting our hotel and planning our events. The first change is that we have added one additional day to the reunion. This gives us more time to be together and also more tie to rest in between events. Our theme this year is **"We Are Marines!"**. We will be able register for the reunion and our hotel on the website in late January. Watch our website for additional information.

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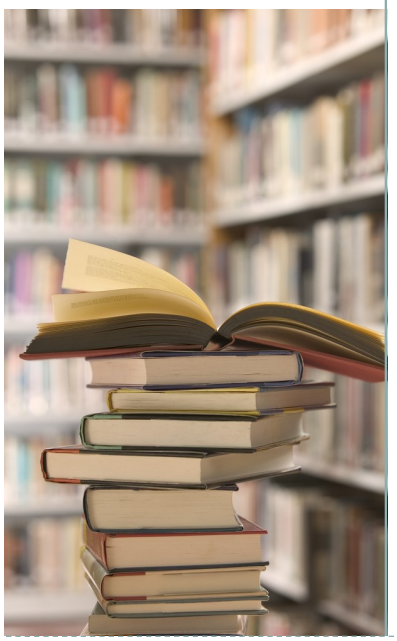
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First Time Reunion Attendees:

Welcome Roy and Shirley McCain.





BRANSON WAS BEAUTIFUL IN OCTOBER

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We enjoyed being together at the Saturday evening banquet . Our auction raised $2,400. We had a remarkable collection of items, many of them made by our attendees.

Many thanks for all who served to make this reunion successful. Thanks to our special hosts Bernie and Kris Stafford. A special thanks to Joe and Larry for all their administrative duties behind the scenes. A round of appreciation to Kris Stafford and Linda Koerber—registration, all those who helped set up the hospitality room, Frank Koeber for the tee-shirts, and their design, Katie and Stephenie Casey for help with computer and presentation assistance to Larry, Rita Tyler for making of the reunion streamer, and to Joe for handling the auction.

" We had a remarkable collection of items at our auction this year!"

BACK THEN AND NOW

LCpl Dennis Casey was an artillery forward observer for Hotel 2/5 in 1969. Today, he is a local dairy farmer in Tennessee.

LCpl Jay Peterson was a platoon radio operator in H 2/5 and also in H&S in 1969. Now retired, he was a criminal defense lawyer, in San Louis Obispo, California.

LCpl David Harbin received a Silver Star award during the fight in Hue City in February 1968. Now deceased, August 2018, he was a Rehabilitation Counselor for almost years.

LCpl Robert Hardrick was a machine gunner and a 60mm mortarman in H 2/5 in '68-'69. He was a milling machine operator in the aerospace industry until he retired. He enjoys traveling to interesting

ITEMS AT OUR BRANSON AUCTION



Auctioneer Joe was beaming with joy when he discovered all the great items that were brought to the Branson Reunion this year. It is those special hand made items that brings the highest donations and brings the most bids!

Dan Smith made the walking cane and the walking stick. Beautifully made. Lois Casey (as always in each reunion, she brings a blanket that she has made) made this king-sized USMC Emblem blanket shown in the picture.

There were many items homemade as well as purchased items brought by our attendees. Each year at our reunions, most of the attendees will bring an item or two to place in our auction. We use the auction as a way to raise funds to be used for administrative expenses occurred for the next planned reunion. We hold this auction each year at our reunion. Please note: These funds from each auction do not begin to pay for our reunion expenses. Throughout the year, these funds are used for making deposits for hotels, events, and transportation to reserve and secure them for our future use.

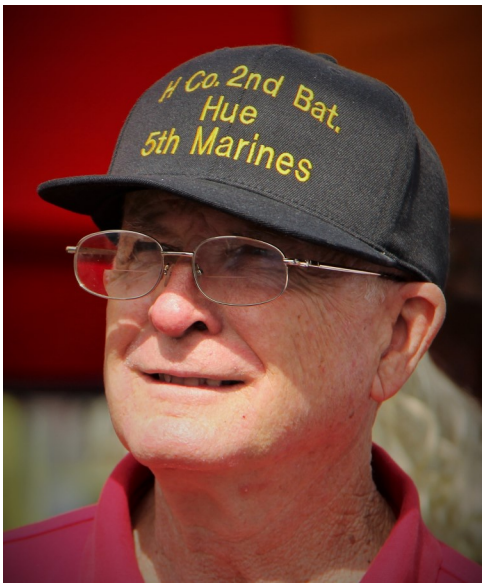




Just to mention a few items brought this year: A large steel USMC Emblem, a cutting board, a boonies hat, an American flag outdoor hammock, a USMC bayonet, Spooky AC-47 briefcases, etc. There was a Vietnam Service Ribbon design crocheted queen-sized blanket beautiful handcrafted by Linda Koerber. There were many more items which did not get listed here in this article.

FEATURED MARINE

DAVID D. HARBIN (B 9/1947 D 8/2018)





SILVER STAR AWARD BY DATE OF ACTION:
February 4, 1968

CITATION:

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lance Corporal David D. Harbin (MCSN: 2238359), United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as a Squad Leader with Company H, Second Battalion, Fifth Marine Division, FIRST Marine Division (Rein.), FMF, in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. On 4 February 1968 during Operation Hue City, Lance Corporal Harbin's platoon was attacking the heavily defended North Vietnamese Army stronghold adjacent to the west side of Hue University.

