

# INCOMING

1<sup>ST</sup> BN 7<sup>TH</sup> MARINES  
VIETNAM ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2026



# ATTENTION ON DECK!

## From our founder Terry Kirkland.

Our 1/7 Association has been ongoing for 41 years now, but some things always come to an end. NO, our Association is NOT ending, it is just evolving, it's just changing a few things to leave a legacy.

In August 1968 a squad of 9 Marines and 1 Corpsman set up an ambush. At 3am they were surrounded by both VC and uniformed NVA soldiers. They attempted to eliminate the entire squad. 7 of the Marines and our only Corpsman (who was critical with more than 100 shrapnel holes) were all wounded. Three of the enemy were eliminated, 1 VC and 2 NVA were sent to their happy hunting grounds, to get their 21 virgins or a herd of water Buffalo's, or their 100 pounds of rice, whatever, but they would not attack United States Marines or their Marine Corpsmen again. Yes, Marine Corpsman. Once a Navy Corpsman joins 1/7 in combat, he becomes a beloved Marine Corpsman not a Navy one.

One of the Marines was sent home on a stretcher and never knew if the others survived the war. In 1985 he could stand it no longer and had to know what happened to the rest. He found them all and while one was later seriously wounded and another had lost a leg, all had made it home alive.

Our first reunion in 1985 involved eight Marines, a Corpsman, a gunner, and a platoon commander from Delta 68. That reunion was awesome and it showed what our guys needed, what they sought to know, sought to find and renew old friendships. A year later we had another reunion with 26, and it was decided that they continue every other year. Then there were approximately 75, then, 100, they continued to grow until the early 2000's when we had over 400, three times in a row. After that our numbers began to drop. Retirement and age began to creep into our group. Health began to be a factor and many of our numbers began to pass away. Retirement income began to be less as inflation affected us all. We now know that more than 2800 of our survivors have passed away since we returned from that beautiful God forsaken place. Our recent reunion in Orlando was our last with 117 attending. 100% of our staff voted to end our reunions, but leave a legacy of 1/7 in Vietnam.

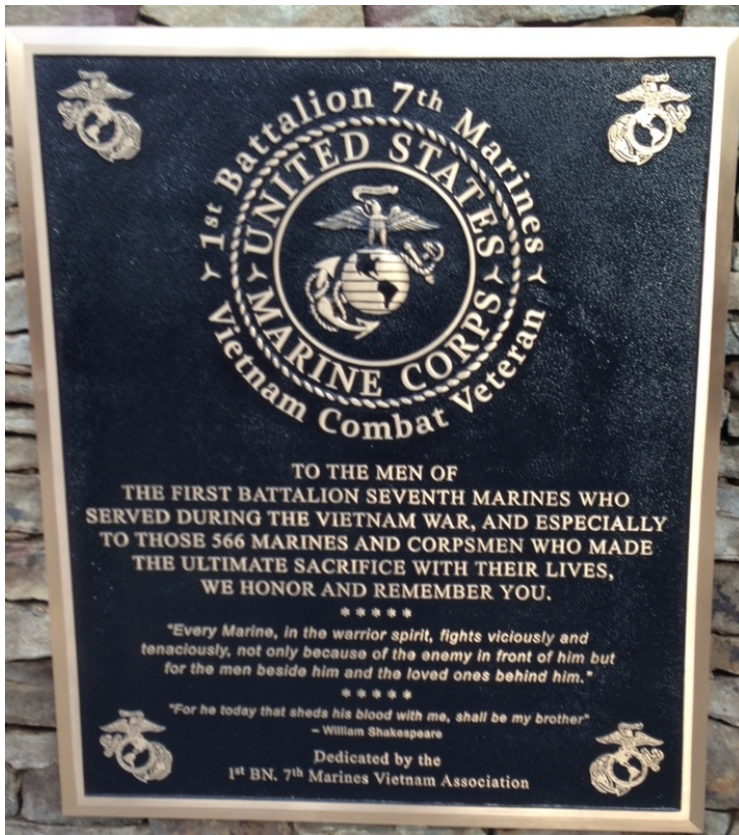
To continue the legacy of 1/7 in Vietnam, your legacy, our Association plans to use all of our current 1/7 kitty and all contributions received hereafter, to establish 3 annual scholarships for active duty 1/7 Marines and Corpsmen (E-4 thru E-5) to be selected from the battalion by the Commanding Officer and the Bn SgtMaj. These scholarships will be given out each year in the name of our 3 Medal of Honor recipients. Cpl. Larry Smedley, HN3 Robert R. Ingram and Pfc. Ralph E. Diaz. Finite details about those scholarships are being worked out as we speak and will be announced as soon as possible.

Please contribute to your 1/7 Vietnam scholarship fund by sending your donation to our 1/7 Treasurer.

Mr. Chuck Rishell  
11537 Shell Flower Lane  
Columbia, MD 21044

Please make out your check to the 1/7 Marines Association.

**SEMPER FIDELIS**



Just a small piece of the legacy that we, as an association have left at the National Museum of the Marine Corps located in QUANTICO, VA.

**WE WILL NEVER FORGET.**

