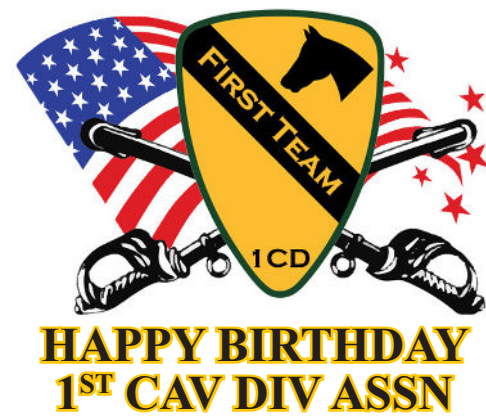




SABER

Published By and For the Veterans of the Famous 1st Cavalry Division



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JULY / AUGUST 2026

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Rosey Carter
254-702-4731
RoseyMCarter@yahoo.com
1CDA President 2025-2027



Greetings Troopers,
It's a great day to be a Cav Trooper! Greetings from Central Texas. As I write this, we are starting to

pack up for the New Orleans Reunion that is just a few weeks away. When you read this, we will be home from the travels, and I hope to have had the chance to talk with many of you. Thanks in advance to our Association staff and the many volunteers who make our Reunions successful every year.

There is a lot of activity in our Association. One big project is that the work order is being finalized to install our Memorial Pavers on the south side of the Division Headquarters. The pavers were previously installed at the entrance to the 1st Cav Div Museum on Fort Hood, but when the museum was closed to consolidate with the new Maneuver Warfare Museum, we stored our pavers for a new home. We are working hard to have the installation complete prior to the Division Birthday Celebration in September. We will also have pictures soon of the replacement of the Division's Memorial in Queensland, Australia that recognizes the Cav's intense training there prior to their first engagements in the Pacific in WWII. SeqWater, a local company in Australia, sponsored the new memorial plaque and it should be installed this month. There will be more info on both of these in future Sabers.



On a sad note, SGM(R) Miguel Laboy, who retired as the Div G6 SGM in the early 2000s, passed away in April. Miguel was one of the first Cav Troopers that I met when I was assigned to the division in 1999. He got me squared away to deploy to Bosnia for a couple of months and then served with me in the Cav G6 and 13th Sig Bn until he retired. SMG Laboy knew the art of the deal and that, combined with his relationships with senior noncommissioned officers across Fort Hood, ensured that the G6 shop always had warm tents and hot meals. Miguel had a heart of gold, and it was larger than most.

After Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, he went there several times with crates of supplies and his chain saw. He personally cleared the debris from his hometown square and was a hero to many families to whom he delivered gas cans, generators, water containers, and food. Miguel was an unrelenting fund raiser for those less fortunate than himself and called me several times to 'bring my wallet by' since he was getting ready for a trip to PR. Miguel also loved to fish and I wish I had taken him up more often on his offer to join him. He and his wife, Maria, lived close to Lake Belton and he was on the water many days as the sun was rising. Miguel knew all of the best spots to drop a line and putting his boat into the water was executed like a well-rehearsed crew drill. I will miss him very much.



AH-1 Cobra with Cav Patch

remarkably the same. We watched as busloads of high school students were dropped off for summer tours. I'm sure they were not 'knobs' because no one was yelling at them. I was not surprised to find a Cav Patch on display on this AH-1 Cobra helicopter located on the southwest corner of the parade grounds. The First Team is alive and well in the low country.

Please consider joining us for the 2027 Reunion at Fort Benning/Columbus, GA. In addition to being the origins of our Air Cav history, since 2011 Fort Benning is also the basic training and advanced individual training (AIT) post for our Infantry and Armor Troopers. That's 15 years of young Armor Soldiers and Scouts training in the sands of Georgia and Alabama. It's connection to the Cav is strong and we are putting together some great events as part of the reunion. As you make your plans to attend, please extend an invitation to another Cav Trooper. Your connection to Troopers is the best way to grow our association – especially Desert Shield/Desert Storm and OIF/OEF Veterans who will keep the Association strong for years to come. Bring a Battle Buddy – old or new!

First Team, Rosey Carter

HORSE DETACHMENT by 1LT Chad Tucker, Executive Officer

The Horse Cavalry Detachment (HCD) entered the summer season with a busy schedule supporting events across Fort Hood while preparing for a nationally recognized mission in Washington D.C.

