



THE RIPCORDER!

The RIPCORDER! is the newsletter of the 2nd Force Recon Association

Volume I Number 2

7 December 2019

Attention to All

SAVE THE DATE

Thanks to all of you who participated in our Reunion Survey. Based on your input the **9TH ANNUAL REUNION** is scheduled **13-16 MAY** at N TOPSAIL AND JACKSONVILLE.

There are Board and Committee positions available in the Association. We are in need of a Communications Director. The Communications Director is responsible for communicating with the members via Newsletter and emails/phone calls, as well as, the FB and web domain information.

We are also considering creating a Board position to handle the operations/functions of the Association. The Director of Operations would oversee/manage the assistance provided to members, facilitate interaction with the VA, coordinate Association reunions and other events, as well as oversee sponsorship solicitations.

If you are interested in influencing the action and assisting in helping fellow members of the Company, please contact Phil Smith.

From the President

I trust all have had a good summer/fall and that you had a great time celebrating your 244th Birthday.

Big G, Colleen, Tom and Bonnie Chepurko, Jon Snyder and John McAlvey linked up with Joe Rodriguez in Las Vegas at the Leatherneck Club to enjoy the camaraderie and celebrate the 244th Birthday of Marines. Unfortunately, SCUBA Frank was unable to join in the celebration due to health complications.

2020 Reunion Warning Order

WHO: 2nd Force Recon Marines/Sailors and spouses

WHAT: The 9th Annual 2nd FRA Reunion

WHEN: 13-16 May

WHERE: N Topsail and Jacksonville, NC

WHY: The intention is to provide you with several opportunities to socialize with your teammates, but it does not prevent you from organizing smaller gatherings at your convenience.

The Schedule of Events

13 May pm, Arrive and check in at Hampton Inn, Sneads Ferry, TBD; Paintball Ops

14 May, Tour of Camp Lejeune, NC; Golf Classic

15 May, Visit to MARSOC, Company Meeting and dinner.

16 May, Beach Run; Social and Memoriam with Maj Capers.

Coordination: The reunion committee is putting together the details. If you would like to help, please contact Carl Schmitt at carls@2ndforcerecon.com

We are working to consolidate the travel methods in an effort to make it easier for you to attend the base tour and visit to MARSOC. We will post an update with coordinating information in Feb. We will be asking you for **RSVPs**, so mark the date.

The Board of Directors is continuing to refine the By Laws and we hope to be fully incorporated during the first part of the new year.

Maj Capers is doing well. He has been busy with his documentary. He also was recognized last Memorial Day at his hometown/birthplace, Bishopville, SC. On 7 November the town leadership held a dinner and Check presentation at the SC Cotton Museum illustrating that the town has received funding from the legislative delegation for the **Maj James Capers Project 2020**. That event is planned for Memorial Day. The 2nd FRA has agreed to assist in the planning and coordination of that event. The event is shaping up as a two-day event with the

Capers documentary being available for public viewing. There will be a city parade as well as some guest speakers as well as the unveiling of Major Capers' relief. If you are interested in participating/planning, please contact me.

Thanks to Mike Kendall for following through on the development and establishment of a headstone for Butch Waddill.

Thanks to Floyd Houston and Rick Nelson for coordinating and implementing DougFest in remembrance of Doug Forrest.

S/F,

Phil Smith

Treasurer's Report

Association total is \$14,521.45. We had several deposits since the last summary, mainly for Polo shirts. If you would like to contribute to the Association's mission, please contact Stu Shelley. The Association donated \$250 to sponsor Duncan Christie-Miller's marathon race in the desert fundraiser for Parkinson's disease.

