The Navy Cross is the second highest military decoration that may be awarded to a member of the United States Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, (and to members of the Coast Guard when operating under the authority of the Department of the Navy). It is awarded for extraordinary heroism:

- While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;
- While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Actions that merit the Navy Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not merit award of the Medal of Honor.
Members of the 1/9 Association
Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws

Board of Directors (7-12)
Elected by the Membership

Chairman of the Board of Directors
Elected by the Board

President/CEO
Elected by the Membership

Vice-President
Elected by the Membership

Treasurer
Appointed by the President

Secretary
Appointed by the President

Program Committees
Appointed by the Board of Directors

Membership
Appointed by the BoD

Consultants
Appointed by the Board of Directors

CPA
Approved and Hired by the BoD

Notes:
1. The Executive Board consists of the President, Vice-President, Chairman of the Board, Treasurer and Secretary.
2. Per the by-laws, the Board of Directors, reporting to the membership has the ultimate authority and responsibility for the Association’s management.

1/9 ASSOCIATION FOUNDER

Roger Liggon
The Proud Warrior

2018—2020 Executive Board & Board of Directors

Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board
Brigt Skjerpe

Special Consultant to the Board
Ric Neumann

Sam DeBaca

Mike Goyette

Photograph Not Available

Brain Granvall

Daryl Hartman

Joe Heater

Alex Hunt

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President
Dan Baldwin

Vice-President
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Photograph Not Available

Photograph Not Available

Treasurer
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JC Walker

Membership Chair
Woody Postle
Marines and Corpsmen,

I recently had the honor and distinct pleasure of attending the Navy Cross award ceremony for 1/9 Association Member, Jim Stogner, on April 5, 2019. While it entailed a bit of a journey, to Polson, Montana, it was time and money well spent.

It took our Navy Department almost 52 years to recognize Jim’s heroic and selfless action on April 5, 1967 but at last the deed was done. Probably just as importantly, a number of Charlie Company Marines who were on the battlefield the evening of April 5th, were also in attendance. In an extraordinary show of solidarity, Jim Gilbert, an Orlando, Florida resident, drove to Austell, Georgia, picked up Eli Fobbs who was unable to fly and drove him to Polson. If you don’t know who Eli is, read the first hand account of Jim’s exploits by Wallace Dixon starting on page 7.

Other East Coast attendees were Ric Neumann coming from the Washington DC area and Roger Good who lives in Ft. Myers, Florida. Jim’s Senator, Steve Daines, was also in attendance.

Presenting the Navy Cross to Jim was former 1/9 and Charlie Company alumni, Lt. General (ret.) Frank Libutti.

Veterans of all branches of our Armed Forces traveled from miles around (not hard to do in Montana). Their turnout was truly impressive as over 200 attendees filled the VFW Hall to its capacity. HQ Marine Corps sent four photographers and reporters to record the event as well.

If you and Jim cross paths, be sure and congratulate for a job well done. He truly represents the best of our Marine Corps and our Country

Semper Fi,

Joe Heater
3rd Platoon Delta Company
1966-67
The Proud Warrior

STOGNER RECEIVES NAVY CROSS MEDAL IN POLSON

April 11, 2019 at 6:23 pm / By JOE SOVA Lake County Leader

Lt. General Libutti’s closing remarks at the ceremony, “Jim, there's an old saying in the Marine Corps, no guts, no glory, no Navy Cross. Jim, you are indeed gutsy and did bring great glory to our beloved Corps demonstrating extraordinary bravery and courage as reflected in your Navy Cross and the citation we all heard. You followed the ethos and philosophy of the Corps, leave no Marine behind. I salute you Jim, and by extension I salute all sailors and marines from 1/9 for their leadership and patriotism and the truth be told for all who fought in Vietnam, all services. Your efforts my friends were both noble and honorable and soon I will be drinking a drink with you, an adult refreshment. And I'll drink for days gone by, good times and bad. And for the memories of special friends who fought the good fight and who paid the ultimate price. God bless them all. God bless you and God bless our beloved Corps. Thank you all very much.”
James H. Stogner

James Stogner was belatedly awarded the Navy Cross in 2019, for his heroism 52 years earlier in Vietnam.

