

Root Scoop II

Vol. V, Issue 2

"The First Duty is to Remember"

Aug/Sept 2006

"It's Deja' Vu All Over Again"

24th, 1/8 Return to War Torn Beirut

Nearly 23 years after stepping proudly back onto Navy ships following two years of increasingly intense "peacekeeping" duty in Beirut, Lebanon, Marines are back in Beirut.



Ben Murray / S&S

Evacuees from Beirut board a U.S. Marine helicopter at the U.S. Embassy, Beirut.

As Yogi Berra is famous for saying, "It's déjà vu all over again." The ironic aspect of this deployment is that Marines of the "Beirut Battalion" happen to be back on the red, dusty soil of central Lebanon.

Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment (1/8) was in Beirut, attached to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), to evacuate American citizens in the wake of the Israeli-Hezbollah fighting. In 1983, 1/8 was attached to the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit (later designated as MEUs) as the ground combat element of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force. They were there as "peacekeepers." On Oct. 23, 1983, it was 1/8 that experienced the greatest losses when a terrorist truck bomb demolished the barracks where many of the battalion Marines, sailors and attached soldiers slept.

"Mission complete," said Col. Ron Johnson, commander of the 24th MEU in late July as the battalion evacuated the first Americans safely to Cyprus. Twenty-one Americans were flown from the U.S. embassy to the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, where Marines had staged to prepare for the operation.

See "24th/1/8, page 4

23rd Remembrance Update

Recent Events Highlight Celebration

Recent events in Lebanon that placed the 24th MEU (Marine Expeditionary Unit, formerly Marine Amphibious Unit) and BLT 1/8 back in Beirut come at a fateful time as the BVA prepares for the 23rd Annual Remembrance Oct. 21-23.

Information about details of the Remembrance in Jacksonville, N.C. are available on the BVA website, www.beirutveterans.org. The information there is updated regularly.

Hotel rooms and camping will

be available at special BVA rates. Questions about either can be directed to Bill Yontz at 810-599-0324 or bjyontz@hotmail.com; or Craig Renshaw, 912-496-2710 home, 912-276-0321 cell or renshaw62@yahoo.com.

Rooms have been blocked for the BVA at the following hotels. Mention the BVA Remembrance to obtain special pricing. Costs shown here are based on single occupancy.

Holiday Inn Express, \$70/night,

1-910-347-1900 or 1-800-holiday for reservations. The official BVA Hospitality Suite will be set up at this hotel.

Comfort Suites, \$70/night, 1-910-346-8900 or 1-800-221-2222 reservation line. This hotel is near the Holiday Inn Express.

Innkeeper, \$69.95/night, 1-910-938-0800 for reservations.

Super 8, \$56/night, 910-455-6888 for reservations.

See "2006 Remembrance," p. 3

Financial Report: BVA Budget Healthy As 23rd Remembrance Arrives

Report by Steve Godfrey, BVA Treasurer

The BVA non-profit checking account has an ending balance of \$6,582.95 and the Basic Business Savings account has an ending balance of \$19,633.02 (ending 6/30/06)

We do have a few payments just mailed, approximately \$700 for BVA mailings and reimbursements

for the BVA Challenge coins.

This year's 23rd Remembrance in North Carolina is estimated to cost a few hundred dollars. A complete break down of costs will be provided after all bills are in after the event.

Funds in savings are intended primarily to host 5th year Remem-

brances. However, there have been proposals for additional uses for the funds, such as scholarships for children of Beirut Veterans and other worthwhile causes. Discussion of these items will be placed on the agenda for the annual meeting.

Spirit Wear Report: Business is Brisk For BVA Spirit Wear Items

Internet Sales for BVA Gear: \$1,231.00

Mail Order Sales for BVA Gear: \$289.50

Total Sales for the year: \$1,520.50

New items are the Black 20th remembrance t-shirts and BVA Lapel pins, and BVA License Plate Frames. Our new Challenge Coin will be available Mid-August and will sell for \$6.50. Images of the coin may be seen on our web site: www.beirutveterans.org or www.beirutveteran.info.