Troopers maneuver during a Cavalry Charge during a ceremony on Cooper Field.



Throughout June, the HCD played an important role in the beginning of Change of Command season across Fort Hood. Troopers and horses participated in multiple ceremonies on Cooper Field, helping honor outgoing and incoming leaders while showcasing the Army's rich cavalry heritage. These events provided Soldiers, Families, and community members an opportunity to witness the professionalism, precision, and traditions that remain central to the Cavalry spirit. The detachment also hosted multiple mounted re-enlistment ceremonies at the stables as Troopers re-affirmed their commitment to serve in the U.S. Army.

June also marked a culmination of preparations for the HCD mission in Washington, D.C. supporting events commemorating America's 250th Birthday. Building upon the detachment's participation in Fort Stockton's Living History Days earlier this year, HCD Troopers participated in a parade on Pennsylvania Avenue. The opportunity to participate in the nation's 250th Birthday observance reflects the detachment's unique mission of preserving and sharing the history of the American Cavalry.

The Horse Cavalry Detachment remains committed to supporting military ceremonies, public-facing events, and community outreach efforts throughout Central Texas and beyond. While the detachment no longer maintains a standalone Facebook page, a dedicated webpage will soon be launched on the official 1st

Continue to pg. 2

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

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FirstCav@1CDA.org



The United States marked the Semi-quincentennial—250 years since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence—on July 4, 2026, with a year-long series of ceremonies, cultural programs, and national celebrations.

The Semi-quincentennial will offer Americans a rare opportunity to reflect on the nation's founding values, acknowledge pivotal moments in history, and invest in cultural and educational legacies across all 50 states. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

I celebrated, pool side, in New Orleans with the rest of the team as we began setting up to host the 2026 Reunion.

As with every reunion, seeing our friends (friends who have become family) is always a wonderful thing. This year we made new friends as we do with every reunion. I believe everyone had an enjoyable time visiting New Orleans. The ladies could not stop talking about their lunch and what fun they had learning about the Cajun cuisine. For the members who had never seen the WWII museum, I do hope you find the time to make another trip to NOLA. Two days walking through the museum is just not enough. This year the best part was the Association Banquet. We were entertained by a lovely trio, the Victory Belles. I watched many of our members singing and swaying along to the music. I can just imagine the memories the sounds brought back. The evening's entertainment ended solemnly with a tribute to a true American Hero, Medal of Honor recipient COL (RET) Bruce Crandall who passed away on 31 May 2026.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year in Columbus, GA for the 79th reunion as we take our Vietnam Veterans back to where it all began....Fort Benning.

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CHANGE

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Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____
2: Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____

1CDA EVENT CALENDAR

Nov 9-11, 202617th Annual Veterans Day, Washington D.C.

Aug 4-8, 202779th Reunion will be in Columbus, GA

Sept 13-17, 202880th Reunion will be in Killeen, TX

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Articles should be received at National Headquarters no later than the 1st of every odd month. Any article received after the 1st of the month will be put in on a space available basis.
Opinions expressed are the writers and not necessarily those of the *Saber* or the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To be considered for publication, letters should not exceed 300 words and should be of general interest and in good taste. Letters express the writer's opinion, not that of the *Saber* or the 1st Cavalry Division Association.
Political endorsement and poetry cannot be used. Form letters or third-party letters are not acceptable. Letters which contain libelous or obviously untrue statements will be automatically rejected.
All letters must be signed with addresses and telephone numbers included. Names will be used with the letters but addresses and phone numbers may be omitted. Letters also may be edited for length or clarification.
We reserve the right to reject for publication any letter received. Unused letters will not be acknowledged.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

The First Cav Scholarship means so much to me because it recognizes the hard work, dedication, and responsibility I've learned through lessons that have helped shape me into the person I am today as I head into my second year of college. Caring for my first calf taught me patience, consistency, and the importance of showing up every day, even when it's hard. These values have carried over into my academics and future goals, and this scholarship helps support that next chapter in my life.
My dad, Jason Thomas, is a retired Veteran who served in the Iraq War, and he has been the best dad I could ever ask for. He's shown me what true strength and commitment look like, and even though I'm not following in his military footsteps, I've taken the lessons he's taught me and applied them to my own path. This scholarship is not just financial help but it's encouragement to keep working hard and a reminder that the values I've grown up with will always matter.
Samantha Thomas