Navy Cross

AWARDED FOR ACTIONS
DURING Vietnam War
Service: Marine Corps
Battalion: 1st Battalion
Division: 3d Marine Division (Rein.) FMF

GENERAL ORDERS:

CITATION:
The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lance Corporal James H. Stogner, United States Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism in action with the enemy on 5 April 1967, while serving as part of a machine gun team assigned to Company C, First Battalion, Ninth Marines, THIRD Marine Division (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, in the Republic of Vietnam. As Company C began to sweep to clear a hamlet, they were taken under intense enemy fire from automatic weapons, grenades, and mortars. The lead platoon and company command group sustained devastating casualties, the company commander among them. When the enemy exploited the situation and overran a portion of the company, Lance Corporal Stogner’s machine gun team leader was severely wounded. Four enemy soldiers dragged the wounded Marine and his machine gun into a nearby treeline where they began to torture him. Lance Corporal Stogner, despite his own painful wounds and with the complete disregard for his own safety, pursued the enemy into the treeline to rescue his fellow Marine. After his service rifle malfunctioned, he used his K-bar fighting knife to kill the enemy soldiers, then picked up his machine gunner and the machine gun, and carried them back to friendly lines. Lance Corporal Stogner’s bold and decisive action saved the life of his fellow Marine, and his undaunted courage and complete dedication to duty reflected great credit upon him and where in keeping with the highest tradition of the Marine Corps and the United Stated Naval Service.
On the evening of April 5th, 1967, Corporal (then Lance Corporal) James H. Stogner found himself serving with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, once again fighting the North Vietnames Army (NVA) in never ending battles. This day on the “Street Without Joy” would show how much courage he really had. Charlie Company had been moved into a position to support an otter re-supply run that had been ambushed. First and second platoons were put on line in an open, dried up, rice paddy. The objective was to sweep through a tree line and hedgerow into a village where the NVA were suspected to be hiding. Third platoon had been left in the rear under the supervision of the Executive Officer to provide support and aid the casualties.

As the sun set, LCpl Stogner was standing in the assault line next to the A gunner, who was on the left side of Lance Corporal Elijah Fobbs, the machine gunner. Lance Cpl Stogner was the ammo support man for LCpl Fobbs. A fire team leader was on LCpl Fobbs right side. The command group was slightly forward and to the right side. Darkness fell suddenly as they approached the hedgerow/tree line. A call for illumination was made. Lance Corporal Stogner, having been in country for several months, knew the difference in the sound of the artillery rounds and knelted to reduce his body size, as did the more experienced Marines. When the lights came on, an automatic burst from his rifle took out 3 NVA soldiers directly in front of him and at very close range. He dropped to a prone position as he began to receive return fire. His rifle was struck at the receiver, slamming it back into his face, breaking his nose, and rendering his rifle inoperable. Grenade and mortar rounds were exploding around him adding to the confusion of battle. The command group had been running towards the hedgerow where the enemy fire was coming from but were immediately shot down.

As LCpl Stogner regained his focus, the light from the illumination rounds went out. His platoon had been caught in the open and cut to pieces. The NVA had been waiting to ambush them and were only 15 yards away in trenches dug in the hedgerow. Almost every member of LCpl Stogner’s platoon had been killed or wounded. Second platoon on the flank had also been hit hard. Only the radioman from the command group survived. The company commander was dead.

LCpl Stogner was now lying in the dark and wondering what to do next. Around him he could hear the sounds of the wounded and dying Marines moaning and calling out for help. He then began to hear the sounds of the NVA soldiers. They were moving down the line in the dark, shooting the wounded Marines in the head and stripping the bodies of their weapons and gear. At this point, LCpl Stogner showed his true mettle. He could have crawled off in the dark and got away, but he did not. Crawling close to wounded Marines, he waited for the enemy soldiers who were killing the wounded and gathering their gear. When an individual NVA soldier came close, LCpl Stogner tripped him and killed him. He used the dark and the only weapon he had left, his K-bar knife. Crawling to another location, he was able to kill another NVA soldier the same way. He was able to kill a total of 3 NVA soldiers with his K-bar knife by crawling around to escape detection. By doing this, he saved more lives of the wounded Marines who would have been the next in line to be shot if he had not been there.