All items are now shipped United States Postal Service because of the low price. This is reflected in the new shipping rates. Please be aware that it sometimes takes four to six weeks for delivery of items. All Golf Shirts and Sweat-shirts are embroidered one at a time.

The average "proceeds" the BVA makes on a piece of

Spirit Wear is around \$5.00. The proceeds are not as important as spreading the word about OUR Organization and its purpose. Members can renew their memberships online, both Life Memberships, and Annual memberships. Expenses this year included but was not limited to: Domain name renewal beirutveterans.org (beirutveteran.info was FREE). Shipping Supplies and fee's for the new coin design. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank my wife and daughters, who have been very helpful in assisting me with the pick up and mailing of BVA items.

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve my fellow veterans, and families of veterans, for another year. I again ask all Members, to contact me with regards to new items they would like to see. We have had some interest in Window Clings, but the cost as of right now is prohibitive. I'll continue to look into other suppliers.

All Mail Order Sales were either Checks or Money Orders, made payable to the BVA and sent to BVA Treasurer Steve Godfrey.

Semper Fidelis,
Cliff C. Walling

BVA Quartermaster/Webmaster

2005 BVA Board of Directors

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Membership Statistics Update

Regular	485
Life	143
Affiliate.....	20
Associate.....	26
NOK	196
Prospects.....	40
Public Affairs	1
News Media.....	1
Info.....	1
Other.....	8

ROOT SCOOPS

Root Scoops Can Be Emailed

Root Scoop II distribution chief Debra Reisert has offered to email the Root Scoops to members instead of mailing, based on a couple of such requests she has received. This would save postage costs. If you are interested, email Debra at beirutveterans@yahoo.com. Members are also encouraged to send in emails or phone contacts of non-member Beirut Vets so we can try and make contact with them.

Michigan Chapter Seeks Mem-

Michigan area Beirut veterans can contact Rick Cunningham if they're interested in joining a Michigan Chapter. Those interested can either email him at beirutvet@sgtgrit.com (put "Michigan Chapter" in the subject line), or call him at 231-848-4730. Cunningham

Incoming CMC is Root Vet

Incoming Commandant of the Marine Corps General James T. Conway experienced his first taste of combat in Beirut as ops officer of the 31st MAU in 1983. He later led Marines during two combat tours in the Middle East.



2006 Remembrance Plans...from page 1

12 miles away off Wilmington Hwy is a campground for all with RV's, or those who chose to stay in tent, cabins or their Park unit. A park unit is a mobile home, small enough for an RV park.

These prices are before the 10% BVA discount. You must mention Beirut Veterans Remembrance when making reservations to receive the discount rate. Cabins and Park Models are a minimum 2 night stay. Cabins: 1 double bed, 1 set of bunks w/ small fridge, and 1/2 bath. (Toilet/sink) \$40 per night, plus tax.

Park Model: Bedroom w/ double bed, 4 bunks w/ 100lb max. on top bunk, full bath, full kitchen, linens for beds, coffee maker, toaster, color tv, heat/A/C, deck, picnic table and a grill. \$55 per night plus tax.

Tent sites: \$15/night no hook up. \$20/night w/ 1 water and 1 electric hook up. 4 people per site. \$1 extra for children under 12. \$2 extra for children over 12.

RV's: \$29 per night, \$174 for 6 nights, 7th is free. 1 each, sewer, water and electric. 2 vehicles allowed per site, additional vehicles are \$5 per night. 1 RV and 1 tent is charged as 2 sites.

Check out time is noon. 1-910-620-5064, or 1-910-619-1855.

The USO will serve as command post on Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22. Stop by between 2-4 p.m. to sign in, meet up with others, renew your membership, and get information on Vet-

eran related issues.

BVA representatives are attempting to arrange a static display of current Marine Corps weapons and equipment on October 21, but at press time plans were not verified. Watch the website for updates.

