

# 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11) Foundation Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 1

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*The 3d Battalion, 11th Marines (3/11) Foundation is an Internal Revenue Service-recognized 501(c)(3) charity incorporated in the State of Texas. Federal tax ID 46-4240572.*

## New 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11) Foundation Address

The Texas Secretary of State has officially changed the 3/11 Foundation's address to our Treasurer's new address: **3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11) Foundation, 106 Wellesley Wood, San Antonio, TX 78231**. Please send all donations made by personal check or from a financial institution to this new address. You can also donate via PayPal. Please click on the link below or paste it in your browser for more information: [Donate - 3d Battalion, 11th Marines Foundation \(3-11marines.org\)](https://www.3-11marines.org)

## Mission

The mission of the 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11) Foundation is to aid wounded Marines; to continue to support the Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment at the San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC); and to seek additional opportunities to help wounded Marines of every generation. Marine Wounded Warriors are defined as combat and non-combat wounded, ill, and injured Marines; Sailors attached to Marine units; and their family members.

## President's Message

As we ring in the New Year (2024) and say goodbye to the old year (2023), our lives continue to change, and our goals remain constant and strong. The 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11) Foundation is committed to supporting the wounded Marines and Sailors assigned to the Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment at the San Antonio Military Medical Center. We continue to provide support to Marine Veterans and Navy Vets who served with Marines and also support to their families.

We want to welcome our newest Board Members, John Roark and Joe Reyes. They bring with them innovations and enthusiasm, and all look forward to working closely with them.

As always, supporting our Wounded Warriors and Veterans comes at a cost. Our Fundraising Committee will continue to seek donations from corporations, but it comes down to the individual donors who keep us going. I hope you feel the desire to donate to this worthy Foundation – your Foundation.

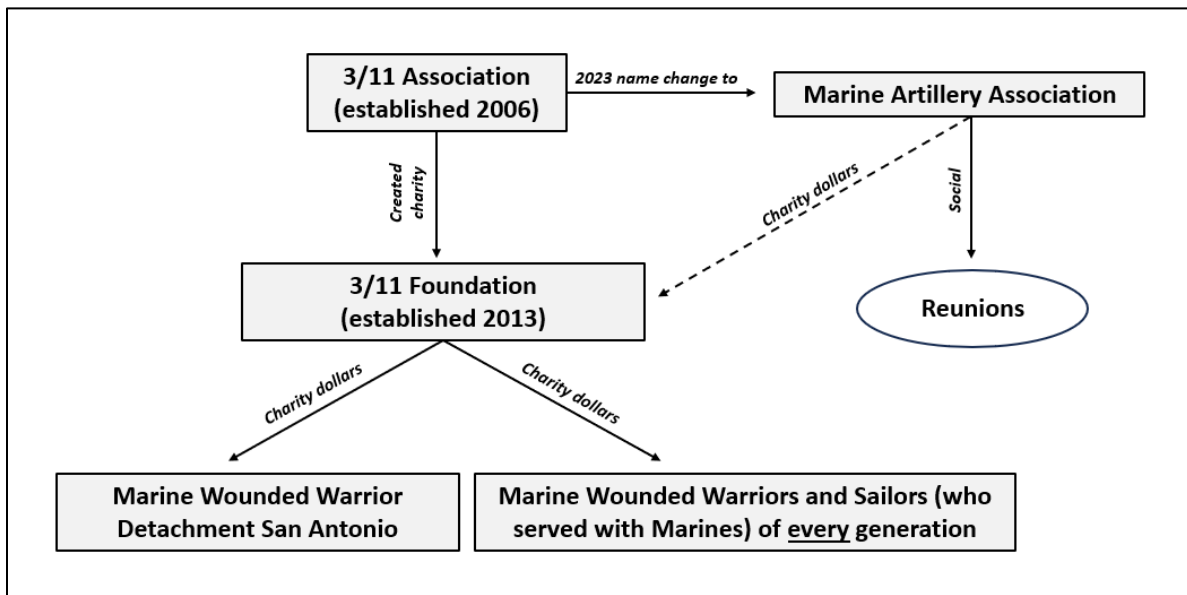
Woodrow Hall, President: [hwoodrow@charter.net](mailto:hwoodrow@charter.net)