Noticing their men were not coming back, the NVA began a hand grenade barrage. After receiving a concussion from the Chi Coms, LCpl Stogner found himself lying alone in the dark, but this time there were no sounds of any kind. He was about to start crawling out of the ambush site, when he heard the screams of LCpl Fobbs coming from the tree line. LCpl Fobbs and his machine gun had been captured by the enemy. They had been dragged further into
The Proud Warrior

Summary of Action  as written by Captain Wallace Dixon — Charlie Company

(Continued from page 7)

the vegetation, across the enemy trenches, behind the hedge-row and tree line and into the enemy territory. LCpl Stogner found the wounded A gunner and told him he was going after LCpl Fobbs.

Still using darkness as his cover ,LCpl Stogner crawled to the hedgerow/tree line, managing to navigate the enemy trenches without detection. Following the screams of LCpl Fobbs, he cautiously made his way through the vegetation to where LCpl Fobbs was being held in a small clearing. Using the darkness and vegetation as cover, he crept forward to where the sandy ground allowed him to see 4 NVA soldiers gathered around LCpl Fobbs who was on the ground. They were kicking him, and jabbing sticks into his wounds. As he watched, one of the NVA soldiers stood up and moved towards where he was hiding in the dark vegetation. LCpl Stogner allowed him to pass, then grabbed him from behind and quietly killed him with his K-bar.

As LCpl Stogner was deciding what to do, a second NVA soldier stood up and approached his hiding place LCpl Stogner was able to dispatch him the same way as the first NVA. The other two NVA were still intent on torturing LCpl Fobbs. LCpl Stogner screamed as he charged, surprising the captors. With a hard thrust of his knife to the chest of one man, he was able to grab the second soldier. He wrestled with him on the ground and did away with him. All four of LCpl Fobbs captors were now deceased.

Without hesitation, he picked up LCpl Fobbs, threw him over his shoulder, grabbed the M-60 machine gun, and moved past the 4 bodies of the NVA who had captured LCpl Fobbs. He ran as fast as he could through the vegetation, across the enemy trenches, onto the killing field. Small arms rounds and grenade explosions were going off all around them giving flashes of light. They made it back to friendly lines where LCpl Stogner handed LCPL Fobbs to other Marines for medical assistance and went back to taking care of his own duties and cleaning LCpl Fobbs M60 in spite of needing medical assistance himself.

LCpl Stogner sustained a concussion, broken nose and shrapnel wounds. LCPL Fobbs suffered severe wounds to his side and his legs and was unable to walk. Twenty one Marines died that night and more than thirty were wounded. Some of the wounded Marines would not have survived had it not been for LCpl Stogner. The injured Marines were medevac’d to various medical facilities for treatment of injuries sustained in this battle. Neither LCpl Stogner nor LCpl Fobbs returned to the unit they fought with that night. Continual firefights and massive casualties in the field meant that events and paperwork got lost in the shuffle. Shortly after April 5th, the next ranking officer and the person the original recommendation was given to stepped on a landmine sealing the fate of the forgotten recommendation.

Lance Corporal Stogner could have crept off in the darkness but chose to remain on the battlefield continuing to fight with only his knife. Then he chose to sneak into enemy territory to rescue a fellow Marine who probably would have been killed and possibly mutilated when the NVA tired of torturing him. Lance Corporal Stogner’s bravery and extraordinary heroism on the night of April 5th, 1967 was never recognized until now—52 years later. The Navy Cross acknowledges he did perform far beyond the call of duty for an 18 year old ammo humper. His story only adds to the legend of the Walking Dead.
Lt. Gen (ret) Frank Libutti, Ted Van Meeteren, Jim Stogner, Wallace Dixon

