Lima Co. 3/5 Reunion

VIETNAM 1966-1971

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Robert Henry, Editor

July 15, 2001, Newsletter #62 . . . *Reunion #16 – a new benchmark!*

"THE BEACH BOYS"

BIGGEST EVER? EASY

76 Marines, 4 Navy,
13 active duty 3/5 guests,
1 Medal of Honor recipient . . .

our family of wives, significant others and the kids,
ah, the precious children. They will carry the torch . . .
An awesome gathering of USMC history.
It began early morning every day
and ended late night every morning.
Few words were unspoken!

It began with people . . . The Usual Suspects: (Reunion attended)

Jim Andrulewicz (5), David Arrasmith (3), Mel Bellamy (2), Hasan Benler (2), Steve 'Doc' Bergeron (2), Bob Bragole (8), Horace Bryant (2), Bill Burger (3), Dan Cantrell (9), Ken Carmen (5), George Christo (3), Greg Cloutier (5), Steve Cobb (10), Ed Conti (5), Benito Delagarza (3), Robert 'Doc' Fowler (4), Dennis Freed (5), Danny Handy (3), Jim Harrington (3), John Harris (9), Robert Henry (14), Richard Hoffman (7), Gary Huffaker (2), Herb Johnson (4), Wally Loucks (14), Michael Maehl (4), Horace Martin (2), Phil Matthews (5), Brian Mayer (4), Les McFall (6), Joe McLaughlin (7), David Meinertz (4), David Miller (11), Lorenzo Mungaray (4), Dan Nordmann (3), Joe Pollicino (8), John Presnall (7), J.R. Rogers (4), Al Ross (10), Tim Sedrowski (13), Bob Snowden (16), Frager Spates (7), Skip St. Clair (13), Larry Strum (3), Reiss Tatum (5), Milford Taylor (9), Phil Vangel (2), Tony Van Reusen (5), Don Vogelgesang (5), Tom Williams (4), Jerry Winters (9), John Wold (3), and Jim Yakubsin (8) . . . 56 old blocks of the Lima 3/5 foundation.

Bob Snowden is the only Marine to attend all 16 Lima 3/5 Reunions! Yes Sir!

Hittin' their first Reunion beach:

Rudy Abril, Jim Bridston, Alfonzo Brooks, Mark Dolan, Patrick Dudley, Robert Garcia, Raymond Gourley, Johnny Green, Leo Hand, Henry Hatchett, Jim Hunt, Larry Jones, Richard Ker, Vic Krulak, Jr., John Lepore, Manny Lopez, John Mestepey, Luciano Perez, Gary Peterson, Kevin Reilly, Kevin Shaughnessy, John Templeton, Fofo Tuitele, Guadelupe Zunga . . . 24 new blocks . . . and families reconnected!

With those faces in focus . . . here's the SITREP . . .

SEMPER FIDELIS

DENNIS FREED and JOE MCLAUGHLIN
We Thank You For A Great Time

2001 REUNION RECAP

First team in, June 3rd, was ***Phil*** *and* ***Mabel Vangel****. Last team out, June 20th, was Phil and Mabel Vangel. Hard Corps has been defined . . .* ***Vangel****.*

EASY LIVING IN SAN DIEGO

Life at a Lima 3/5 Vietnam Reunion is easy. For our 16th in San Diego, it was really easy. Poolside location, we had 3 Hospitality Rooms, side by side by side. Food and libations were in good supply. Visitor interests were just a block of transportation away. Some went south to Tijuana, Mexico . . . others headed north beyond the expanse of Camp Pendleton . . . the California coast on US 1 and US 101 . . . 'legends', Like Route 66. The zoo, downtown Old Town, golf, fishing . . . on and on. The Hanalei Red Lion was indeed, upon its own, a perfect location for all needs, serviced with excellence from check in to check out. The Hanalei staff duo of Marla St. Clair and Brenda Gerard were exceptional. If you ever land in San Diego for a night or more, you are prepped with history. You can get the "Lima 3/5 deal" simply by calling either of these fine ladies at 1-800-882-0858. Marla and Brenda . . . excellence.

With no activities planned till the Lima 3/5 Golf Championship on Thursday morning . . . the Reunion was wide open. Our Hospitality Rooms were active throughout, morning to morning, conversations, on going till sunset, continuing some nights on through to sunrise. Maximum energy!

