

# SITREP

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2009

LINK FOREVER THOSE WHO SERVED TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE



## RECON 2009 QUANTICO !



### In This Issue:

- RECON 2009 Quantico
- Letter from your "Executive Director"
- Letter from your "President".
- Report from your "Treasurer"
- 2008 Membership Criteria
- Report from your "Secretary"

### ARTICLES OF INTEREST!

- MARSOC: Gets some sky
- Recon 2008 Pictures
- Taps & Remembrance.

### NOTAMS

(Notice To All Members)

- Annual Dues: \$40
- Dues Deadline: 1 January
- New FRA Challenge Coin: See photos in the online hooch
- Help Keep the FRA Roster up to date. Let us know if you move, change phone number and/or email.
- FRA Roster – Hard Copy: Order through the Hooch.
- FRA Roster - .PDF File Send email request to [commchief@forcerecon.com](mailto:commchief@forcerecon.com)



### Letter from your "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR"

The old adage 'TIME FLIES', has certainly proven to be true for 2008. While I was down at Quantico, VA., recently, I found it difficult to believe that a year had already passed since I started to plan the last reunion. But, it has, and there's plenty to do to for us to make the next reunion as great as the one we had in San Diego.

For 2009, we have been given the opportunity to work along with the staff of the MARINE CORPS HERITAGE FOUNDATION. When the Board first ventured into the idea of having our next reunion in the Washington, D.C. area, we immediately thought about looking into the possibility of having our reunion within the general area of the new MARINE CORPS MUSEUM. Upon doing a 'RECON' of the area so to speak, I can definitely state to the membership, that the possibility has turned into a reality! ***We will be having our banquet right within "OUR" new museum!***

For those who have not been to the MARINE CORPS MUSEUM, it will be a very rewarding experience. Those of our members, who have already visited there, will find that it has changed since they had last seen it. The museum is in a constant process of change. The MCHF has done an 'OUTSTANDING' job for everybody who ever wore a MARINE CORPS uniform. I'm sure that all of our members will acquire a renewed sense of what it means to be called MARINE!

Aside from the museum, we are planning to visit the FBI Academy and possibly their range. There are also several tours that we may take advantage of while we are at MCB, QUANTICO. Those plans are not yet completed, but will be very soon. Maj. Christian and myself have looked into the possibility of letting our members choose where they want to stay while attending the reunion. A list of several close-by hotels will be forthcoming in our next SITREP. The possibility also exists for our members to stay at the 'CROSSROADS INN' right there on base. I am working with the people who operate that hotel currently. We have also been in contact with the staff at the on-base events facility called 'THE CLUBS'. I did a complete walk-through of that facility. It offers several possibilities for us to have our LADIES/MENS LUNCHEON, HOSPITALITY ROOM and AUCTION all within one place. I was really impressed with the general layout of the facility, the staff and its location. Both 'THE CLUBS' and the 'CROSSROADS INN' are within walking distance of one another.

Finally, I would like to **THANK** everyone who has helped me with the current position I hold within the Association. Not too many days have passed, that I haven't heard somebody say something positive about the Association. That makes me feel really good. **THANK YOU ALL!!!!!!**

I hope to see you all at Quantico, until then, be safe.

MAC OUT!!!!!!



## Letter from your “PRESIDENT”

From: Andy Christian, President 2007-2009, Force Recon Association

To: Our FRA Members

Subj: Presidents Message

I hope that everyone enjoyed the holiday season. Your FRA leadership is working hard at planning the convention for next year in Quantico. Your Executive Director Jim McKee has been working diligently planning activities and organizing events for Recon 2009 in Quantico. If any of you live in the Quantico area and have some suggestions concerning the 2009 convention please contact your Executive Director Jim “Mac” McKee. Organizing a convention is truly a team effort and we would welcome your suggestions.