Ted VanMeeteren, John Pantaleon, David “Moon” Mullins, Felix Gonzalez, Jim Stogner
The Proud Warrior

Felix Gonzalez, Jim Watterman, Senator (Montana) Steve Daines, Eli Fobbs, John Pantleon, Roger Good, Ric Neumann, Jim Stogner, Dave Miller, Ted Van Meetren, David “Moon” Mullins, Jim Gilbert, Don Horseman

John Pantleon, Dave Miller, , David “Moon” Mullins, Eli Fobbs, Felix Gonzalez, Ted VanMeeteren

Jim Stogner, Wallace Dixon
The Proud Warrior

Jim Stogner, Lt. Gen. (ret) Frank Libutti

Jim Stogner, Senator Steve Daines

There’s a back story associated with this photograph. John was wounded and Ted carried him to a medevac chopper. John promised to buy Ted a beer when he next saw him and that promise was made good by John in Polson, Montana on April 5, 2019. Semper Fi!

Ted VanMeeteren, John Pantleon

Lt. Gen. (ret) Frank Libutti, Dave Miller
The Proud Warrior

John Pantleon, Jim Waterman, Ted VanMeeteren, Jim Gilbert, Dave Miller, Dave Mullins, Eli Fobs, Wallace Dixon

David “Moon” Mullins, Eli Fobbs, Wallace Dixon, Frank Libutti
The Proud Warrior

Larry “Doc” Lawing, Rice Payne, Dave Mullins

Roger Good, Joe Heater, Ric Neumann

Craig French
Dear Advertisers,

For those wishing to advertise in The Proud Warrior, here is the advertising policy.

1. For new books written by members in good standing of the 1/9 Network, we will carry a full description for two (2) issues and thereafter the book will go on to a recommended reading list which will display the following information: Author, Title, Subject, Purchase Source, i.e., Amazon, etc.; Books written by other than 1/9 Network members will be subject to standard advertising rates.

2. For advertising for other products and services the Network will request a per issue donation per this schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1/9 Network Member in Good Standing</th>
<th>1/9 Network Not a Member in Good Standing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/8 page = $25.00</td>
<td>1/8 page = $37.50</td>
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<td>¼ page = $40.00</td>
<td>¼ page = $60.00</td>
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<td>½ page = $75.00</td>
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<td>Full page = $140.00</td>
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To place your Advertisement please Contact the Editor:
E-Mail: jheater1@comcast.net
Phone: 847-991-2160

On July 2, 1967, Bravo Company walked into a U-shaped ambush just north of the DMZ. This company of Marines showed tremendous courage against unbeatable odds as they spent hours fighting for their own lives and the lives of their fellow Marines. They were trapped and penned down in what looked to be a hopeless and helpless situation, but they refused to give up. Later in the day when the tanks finally rolled in, only twenty-six men had survived. That day changed their lives forever. Derl Horn shares an exciting, powerful and true story of his memories of being drafted into the Marine Corps during the heights of the Vietnam War. From the moment the drill instructor slammed the bus door shut at the San Diego airport as a recruit to fighting on the war torn battlefields of Vietnam, he shares his struggles, the horrors of war, the support of family and friends, and the stabilizing power of his faith in God.

Book Web Site: [http://www.bloodsweatandhonor.ga/](http://www.bloodsweatandhonor.ga/)
Click here to purchase the book on Amazon.

Derl and his wife of 50 years, Marilyn, live in Springdale, Arkansas, where they enjoy their three children and five grandchildren.
Gentlemen,

We have over 1,000 former 1/9 Marines in our Membership Database including 246 Life Members. Thru the end of April, only 85 of the remaining members have paid their dues. If you are planning on participating in the Association activities and desire that our Association remain a viable and ongoing organization, I would urge you to use the form on page 18 to renew your membership. You may also renew on line at the Association web site: 19walkingdead.org

Semper Fi,

Woody Postle
Membership Chairman

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**Association Members who renewed/joined from 1/1/2019 through 4/30/2019**

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**Note:** The listing above is for those who choose to pay their dues on an annual basis and does not include Life Members.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

If you would like to apply for membership in the 1/9 Network, please return this form to:
FIRST BATTALION NINTH MARINES NETWORK, INC.
National Membership Committee Chairman

Please attach DD-214, NAVMC 118 (3) and NAVMC 118 (9) confirming service with 1st Battalion 9th Marines unless verified by an active member of the 1/9 Network, Inc. organization. In the absence of documentation list the names of members of your fire team, squad or platoon, however, be advised this may delay processing of your application while verifying your service with 1/9 with our active membership rolls. Providing documentation allows much faster processing toward membership approval.