The Lima 3/5 Reunion banner, a project of our host **Dennis Freed**, was posted above our LZ and right on the pool. The colors of the United States Marine Corps flag, embroidered "Company L, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines", resplendent, breezing in the winds, dripping with battle streamers from 3/5 Vietnam, flew proudly over our week of celebration. Flyin' high . . . Lima 3/5 Vietnam!

Friday was the day for red and gold. 9 AM: Boot Camp Graduation, MCRD, San Diego. An emotional pinnacle we all experienced, and still today a chest protruding experience . . . new Marines, like them, we are good for America. It was a different perspective this time. The guest bleacher seats were much different than the tarmac marching of the mid/late 60's . . . when we earned 'our title' . . . a proud moment indeed, for every family involved.

Friday later . . . the Beach! . . . Camp Pendleton, Camp Del Mar, for burgers, hot dogs, beer, soda, bottled water and the Pacific Ocean surfside. Cool deal, we were herded north from the hotel in USMC buses . . . and back. We toured the amtrac complex, met with Marines that looked like you did, albeit 30 some years later. Gee, they were so young in look . . .

Back at our base camp, we fractioned off in several groups for dinners of all fare and all people. I remember the joy and laughter. The feeling of validation, past presence, and a future of life long friendships were borne from these spontaneous gatherings. Every year this happens.

Friday night by the pool was awesome and peaceful . . . all knew that within 24 hours; the event would expire, for 2001. Those hours are special. We talked through the early morning hours . . . our friends and we! "Good night Chesty, wherever you are . . ."

SATURDAY? BUSINESS 1ST! PARTY 2ND . . . ALL NIGHT LONG!

The Business Meeting went off smoothly, within the hour designated. Issues to front: The KIA bracelet project . . . standby for details! Special Feature: A tribute to **Al Ross**, Lima 3/5 Gunny '66, Retired Sgt. Maj., emceed by **Reiss Tatum**, his CO in '66 Nam was presented . . . This slide presentation and narrative of the military life of Al Ross was captivating and a definitive narrative of the career of a man we all honor, the apex of a United States Marine . . . rank regardless, every Marine's Marine. A standing ovation for this guy, should last forever. Well, it will, period!

SATURDAY NIGHT!

The Lima 3/5 Banquet . . . perfect! 225 people, loose of reins, celebrated outdoors, in sunny San Diego, by the pool, with every proper sequence and execution flawless . . . and the chow was great! Dessert? Whew!

The ceremony opened, **Al Ross** presiding, with our Color Guard, presenting the flags of our nation and our corps. 4 tight Marines, all Lima 3/5 active, led by **Sgt. CC Baker**, brought forth the colors . . . chests heaved with pride.

Ed Conti introduced 2 of our guests - **Medal of Honor Recipient Bob Modrzejewski** and his lovely wife **Diane**. Bob was awarded the MOH for his heroics on July 15-18, 1966 on Operation Hastings. Bob and Diane are wonderful people and they received a warm and rousing welcome from our Lima 3/5 brothers.

GEN. RAY MURRAY, REISS TATUM, VIC KRULAK & AL ROSS.

Next it was **Reiss Tatum**'s turn to introduce another of our heroic guests. **Maj. General Raymond L. Murray** added to the excitement and history of the evening and was warmly received. Gen. Murray's active duty career spanned 4 decades and 3 wars. Ray was awarded his first Navy Cross for his actions in Saipan in WWII. In Korea his heroics earned him his 2nd Navy Cross. This true Marine Corps legend was also awarded the Army DSC, 4 Silver Stars, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart and many others.

Dennis Freed, our hard working host introduced the present and future of Lima 3/5. We were honored and excited to have as our guests "A FEW" of the active duty 3/5 Marines currently stationed at Pendleton . . .

Lt. Col. Jim Sinnott and wife **Joanne**
Sgt. Maj. Mike Jones and wife **Angela**
Maj. Thomas Savage and wife **Susan**
1st Sgt. Larry Robertson

The tradition continues.

It was Reiss's turn again to introduce our guest speaker **Victor H. Krulak, Jr.**, Commander U.S. Navy Retired. Vic was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1963 and was commissioned in the Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy in 1965. During his career he served as Battalion Chaplain with 3/1, 3/4, 3/5, 1/7 among his many Marine Corps posts. Chaplain Krulak retired from active duty in 1990 and is currently serving at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in San Diego, CA. Vic is one of our brothers, having served as 3/5 Battalion Chaplain in Vietnam in 1966. His message to us was that what we did in Vietnam was valued and appreciated. Regardless of the ultimate outcome of the conflict, we had a job to do as U.S. Marines, and we did that job well. We need to have pride and satisfaction in being part of a proud tradition that depends on those of us as supporting role players, the "Don Taylors" of the world, that make the bigger picture possible.