HORSE DETACHMENT

Continued from pg. 1
Cavalry Division Website. In the meantime, supporters and community members are encouraged to follow the main 1CD Facebook page for the latest updates on the HCD's missions and upcoming events.
For those looking to experience the Cavalry's living history firsthand, the HCD welcomes the public to visit them in person. Every Thursday at 1000 (weather permitting), the detachment conducts a Mounted Cavalry Demonstration at their stables, located at 69007 Trooper Loop, Fort Hood, TX.

Consider making a
SCHOLARSHIP DONATION
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achieve their educational goals.
CONSIDER DONATING TODAY

Trooper's Tale



Culmination of treasured long lost stories or photos from our members.

The Forgotten Platoon of Call Sign Merit 74: The Human Element that Saved Saigon

by Christopher "Doc" Keefauver

Combat Medic, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 3rd Brigade



During the opening days of the 1972 Easter Offensive in Vietnam, a small, ad-hoc unit slipped through the cracks of standard paperwork. Operating under the tactical radio call sign "Merit 74," the HHC Brigade Security Platoon became the critical human element that confirmed a massive North Vietnamese Army (NVA) armored thrust, triggered devastating strategic airpower, and altered the course of the war. It was a desperate time, and this is the story of how the littlest of things can change the fate

of a nation. In early 1972, the HHC Brigade Security Platoon was utilized as a maneuver asset and quick response force under the command of General Hamlet. The platoon area in Bien Hoa was situated next to the 75th Ranger compound.

The day before the Easter Offensive, on March 29, 1972, my platoon was with C Company, 2nd of the 8th Cavalry, on point when we were unexpectedly called back to Bien Hoa. C Company took our track, and right away their CP was hit with a command-detonated booby trap. I saw the explosion; there was nothing we could do. In Bien Hoa on the opening day of the Easter Offensive, the platoon was called over to some bleachers that were filled with men set up in a semi-circle. A high officer gave us a briefing and told us that the NVA were about an hour away, and that he wanted to see "asses and elbows." Things became very hectic in Bien Hoa. The scuttlebutt was that we were going to Kon Tum with some of D Company, 2nd of the 8th Cav, as part of Task Force Salvo, but LT Cotney came back and told us that HQ (GEN Hamlet) specifically tasked us to recon for Russian armor. I immediately returned to the MEDEVAC aid station at 215th and loaded up on supplies. Our platoon was sent to the jump tower in Bien Hoa and trained for a day how to rappel from a helicopter skid. This all happened very quickly.

In the Military Region 3 theater surrounding Saigon, the NVA's objective was a rapid, heavy armored thrust designed to execute a sweeping "left hook" aimed at the Bien Hoa and Long Binh logistical hubs. HQ suspected that was the case and needed the final ground-truth verification of PAVN heavy armor staging for the left-hook southern bypass of An Loc. Militarily, Merit 74 was the sole American ground element in this specific sector during this window. This is evidenced by the ad-hoc nature of the mission and the one day of emergency training on skid rappelling. The surge mission was necessitated by the exhaustion of regular scout assets and the rule of deconfliction: you don't put two recon units in the same heavy-canopy jungle because they might accidentally engage each other.

We gave each other "the look" the morning of that recon mission. Many of the men in the Brigade Security Platoon were Veterans from the 101st and 173rd Airborne who had come down from up north to finish up their tours with the 1st Cavalry Division. Some had already been in the Nam for multiple tours. I joined the platoon in early January '72 at FSB Aimee—which was still under construction—about the time GEN Hamlet began to use them as a maneuver asset. The platoon knew the reality: if we did run into heavy armor, Merit 74 would probably be annihilated. That was what "the look" was really about. Our unit left Bien Hoa early. I personally didn't know exactly where we were going—I was just the medic. It turns out that we didn't need to rappel into the jungle; we did a quick touch-and-go landing and began traveling down the south side of the Dong Nai River, although we stayed pretty much away from the riverbank. SGT Swartz and his squad were often on point in our platoon; I was usually with the CP, the core of which was the LT, the RTO, and myself. We had lost a new POP SGT back in February, who was "wounded out" in a firefight. All of us looked for any sign of NVA or VC movement, especially tracks in the dirt, signs of crossings, sandals, anything to indicate the presence of humans or vehicles—but we got nothing.