We continue to move the Force Recon Association forward in a positive direction. New members continue to join our ranks. The current and former Marines are coming to the table with new ideas on how we can continue to grow as an organization. It should be noted that HQMC recently activated a new Force Recon Company at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Recon Bn. We now have active duty Force Recon Marines back on the battlefield. We look forward to these new Force Recon Marines joining our organization. HQMC is not reactivating 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Force Recon. They are simply taking a Company from 1<sup>st</sup> Recon Bn and renaming them “Force Recon Company.” Great news for all Force Recon Marines! Several of our members attended the activation ceremony of Force Recon Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Recon Battalion at Camp Lejeune. Our Corps is heading in the right direction and these new warriors will carry on the legacy that our membership created.

I would like to publicly thank Lewis Machine and Tool for their generous donation to the Force Recon Association. Over the last year we added seventeen new sponsors to the Force Recon Association. Our scholarship program is very healthy because great American companies are willing to support us. We owe a great deal of gratitude to the people that take time out of their busy schedule to support our current and former Marines.

I just returned from a deployment to Afghanistan. I can tell you that our active duty members from Force Recon Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Recon Battalion, Marine Special Operations Company India, and Marine Special Operations Company Delta are doing amazing work in Afghanistan. I had the pleasure to meet the Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps on Christmas Eve. We will see more Marines deploying to combat in Afghanistan in the near future. Please keep the Marines and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they go forward into harms way. I look forward to seeing all of you in Quantico in 2009. Have a great holiday season!

Semper Fidelis  
*Andy Christian*  
Andy Christian  
FRA President 2007-2009



## Letter from your “Treasurer”

To the Board of Directors and the members of the Force Recon Association:

Below are the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss statement for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008. They reflect our financial position as of 9/30/08 and what transpired during the fiscal year. These financials were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and are a compilation of information provided to me by the respective persons who have fiduciary responsibility for their cost center.

Any questions regarding the FRA financials should be directed to me.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elliot “JJ” Rubinfeld Treas.  
Fra# 1161

FORCE RECON ASSOCIATION Balance Sheet As of	<u>Sep 30, 08</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
CASH A/C	740.00
CHECKING UNION BANK	12,193.34
FRA HOOCH A/C	13,966.15
SCHOLARSHIP 0875	17,031.04
SCHOLARSHIP 4428	37,524.86
SCHOLARSHIP 6153	<u>5,775.79</u>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>87,231.18</b>
Other Current Assets	
INVENTORY	<u>6,555.00</u>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>6,555.00</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>93,786.18</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
FURNITURE & FIXTURES	
Depreciation	-7,711.00
Original Cost	<u>7,711.00</u>
<b>Total FURNITURE &amp; FIXTURES</b>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>93,786.18</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Long Term Liabilities	
DEFERRED GAINS(LOSS)	<u>8,368.69</u>
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<u>8,368.69</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	8,368.69
<b>Equity</b>	
Opening Bal Equity	48,901.00
Retained Earnings	18,279.99
Net Income	<u>18,236.50</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>85,417.49</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>93,786.18</u></b>

FORCE RECON ASSOCIATION Profit & Loss	<u>Oct '07 - Sep 08</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Contributions Income	1,574.46
Membership Dues	33,290.00
MEMORABILIA SALES	15,347.13
RECON-2008	22,999.49
SCHOLARSHIP INCOME	<u>32,939.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>106,150.08</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Bank Service Charges	748.25
Contributions	2,700.00
Insurance	2,683.00
Mem.purchases	12,306.50
memorabilia shipping	3,271.01
Miscellaneous	755.50
Office Supplies	7,689.43
Postage and Delivery	432.21
RECON 2007	60.00
RECON 2008	33,978.87
SATELLITE	964.98
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS	12,500.00
SCHOLARSHIP EXPENSES	4,551.67
Telephone	686.97
Travel & Ent	
Travel	3,307.84
Travel & Ent - Other	<u>780.61</u>
<b>Total Travel &amp; Ent</b>	<b>4,088.45</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	
Gas and Electric	1,050.00
Water	221.50
Utilities - Other	<u>455.00</u>
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<u>1,726.50</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>89,143.34</u></b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>17,006.74</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Other Income</b>	
Other Income	<u>1,229.76</u>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b><u>1,229.76</u></b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b><u>1,229.76</u></b>

