Lima Co. 3/5 Reunion

VIETNAM 1966-1971

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Dan Nordmann, Editor

Sept 2016. . . Newsletter #110. . . . .Fighting 5th Marines Memorial

5th Marines Memorial Garden
Camp San Mateo, Camp Pendleton, CA



With help from Lima 3/5
We can honor the 2,706 Marines and Navy
From the Fighting Fifth Marine Regiment
Who were Killed in Action during the Vietnam War

SEMPER FIDELIS

FIGHTING 5TH MARINE MEMORIAL MONUMENT

Robert Henry (Hank) sent me this article from **The Old Breed News** magazine.

The Fighting Fifth Marines are Looking for "A Few Good Friends"

2,706 U. S. Marines and Sailors were killed in action during the Vietnam War while serving in just one infantry regiment, the Fighting Fifth Marines. Their sacrifice is not forgotten.

With your help, every one of the fighting Fifth will be honored with a beautiful new Memorial Monument to be built in the 5th Marines' Memorial Garden, Camp San Mateo, Camp Pendleton, California.

This is a major undertaking. The monument will include the ranks and names of all 2,706 casualties and will offer a restful park-like setting for visitors. We believe that the completed memorial monument will not only benefit Vietnam Veterans and their families, but will also comfort all veterans of the Fighting Fifth, including those young Marines and Sailors currently serving on active duty in the Middle East and around the world.

This new memorial will also educate all generations of Americans about this famous USMC infantry regiment's pivotal roles in many successful military campaigns during the Vietnam War, thereby advancing the legacy of the Fighting Fifth Marines.

The monument builder is Rock of Ages of Graniteville, VT the world's leading granite quarrier and memorial manufacturer. Our goal is to raise the necessary funds ($400,000.00) over the coming months, with the monument dedication targeted for Memorial Day, May 29 2017.

Any memorial monument to be installed a board a military base requires approval by that service's Chain of Command. This monument project has received initial approval and the "green light" to proceed with fundraising efforts. If for any reason this monument project does not come to fruition, all donations made will be returned to the donors.

Our project team includes the leadership of the 5th Marine Regiment, the 1/5 Vietnam Veterans Association, the 1st Marine Division Association (whose headquarters is now located aboard Camp Pendleton) and the Dana Point 5th marine Regiment Support Group (a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization which, as the project's fiduciary, is managing all donated funds in a secure trust fund.

The project team has received the go-ahead from the regiment, and the project has been approved at all levels of the USMC chain of command. The design and plan are now being reviewed by the Department of the Navy. We expect approval from them shortly.



FIGHTING 5TH MARINE MEMORIAL MONUMENT



The Memorial Garden at Camp San Mateo, Camp Pendleton, California, which is the home of the Fighting Fifth Marines, includes memorial monuments recently installed to commemorate casualties of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. During a recent visit to this beautiful memorial garden, several Vietnam veterans who served in the regiment recognized the long-over-due need and desire to provide a suitable memorial for the Fighting Fifth's casualties of the Vietnam War.

With typical can-do Marine spirit and teamwork, a project plan with the goal of funding, designing, installing and dedicating the Memorial was developed and executed. We officially launched our capital fund-raising campaign on May 1, 2016. Our goal is to complete the project in time to dedicate the monument on Memorial Day, 2017.

The monument design layout includes a total of six (6) "name panels" arranged in a "lazy U" shape around the "center piece." Both sides of each name panel will be used , providing a total of twelve (12) name panels overall. The name panels are fashioned from Medium Barre Granite and American Black Granite.

Each of the regiment's current battalions that were "in Country" during the Vietnam War, i.e., 1/5, 2/5, 3/5, & 2/4, will be represented, and their "patches" (via color etchings and /or tiles) and dates will be included; each battalion's KIAs will be arranged and etched over the surfaces of three(3) name panels. The name panels will list the rank (abbreviated), first name, middle initial and last name of every KIA in the 5th Marines during the Vietnam War, in chronological order, by battalion. The image of the iconic "Helmet, Rifle, Bayonet and Boots" will be prominently included, etched on all four sides of the black granite "obelisk" situated atop the center piece.

All four sides of the center piece (the base stone(s) supporting the black obelisk) will include messages and images that represent the combat operations conducted by the Fighting Fifth marines and their subordinate battalions. The base stone(s) can either be one massive stone, or perhaps three large stones, each slightly smaller as they build upward in a "pyramid" shape, which would provide a total of twelve (12) panels for images and messages.

