

FAMILY BOUND BY HISTORY

The Ronnie Hughes Fund

I would like to ask everyone who has not committed to attending the 2010 Reunion to please reconsider. The reunion is sure to be an awesome experience and we would like all associated Marines, Sailors, Airmen and their families to be involved. The 2010 Reunion can be nothing less than a long weekend vacation where you get a chance to visit a part of America that you have probably never visited. See a few friends that you have not seen in over 30 years and maybe enjoy a beverage or two. It might give your family the chance to put a face to a name they have heard many times. I believe it could be one of the best experiences of your life!

I have only attended the 2006 Reunion in Washington D.C. and it was a privilege to be there. The amount of time and effort that is put into these Reunions is tremendous. The entire weekend was planned perfectly! I witnessed a Marine Corp General seek these men out in a crowd with a genuine desire to meet them. It was stirring to hear the Lieutenant General say things like "I have read about you," and "it is an honor to meet you." The trip to 'The Wall' was probably the best part of the weekend for me. I have been there a couple times before and it was never easy. This trip to 'The Wall' was not easy either, but there is no doubt that being there with this group made a difference.

Lt. Dan had us moving from event to event like a well oiled machine, and each event seemed to surpass the last. The fellowship was remarkable, and I was treated like one of their own. It was not my intent to become a part of this group but the Love, Friendship, and Comradery cannot be denied. My brother Ronnie Hughes was on Knife-31. He seldom ever spoke about Vietnam, or May 15th, but I believe the events stayed with him until he passed away. He had friends at the VA, and we are a close family but you are the ones that share this experience with him.

It was then I decided to pledge \$1,000 to be used to help *my brother's fellow combat brothers* attend future reunions and gatherings. Around the camp fire at the 2007 Lake Raystown trip my pledge was discussed and it was then the *Ronnie Hughes Fund* was created. This year I've donated another \$500. Along with the funds raised from the golf scrambles held in 2008 and 2009 numerous veterans have been given a little help enabling them to attend these special gatherings.

The few dollars that I have contributed is insignificant compared to what some of these Marines and their families have done. I am aware of several situations where members of this group have stepped up to help each other. KTBV's and their families are contributing huge amounts of time and personal resources to make this organization succeed.

Carpooling to the reunion and sharing a hotel room are both great ideas. Al Bailey even offered to come to Kentucky, apply duct tape, and put me in the back of his truck! We are all family bound by history so if you have not committed to attend please consider coming to the 2010 reunion.

Phil M. Hughes III

Matthew 7:7

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you.



Ronnie Hughes
1975