# Relationship Between the 3/11 Association, the 3/11 Foundation, and the Marine Artillery Association

The 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11) Association held its first reunion, Battery Adjust I, in 2006 in Washington, DC. Annual reunions followed. During the 2011 Battery Adjust VI Reunion in San Antonio, Texas, members of the 3/11 Association formed a relationship with the Marines of the Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio at Brooke Army Medical Center aboard Joint Base San Antonio. Subsequently, the 3/11 Association was able to support a few projects for the Marine Wounded Warriors. As interest in helping the Marines increased, it became apparent that an ad hoc organization could not accomplish the task. Therefore, the 3/11 Association created the non-profit 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11) Foundation on October 14, 2013. The 3/11 Foundation enabled the 3/11 Association to assist the Marines of the Wounded Warrior Detachment more effectively and to help other Marine Wounded Warriors, as needed (see Mission Statement at <https://3-11marines.org/index.php/criteria/> ).

The 3/11 Foundation is an Internal Revenue Service-recognized 501(c)(3) charity incorporated in the State of Texas with Federal tax ID 46-4240572. The Foundation is in its 11<sup>th</sup> year and is going strong.

Last year, in 2023, the 3/11 Association changed its name to the Marine Artillery Association and expanded to include Marines and Corpsmen of other Marine artillery units. Now the annual Battery Adjust Reunions will be open to all who have served with or who are currently serving with a Marine artillery unit.



***Relationship between the 3/11 Association, the 3/11 Foundation, and the Marine Artillery Association***

The 3/11 Foundation did not change its name in 2023 except the Board voted at the Annual Meeting to insert “Marines” in the abbreviated title to clarify that the Foundation supports Marines. The official name change is awaiting approval by the Texas Secretary of State but is being used informally by the Foundation’s Board and by those who support the Foundation – which we hope includes everyone.

# The Battery Adjust XVIII Reunion confirmed for 2024 in Savannah, GA

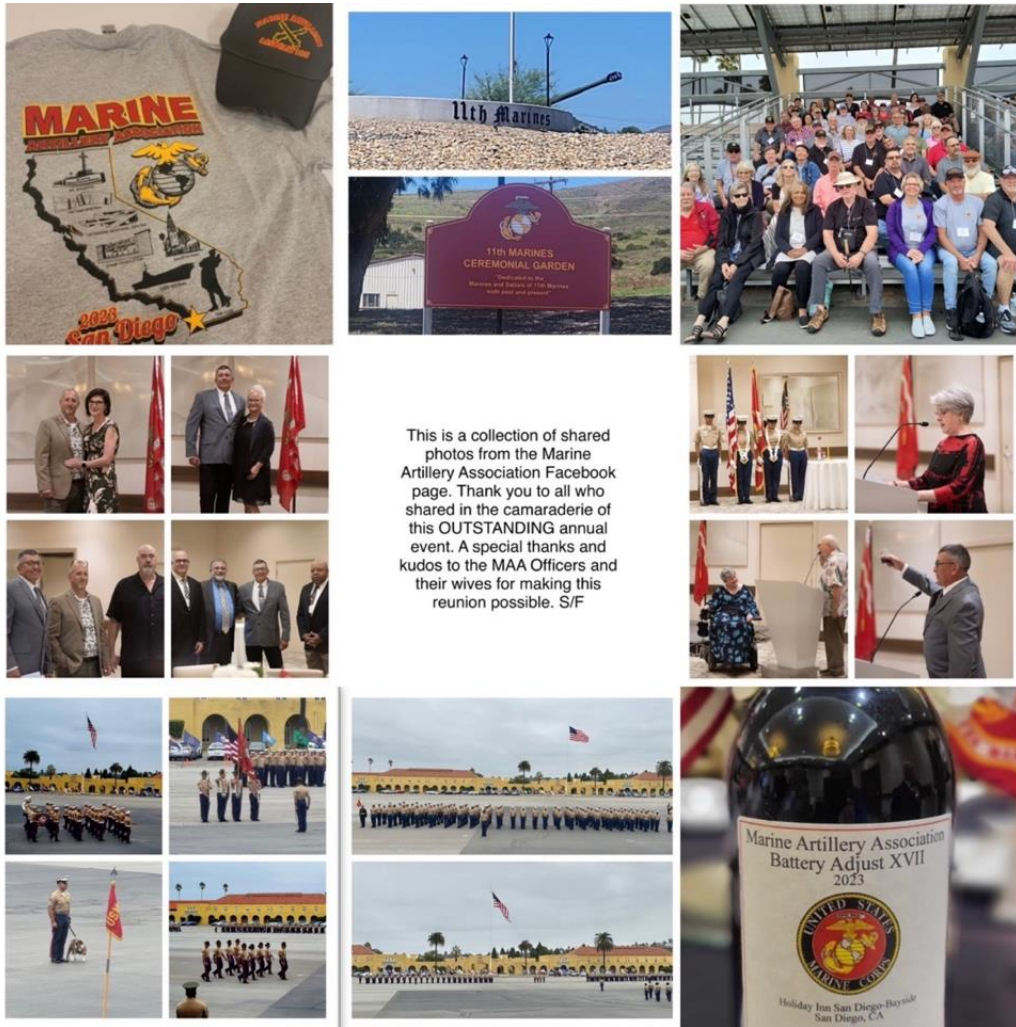
**WHO:** All Marine Artillery Association Members, Family, and Friends — anyone who served or is currently serving with any USMC Artillery Unit.