The cost of this project, including the manufacture of the monument, erection of the monument, creation of the monument "infrastructure" (foundations, lighting, etc.) is estimated to be $400,000.00. We are confident that we will have no problem raising all the money that is needed to fund this project from private, individual, organizational, and corporate donations. We hope you will join us in our efforts to honor those we left behind.

Why the 5th Marines Vietnam War Memorial Monument?

Why do veterans, especially combat veterans, gather at reunions? Why are there so many memorial monuments built to honor veterans of America's wars? What's the big deal, anyway? Well, if you are not a combat veteran, you will likely not understand the "whys and the whats," but we will try to explain it to you.

FIGHTING 5TH MARINE MEMORIAL MONUMENT

First of all, it's important to understand that at this moment in America's history, there are 1,444,553 active duty personnel in the United States armed forces, 1,458,500 reserve personnel, and 453,000 paramilitary. In total, just a little over 2 million young Americans are presently serving our country in the military.

The current population in America is approximately 321,600,000 people (2015 estimate). Just do the math to understand that only about six tenths of one percent of Americans are serving in the armed forces today. Further (please bear with me – I have a point to make), during my time in the United States Marine Corps, which was during the Vietnam War, I learned that for every combat Marine (serving in the infantry, artillery and other front-line units) there were 9 or 10 Marines serving in a variety of support roles.

Don't get me wrong – I loved all of those guys and gals, because we depended upon each and every one of them to do their jobs in order to improve our odds of success and survival. But, in reality, only one out of about 16,000 Americans will immediately understand the "whys and "whats of our motivations to build memorials without further education or instruction.

Over the years I have learned that although our nation's total population was much smaller in the 1960s while the Vietnam War was in full swing (slightly over 200 million in 1968), the ratio between combat veterans and civilian citizens was about the same as it is now. The bottom line (and my point) is that there are not many Americans alive today who truly understand what wars are really like, and how they have affected our wartime generations.

Worse, a vast majority of our civilian leaders today have never experienced military service, let alone war. Yet, they are in charge of everything that happens to our young folks serving in the military during wartime.

14,841 U.S. Marines were killed in action during the Vietnam War, while just over 20,000 Marines were killed during all the battles in the Pacific during WWII combined. So, perhaps it's understandable why us ""Vietnam Jarheads" are particularly interested in building memorials to our buddies. We lost way too many of our friends, while they were just doing their jobs!

Why do we gather? Because, the combat missions assigned to us required us to perform the hardest and most dangerous tasks we have ever experienced in our lives; because the things we did, and the things we didn't do, and the things we saw and heard (that no human being should ever see or hear) are stuck in our memories, and will remain there for the rest of our lives.

Why do we remember, and why do we want to memorialize those we left behind? Because what we saw were our fellow Marines and Soldiers and Sailors and Airmen, our fellow Americans, doing the same things we were doing. We were doing our best to help those on our left and on our right in our efforts to succeed, to accomplish our missions – and survive.

Many of our memories are horrible, but some of them portray the most uplifting things we ever witnessed. We saw that young man, perhaps our good friend, as he accomplished his part of the mission, did something heroic and amazing, and then abruptly died. We saw these acts, and we remember



FIGHTING 5TH MARINE MEMORIAL MONUMENT

them all, knowing that the vast majority of Americans never left the safety of their homes.

Despite what American films and books often have described about the Vietnam War, we saw selflessness, we saw courage and heroism, we saw our fellow Americans putting themselves into harm's way to help their buddies, and to help people that they didn't even know, people who looked and sounded nothing like them. Yes, we remember. And, yes, we can't forget.

Honoring those we left behind is the one thing we can do to find some solace for ourselves, and for their family members and their friends. A total of 2,607 U.S. Marines and Sailors died in Vietnam while serving in just one USMC Infantry Regiment, The Fighting Fifth Marines.

You Can Help! First and foremost, you can "pass the word" to family, friends and business associates, especially those you know who served in the Fighting Fifth Marines in any era. We believe that any Marine or Sailor who served in the 5th Marines will want to see this mission accomplished.

You can participate! In particular, we are reaching out to all Vietnam veterans who served in these four battalions to assist us in finalizing the design and finishing the project. The actual stones to be used are now specified as portrayed in the design image, but the messages and images to be etched on the stones, especially those located on the center piece base stone(s), are still open for discussion.

It would be great to have at least one Vietnam Veteran of the 5th Marines from 2/5, 3/5 and 2/4 join us in an advisory capacity, with the goal of finalizing all the monument design details by this fall, so please get in touch with us if you are interested in helping us accomplish our mission, which is to successfully complete this project.

And you can donate! We are seeking the $20.00 individual donation, The $50,000.00 corporate or organizational donation, and everything in between. We are confident that with our veteran's networks and our growing "Friends of the Fighting Fifth" community, we will have no problem raising the money to fund this important memorial project.