Advancing as point element in the assault on the objective, his squad came under intense enemy small arms, automatic weapons, and B-40 rocket fire which temporarily halted the advance. Displaying exceptional courage and completely disregarding his own safety, Lance Corporal Harbin aggressively moved across the open, fire-swept area, delivering a heavy volume of fire against hostile positions until he reached the doorway of one of the buildings. Throwing hand grenades and delivering accurate M-16 rifle fire, he then fearlessly moved through the rooms to clear enemy resistance. Undaunted by the heavy volume of fire from mutually supporting positions within the North Vietnamese strong-hold, he unhesitatingly moved to another building within the objective complex.

Exhibiting dauntless courage, Lance Corporal Harbin boldly stood, exposed to enemy fire, in order to pinpoint the hostile positions and direct the fire of his squad against the emplacements. He then maneuvered his squad to a vantage point in a courtyard where he established a machine gun position and again remained exposed to North Vietnamese fire to locate enemy positions and direct accurate machine gun fire against them. Subsequently while searching the area, he encountered two groups of enemy soldiers and personally accounted for six additional enemy killed.

By his exceptional leadership, dauntless courage, and selfless devotion to duty at great personal risk, Lance Corporal Harbin inspired all who observed him and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

DAVID D. HARBIN SILVER STAR

During the Vietnam War David enlisted in the United States Marine Corps attaining the rank of Corporal and Squad Leader. He was deployed to Vietnam with the Second Battalion Fifth Marine Regiment. He was seriously wounded at the Battle of Hue City in 1968 while serving as a squad leader with Hotel Company… He required months of rehabilitation for a full recovery and carried a bullet from his wounds for the remainder of his life.

CPL Harbin received the Silver Star, the third-highest award for valor for his bravery during the Battle of Hue City. On February 4, 1968, with exceptional courage he ran across an open fire-swept area, delivering a heavy volume of fire to the enemy. He fearlessly moved through many rooms of the building where the enemy was entrenched to clear it of all resistance. In addition to a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts, CPL Harbin was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation (two awards), Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and Good Conduct Medal.

David received his first Purple Heart in May 1967 when he ducked for cover from snipper shooting at him while on patrol in the jungle and landed on a boobytrap where a punji stick stabbed hi in the left knee. . His second purple heart was for getting shot in the groin and also shot in the right hand while fighting in the streets of Hue City on February 4th, 1968.

He was affectionately nicknamed "Barney" by his Marine buddies due to his propensity for carrying a rifle magazine in his top pocket. (Like the TV character Barney 5.) Ass a Rehabilitation Counselor, Dave gave his life serving others. Dave has always been well-liked and everyone around him enjoyed his company.

Rest in peace, our dear friend and brother.

Semper Fi
UNITED STATES MARINES

MEET "TA-DA"

It was a beautiful sunny day in the Branson area on the second day of our reunion. We set sail for adventure on the open waters of Table Rock Lake on the Showboat Branson Belle with live music, dancing, comedy, magic, a great meal, and MORE . . .

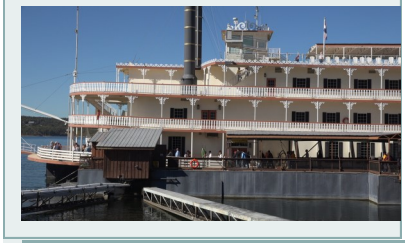
The "MORE" was our very own Katie (Dennis & Lois Casey's daughter). The showboat's master of ceremonies selected her to perform live on stage with him in a bunch of magic rope tricks. Her roll was to say "ta-da" after each magic trick that he performed.

She was hilarious, and very entertaining although she was shy and soft spoken. She performed the ta-da over twenty times while she was on stage.

Katie was a great sport being the one selected from over two hundred persons on board. She made us all proud. From no on, her



Branson Belle Showboat Master of Ceremonies and Katie Casey performing on stage while we enjoyed our lunch.



INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.



Caption describing picture or graphic

INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit 100-150 words.

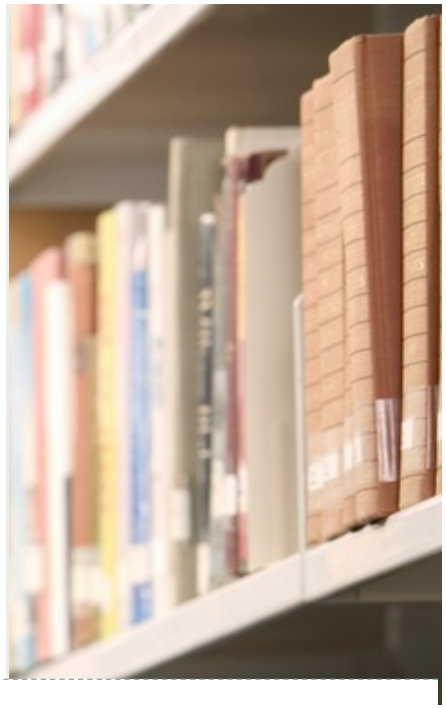
The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

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"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

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HOTEL 2/5 VIETNAM VETERANS WEBSITE

We continue to up and post new information to our website each month. If you haven't been on the website in a while, take note of the "Recent Posts" section on the righthand column on the frontpage. It has some pretty cool information. For example, you can use your mouse to click on ***"Sleepless In Seattle"*** to see some important information about our next reunion.

Reunion registration will be posted on the website around January 15, 2024.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

https:\\hotel25vv.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Many of you have been asking for us to publish a newsletter. So here it is! We welcome our newsletter staff who have volunteered to help make our newsletter a great success.

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