**WHAT:** Battery Adjust XVIII Reunion

**WHEN:** TBA (When the hotel is secured, the dates will be announced)

**WHERE:** Savannah, GA

## Marine Artillery Association 2023 Reunion San Diego Recap



**If you have any questions, please let us know. We look forward to seeing you in Savannah!**

Semper Fi,

Brian Seals, President, Marine Artillery Association

[bseals2013@gmail.com](mailto:bseals2013@gmail.com)

Cell: (765) 580-2734 – Please call during evening hours

Ed Peterson, Treasurer, Marine Artillery Association

[ed66451@aol.com](mailto:ed66451@aol.com)

## Suicide Awareness & Prevention

The following is an excerpt from the post [A Secret War, Strange New Wounds, and Silence From the Pentagon](#) which appeared first in the [New York Times](#).

Firing weapons is as fundamental to military service as tackling is to football. And research has started to reveal that, as with [hits in football](#), repeated blast exposure from firing heavy weapons like cannons, mortars, shoulder-fired rockets and even large-caliber machine guns may cause irreparable injury to the brain. It is a sprawling problem that the military is just starting to come to grips with.

The science is still in its infancy, but evidence suggests that while individual blasts rippling through brain tissue may not cause obvious, lasting injury, repeated exposure appears to create scarring that eventually could cause neural connections to fail, according to Gary Kamimori, a senior Army blast researcher who retired recently after a career studying the problem.

Those blasts might never cause a person to see stars or experience other signs of concussion, but over time they may lead to sleeplessness, depression, anxiety and other symptoms that in many ways resemble P.T.S.D., according to Dr. Daniel Perl, a neuropathologist who runs a Defense Department [tissue bank](#) that preserves dead veterans' brains for research.

"It's common to mistake a blast injury in the brain for something else, because when you walk into a clinic, it looks like a lot of other things," Dr. Perl said.

His lab has examined samples from hundreds of deceased veterans who were exposed to enemy explosions and blasts from firing weapons during their military careers. The researchers found a unique and [consistent pattern of microscopic scarring](#) .

Finding that pattern in living veterans is another matter. There is currently no brain scan or blood test that can detect the minute injuries, Dr. Perl said; the damage can be seen only under microscopes once a service member has died. So there is no definitive way to tell whether a living person is injured. Even if there were, there is no therapy to fix it. The military for generations set maximum safe blast-exposure levels for eardrums and lungs, but never for brains. Anything that didn't leave troops dazed was generally considered safe. But that has recently changed.