For more project details, images of the monument design, and online donations, please visit our website at http://5thmarinesvietnammemorial.org.

Should you have any questions, please contact either of us. We hope you will join our team and help us make this dream come true.

Semper Fidelis!

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We . . . Our Band of Brothers

Properly, this Memorial is for the Marines and Corpsmen who will never see this dedication to their service.

Side by side we stood by the Marines who led as we followed: Thru rice patties, villages, Hue City and the jungles in the mountains.

I will visit this site one day, stand proud, perhaps shed a tear and know . . . We were Lima 3/5 and will always be.

. . . Semper Fi

FIGHTING 5TH MARINE MEMORIAL MONUMENT









Lima 3/5 Supports the Fighting 5th Marine Memorial Monument

In honor of the 165 Marines from L 3/5 on the Wall

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Phone _____ **E-Mail** _____

Time Served with Lima _____ **Rank** _____

Brothers I served with on the Wall _____

_____

My Donation **$**_____

Make a check payable to **"5th Marines Vietnam War Monument"**
On the memo line of the check, please indicate that the donation is for **"5th Marines Vietnam War Monument"**

Please mail your check to:

5th Marines Vietnam Memorial

c/o Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group

P.O. Box 471

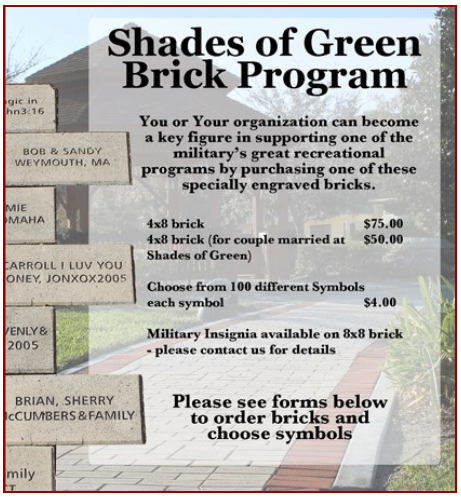
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REUNION 2017 ORLANDO, FL



Shades of Green has a Brick Program. If you are interested in purchasing a brick to support this Military Resort contact :

Jim Yakubsin
15135 NW 174th St.
Alachua, FL 32615
386-462-0493
352-222-8837
yakmarine@aol.com



June 20 to June 25, 2017
Shades of Green

1950 West Magnolia Palm Dr.
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830
888-593-2242
Reservation code is
1706 Lima Co.
www.shadesofgreen.org

Jim Yakubsin is the host for the 2017 Lima 3/5 Reunion in Lake Buena Vista, Fl. **Shades of Green** (SoG) is an Armed Forces Recreation Center located on the Walt Disney World property. The resort is dedicated to providing first class low cost accommodations for Department of Defense Personnel.

Room rates are $145 total with no taxes added. Three categories of prices are for active and retired military. Our Reunion Rate is category 3 unless you are retired military or 100% disabled.

2016 Gator Detachment 990 Marine corps Birthday Ball

Celebrating the 241st Birthday of the United States Marine Corps

Saturday November 5th
At the Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel
Gainesville, FL

For more information
go online at gatordet.com
Or contact Jim Yakubsin at 352-222-8897

"Serving Those Who Serve"
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www.shadesofgreen.org

Guest Room Rates

1 October 2016 - 30 September 2017

Room Type	Category #1	Category #2	Category #3
Standard Room	$100.00	$135.00	$145.00
Poolside Room	$110.00	$145.00	$155.00
Junior Suite	$275.00	$275.00	$275.00
Family Suite	$300.00	$300.00	$300.00
Palm Suite	$410.00	$410.00	$410.00
Magnolia Suite	$260.00	$260.00	$260.00
Garden Suite	$300.00	$300.00	$300.00

CATEGORY 1: E-1 through E-6 and Cadets (E-1 thru E-6 and Cadet Sponsor and dependents will receive the rate that applies to Category #1. Each additional sponsored room will receive the rate that applies to Category #2).

CATEGORY 2: E-7 through E-9, O-1 through O-3, WO-1 to CW-3, Widows, Medal of Honor Recipients, 100% Disabled Veterans, and Category 1 sponsored rooms (see above).

CATEGORY 3: O-4 through O-10, CW-4 and CW-5, Active and Retired Department of Defense Civilians, Foreign Military assigned to a U.S. Military installation only, DoD Contractors assigned to a U.S. Military installation only.

LIMA COMPANY

3RD BN. 5TH MARINES 1ST MAR. DIV.
VIETNAM 1966–1971

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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