## Letter from your “Secretary”

### General Membership Meeting Minutes

Saturday, September 13, 2008

Holiday Inn on the Bay  
San Diego, California

*[Prior to the start of the meeting, Bruce Meyers made an announcement regarding the military history tours to Vietnam. Meyers commented on the value of the tours, stating his three trips back to Vietnam were very uplifting experiences for him personally and suggested others may want to consider the benefits of these tours for themselves]*

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** President Andy Christian called the General Membership Meeting to order at 1205 hours.
2. **ROLL CALL.** Executive Committee Members present: President Andy Christian #2559, Executive Director James "Mac" McKee #0965, Present Elect Allan Bierlein #2085, Immediate Past-President Joe Settelen #1576, Treasurer J.J. Rubenfeld #1161, and Secretary Bob Rowen #2722. Executive Committee Member absent: Vice President Joe Tablada #1745. Board Members present: John Baker #0394, Charles Buchholz #0127, James Doner #0294, Al Sniadecki #2064, and Lou Kern #1930. Board Members absent: Dick Sasser #1795, Todd Smalenburg #1919, Jim Hill #1735, Paul Burke #0667, and Johnny Johnson #3013.  
  
There were approximately 63 in attendance with 57 voting members participating in the election of five new Board Members.
3. **OPENING REMARKS.** President Andy Christian welcomed everyone to Recon 2008, introduced the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, and set the agenda for the meeting.
4. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.** Executive Director Jim McKee gave his annual report. As of 9/3/2008, the active and paid membership through 2008 is 568, 2009 is 92, 2010 is 56, 2011 is 11, 2012 is 6, 2013 is 6, and through 2014 is 1. The total active and paid members is 945. The total members on our rolls is 3,115. We have a number of membership numbers that are not assigned and some that are assigned twice to one member; we are still working that problem out in the current database. As of last year, we have had 36 new members join our ranks. Most of those members are due to the work of Maj. Christian and are Marines with MARSOC. Vetting new members has been accomplished with the assistance of Ed McCourt and Bob Stockham. Both of these people have weeded out many people who do not meet the criteria for membership within our association. New applicants are requested to submit a NARA Form 180, which is then sent to Bob Stockham for review and processing. New regular and associate members are provided a welcome package, a current membership directory, and a copy of the By-Laws. This has become a standard practice and has been well received.
5. **HOOCH REPORT.** Jim McKee gave the hooch report stating we did well last year but not as well as previous years. Jim reported the hooch is still afloat. There was considerable discussion by the Board of Directors regarding the possibility of turning the hooch operations over to a private vendor such as Sgt. Grit. The matter was left open for future consideration.

6. **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE'S REPORT.** John Baker provided a summary of the scholarship fund including its history. The scholarship-investment account was at \$11,000 prior to the year 2000. From 2000 to 2008 the fund grew from a little over \$20,000 in 2000 to \$59,800 in 2008. The scholarship amounts given out annually ranged from \$4,700 in 2000 to \$10,500 this year. John acknowledged the efforts of Joe Settelen and Andy Christian and their contributors that had made the growth in the scholarship fund possible in recent years. Joe explained how beneficial it is to send someone to the military-vendor shows held in either Orlando or Vegas each year. John stated his personal goal is to see the fund reach \$100,000 invested at 6% so that we can live on the interest along with the scholarship auction each year. There was some discussion regarding the possibility of using some of the monies for other purposes like the Wounded Warrior Program, etc. It was pointed out that we had to be sure the contributions made specifically for scholarship purposes be used specifically for those purposes and that separate fundraising efforts should be organized for other endeavors like the Wounded Warrior Program.

