

Fellow Marines & Highly Significant Others,

After months of anticipation, Alpha Company TBS 1-68 finally invaded the city of Savannah in early May.

Our time together went by way too quickly, but there are memories that will stay with us forever:

--Andrew Kispert's reflections on Afghanistan. Andrew is a third generation Marine and living proof of

Chesty Puller's quotation: "Old breed? New breed? There's not a damn bit of difference as long as it's the Marine breed."

--Ted Hammett refreshing our memory of some of the great pop tunes of the 60s and 70s.

--Ed Shore's emotional tribute to his close friend Jay Kispert.

--Bruce Wiggins' successful reconnaissance to the "Georgia Queen" riverboat. Bruce is one of the toughest, most determined, most motivated, most fearless Marines I have ever known.

--"Padre" Ken Bruner's thoughtful, encouraging words.

--Bob Koury bringing us up to date on the Courage Project and the road ahead.

--Bill Tehan's leadership as we saluted our fallen.

--The presentation of red roses to our wonderful widows, Sue Champe, Nancy Hansen, & Mary Pfeiffer.

--Joel Brummel receiving his Quilt of Honor. Thank you, Jim Williams, for leading this effort for years to insure that our Alpha Company Marines receive their quilts.

--Bob Winn's magnificent presentation of "What It's Like To Go To War."

--Dave Raper relating his PTSD episode while driving.

--The premier of Tony Pesavento's original poem "Still Doin' Our Thing."

It was an honor and pleasure to lead our mission to Savannah. I want to commend my XO and right arm, Jim Williams, for his steadfast support throughout this journey. As many of you know, Jim has served multiple times as CO and XO for our reunions. We all owe him a debt of gratitude. I would go to war with Jim, anywhere, any time.

Others played essential roles: Dave Peters, our Company historian and the individual who keeps all of our contact information up to speed; Heidi Brungardt, who once again supplied us with adult beverages (We love you, Heidi!); Pam Alexander, who does a masterful job of keeping our website current and in good order; and our money man, intrepid treasurer Ray Norton, who carries on and gets results while battling serious medical challenges.

Finally, my best friend and life partner, Noreen, was at my side from start to finish and helped in countless ways.

Alpha Company is chock full of exemplary Marines who served with distinction. I will always be grateful that I was a member of Alpha Company.

Best wishes and Semper Fidelis,

Nat Reed