A BVA golf outing is offered on October 22. At least 20 people are needed to participate. Approximate cost is \$30 per person. Contact Mike Clepper if you are interested in participating in this event. dhelep@yahoo.com or (717) 249-0609.

The annual meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 22 at the USO. The new Board of Directors and Officers will be elected and appointed and other business will be conducted. Allow at least 2 hours as the agenda is full.

The annual **Candlelight Ceremony** will be held October 23, 6:00 a.m., at the Beirut Memorial Wall. Names on the Wall will be read by BVA representatives as candles are lit in the memory of these fallen heroes.

Full details on the Oct. 23 Remembrance event sponsored by the Beirut Memorial Advisory Committee were not available at press time. However, it is normally held about 10 a.m. at the Beirut Memorial and features music, a wreath presentation and guest speakers.

In addition the Military Order of the Devildogs traditionally holds a ceremony at Geiger Circle mid-afternoon on the 23rd.

Beirut Veterans of America

BVA President - John Perez
Vice President - Don Inns
Secretary - Randy Gaddo
Treasurer - Steve Godfrey
Membership/ - Debra Reisert
- Bill Yontz
"Scoop" mailout - Jeff Bucchi

Root Scoop II

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This publication is intended as a communication tool for members and friends of the BVA. Views and opinions are those of contributors and do not necessarily reflect views of BVA board, officers or members.

Cedar Tree of Lebanon Planted at Arlington “59”

Debbie Knipple Peterson reports that a Cedar of Lebanon was planted in Section 59, Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday, July 18, 2006 at 10 a.m.

This Cedar of Lebanon is not replacing the replacement tree at the No Greater Love dedication stone, but was planted in another area of Section 59. The original Cedar of Lebanon planted in 1984 unfortunately did not survive and was replaced last year with a new Cedar.



The Cedar of Lebanon is the center piece of the Beirut Veterans of America logo

“This new Cedar of Lebanon is a gift from the people of Lebanon for the Beirut Peacekeepers,” Debbie said. “It is being given by the same organization that provided us with the first tree in 1984. I have spoken several times with the man who is bringing us the tree, Kareem, who traveled from California to plant the tree and make the presentation. He is very gracious and excited about bringing this special gift to us.

Special Note: The official BVA Website has changed from .com to .org - The Website is **www.beirutveterans.org**



They Came In Peace

Deja' Vu: BLT 1/8, 24th MEU Back in Beirut

From Page 1

When they packed up about two weeks later, they had evacuated more than 14,000 Americans to safe havens and were handling a trickle more of those who were seeking refuge.

Composed of 2,200 Marines and sailors and armed with an array of weaponry and equipment designed for a wide variety of operations, the MEU, which is special operations capable, serves as a sea-based quick-reaction force.

The 24th MEU consists of its headquarters element; Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment; Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365 (Reinforced); and MEU Service Support Group 24.

At press time it was not known how long the evacuation operations would keep the Marines ashore.

The USS Nashville, USS Trenton, USS Whidbey Island, USS Mount Whitney, USS Gonzalez, USS Barry and the Swift -- part of the USS Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group -- will remain in the region, officials said.



Ben Murray / S&S

Capt. Pablo Cabrera, 1/8, attached to the 24th MEU, carries a boy toward a U.S. Marine helicopter at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

From the Founding Vice President, Randy Gaddo:

What is the BVA? A Fraternal Organization



It has come to my attention that some new associates of the Beirut Veterans of America, and possibly some not so new, have questions about the purpose of the BVA.

It is critically important that BVA members and associates understand the historical scope, the current purpose and the future goals of the organization so they can convey them accurately to others.

Bob Jordan is the founding president of the BVA. I am the founding vice president. When Bob Jordan called me at my Atlanta 6th Marine Corps District office in 1992, he said he and a couple others were thinking about forming an organization. The organization was intended to be fraternal in nature, with a simple goal of ensuring that the men killed in Beirut were never forgotten. Thus the BVA was born with the motto, "The First Duty Is To Remember."