Wayne Lingenfelter reported that the scholarship committee picked up several expenses for those who worked to raise money for the scholarship fund and for recognition plaques, etc. These expenditures from the scholarship fund were well spent because of the additional revenue they generated. Joe Settelen reminded everyone that the Executive Committee approved this concept with the establishment of cost centers in order to track the effects of various activities on the general fund. Wayne reported on a problem from last year regarding a \$2,500 check sent to the number-two candidate that was returned unopened. Once a new address was obtained, another check for the same amount was sent last summer and this time it was not returned but has not yet been cashed. Wayne reported Andy Christian provided the scholarship committee a list of 17 sponsors this year; \$11,000 in cash and many high quality product donations for the auction. Wayne also reported the scholarship committee had received 16 completed applications for cash grants this year. There were 3 from members, 5 from sons of members, 4 from daughters of members, 2 from grandsons of members, 1 from a spouse of a member, and 1 from a nephew of a member. There were four previous recipients among the applicants. Wayne identified those who were selected by the committee and highlighted their applications. Wayne also made the application materials available for anyone who wanted to take a look at them. The Scholarship Committee recommended a total of \$10,500 be given out this year, which was approved.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT.** J.J. Rubenfeld gave the treasurer's report. As of September 30, 2007 total current assets equaled \$93,851.57 and total liabilities equaled \$26,670.58. The profit and loss statement for 2006-07 ending September 2007 showed a total income of \$97,130.46, total expenses of \$93,233.53, and a net income of \$4,533.50. J.J. Rubenfeld provided a detailed accounting for this portion of his report on a Balance Sheet and a Profit and Loss Statement for the period ending September, 2007. J.J. Rubenfeld then provided a report on the 2007-08 period ending June 30, 2008. Total assets were reported at \$108,217.22 and total liabilities were reported at \$21,766.27. Total income for the period was \$44,990.34, total expenses were \$26,949.14, and the net income for the period was \$19,270.96. J.J. Rubenfeld also provided a detailed accounting for this portion of his report on a Balance Sheet and a Profit and Loss Statement for the period ending June 30, 2008.
8. **ELECTIONS.** The Immediate Past President Joe Settelen administered the election process for five new members to the FRA Board of Directors for 2009-2010. The election results were: Charles

Buchholz, Jim Doner, Al Sniadecki, Mou Pau, and Al Rodriquez. The terms of the following members of the Board of Directors end 2009: Jim Hill, Johnny Johnson, Lou Kern, John Baker, and Dick Sasser.

9. **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.** The Board of Directors approved Wayne Lingenfelter to serve as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee for 2009-2010; J.J. Rubenfeld and John Baker to serve as members of the Scholarship Committee for 2009-2010.
15. **BIKE RECOVERY PROGRAM.** President Andy Christian presented an overview of the Bike Recovery Program, Stanford University's role in the program, and Andy characterized the program as a truly "good news story". The FRA supported the program with a \$2,000 donation for three bikes. Returning veterans with PTSD, etc., participate in the program in bike rides from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Andy explained how FRA members could donate bikes.
16. **GOOD FOR THE ORDER DISCUSSION ITEMS.**
  - 16.1 There were several ideas from the floor that were shared and discussed regarding returning injured war veterans.
  - 16.2 ComChief Items: Steve reported on the Memorial Wall; Steve also said the FRA directory of membership is available in pdf form by sending an email request to commchief@forcrecon.com.
17. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 1412 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Rowen #2722  
FRA Secretary

## 2009 Membership Criteria

### Annual Dues - \$40

#### **Regular Members:**

All officers and enlisted members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America or her Allies who are now serving, or who have served, with any Force Reconnaissance Company, Regular or Reserve. Deep Recon Platoons of Marine Division Reconnaissance Battalion; or personnel who served in Amphibious Reconnaissance units between 1943 and 1958; and those reconnaissance-trained Marines and Corpsmen having served in Marine SOCOM Detachment 1, or those reconnaissance-trained Marines and Corpsmen serving from the establishment of MARSOC in 2005, that carry the MOS 0321 or have completed the MARSOC selection & assessment and subsequently assigned to a Marine Special Operations Battalion. Only Regular Members may serve as officers or on the Board of Directors of the Association.

