



## 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association USMC 2012 NEWSLETTER

Over 80 Marines, family, and friends gathered at the Palace Station Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas from May 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> for the 2012 Reunion of the 9<sup>th</sup> Engineers Battalion Association. We all had a great time attending shows, dining at some fine restaurants, donating to the many slot machines, and enjoying each other's company. There were trips to the Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, and Fremont Street.

The last day of the reunion was busy with our annual meeting in the morning and a banquet in the evening. During the day the Ladies held a silent auction that raised over \$1,200 for our Scholarship Fund, half of which we donated to the Education Center being built at the Wall in DC.



Frenchy Roberge proves that you are never too old to do something adventurous by jumping off of the Stratosphere Tower.

There were a couple of events after from the reunion that were arranged by Dr. (LT) Jack Hawkins, Jr. as Chancellor of Troy University in Alabama. The first was a tour of Vietnam attended by two of our members and several people from education centers around the country. Members Rob Uderitz from New York and Jerry Quinto from Warwick, Rhode Island made the trip and found it enlightening. Rob was especially moved when he found a tree growing at the exact spot where we lost our Corpsman Kurt Duncan. The second event was celebrating the 237<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday in Troy, described further on the next page.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had another great reunion this past May. The banquet included the traditional cake cutting and a great speaker, Lt. Col. Christopher Escamilla, CO of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (who was also the youngest Marine present). The oldest Marine present was former CO Darrell Davidson.



Col. Escamilla challenged us to support our troops everywhere they serve and to always acknowledge their service.

The names of those who had passed, both recently and in the past, were read with their service acknowledged.

Many of us also celebrated at the Leatherneck Club of Las Vegas and visited the Las Vegas Springs Reserve.

Our reunions are planned to include the

important social time we all need and want and to catch up on our former comrades and to, perhaps, come to grips with our war(s). Next year's reunion will be more Marine activity oriented as we'll be in the Camp Lejuene area. Since not all will want to visit Camp Lejuene and the other Marine establishments in the area, shopping, touring and other activities are being planned as well.



I trust you all had a

great Marine Corps Birthday celebration as well as Veteran's Day. Some of us got together in Troy, Alabama as guests of Troy University's Chancellor and Association member, Dr. Jack Hawkins. We attended the inaugural basketball game in Troy's new arena where Troy beat Mississippi State in the final few seconds. We were also guests at the Troy/Navy football game on 10 November where Troy beat Navy soundly. All veterans were honored on the field at

half time. Jack led our group. We were also guests at the local American Legion Hall for breakfast and at the Troy University/Marine Corps Cake Cutting ceremony and luncheon before the Navy game.

These get togethers between reunions help us bond and keep that Marine spirit going all year long. Attend an event in your local area or organize your own with nearby association members. We've had a barbeque here in southern California and there have been picnics in Florida as well as one-on-one meets at other locations. Check out our web site and look up those association members who may be near you. Invite them to a social event or our reunions. We can't always attend every reunion but they are moved around enough so all are fairly close at some time or another. Look for more information on upcoming events, especially our North Carolina Reunion. Semper Fidelis..... Jim Harris



# MINUTES OF 2012 BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association, USMC was called to order by President Herb Shaw at 0900 in the hospitality room at the Palace Station Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 9, 2012.

Approximately 34 members were present with special recognition given to Colonel Darrell Davidson, our Battalion Commander from 1968-1969.

Officers present were: President Herb Shaw  
Vice President Jim Harris  
Secretary Fred DuPont  
Chaplain Mickey Ryan  
Trustee Rob Uderitz  
Trustee Terry Porter  
Trustee Don Gurganus  
Trustee Ray Pekovitch

The invocation was given by Chaplain Mickey Ryan.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Herb Shaw.

Reading of the minutes of the last meeting was waved due to their posting in the last newsletter. A motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded and approved.

Copies of the Treasurer's Report, sent via email, was circulated and read. A motion to accept the report was made, seconded and approved.

President Herb Shaw discussed that the deadline for scholarship applications is fast approaching, May 15<sup>TH</sup>, and to get your applications in to chairman Allen Briggs.

President Herb Shaw led a discussion about the education center being built at The Wall. A motion was made, seconded and approved that half of the scholarship money raised by the Ladies at this reunion be donated to The Wall's education center.

President Herb Shaw called for a reunion fund audit committee, noting that the sale of shirts and hats more than covered the cost: Frank Cooper, Joe Malinowski, and Frenchy Roberge volunteered.

- A motion was made, seconded and approved to reimburse Herb Shaw for the expense of having the shirts and hats made.

Vice President Jim Harris discussed the placement of a monument honoring engineers at the National Marine Corps Museum. The effort is being led by the Marine Corps Engineering Association of which Jim is a member. A general consensus (no vote was taken) was that 9<sup>th</sup> Engineers would support the effort. Jim will keep us informed.

