

INCOMING REUNION REMINDER

1ST BN 7TH MARINES
VIETNAM ASSOCIATION

JAN. 2026



JOIN US IN

ORLANDO, FL

MAY 5-7, 2026

A FEW WORDS

More than 50 years ago we ate with, slept shoulder to shoulder with, fought with, and served with those who fought a vicious war. From May 5 to May 7, 2026, we will once again be able to meet with those same outstanding Marines and Marine Corpsmen, who shared with us the most profound times of our lives. They were patriotic heroes who stepped up for their country, rather than run away North to another. They were from all parts of this great country. Whether they liked that war or not they did their duty and can stand proud of it. Once over there they did not fight so much for their country, but for the men who stood beside them. They tried to protect those around them, and in doing so were often protected themselves. Their reasons for being there were many, to help the South Vietnamese people, to stop a Communist takeover of another country, and to serve their own country or for other personal reasons.

Now we have the chance to meet again with many of those men from 1/7, face to face. To share our stories, to get answers to things that happened so many years ago. To renew old friendships and make new ones with great men. I for one knew very few men from 1/7 in Vietnam. My squad and maybe a dozen or so others. But now I know many, not only from my own company but from all the others with 1/7. Men who I can now call my brothers.

We had roughly 6,000 men who served with 1/7, 65-70. We have found nearly all of them. If we add the 566, that we lost in Nam to those we know that have died since returning, we are less than half that full number. Many returned via a medivac and their war ended abruptly. Some of those have lived with serious major injuries. They seek answers to what happened after they left. Some lost friends after returning home, how and why did they die?

The war for us is over. Many can still not let go of it. But a 1/7 reunion has helped many who served with 1/7. Be at the reunion, not just yourself, but for those who want to see you again. Maybe you can help give answers to some of those lingering questions. There is no one on this earth, who you can talk with better, than someone who was there with you.

OOHRAH,
TK

PLAN YOUR FREE TIME

**We have left you lots of free time during the 2026 reunion. You can use it to either hang out in the hospitality room and visit with your 1/7 friends or explore some of the local attractions or do a bit of both. Remember our group rate is good for 3 days prior and 3 days after the actual reunion dates.

We are 15 minutes from Universal Studios, Walt Disney Theme Parks, SeaWorld and a host of premier golf courses.

We are only steps away from the Florida Mall. The Florida Mall offers world class shopping with premier brand retailers like Armani Exchange, Apple, H&M, Michael Kors, Victoria Secret and more.

The Florida Hotel and Conference Center offers a 24-hour Fitness Center.

Enjoy some pool time at the beautiful fresh air pool.

Sleep till noon.

IMPORTANT NEWS FLASH

The upcoming 2026 reunion could very well be the last formal reunion event that our 1/7 Association will be able to offer to our members.

The process of organizing and managing all logistical and operational aspects, contracts and events of our reunion has become very difficult for the few remaining staff members who are able to continue. We have lost several active staff members since the 2024 reunion. Travel has also become very difficult or impossible for many of us.

We may have to change the way we do things for any future gatherings. If we cannot meet our required contract for room nights, food and beverage minimums etc. The numbers for both our working staff and attending members is getting smaller and smaller and smaller. We will have to adapt and overcome as necessary.... maybe with fewer reunion days or fewer events, with no hotel contracts to negotiate or food and beverage minimums to meet. We shall see what the future holds. It may just end like it started.... with a few of us gathering together for a drink or a meal somewhere, sometime, somehow....

MEANWHILE, if you plan on attending the 2026 reunion, PLEASE send in your reunion registration, and make your hotel reservations ASAP. This will help us plan the meal and seating requirements for each event etc. Thanks.

Our time is limited before we report for guard duty. Let's not waste the little time we have left.



Hotel Information

When: 5-7 May 2026

The Florida Hotel and Conference Center
1500 Sand Lake Rd. Orlando, Fl 32809
<http://www.thefloridahotelorlando.com>

RATES: Our group rate is *\$135.00 per night plus tax for a Deluxe Room.

RESERVATION METHOD: Room reservations can be made by calling Reservations at ***800-588-4656***.

Guests should identify themselves as ***1st Battalion 7th Marines Reunion attendees.***

Individual room reservations may be cancelled without penalty outside of 72 hours prior to arrival. Cancellation within 72 hours of scheduled arrival will result in a 1 night's room and tax charge.

CUT-OFF DATE: The “cut-off date” is 4/6/2026. Reservation requests received after the cut-off date will be accepted on a space and rate available basis.

CHECK-IN: Guests may check in the hotel after 4:00 PM. A valid credit card or cash deposit will be required at check-in. Guests may also be required to present a valid form of identification. Room and tax will be charged fully upon check in. The hotel will charge \$50.00 for early check-ins prior to noon. Early check-ins are based on availability.

CHECK-OUT: is prior to 11:00 AM. There will be no refunds for early checkout. Any requests for late checkout must be made with the front desk on the night prior to check-out and is subject to a late checkout fee. Any late checkout after 11:00 AM will be charged a full night room, unless you receive *prior* approval by the Manager on Duty.