Over time the motto remained but the vision of the original intent may have dimmed. As new members or associates got involved in the BVA, there was an inaccurate belief that the BVA was a political action group that should be fighting for veterans' rights or other non-fraternal issues. This was never intended. While the BVA board might consider supporting or endorsing such causes, direct initiation of such action by the board or members was never intended.

The BVA is primarily a coordination organization for those of us who share common experiences to communicate and join together in fraternal Remembrance. Our first and most important mission is to ensure that the American public never forgets that their servicemen lived a significant part of U.S. history, shed blood in the name of security for our country and died as heroes, with honor. We also stress the enormous role that families play in successful execution of national defense. Indeed, it is often the families who suffer the most.

Over the years since 1992, interest and participation in

the BVA has ebbed and flowed. It is difficult to maintain an organization of this type and the further from the initiation point you get, the more challenging the task becomes. The BVA rallied up to and following the 2003 20th Remembrance. Many new members joined, more people became interested. That interest has persisted.

It is actually quite impressive that we have managed to hold the BVA together for so long. Many other groups would have perished. It demonstrates that there is a strong will among us to stay connected and continue to honor our deceased heroes.

Right now, there are many good, talented people – Root Vets, family members, children, siblings and friends of Root Vets – who want to get involved. We have come to a unique crossroads in BVA development. The current situation in Beirut, so reminiscent of our earlier involvement there, has again focused attention on the BVA. We have been getting a lot of media interest in interviews with Root vets and their families. They want to know how we feel seeing Marines once again stepping on to Lebanese soil. The fact that it's the 24th MEU and BLT 1/8 makes it all the more poignant. They want to know about the BVA.

As we move towards holding the 23rd Remembrance we can expect that this interest will continue. This is not the time for us to be divided on our purpose. It is a time to be united in purpose. I would ask that if you speak to media or the public, or even friends or family, about the BVA, keep it simple and keep it positive. We are a brother and sisterhood. We are family. We exist as a BVA family to ensure that our brothers who died for our freedom shall never perish from the memory of America.

If we keep that uncomplicated vision at the forefront, together we can move the BVA to higher levels of existence in the future.

Commentary...from page 8

Root Vets React to Current Beirut Crisis

Beirut Veterans hope that today's civilian leaders in the National Command Authority learned, and have retained, some of those lessons as well.

The peacekeeping role has been refined and standardized somewhat since 1983, but it is still a dangerous undertaking – more so for those on the ground than those in Washington. There are some places and some situations where peacekeepers can truly accomplish what is intended – to give disagreeing sides the opportunity to sort out their differences and settle their disputes. History has proven that Beirut is not one

of those places and the current situation doesn't appear to be favorably disposed for successful peacekeeping.

So, unless something changes drastically, Beirut Veterans hope that the National Command Authority does not repeat mistakes of the past. We hope that they allow the Marines to conduct the noncombatant evacuations, which is a skill the Marines have honed to a fine edge. Once all Americans are safely out of the turmoil, we hope the Marines are pulled back onto their amphibious ships as diplomatic approaches are investigated to resolve the most current Beirut

crisis.

We hope that our new Beirut Veterans of the Beirut Battalion will be allowed to complete their mission safely and successfully, then march out of harms way. And while history can be allowed to repeat itself to a certain degree, we implore the NCA not to repeat historical mistakes and place our Marines in a no-win peacekeeping environment in Beirut.

BVA Members: Use this press release as a handout when you go to local media to tell them about the Marines in Beirut and the 23rd Remembrance.



News Release

Media: For More Info: Randy Gaddo, email: dls@peachtree-city.org; phone 770-631-4074
www.beirutveterans.org

For Immediate Release

Veterans/Family Groups Remember Fallen Heroes 23 Years Later

Remembrance Will Be Held Oct. 21-23, 2006, Jacksonville, N.C.

The Beirut Veterans of America (BVA) will remember fallen heroes who were killed 23 years ago on October 23, 1983 in Beirut, Lebanon. On that day, a terrorist truck bomb exploded in a barracks, killing 241 servicemen, mostly Marines and some sailors and soldiers, and injuring many others.