See Duncan's summary below:



"I am extremely grateful to you and all at Force Recon for your very generous donation and interest in the Sahara Marathons. Please see the Just Giving page set out below - then access Duncan Christie-Miller - to view my latest update and photos.

www.duncanchristiemiller.co.uk - www.futurelife.today

I enjoyed nearly all of the 2 days.....well organised in a most gnarly impressive part of the world, met some interesting people but was pulled out at Mile 19 on the second marathon - 35 deg C heat and I had a wee fall which convinced the Doc to order me to stop. It was a good and sensible decision. Out of the 88 competitors I reckon at least 25% dropped out as well.

I have learnt a great deal and as I am now doing some speaking engagements have a good story to tell about the concept of Normal. The Doc said to me 'Duncan - you are not your normal self'. This has given me good message about achievement through not being Normal - but not Abnormal - just progressing through change'/differences to the New Normal. And then repeating the sequence to achieve even more.

Thank you so much - I truly value your support, help and Marine encouragement."
Semper Fi,

Duncan

From the Vice President

"My favorite 2nd Force Recon story is from a night jump with Maj. Tom Taylor (CO) and Capt. Duncan Christie-Miller, Royal Marines, (XO) We were jumping four-man sticks out of a CH-46. Maj. Taylor was first out followed by Christie-Miller. Christie-Miller went out a little too soon and when his chute opened, it almost immediately collapsed. He landed on the CO's chute and, as we were trained, started running until he ran off the side of the chute and started to free-fall. As he fell past the CO in the absolute darkness, he yelled:

"By your leave, Sir!"

In a couple of seconds, his chute re-inflated, and we all made it down OK."

Welcome Home Major Capers



A hero was honored in His hometown of Bishopville, SC. on Memorial Day 2019. A Cadre of 2nd Force Recon Association members made the trip as part of Jim's Force Recon Family.

Those in attendance were Rick Gallagher, Al Anderson, Ralph Esposito, Chuck Zeugner, Rick Kimball, Reggie Miller and Mark American Horse.

The emotion and devotion to a true American Hero is still strong as is evident by the large turn out from Jim's Force Recon family. Something I believe that will stay with all those who were lucky enough to serve under his Command.

Don't Forget

Caper's Hometown Welcome Home #2.

Memorial Day weekend 2020 in Bishopville, SC. Events are TBD: Parade, Speakers, Unveiling of Caper's Relief.

DougFest



A small but hard-working group of 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company Marines gathered during the first weekend of November to honor a beloved late comrade,

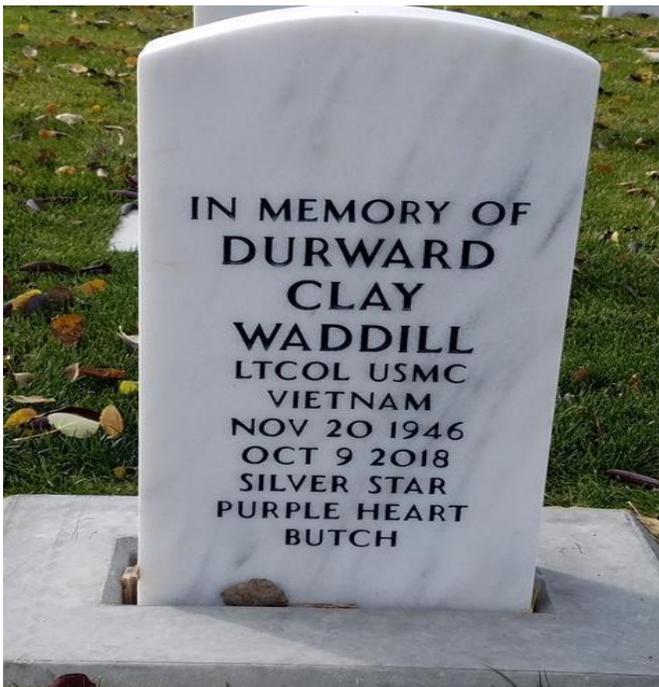
Doug Forrest, work on Shelia Forrest's house, raise some money, shoot some firearms, and to celebrate the 244th birthday of our beloved Corps. Capt Rick Nelson, Tony Brizendine, Bill Bush, Reggie Miller, Ron Junod, and Floyd Houston gathered at the Rockcastle Shooting Center in Park City, Kentucky and worked a complex schedule to accomplish an aggressive punch list at the Forrest home including power washing the house (contracted beforehand so the stain could be applied to dry wood) and staining two decks, repairing rotted window sills, making a dump run, and waterproofing the swing set. Because hard frosts hit on both work mornings precluding the application of stain, we got in trap, rifle, and some pistol shooting in the mornings. Trap was universally popular! The weekend culminated on Saturday night with a Marine Corps Birthday ceremony at the lodge, followed by a fundraising auction which raised over \$600 for our comrade's widow. Reggie Miller donated several beautiful knives (two hand made and two K-Bars) brought in the highest bidding. All hands had a good time, and we did a wonderful thing for Doug's family.