#### **Associate Members:**

Civilians and veterans of U.S. Armed Forces and Allies who did not serve with a Force Reconnaissance Company, but who did make a significant development in or advancement to operational procedures or techniques inherent in Force Reconnaissance operations or who made a valuable and unique contribution to either operational Force Reconnaissance units or to the Association. Associate membership may include Recon Battalion, ANGLICO Marines, Non-reconnaissance trained personnel of Marine SOCOM Detachment 1 or MARSOC and Corpsmen of these units. Associate Members may not serve as officers or on the Board of Directors of the Association.



## MARSOC and 160th SOAR take to the skies

Story and Photos by: Lance Cpl. Stephen C. Benson

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (Aug. 14, 2008) – At the back edge of a helicopter, a column of Marines stare out into the vast space above their drop zone as the wind whips violently across their faces. They wait for the jumpmaster to wave his arm and shout “Go! Go! Go!” so they can exit the plane at heights of up to 13,000 feet with their fellow Marines.

At the back edge of a helicopter, a column of Marines stare out into the vast space

above their drop zone as the wind whips violently across their faces. They wait for the jumpmaster to wave his arm and shout “Go! Go! Go!” so they can exit the plane at heights of up to 13,000 feet with their fellow Marines.

Marines from 2d Marine Special Operations Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command and soldiers from the Army’s 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment teamed up to conduct paraloft operations at Drop Zone Pheasant here, August 6, in order to sharpen their insertion skills and prepare for combat situations where airborne insertions are necessary.

The Marines arrived at the drop zone early in the morning to stage their equipment. Shortly after, members of the 160th SOAR flew in to the drop zone in a MH-47D Chinook, a dual engine helicopter developed specifically for special operations forces. The soldiers discussed the details of the exercise and gave a safety brief to the Marines before they began.

“These soldiers from the 160th SOAR are extremely professional and it’s always a privilege when our Marines get to work with them,” said Staff

Sgt. Jason Elson, safety chief and jumpmaster, 2d MSOB, MARSOC. “[160th SOAR] are experts in airborne operations.”

Marines conducted static-line and freefall jumps throughout the day. Static-line jumps are executed at a lower height than freefall jumps and the parachute deploys upon exit of the aircraft. Freefall jumps are executed at nearly five times the height of static-line jumps and the Marines deploy their parachutes after a short drop.

According to Elson, the Marines of 2d MSOB, many of which came from Force Reconnaissance billets, have multiple capabilities that allow them to conduct a variety of combat operations when deployed. The 2d MSOB paraloft works to build and maintain the airborne capabilities of the unit. 2d MSOB is fortunate enough to have more qualified jumpmasters than almost any other unit in the Marine Corps, added Elson.

After the Marines touched down from their jump, they quickly moved to the staging area to equip themselves with new parachutes. Due to the flexibility and the speed of the soldiers and their aircraft, Marines were able to execute multiple jumps throughout the day.

Just as the Marines from 2d MSOB need to maintain their paraloft skills, the soldiers of the 160<sup>th</sup> SOAR need to maintain their skills in flying the MH-47D Chinook with the intent of dropping parachutists. The operation was a benefit to both units and according to Elson, they plan to work together in the future on more operations.



■ MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – A Marine with U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command gathers up his parachute after descending from the MH-47D Chinook helicopter from the Army’s 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Drop Zone Pheasant here, August 6.