The Remembrance also honors the service of those who participated in the 1958 Beirut landing and scores of other servicemen who died and were wounded in Beirut and the Grenada rescue during 1982 through 1984.

At the time of the 1983 bombing, it was the most serious terrorist act against Americans ever experienced, and a precursor of what was to come. Parallels have been drawn between it and the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. Many believe that some of the same terrorists were involved in both.

The 921-member BVA is a veteran's group formed in 1992 to ensure that the servicemen killed in Beirut are always remembered.

The group will mark the 23rd Remembrance October 21-23 in Jacksonville, N.C., home of the Beirut Memorial. The memorial includes a wall with the names of all those killed during the Marine "peacekeeping" mission in Beirut, Lebanon from 1982-84 and during the Grenada rescue mission. In all, 273 gave their lives in the name of freedom there, and many others were injured, some permanently. Interestingly, an "I" beam from one of the Trade Center buildings now forms the center of a 9/11 memorial a few hundred feet from the Beirut Memorial.



Photo Left: Vice Pres. George H. W. Bush is escorted by senior Marines as he views the bomb site two days after the barracks bombing Oct. 23, 1983.

Photo Right: The rescue and recovery efforts continued day and night for weeks.





The force of the explosion brought the 4-story barracks down to a one-story pile of concrete and twisted iron. 220 Marines, 18 sailors and 3 soldiers died in the terrorist attack, and hundreds more were seriously wounded.

The 23rd Remembrance will feature a candlelight vigil at the Memorial at 6 a.m. on October 23rd, where all the names on the wall will be read aloud.

"Reading their names aloud ensures that these men are remembered for their courage and their sacrifice," says Bob Jordan, a retired Marine Corps major and the founding president of the BVA. This sentiment echoes the BVA motto, "The First Duty is to Remember."

On the 23rd, there will be a special ceremony held at the Memorial, featuring guest speakers and military band music and attended by hundreds of family and fellow service members. A senior officer from Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C. will be dispatched by the Commandant of the Marine Corps to speak at the event.

President Ronald Reagan first sent Marines to Beirut in 1982 to assist in the evacuation of 600 civilians from 2-dozen countries out of Beirut when political unrest made the area unsafe. Some small Navy and Army units were attached to Marine units. Later, they helped see to the safe evacuation of Yassar Arafat and his 15,000-man PLO army from Beirut.

Marines were called in again as part of a multi-national peacekeeping force to try and keep the peace while Lebanon's government had a chance to reform after the assassination of President Bashir Gemayel. Meanwhile, President Reagan authorized a successful military intervention to rescue American students threatened by a communist regime in Grenada. The unit that was on ships heading to Beirut to relieve the Marine unit decimated by the bombing was diverted to carry out the Grenada mission.

The Beirut deployment started quietly, but gradually hostilities among the many warring factions in Beirut drew the Marines into increasing levels of involvement. The hostilities peaked with the truck bombing and continued until President Reagan withdrew the forces in 1984.

Marines had also been sent to Beirut in 1903, 1976 and 1958 on similar missions, but they ended without a similar turn of events as in the 1982-84 deployment. That deployment is credited with delaying the Lebanese civil war for almost two decades.

Those interested in more information or photos about the Marines in Beirut can go to the official BVA website at www.beirutveterans.org. All remembrance plans are updated on the website as the information becomes available.

Commentary

Beirut Vets View 2006 Crisis with Pride, Concern

By Randy Gaddo

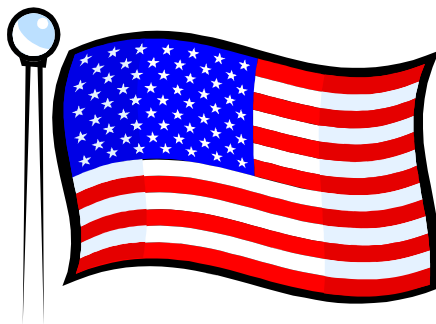
A subtle and ironic event has occurred in the Middle East that most Americans have missed, but U.S. Marines worldwide are watching with reverence, and some apprehension. Marines are back in Beirut.