Over the last decade, veterans suffering from brain injury-like symptoms after years of firing weapons pressured Congress to rethink the potential dangers, and lawmakers passed [a number of bills](#) from 2018 to 2022 ordering the Pentagon to start a sprawling ["Warfighter Brain Health Initiative"](#) to try to measure blast exposure and develop protocols to protect troops.

## **SUICIDE PREVENTION GUIDELINES:**

### **DO NOT COUNSEL THE PERSON YOURSELF; LEAD THEM TO SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP:**

- If you are struggling or know someone who is, hope is a reality, and help is available. CALL 1-800-273-8255 and PRESS 1 for toll-free, confidential help 24/7.
- DIAL 988 – the hotline for confidential help 24/7.
- Veterans Crisis Website:  
<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/#Bethere#NSPW> .
- If you are a veteran or family member who is struggling, you are not alone. Go to Focus Marines Foundation (FOCUS) at  
<https://focusmarines.org> .
- “BE THE ONE TO STOP ONE” FROM COMMITTING SUICIDE. Find out how here: <https://stopone.info/home>

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***Look for signs.***

***Empathize.***

***Ask questions.***

***Remove from danger.***

***Next steps for more care.***

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988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline



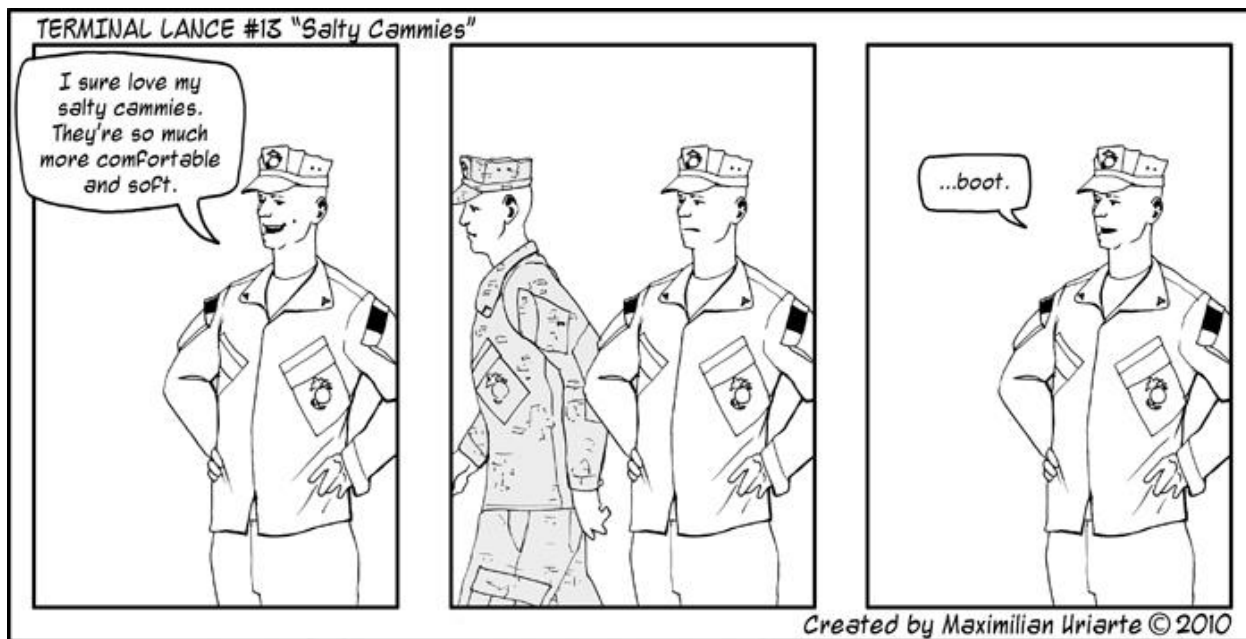
## THE OLD BATTERY GUNNY SAYS: LISTEN UP, WARRIORS!