Then "it" happened. Around evening, we all heard them. It sounded to me like they were pulling in looking for places to park; we must have beat them into the area. Lots of Russian armor, including T-54s and PT-76s, were staging on the north bank in grid coordinates YT1530 1535, hidden way back in the jungle forest. I'm sure the LT reported it, because that was exactly why we were sent. This tactical report was immediately accepted as actionable intelligence by Higher Command. How do I know that? Because we exfiltrated on foot shortly thereafter, not by choppers. I do remember at first light, just before we changed course, passing by FSB Drinnon, which was abandoned and still smoldering across the river. The mist was about a foot or so high off the jungle floor by the water as we walked through it. The image of that (us and FSB Drinnon) was like a snapshot out of the Twilight Zone.

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TROOPER'S TALE COLUMN

was created for our members to share your photos or long lost 1CD war stories.

Please consider sharing yours!

Send to Programs@1CDA.org

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

OIF / OEF VETERAN 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion News

SSG Brandy Harvest
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Luckybme04@yahoo.com

SSG Kenneth Pannell
HHC 1BSTB, 2005-2009
KaPannell@gmail.com



This column is a collection of stories submitted from 1BSTB Soldiers that served during OIF / OEF.

On October 7, 2007, Camp Taji held a 10-mile run shadowing the famous Army 10 miler in Washington D. C. Soldiers from Alpha Company woke up as early as 5:00 a.m. that morning to team up and run the 10-miler together. The Commander, First Sergeant, and members who love to run from each platoon joined the fun of the shadow run. A group of runners consisting of Soldiers from different platoons wore matching shirts and called themselves the Fighting Yi's.

For Halloween that year, as ghosts and goblins got ready to go trick-or-treating back home in the States, Soldiers from Bushmaster Company had a party. Soldiers got soaked while bobbing for apples. Soldiers also made homemade decorations to brighten their spirits. The Soldiers had fun that night.

In December 2007, Christmas came twice for the Thunder Company while deployed to Iraq. They had a new Company Commander and First Sergeant to celebrate with them in 2007. The Commander and First Sergeant decided to have a BBQ and cook up some food with the large grill from the mechanics. With a few trips to the PX to get charcoal, the grill got hot and the Soldiers from Thunder ate hot dogs and hamburgers for Christmas.

Credit to the Soldiers of the 1BSTB Battalion Yearbook 2006-2008 Publication

WANTED/LOOKING FOR:

FEBRUARY 1968, NEAR KHE SANH

I am a Vietnam Veteran. I was assigned to Stars and Stripes as a combat photographer. I am sharing a personal story based on my memory, and a UPI story that was published on April 5, 1968. What I seek to learn is what 1st Cavalry unit I was with when the event I describe occurred, and to learn as much about the event and the evacuation as exists. Additionally, I hope to learn the hill names, numbers and coordinates as I seek to return to that location. Any help or advice you can provide will be appreciated.

On February 2, 3 or 4, 1968 I was with a unit of the 1st Cavalry. During the afternoon we assaulted two adjacent hills. They were located south of route 9 near Khe Sanh. At 10:27 pm, while encamped on the highest of the two hills, we were hit by rocket fire. I had been asleep about 30 feet from the Company CP which was a 500 lb bomb crater that the company commander, his RTO and a third Soldier were located in. When we heard the incoming, UPI photographer Dana Stone and I ran, and took cover in the crater/cp. Within seconds of taking cover, incoming exploded very near us. The captain had his throat cut by shrapnel, one of the Soldiers was KIA and one was wounded. The captain was alive when medevaced the next day. Neither Dana Stone nor I were hit. As I recall, the unit had a number of dead and many wounded from the attack.

During the night, a medivac attempted to land to evacuate the wounded but fog did not allow it to land. One very brave pilot asked the mortar team to fire illumination rounds straight above where he hoped to land, which was an area between the two hill tops. He would circle the flare hoping to have enough illumination to land. He made several attempts but was not successful. It was not until some 14 hours after the attack that the fog lifted and allowed evacuation. As the first helicopter approached, we listened to the comms. As I recall, the helicopter carried the battalion commander. They took heavy fire and crashed, killing all on board.