Headstone for a Hero

Many thanks to **Mike and Amy Kendall** for this great donation to our hero Executive Officer.



Something to remember. During our time at 2nd Force we experienced something special. Thanks to some folks with a vision, that special something is back. **9 years** later **The Main** Thing is to get together and remember who and what made that something so special.

It is not the name of the Company, no Sir, it is the High Caliber, Big Hearted, Barrel Chested, Fearless Men of **2nd Force Reconnaissance Company**.

They were our Brothers then and they are our Brothers now.

If you can make it to the reunion this year come and visit with the Men that made magic back in the day. Semper Fi, Force Recon Marines.

Nick Percopo, Editor

Request for donations

Those of you that know Scott Nyman are aware of his fight with Multiple Sclerosis. It's an ongoing day-to-day battle powered by a will to not give up. The GREAT news is that Scott is responding extremely well to the Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Treatments he's been receiving over the years. The not so good news is that cost has doubled from \$200 last year per session to \$400 this year per session. Scott needs to make the trip every week. There has been superb support so far and the goal has been met, but if you would like to make a contribution please contact Dick Ashton. germanpanzer7@yahoo.com

The Association has made a \$1200.00 donation on behalf of its members.

Commander's Corner

In this section of the Newsletter we hope to bring you some information about former Commanding Officers.

Major General Wayne Rollings, USMC (ret)



Major General Rollings was attending Furman University when he decided to enlist in 1960, completed boot camp at MCRD, Parris Island and served as an infantryman in the FMF at CLNC and Okinawa.

In 1963, he completed Drill Instructor School, also at Parris Island, and served there as a DI until he completed his enlistment in 1965. Following his separation from active duty, Rollings enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and enrolled at the University of Georgia. In 1968, Rollings graduated with Bachelor of Arts. Following attendance at Officer Candidates School he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the PLC program. He graduated The Basic School as a Distinguished Graduate. Following graduation, he served as a Platoon Commander in 1st Force Reconnaissance Company on a deployment to South Vietnam. After returning from Vietnam in 1970, Rollings continued to distinguish himself in the Marine Corps. His next assignment, at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, was as a rifle Platoon Commander and then rifle Company Commander in the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines. In 1972, he deployed again to Vietnam, serving as an infantry battalion advisor to the South Vietnamese Marine Division. Upon his return the next year, he attended Amphibious Warfare School and then commanded a staff platoon at The Basic School. In 1974, he transferred to the Middle East and served a tour of duty with the United Nations Observer Team. Upon completion of that assignment, he reported to the 2d Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C. in 1975, where he was assigned as a Rifle Company Commander, and then as the battalion Operations and Training Officer of 1st Battalion, 6th Marines. In 1977, he was reassigned to 2d Force