Nearly 23 ago U.S. Marines stepped proudly back onto Navy ships after two years of increasingly intense "peacekeeping" duty in Beirut, Lebanon. The Marines deployed, along with sailors and a small number of soldiers, to that war-torn land in 1982 as part of a multi-national peacekeeping force. When they marched out in 1984, 270 servicemen had been killed in action and hundreds more wounded. On October 23, 1983 the Marines experienced their largest loss of life in hostile territory since the Vietnam War when a terrorist truck bomb destroyed a barracks and killed 220 Marines, 18 sailors and 3 soldiers. The Marines were with the First Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, part of the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU).

The subtle part of this event is that the Marines are back in Beirut to evacuate U.S. citizens as Lebanon continues to earn its title as a war-torn land. The ironic part of the event is that it is once again Marines of the First Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, now called the "Beirut Battalion," who have drawn this duty. Once again they are part of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU is the new designation for MAU).

This causes a range of mixed reaction among Marines, sailors and soldiers who served in the 1982-84 operation, as well as those who were involved in similar evacuation operations in Beirut in 1958 and again in 1976. That's another lost historical fact that most people don't know, that the U.S. has sent her sons into Beirut time and time again for the same reason, including another time in 1903. Fortunately, none of those operations resulted in loss of life.

But, among 1982-84 Beirut Veterans, there is great pride in knowing that Marines in the battalion now known as the "Beirut Battalion" are able to return there to save American lives. To-



day's Marines are once again called upon to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors who earned the battalion's new moniker through blood, combat valor and loss of life.

The title "Beirut Battalion" is one that these 21st Century Marines wear with honor. Those veterans who helped earn it for them watch with the pride of a doting parent as these new Marines carry on a tradition they started.

But like parents, they also have apprehension and concern about the safety of their offspring. The seasoned Beirut Veterans don't want to see them placed in the same untenable position they were put in all those years ago. They cringe when they hear talk of the possibility that a "multi-national peacekeeping force" is being considered.

The 1982-84 operation in Beirut represents a failure by the National Command Authority (NCA) to exercise due diligence in assigning, monitoring and updating a vague mission that was issued to combat units at sea and on the ground. In addition, the rules of engagement (ROE) were restrictive to a point of adversely affecting the ground commanders' ability to protect their force, and they were not amended as the situation grew more and more threatening.

The Long Commission was convened in November 1983 by the Secretary of Defense to independently inquire into the October 23rd bombing. The commission was chaired by retired Admiral Robert L.J. Long and comprised of several senior Army and Marine Corps generals.

Their overall conclusion, published in a 141-page report, was that the

U.S. contingent of the multi-national force "was not trained, organized, staffed or supported to deal effectively with the terrorist threat in Lebanon."

Further, they reported that a single set of rules of engagement providing specific guidance for countering the type of vehicular terrorist attacks that could be expected in the Beirut environment had not been issued to the Marine Amphibious Unit Commander. The rules of engagement would not allow Marines to carry loaded weapons. Magazines with ammunition in them were to be kept out of the weapons, in magazine pouches. If Marines were fired upon, they had to clearly know who was firing at them, verify that they knew the fire was intentional, then ask permission up their chain of command before they could consider protecting themselves.

Asking permission involved waiting for time-consuming communication, perhaps up to and including civilian leadership in Washington, D.C., all the while being fired upon in life-threatening positions. It took a great deal of discipline on the part of young Marine warriors who had been trained and conditioned to take the fight to the enemy.

And the un-amended mission statement and ROE contributed to a mindset that detracted from the readiness of the U.S. ground commanders to respond to the terrorist threat.

Not long after this report was published, in February of 1984, Marines and other service members were pulled out, except for a few left at the embassy. Too little, too late, some say. Actually, another sailor and one more soldier were killed after that when the embassy was bombed again in September 1984.