Full Legal Name: _______________________________________________________

*note: If you have legally changed your name since serving in the Marine Corps you must provide your Military Service name, and a document of proof that your name has since been legally changed in a court of law.

SS# (Last Four)/Service # : __________________ "Nickname" (if any) ______________

Mandatory

Address: _________________________________________________________________

City/State: __________________________ Zip Code: _____________

Company: ____________ Platoon: ______ Squad: ______ or Section _______

Dates assigned to 1/9: FROM:____________________ TO:_____________________

Phone #: (____)_________________________ List in Directory? Yes_____ No_____

Active (Y/N) Rank:_____ Retired (Y/N) Rank:_____ Medically Retired (Y/N) Rank:_____

Email Address:______________________________

Signature                                                                 Date

Don't forget to attach documentation to this application *A copy of any official document such as Orders, SRB entry, Citation, Promotion Warrant, Letterhead paperwork, or orders that indicate you served with the 1st Battalion 9th Marines.

A copy of your DD-214 would be appreciated to keep on file (not mandatory). Also required is a NAVMC 118 (9) and a NAVMC 118 (3) which can be obtained from NPRC St Louis.

Please submit Membership Dues of $25.00 with your application. The IRS requires Dues to maintain our tax status, (Mandatory).

2018 Dues are now due. New membership cards are ready to go out. Lifetime Membership are available for $250.00 which can be paid for over one year. Dues for 2019 will become payable 1/1/2019 will be $25.00.

Make your check payable to:

1st Bn 9th Marines Association, Inc.

Mail To: 1/9 Association Membership Chair
C/O Woody Postle
52 Connie Lane
Dover, DE 19901-2872
Mail your check and this sheet to:

Office of the Treasurer
1st Battalion 9th Marines Association
C/O Woody Postle
52 Connie Lane
Dover, DE 19901-2872

Make check out to: 1st Battalion 9th Marine Association

Please PRINT information requested below

First Name: __________________________ Middle Initial: ____  Last Name: ______________________________

Street Address: ________________________________________________________________________________

City: _____________________________ State:____________________________ Zip Code: _________________

Phone Number: (______) -(__________________ )

E-Mail Address: _________________________________

Check applicable box(s)

☐  I would like to save the Network some money so please send the Proud Warrior to my E-Mail address listed above

☐  $25.00  Annual Dues  ☐  $15.00 PW Printed Copy  Note: Lifetime Members can opt to receive a printed copy of the Proud Warrior at no extra charge.

☐  Check here to apply for Lifetime Membership

☐  $250.00 Lifetime Membership

Membership Dues
2019
ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND COORDINATORS 2018-2020

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Membership Chairman  Woody Postle  wpostle@19walkingdead.org

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CHAPLAIN: Ray Linebaugh

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Joe Heater  (847) 991-2160  jheater1@comcast.net

Our Grateful Acknowledgement to the Founder of the 1/9 Network, Roger W. Ligon Sr. Alpha Company 1966-67

First Battalion Ninth Marines Network, Inc.

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

www.19marinesnetwork.org

NETWORK PHONE # 203-238-1999

This newsletter is published for the members of the First battalion Ninth Marines Network, Inc. Articles and comments do not necessarily represent the views of the officers and members, but are those of the author. The editor with the support of the President has the right to refuse any article that brings discredit to this organization or the United States Marine Corps.

This is a dedicated line for members to call. There is also an answering machine for members to leave messages.
THE PROUD WARRIOR

% Joe Heater
1256 East Cooper Drive
Palatine, IL 60074