DEFINING MOMENTS?

"I found someone I knew . . . but I did not know yesterday. Now I know." It only took a moment to cover those 11,000+ days of separation . . . Lima 3/5 Reunions make that a reality . . .

The Lima 3/5 Memorial Banquet was exceptional. **Bob Snowden**, Skipper, June-Nov '68 dedicated the "Lima 3/5 Last Bottle" to its creator, **Sgt. Richard P. Warren**, who passed away 10-10-00 from a battle with cancer. A new plaque will honor his service and commitment to the Lima 3/5 Reunion. Richard's widow, **Donna**, and his two sisters, **Sally** and **Susan**, attended . . . it was a special Reunion and emotions ran strong through "Taps" . . . we love ya Rich, Semper fi, 10-10, over!

Can we raffle? Ask **Joe "The Ticket" Pollicino** and his assistant **Anthony "Little Doc" Bergeron** . . . they know! They burned off a ton of 4 digit winners. 5 ticket holders won a free night's hotel stay worth $100! In the "Free Reunion 2002" raffle, **Herb** and **Pam Johnson** held the small piece of paper worth round trip airfare and 4 days' lodging in New Orleans for Reunion 2002 . . . whew! Bet that felt good! Not bad for a $10 ticket, eh?

I was reunited with a man who was a close friend then . . . I lost contact for 32 years . . . now a friend again, given back to me because of the Lima 3/5 Reunion. Our families are now joined. Who would have thought that? I will cherish this Reunion, forever! Thanks bro' . . . life is better now!

Golf? We did that, in triple digits mostly. The winning faces were all new but one. Only **Mary Ann Nordmann** returned to the podium. The 2000 luminaries were banished from a 2 peat. So goes combat golf with Lima 3/5! 6,000+ yards and the defending champion, I, fell by a mighty 19 strokes. The 2001 Golf Championship and the holder of the traveling championship trophy, the ultimate Lima 3/5 gold putter, now resides with **Jim Hunt**, who scorched the field to garner Low Gross with a nifty 86. Jim Hunt is now a target! "Goes with the territory Champ!" See ya in Louisiana JP! Winners in flights included: Men's Low Net - (tie) **Justin Harris** and **Phil Vangel**. Women's Low Gross: **Sally Warren**. Women's Low Net: **Mary Ann Nordmann**, the survivor. We 20 spent a beautiful day in perfect weather . . . hacking our way to infamy, 20 on a beautiful course secured by our 2001 Golf Tourney Director **John Lepore** . . . FORE!

It only took one guy, with his special smile, to make this Reunion the best ever for me. The other 78 smiles were icing on my Reunion cake. Thank you all, my family . . . Semper Fi . . . the hankster.

SAN DIEGO, 2001

SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE MOVES.

"HOME AT LAST WITH LIMA 3/5"

I feel very lucky that I found Hanklima's phone number in Stars and Stripes. I had already missed the North Carolina Reunion, but I gave him a call to see if there would be others. He immediately gave me the web site address and sent me a roster and past newsletters. I was in Hog Heaven. I was able to discern that some of my buddies made it back to the World. Not long afterward I received a phone call from Frager Spates. It was great to talk to someone from my gun team for the first time in 34 years!

That cinched it for me. I had to make the next Reunion. I made my reservations as soon as possible and spent the next seven months arguing with my self, I'm going, I'm not going. This went on until about two weeks before the reunion, when I decided that San Diego was a nice place to visit and if I wasn't enjoying myself I could always leave.

I arrived in San Diego Wednesday afternoon and immediately went to the hospitality room to check in and introduce myself. As I was meeting people Jerry Winters walked up to me and said do you remember me? I said are you kidding? Of course I do. Things just got better from there. I left part of me in Vietnam, as we all did, it was like finding part of what I had lost. Being back with brothers who had walked the same walk, felt the same fears, covered each other's back. We all were in it together and it was great to feel a part of the unit again.

I enjoyed the Reunion. My wife and I did some shopping in Mexico. I enjoyed the beach party and the luau. The gathering after the business meeting to talk about PTSD was great and informative. But the best part was talking to my brothers again. Not only those from 1967, but also to those who came before and after.