What is an “old salt” in the Marine Corps, and how did the term originate?  
According to my study of Marine history, I submit this theory:

Marines were first assigned to Sea Duty on Naval ships. Marines were issued blue uniforms and then progressed to green. While serving aboard the ships, in the early days and up until the late 1960’s, Marines were always required to have clean clothing. To accomplish this task, Marines were issued a netted clothing bag and a large pin (bobby or baby type) which had a number on it. The number became known as the Marines Laundry Number. On designated days aboard the ship, Marines would take their netted laundry bag, which was full of dirty clothing, and with the large pin, attach the bag to a long rope. The netted laundry bag would be thrown over the ship’s fan tail attached to the rope and dragged behind the ship for a period. With the laundry bag being netted, the saltwater flowing through it would create an oscillating action and clean the uniforms. However, although very effective in cleaning the uniforms, it had a down factor of bleaching the uniforms to a salty-white look.

Now, moving forward, the Marine is transferred to a land-based duty station. When formations were held, these Sea-going Marines would stand out in their uniforms with the “salty-white” look versus the blue or olive-drab and were referred to as the “Old Salts.” They were looked upon as the Marines with experience.

Store that in your “Brain Housing,” Marines.



## Update on Marine Wounded Warrior, Christopher Bryde

To read about Chris Bryde and his previous accomplishments, please see the last Newsletter at [3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines Foundation Newsletter Volume 1 Issue 2](#). Since last summer, Chris was awarded a Masters in Creative Writing: First Novel with Distinction. “With Distinction” is a big deal in England where Chris is studying at St. Mary’s University. The University has since confirmed his place to study for a PhD in English Language/Literature. Chris continues to serve as a role model for everyone.

Chris and his fiancée, Laura Blackhall, were guests at the Marine Corps Birthday Ball hosted by the Marine Detachment London at the Grosvenor Hotel. See first photo. Four Marines from the Detachment, including the Det Commander, provided a sword arch at Chris and Laura’s wedding on Saturday, 9 December 2023. See second photo. Foundation Secretary and Director, Nanci Visser, and Foundation Advisor, Eric Visser, were honored to join fellow U.S. Marines at the marriage ceremony at St. Mary’s University Chapel in Twickenham, England. See photos. Everyone enjoyed the elaborate and festive reception, dinner, and dancing that followed. The 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines Foundation wishes Chris and Laura much happiness, fair winds, and following seas.







## **The 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11) Foundation is Your Foundation**

The 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11) Foundation is your 501(c)(3) charity created by Marines who served with 3/11 during World War II, in Korea, and in Vietnam to help Marines of every generation. **See separate article in this Newsletter about the relationship between the 3/11 Association, the 3/11 Foundation, and the Marine Artillery Association.**

There are many charities that support Wounded Warriors, but there is only one whose mission is “to aid wounded Marines; to continue to support the Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment at the San Antonio Military Medical Center; and to seek additional opportunities to help wounded Marines of every generation. Marine Wounded Warriors are defined as combat and non-combat wounded, ill, and injured Marines; Sailors attached to Marine units; and their family members.”

To donate to this worthy cause and to a charity that has no administrative overhead, no paid staff, and an all-volunteer Board of Directors, please support the 3/11 Foundation. You can do so by personal check, by credit card, or via PayPal at the Foundation’s secure website: <https://3-11marines.org/index.php/donate/> . You never know when you may need the Foundation’s help, so donating is one way to ensure the Foundation stays strong and is able to help every Marine who needs help.

As mentioned elsewhere, the Foundation's address changed last summer, so please inform your Bank or Financial Institution of the new address -- especially if they have the old address from a previous IRA Distribution or Donor Advised Fund. The Federal Tax ID is **46-4240572**, and the current address is:

**3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11) Foundation  
106 Wellesley Wood  
San Antonio, TX 78231**

Since the 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11) Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charity and fully qualified to receive Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD’s), please consider making a charitable contribution to the Foundation this year using the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or from a donor-advised fund.

At the Annual Meeting in September 2023, the Board approved the 3/11 Foundation’s 3-year Strategic Plan. It can be found on the Foundation’s website and includes a list of projects that the Foundation has undertaken. We invite you to read it. Minutes of all Annual and Quarterly meetings are also available from the Foundation’s Secretary, Nanci Visser [vissernan@aol.com](mailto:vissernan@aol.com).

Thank you sincerely for your generosity and continued support of your 3/11 Foundation.

**Semper Fidelis!**