Director Rob Uderitz discussed the upcoming, November football game between Troy University and the Naval Academy in Troy, Alabama. Troy's chancellor, Jack Hawkins, Jr., aka Lt. Jack, invites all members of 9<sup>th</sup> Engineers to attend and is seeking corporate sponsors to help defray the cost. Contact Rob to sign-up.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to affirm the 2013 Reunion to be at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Herb Shaw will make the arrangements which will be posted in the Fall Newsletter.

Ideas for the 2014 Reunion were solicited. A motion for Savannah, Georgia was made, seconded and approved.

Nominations of officers were opened with the following results:

- President: Jim Harris
- Vice President: Rob Uderitz
- Treasurer: Eric Kenny
- Secretary: Fred DuPont
- Trustee: Ray Pekovitch
- Trustee: Don Gurganus
- Trustee: Allen Farmer

Each officer was elected by a unanimous vote.

Herb Shaw presented plaques to all past officers present in appreciation for their support of him in his two year tenure as our president.

The meeting was closed at 0935 by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred DuPont  
Secretary

## 2012 TREASURER'S REPORT

Reprinted from email dated  
May 2, 2012

Association Checking.....	\$7,918.26
Scholarship Checking.....	\$1,636.60
Association CD .....	\$6,582.06
Scholarship CD .....	\$5,474.79
Total Funds .....	\$21,611.71

CDs mature July 11, 2012 @ 0.9%

No outstanding bills are due. A spreadsheet of dues paid is attached to this Email.

(Editor's Note: Dues spreadsheet is not attached to this newsletter for space consideration. Your 2013 dues should be sent to Eric at the below address.)

Semper Fi,  
Eric L. Kenney  
9 East Kennedy Street  
Sullivan, IL 61951

[elk9theg@frontier.com](mailto:elk9theg@frontier.com)  
or 217-728-7409

# 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn. Assoc. USMC 2012 Reunion Income/Expenses

Registrations -----	\$5870.00
Loan from Herb to cover Hotel Deposit -----	\$ 250.00
Leftover from 2010 Reunion -----	\$ 776.74
Hotel/Banquet Expenses -----	\$5044.32-
Registration Refunds -----	\$ 300.00-
Repay Herb for advance -----	\$ 250.00-
<b><u>Reunion Account Balance -----</u></b>	<b><u>\$1302.42</u></b>

## CHECKS WRITTEN

117 ----- Palace Station	\$1000.00
118 ----- Davis Payne (Registration Refund)	\$ 150.00
119 ----- Jesse Englehart (Registration Refund)	\$ 150.00
120 ----- Palace Station	\$4000.00
121 ----- Palace Station	\$ 44.32
122 ----- Herb Shaw	<u>\$ 250.00</u>
	<b>\$5594.32</b>

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Shirts / Hats --- Remitted to Treasurer -----	\$ 28.01
Paid for <b>Shirts, Hats, and Patches</b> -----	\$ -775.99
TOTAL SHIRT/HAT SALES AT REUNION -----	\$ 804.00
Scholarship & Wall Education Center (\$623.50) each	\$1247.00
Sue & Frenchy Quilt Raffle for Scholarship -----	\$ 550.00
Dues collected and Remitted to Treasurer ----- (Bud Waterworth)	\$ 175.00

Respectfully Submitted

Herb Shaw



**9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn. Association**  
**2013 Reunion Jacksonville, N.C.**  
**April 21<sup>st</sup> to 25th, 2013**

# **Hampton Inn & Suites**

**Room Rate \$ 99**

**Rate Code \*\* 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn. Association \*\***

**Hotel Telephone # 1-877-822-1111**

Reservations must be made by March 22, 2013 to get this rate

## **2012 Reunion Registration Form**

Full registration is \$75.00 per person and includes:

- One group restaurant meal per person
- Bus transportation for

Two trips to Camp Lejeune, Camp Geiger, MCAS New River and the Rifle Range

OR

Two outings for the Ladies

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Make checks payable to 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Association 2013 Reunion)

(If you do not desire full registration call Herb at 912-424-9084)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Send this form and registration fee to:**

**Herb Shaw**

**9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn. Assoc.**

**752 Harper Street**

**Jesup, Georgia 31546**

**SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION -- ATTEND THE 2013 - 9<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER BN. REUNION in Jacksonville, N.C. / Camp Lejeune**

**\*\*THE HOSPITALITY ROOM WILL BE OPEN THE ENTIRE REUNION**

**2013 BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE HELD 8:00 AM, April 24, 2013**

**AT THE Hampton Inn & Suites**

**IN HOSPITALITY ROOM**