My biggest fear in Vietnam was being isolated from my unit, alone and left to my own devices. This didn't happen until I came home from Vietnam when I isolated myself from anything or anyone to do with the war. Thanks to you brothers at the San Diego Reunion, I am no longer alone. I am a part again and am looking forward to New Orleans.

Semper Fi
Johnny Green
Guns 1967

Doc Fowler here. This was the best Reunion yet (other than my first). Everything was perfect in San Diego. The best thing of all was getting to see almost all of the 2nd Squad of Lima 2nd Platoon whom I had not seen since 1968-69. Seeing my brothers-in-arms, the guys I actually spent the most time with in Nam meant a great deal. Should there be someone out there who has not attended a reunion yet, please do so.

Doc Fowler

"This was the best Reunion yet (other than my first)."

Lima 35 Reunion 2001

Thanks for finding me, I really didn't know what to expect when I arrived in San Diego. As was the case in 1966, I was welcomed with opened arms. I had a great time meeting all the Lima 3/5 family. I am already looking forward to next year and the anticipation of meeting more of my fellow Marines. Thanks again for finding me.

Semper Fi
Kevin Shaughnessy
Boston, MA

"Thanks for finding me . . ."

Dear Dennis, Joe & Tim,

You guys did a fantastic job setting up Reunion San Diego. Mary Ann and I just got home a couple of hours ago. All we talked about since Monday was the great time we had with all our Lima 3/5 Family in San Diego. Can't wait for New Orleans.

Thanks Again,
Dan Nordmann

"Can't wait for New Orleans."

This was my first Reunion and I got to say everything was great!! The Reunion was much much more than I had ever expected. Thanks to all who made this Reunion so great. HOME AT LAST With Lima 3/5.

Semper Fi
Raymond Gourley

Sorry I had to miss this one. From what I hear it had to be the best so far.

You can bet I'll be in New Orleans next year.

Charles Adams

First let me say how much my wife and I enjoyed being with you, your wife and the Marines of Lima 3/5. What particularly impressed us was how gracious everyone was in accepting us as part of the group for the evening. Thanks again for inviting us.

Bob Modrzejewski

Dear Lima 3/5 Family & Brothers,

You guys did a fantastic job setting up Reunion San Diego. All Ruby and I talked about on our drive home Sunday was the great time we had with all our Lima 3/5 Family in San Diego. Can't wait for New Orleans.

Thanks again,
Rudy & Ruby Abril
Semper Fi

COLOR GUARD

I have been the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine's Color Sergeant for the past two and a half years. Just recently I was informed by the Battalion Sergeant Major that Lima 3/5 was holding a Reunion and was asked if I thought I could get my Color Guard ready and post the colors at the '01 Reunion. I gathered my team up and found out the times and location. Found out it was in service alphas and it was on a Saturday night, the last weekend we would have liberty before we got on ship for an exercise. It did not sound too promising. Well let me say that I could not have been more incorrect. Of the seven short years I have been in the Corps, I can honestly say that I will never forget that night. It is by far the best time I have had since I have been in. To be there with all of those real life living heroes was an honor, and more than I could have ever asked for. The ones who are serving now all look up to each and every one of you who honorably served, and hope to live up to the high reputation you have left behind. On behalf of the 3/5 Color Guard, I'd like to say thank you for having us at your Reunion and to let you know that we were all honored to be in your presence. God bless you all. Thanks, **Sergeant Baker**, 3rd Platoon Sergeant, Lima Company 3/5, 3rd Platoon.

Membership Info

Changes . . .

Danny Handy
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Lost Contact:
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Welcome in, these FNG's:

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TECHNO GRUNTS

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Lima 3/5 HQ/Newsletter . . . . . Robert Henry . . . . . Hanklima35@aol.com

THE KIA BRACELET PROJECT

At the Business Meeting . . . issue brought, discussions made and a unanimous vote cast. At each ensuing Reunion, we will pass out to the attendees, whether veteran or family, a KIA bracelet to be worn throughout the Reunion. This is another way we can carry the memories of each of these men. They deserve this honor and they will be remembered . . . by the family of Lima 3/5 Vietnam.

***If you wish or choose, we can have a bracelet made for any of our 160 known KIA's just for your wrist . . . call/email Hank at (727) 864-6291 or hanklima35@aol.com . . . cost is $9, which includes packaging/postage. Each bracelet is black in color and has the rank, name, KIA date, Wall location and state of birth. These are lightweight aluminum and parallel the concept of the POW/MIA bracelets of the Vietnam War.