Peacekeeping was a brand new type of mission back in 1982, especially for Marines. It was new to the NCA as well, and the mistakes they made in Washington caused deaths in Beirut. Marines learned a lot of lessons in Beirut, and they incorporated many of the lessons learned into subsequent training and operations.

See Commentary, page 5

BVA Board/Officer Slate, Election 2006

The current slate of nominations for BVA Board of Director positions and officer positions is published as it stands at press time. Board members are elected by simple majority of those present at the annual meeting, to be held Sunday, Oct. 22, 4 p.m. at the Jacksonville, N.C. USO. Brief bios are presented here as well. Officers are nominated by members but selected and appointed by simple majority of Board members present. Nominations for Board or Officers can be made from the floor at the meeting. Updates to this published slate will be placed on web site and announced at the annual meeting.

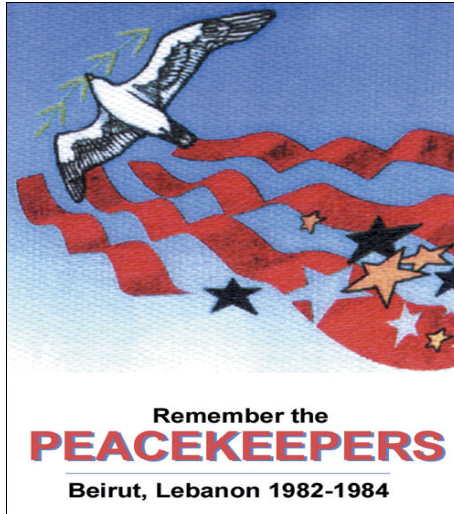
Board of Director Slate

Craig Renshaw: served with 1/8, BVA member since 1993, driving force in forming Georgia/Southeast BVA chapter. Wants to help build the BVA.

Jeff Bucchi: Combat Engineer in Beirut, BVA life member, administrator of web site, on membership committee.

Glenn Dolphin: served in Beirut in 1983. Wrote recently released book: "24 MAU, 1983: A Marine Looks Back at the Peacekeeping Mission to Beirut, Lebanon."

Don Inns: with "C" 1/8 in Beirut, current BVA Vice President, involved in BVA from beginning, received strong letter of recommendation for post from BVA founding president Bob Jordan. Currently a national service officer with Disabled American Veterans.



Next Of K in Director:
Judy Young: long standing relationship w/BVA, son Jeffrey KIA, co-founded Beirut Connection for Families, immediate past president Gold Star Mothers, actively promotes mission of BVA.

Dana Simpson: active in BVA and related causes, brother George Dramis served in Beirut.

Officer Slate

President
Randy Gaddo: served with HQ 24th MAU, 1983, BVA Founding Vice President, current BVA secretary,

Root Scoop II editor, helping form Georgia/Southeast Chapter – wants to see BVA come to full strength to ensure continued performance of BVA mission.

Vice President
Rich Ray: with HQ 24th MAU in Beirut, long-time BVA member, established N.C. Chapter, liaison w/Jacksonville Remembrance planning committee.

Secretary
Michael Fullarton: served with BLT 2/6, 22nd MAU in Beirut, currently independent consultant in wireless industry, wants to give time and talent to "help build BVA into organization it should be and realize its full potential."

Treasurer
Steve Godfrey: served with 1/8 in Beirut, has served honorably as BVA treasurer for many years.

Spirit Wear !

Photos of all updated Spirit Wear items can be seen at the official BVA website: www.beirutveterans.org