Schedule of Events

Tuesday: May 5, 2026

Welcome Aboard

Hospitality & Registration 11:00AM - 11:00PM - Coffee, soft drinks and snacks will be available. Sandwich wraps will also be available while they last starting at 11:00AM.

Cash bar will be available inside Hospitality room from 6-10:30 PM

Wednesday: May 6, 2026

Hospitality & Registration: 8:00AM – 11:00 PM - Coffee, soft drinks and snacks will be available. Sandwich wraps will also be available while they last starting at 11:00AM.

9:30 AM ALL HANDS MEETING
All members are encouraged to attend.

1:00 – 2:30 PM Ladies Social
All ladies are encouraged to attend.

6:00 – 8:00PM Casual BBQ style Buffet Dinner

Cash bar will be available inside Hospitality room from 6-10:30 PM

Thursday May 7, 2026

Hospitality & Registration: 8:00AM – 11:00 PM - Coffee, soft drinks and snacks will be available. Sandwich wraps will also be available while they last starting at 11:00AM.

9:30 AM-11:00AM Memorial Service
Please do not arrive late. Late arrivals will not be permitted to enter the service.

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM No Host Cocktail Hour

6:00 PM – 10:30 PM Evening Banquet

1ST BATTALION 7TH MARINE VIETNAM VETERANS 2026 REUNION REGISTRATION

	ACTIVITY	COST PER PERSON	NO. OF PERSONS	TOTAL Cost x No. of Persons
	Casual dress for all except coat/tie suggested for banquet			
Tuesday May 5, 2026 11:00AM – 11:00PM	<p>Welcome Aboard: Information Center/Hospitality Room at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center opens at 11:00 AM. Coffee, soft drinks & snacks provided. Bring photographs, mementos and souvenirs to display.</p> <p>Registration Fee helps to provide the food and snacks in the hospitality suite, memorial and banquet ceremony expenses plus administration costs. Please wear your nametag, which will be in your reunion packet, to all reunion functions!</p>	Reg. Fee \$25 per adult	_____	\$ _____
Wednesday May 6, 2026 8:00AM – 11:00PM	FREE TIME: Please enjoy the hospitality suite. Please feel free to hang out in the hospitality room and enjoy the fellowship of other Marines and Corpsmen or play the tourist and visit some local attractions.			
9:30 AM	All Hands Meeting: All members are encouraged to attend.			
1:00PM – 2:30PM	Ladies Social: fun, games, prizes & snacks. How many ladies will be in your party _____. Free to all ladies.	BBQ \$30 per person	_____	\$ _____
6:00PM-8:00PM	Casual BBQ Dinner			
Thursday May 7, 2026 8:00AM – 11:00PM	FREE TIME: Please enjoy the hospitality suite. Please feel free to hang out in the hospitality room and enjoy the fellowship of other Marines and Corpsmen or play the tourist and visit some local attractions.			
9:30-11AM	Memorial Service			
5:00 PM - 6:00PM	No Host Cocktail Hour	Banquet \$60 per person	_____	\$ _____
6:00 PM – 10:30PM	Evening Banquet			
	TOTAL			
TOTAL ENCLOSED	Add Totals for Meals & Registration fees. Full refund ONLY if cancelled by April 15, 2026 otherwise we can only refund the money that is returned to us from the suppliers.			Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to **1/7 MARINES** and return with this form by **May 1, 2026**, to Al LaPointe, 106 E Saddle Ln., Havelock, NC 28532. Ph: 252-447-4854, e-mail: aslapointe@ec.rr.com. Your cancelled check is your receipt. We do not accept Credit Cards.

Enclosed is \$ _____ as payment for 2026 Reunion as ordered above.

Name(s) _____

Please **PRINT** and **include names of all attendees including guests - if child include age.**

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

Unit in Nam _____ Dates in Nam _____ First Reunion: _____
(e.g., D Co., Corpsman D Co., etc.) yes or no

***Room reservations must be made directly with the Florida Hotel and Conference Center at 800-588-4656. Identify yourself as 1st Bn 7th Marines Reunion attendee.**



TAPS

Recently reported deaths
among 1/7 Marines
and Corpsmen.

NAME	UNIT	DOD
BRAGG, EARL WILSON	A	12/05/1996
SHEEHAN, JOHN F.	D	04/30/2025
ANDREWS, ROBERT C.	A	06/26/2014
DAY, WALTER T.	A	02/07/2007
HASTE, RICHARD E.	A	12/03/2002
MASSEY, FRANCIS M.	A	11/20.2006
HOOKER, CARLTON	C	12/04/2025
NEESE, DARRELL L.	D	03/02/2024
BERDY, PAUL	D	11/18/2025
KITCHENS, ROBERT J.	B	11/01/2025
TARVES, EARL J.	B	08/14/2015

Please remind your family members to notify us of your passing so that you can be listed in our taps section.