I wear my bracelet year round in memory of PFC Roger D. Bragg, KIA 4-9-69. Forever forth, each Reunion, our KIA's will be with us . . . the family will wear their memory in honor . . . because they are with us . . . forever!

Unit Awards and Replacement Medals . . . To obtain copies of awards earned, write to the National Personnel Records Center at the address below. This office will identify any awards you've earned and provide replacement awards as necessary. It is helpful to include a copy of your Discharge Certificate (DD 214). If a DD 214 is not available, include your full name, service number, social security number, date of birth and as much additional pertinent information as possible.

Marine Corps Liaison Office
National Personnel Records Center
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Veterans are entitled to one replacement set of their medals. To request medals, send a Standard Form 180, which can be obtained from the National Personnel Record Center web site (**http://www.nara.gov/regional/mprsf180.html**) to the address at left. Please write "Do not open in mailroom" on the outer envelope.

Financial Statements of the Lima 3/5 Reunion Group ... fiscal July 1, 2001

THE GENERAL FUND:

Balance Forward July 1, 2000	$10,250.68
INCOME:	
Contributions	$ 2,387.00
Sales (Coins/Pins, Shirts/Hats, Raffle/Auction)	$ 9,778.00
Accts Receivable	$ 1,535.00
TOTAL Income:	$13,700.00
EXPENSES:	
Merchandise for Sales	$ 7,837.74
Reunion '01	801.77
Hospitality Room	1,017.99
Beach Party	735.56
Bus Transportation	706.00
Entertainment/Banquet	975.00
Name Tags	330.00
Banquet	955.21
Newsletters/Postage	770.00
Postage (other)	324.30
Archives	49.37
Office Supplies	234.39
Bank Fees	32.00
TOTAL Expenses:	$14,769.33
'00 NET PROFIT (LOSS)	($ 1,069.33)
NEW GENERAL FUND BALANCE	$ 7,646.35
Accounts Receivable 2000	$ 1,535.00
BEGINNING 2001 BALANCE	$ 9,181.35

OPERATION REACHOUT:

Balance Forward July 1, 2000	$2,413.00
INCOME:	
Contributions	$2,337.00
OUTFLOW:	
Reunion '00 Outreach	$3,294.00
NET GAIN	$ 843.00
OPERATION REACHOUT NEW BALANCE	$3,256.00

ASSETS:	
General Fund - Cash	$ 7,646.35
General Fund - A/R	1,535.00
Operation Reachout - Cash	3,256.00
Inventory: Coins/Pins/Videos	113.00
TOTAL ASSETS	$12,550.35
LIABILITIES:	
2002 Raffle Trip	$ 1,750.00
NET WORTH - July 1, 2001	$10,800.35

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

West	John Harris	(210) 363-5462
Mid West	Bob Banks	(903) 872-2605
North East	David Grady	(609) 386-8547
	David Miller	(513) 683-9057
South East	Reiss Tatum	(904) 262-8886
	Bob Snowden	(904) 673-4991
Roving	Skip St. Clair	(386) 462-0493
Fiscal '01 Accounting		
	Robert Henry, Secretary	(727) 864-6291
	Bob Snowden, Treasurer	(904) 673-4991

THE GENERAL FUND: The Heartbeat of Lima 3/5! We generate our income through contributions, merchandise sales and annual raffle/auction.

OPERATION REACHOUT: Inspired by **David Grady** . . . this special fund creates the opportunity for you to donate funds that provide fellow Marines transportation or lodging at future Reunions.

The existence, perpetuation and financial support of this unique military fraternity rests solely upon its membership participation and input. YOU are Lima 3/5 . . . Vietnam.

2002 Reunion in New Orleans

2002 Reunion? In the experienced hands of **Skip St. Clair** we will descend upon downtown New Orleans, the party of June 19-23, 2002. Obviously these dates are relative . . . many come earlier and leave later . . . SEE YA! Semper Fi . . .

September Issue Highlights:
Photos from 2001 San Diego.
Update from 3/5 Vietnam Reunion, May 2001

Send Reunion Photos Please!

LIMA COMPANY
3RD BN. 5TH MARINES 1ST MAR. DIV.
VIETNAM 1966–1971
PO BOX 558
BAY PINES, FL 33744

"THE BEACH GIRLS"