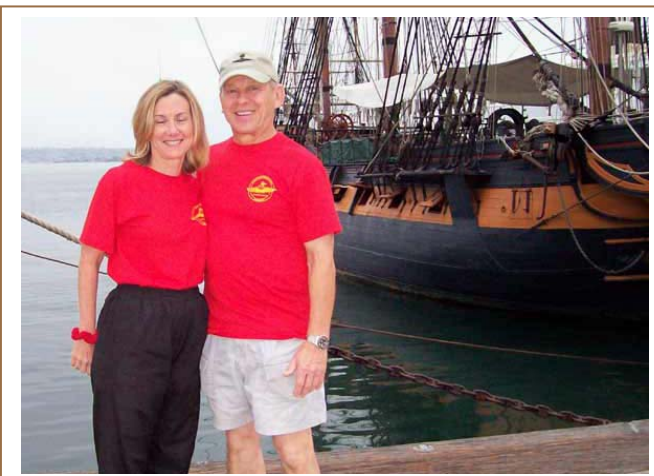
■ MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – A Marine with U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command drops from the ramp of the MH-47D Chinook helicopter from the Army’s 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment over Drop Zone Pheasant here, August 6.

# RECON 2008 San Diego, CA !









## TAPs and Remembrance



**Ralph B. White. # 307** - Died February 4 2008 - complications of an aortic aneurysm

**John W. Schiller Jr. # 664** - Died 4 March 2008 at age 87

**Robert F. Zuppe # 256** - Died 18 May 2008

**Richard A. Schindler # 1562** - Died 21 June 2008 - Civilian skydiving accident

**Ronald G. Lee Sr. # 1499** - Died 2 July 2008

**Merwin H. Silverthorn Jr. # 666** - Died 12 July 2008

**Nelson C. Donley # 696** - Died 10 Oct 2008 - He had been battling the affects of a stroke that occurred a few years prior.

**John W. Ripley # 612** - Died 28 October 2008 - Heart Attack

**Vito S. Mauro # 2116A** - Died 2 December 2008

**John D. Counselman # 56** - Died January 2009 at age 85

**Robert W. Hansen # 1121** - Died 4 January - 2009 Sudden Heart Attack

**Joseph J. Keegan # 2147** - Died 12 January 2009

**You Will Be Missed and Never Forgotten.**





**Force Recon  
Association  
P.O. Box 425  
Rowe, MA 01367**

**President' POCs:  
(760) 908-4140  
reconparafrog2@yahoo.com**

**Executive Director's  
(413) 339-4346**

**Send Hooch Orders to:  
MAC - Supply Chief  
PO Box 425  
Rowe, MA 01367**

**Hooch Order Forms at:  
[www.forcerecon.com](http://www.forcerecon.com)**

**Info to the CommChief  
Stephen Luebbert send to:  
Commchief@Forcerecon.com**

**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

**www.ForceRecon.com**

**Back Page Info**

*About Our Organization...*

The Force Recon Association Inc (FRA) was formally established on 21 September 1989, as a non-profit fraternal veterans association, in accordance with provisions of Section 501(c)19 of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

The FRA maintains a Scholarship Fund to provide educational assistance for its members and or members of their families.

We welcome corporate sponsors and their donations to our scholarship fund. If you're a corporation and desire to make a donation to our organization, please contact our "Executive Director" via the Communications Chief at commchief@forcerecon.com.

The FRA strives to maintain and foster fellowship, comradeship and perpetuate the ideals and professionalism between and among its members and the members of our reconnaissance units, whether Force or Battalion Recon, Regular of Reserve.

In extraordinary cases, we provide benevolent assistance to its members. Our Motto remains... *"Link Forever Those Who Served Together"*.

Founders: Patrick "Pat" J Ryan; Thomas "Tom" L. Gibson; and Ernie "Gunny" DeFazio (Deceased).



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