Your help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you,
John Olson <johnolson@tactileimages.com> 518-365-3036

SSG MEL AUMILLER, 1-8 CAV, 1966-68

I would love to connect with any service members who served with my father during his time in Vietnam. I would love to hear from my father's captain, CPT Ronald L. Vigue. My father passed in 2021. Please reach out to me.

Curtis Aumiller <caumiller@gmail.com>
310-925-0556.



LT LARRY KIRK, B/1-7 CAV, 1968

Hello 1st Cav, I am looking for LT Larry B. Kirk (who is not a member of 1CDA). He and I were wounded by Camp Evans in July 1968. We were medevac'd to Cam Ranh Bay. We were in B/1-7 Cav. I've been searching for him ever since. I appreciate any help.

1SG (RET) Jay C. Hargis 931-260-5155, 322 Bowerwood Cir, Cookville, TN 38501

HAVE YOU BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOUR LONG LOST BATTLE BUDDY?

If you have been searching for someone that you served with within 1st Cav, try posting it here.
Submit requests to <Programs@1CDA.org> for the next Saber!

LRRP/Ranger News



Pete Dencker
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Greetings Brothers – Hope everyone had a great time at the reunion in New Orleans!

Wanted to start this article off by honoring William Joseph Francis who was KIA on March 9th, 1970. On March 9, 1970, Ranger Patrol 52 was performing reconnaissance of its assigned area in the Song Be River Valley, approximately eight miles south of Bu Dop in Phuoc Long Province, RVN. The patrol established an NDP at 4:30pm. Ninety minutes later, the Assistant Team Leader (ATL) suffered a medical emergency and began convulsing similarly to an epileptic seizure. The team leader immediately requested an aeromedical evacuation. At 6:25pm, the medivac helicopter came on station over the team's position. The pilots requested that the team mark its location with a smoke grenade.



William Joseph Francis

The hovering helicopter dropped a jungle penetrator down through the canopy, and the ATL was strapped into the anchor-like seat and hoisted up. Aware that their position had been compromised, the team leader called for a lift ship to extract the remaining team members. A set-down landing zone was not available, and the aircraft commander informed the team they would have to be extracted by jungle penetrator. At 7:30pm, as the last two members of the team were raised to the aircraft, one member of the team reportedly lost his grip and fell approximately 125 feet to his death. PFC William J. Francis died after suffering multiple fractures and blunt trauma injuries to the head and abdomen. His body was recovered and taken to Camp Radcliff where it was turned over to 15th Medical Battalion personnel. An investigation into the incident determined that Francis fell after the foldable seat on the penetrator broke. Evidently, the seats were rated to hold 300 to 350 pounds, and at the time of the extraction, Francis was carrying his pack and that of the ATL, exceeding the weight rating. In addition, he was not hooked onto the penetrator in any way. Following the investigation, the jungle penetrators were modified to increase the load-carrying capacity and were equipped with rings so personnel could snap link themselves to the devices.

PFC Francis was a major factor in helping me make it through in-country Ranger training in Vietnam. During our final day of training, we had to complete a 5-mile run with gear in stifling heat to complete the Ranger course and have the opportunity to become a LRRP. I struggled during the run but Ranger Francis encouraged me with verbal commands and helped me complete the run and earn my way to becoming a LRRP Ranger. This was in February 1970. PFC Francis was KIA in early March 1970. I never got the opportunity to thank him, so I am saying it now, RIP Ranger Francis.

This was a significant blow to the Francis family as Ranger Francis' brother was KIA in Vietnam 3 years earlier serving with the 101st.

I would like to thank Mike Blymer and Tim Greenly for spending time with me reviewing their mission on 1 May 1969. Also, thanks to John Lebrun, this account also appeared in *Historical Occurrences*.

It seemed like it was going to be a normal mission. There was nothing out of the ordinary as we prepared at our rear base at Phouc Vinh. As usual the mission was recon and surveillance. We had planned for a late afternoon/early evening insertion (suicide insertions as Steve Curtis called them) into our AO (area of operation). As we helicoptered into our LZ (landing zone) it was approaching twilight. Exiting the Huey we moved off the LZ and into the tree line to monitor the LZ for any movement/enemy. As the bird cleared the LZ and headed back to Phouc Vinh the silence was deafening. After feeling it was safe we moved towards our planned night position in our standard patrol formation.