- #1: T-shirt** w/full-front silk screened BVA Logo; temporarily discontinued, will attempt to get reprinted: Only 20th Remembrance t-shirts for sale, \$15 **S, M, XLg; \$17 2XL & 3XL; colors: white, black, ash grey and sand**
- #2: Sweat Shirt** w/ full-front embroidered BVA Logo; 95% pre-shrunk cotton available in white, ash grey, hunter green, maroon, black, bluegrass **Adult sizes M, L, XL.\$23 2x, 3x....\$25 (3x in white, ash, hunter green only)**
- #3: Golf Shirt** w/embroidered BVA Logo; 6.5 oz., 100 percent combed cotton pique golf shirt w/quarter sleeves; welt collar and cuffs; side vents w/2" dropped tail; red, maroon, purple, blue, true royal, true navy, black or forest green; **Adult Sizes: M, L, XL.....\$27; 2X.....\$29; 3X.....\$31**
- #4: Sport Cap;** brushed cotton twill, 6-panel, soft crown, low-fitting, adjustable strap, front embroidered logo, script on back; available in Maroon with green visor; or Chestnut w/ black visor; Price.....\$15 each
- #5: BVA Bumper Stickers...\$4 each**
- #6: BVA Mousepads (blue), \$7 (8" x 9")**
- #7L Round Cloth Patches, \$7.50 (3.5x3.5")**
- BVA Bronze Challenge Coin. \$6.50 each (New!)**

Shipping Charge rates:

Subtotals up to \$14.99.....	\$3.00
Subtotals from \$15 to \$49.99.....	\$5.00
From \$50 to \$99.99.....	\$10.50
\$100 to \$199.99.....	\$18.50
\$200 to \$300.....	\$25.00
Over \$300, call Cliff Walling for cost	
Orders routinely shipped USPS	

BVA Lapel Pins – \$5, free to Life Members

Order Form

T-Shirt: Quantity _____ Size _____ Color _____ \$ _____

Golf Shirt: Quantity _____ Size _____ Color _____ \$ _____

Lapel Pins: Quantity _____ \$ _____

Cap: Quantity _____ Size _____ Color _____ \$ _____

Sweat Shirt: Quantity _____ Size _____ Color _____ \$ _____

Mouse Pads: Quantity _____ \$ _____

Bumper Stickers: Quantity _____ \$ _____

Patches: Quantity _____ \$ _____

Challenge Coin: Quantity _____ \$ _____

Subtotal \$ _____

Shipping: \$ _____

Please Tell Us Your:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Make check payable to BVA. Send order form and check to:

Cliff C. Walling

123 Prentice Avenue

South River, N.J. 08882-2210

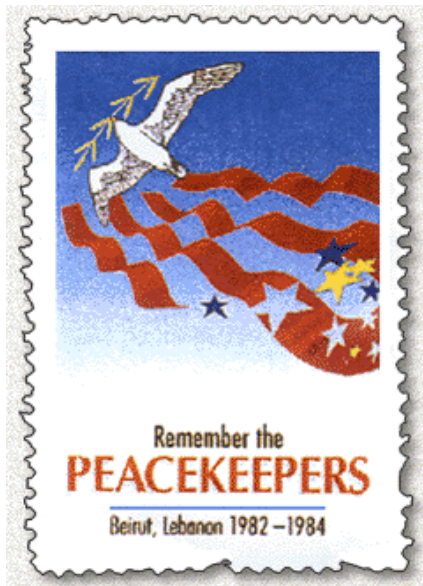
Expect Delivery in 4-6 weeks. For more information

Call Cliff @ (w) 732-745-4110; (h) 732-613-0441

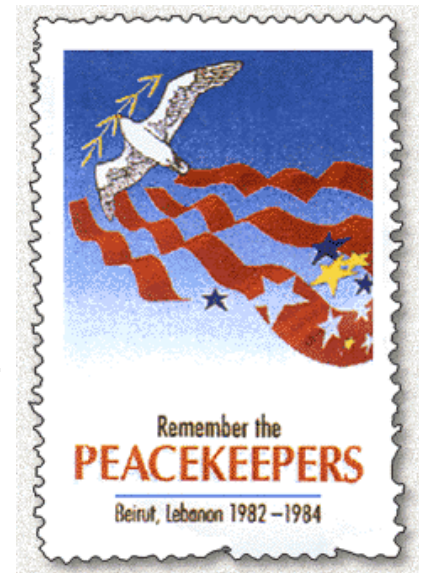
Email: wallingclan@msn.com

Official Newsletter of the Beirut Veterans of America

Root Scoop II



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