Reconnaissance Company where he became the Commanding Officer. As a major, he attended the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Va., and upon graduation in 1980 was assigned duty as Marine Officer Instructor to the NROTC unit at the University of South Carolina. In 1982, he returned to Quantico to serve as the Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion, The Basic School, and later, as the Tactics Group Chief. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in July 1983. From 1984 to 1985, General Rollings attended the National War College, in Washington, D.C., and upon graduation returned to the 2d Marine Division as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, Operations Officer. He was then reassigned within the Division and served as the Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines from 1986 to 1988. Following his selection to colonel in 1988, General Rollings reported to the Joint Staff for a tour as a Strategy Branch Chief, J-5. While a member of the Joint Staff he completed the Harvard University Senior Executive Fellows Program. In June 1991, General Rollings became the Commanding Officer, 3d Marine Regiment (Rein), 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. He was advanced to brigadier general on June 28, and assumed duties as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp S.D. Butler/Deputy Commanding General, Marine Corps Bases, Japan, on July 14, 1993. General Rollings was advanced to Major General on February 14, 1995. He assumed duties on as the Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force Commander, Marine Corps Bases Japan in May 1995. He retired from active duty in 1999 and took over as President of Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas from 1999-2007. In 2007, he retired from MMA and moved to Ocala, FL and eventually Tampa where he resides with his wife, Gwen. He enjoys assisting various veteran's groups and volunteering with church ministries helping the homeless. He loves spending time with his grandchildren who he sees often.

While in Vietnam, MGen Rollings earned the Navy's second-highest honor for valor and heroism in combat, the Navy Cross (second only to the Medal of Honor) The citation:



**The President of the United States
Takes Pleasure in Presenting
The Navy Cross
To**

Wayne E. Rollings

First Lieutenant, United States Marine Corps

For Services as Set Forth in the Following Citation:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Wayne E. Rollings (107099), First Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism on 18 September 1969 as a patrol leader with the First Force Reconnaissance Company, First Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force, during operations against enemy forces in the Republic of Vietnam. While First Lieutenant Rollings was leading a long-range reconnaissance patrol deep into enemy-controlled territory in Quang Nam Province, the point man spotted twelve enemy soldiers in almost hidden emplacements and immediately fired at the hostile troops. Observing that the point man's weapon had become inoperable, First Lieutenant Rollings dashed across the fire-swept terrain and positioned himself between the point man and the enemy. Although small-arms fire tore his clothing and ripped his gas mask, and fragments of an enemy grenade struck him in the face and legs, First Lieutenant Rollings continued to deliver suppressive fire, accounting for several enemy casualties and forcing the remainder of the hostile troops to withdraw. Assuming the dangerous point position, and once again faced with intense enemy fire, he charged up an enemy-held knoll in a fiercely determined assault, resulting

in the complete routing of the enemy. Despite the pain of his injuries, First Lieutenant Rollings continued to expose himself to fire from the retreating enemy while he skillfully directed air strikes upon all possible routes of egress. By his courage, dynamic leadership, and unfaltering devotion to duty, he contributed significantly to the accomplishment of his patrol's mission and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

Additional information. Major General Rollings set the world record for sit-ups when he performed 40,000 consecutive sit-ups over the course of 16 hours when assigned as the Marine Officer Instructor, NROTC, University of South Carolina in April 1981. He is also credited with one of the few combat jumps in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

Advisory Board

Wayne Rollins, **Maj Gen USMC (ret)**

Jim Capers, **Maj USMC (ret)**

Rick Nelson, **Capt USMC (ret)**

Joe S. Rodriguez, **MSgt USMC (ret)**

Rick Gallagher, **Capt USMC (ret)**

How to contact the Board of Directors

President Phil Smith 540 498 0733 jarhed73@yahoo.com

Vice President Joe Jennings 801 452 5092 jenningsjb@gmail.com

Secretary Chuck Zeugner 218 235 9234 czeugner@gmail.com

Treasurer Stu Shelley 219 707 0632 swshelley8654@gmail.com

Membership Rich Stickel 973 718 1143 marine03mustang@gmail.com

Communications TBD

Operations TBD

Newsletter Editor Nick Percopo 917 402 1250 neeko777@aol.com

Reunion Committee Carl Schmitt carls@2ndforcerecon.com