We hadn't moved very far before we found what appeared to be an overnight position for a platoon of US army infantry. There were a lot of discarded and unopened C-rations. As we paused to take a look at what had been left, rounds started going through the foliage around us. We hit the dirt and got "small" as our TL (team leader), Tim Greenly, got on the radio to find out what was going on. We were told that the 11th ACR (Armored Cavalry Regiment) was in contact on the other side of the river. Our position, apparently, was getting the "spent" 50-cal rounds from that engagement; kind of spooky. We quickly moved on towards our night position. A short time later we came across a "high speed" trail (looked like a dirt road). Tim decided this would be an excellent ambush site and night position. We set up to monitor the trail in our classic pin-wheel formation (our packs set back-to-back in the middle, with our feet towards the trail, sides, and rear like a wagon wheel). We only put out one claymore on the trail hoping for a fast ambush. After setting out our claymore we watched the trail and jungle around us for movement and waited for darkness.

As we continued to maintain full alertness, we heard movement to our left. Within a few seconds NVA (North Vietnam Army regulars) soldiers came into view and Tim told us to get ready to engage the enemy. As they approached the team, Tim observed another group coming behind the first group and we hunkered down to wait for a better opportunity. The first group went past, the second group went past, and more and more enemy came down the trail.

When we had set up our night position it seemed that we were hidden within the jungle behind bushes and trees with no clear or open view of

the trail. Now, however, with the enemy moving through our ambush zone we could see two to three soldiers at a time from their boots to their faces with full NVA uniforms and weapons. It was unsettling to consider that any of these NVA soldiers, if they were alert or attentive, only had to turn their heads to the side and they would see us.

Part of the enemy column stopped right in front of our position and we could hear the moans of their wounded. The NVA started pulling bicycles out of the brush across the trail from us and used them to move the wounded. As the column continued to pass in front of us Tim attempted to make radio contact with Slashing Talon, our TOC, informing them of the high number of NVA passing us. Tim remembers when XRay picked up our squelch-code and asked if we had enemy close by and he coded back "yes." XRay then asked him to break squelch once for each one in sight, and he coded back "no." They finally asked him to break squelch once for each five enemy in sight and Greenly started breaking squelch. With that change in squelch-code they finally figured out the problem and relayed to Talon 65 that Team 31 was in deep doo-doo. As the TL was communicating that we were approaching 300+ NVA passing our position it became dark. About that time the NVA column stopped and set up their night position in front and around the team. Tim was talking about blowing the claymore and getting out of Dodge. Blymyer remembers thinking that he really, really didn't want to attempt an E&E (escape and evasion) with that radio on his back slowing him down. He was also wondering how healed his ankle really was and if it would hold up to a run in the dark (he had goofed it up pretty badly on a fumbled attempt at a PLF on another mission about a month earlier). As the NVA settled into place they moved their security soldiers out around their column. Roberts recalled that we heard movement to our left and when the soldier stopped we heard a metallic clicking sound (like our old Halloween/4th of July clickers) coming from that soldier, and then movement of another soldier to that location. The original soldier moved on to another location and stopped, which was to the rear of us, and once again we heard a metallic clicking sound and another soldier moved to that location. This action went on for a long time with a number of NVA now surrounding the five of us and the enemy column still directly to our front. As these soldiers continued to move to their night guard positions we hoped they would not trip over or into us. We were lucky that none of the sentries they put out around us discovered we weren't NVA.

The enemy starting laying down around us and Blymyer remembers that his stomach started to growl and rumble. One NVA came over next to him to relieve his bladder and Blymyer knew the enemy had to hear his stomach and wasn't sure how long he was going to be able to keep the ol' sphincter muscle tightened up. He remembers not being very optimistic about living to see the sun come up.

Roberts recollects that he sat there, trying to be motionless and calm, watching soldier after soldier carrying their wounded, heavy machine guns, mortars, AK-47s, RPG's, and a complete arsenal of weapons. He remembers becoming more and more fearful as each soldier passed. The NVA soldiers were close enough for us to see and hear everything they did. The smallest sounds they made; packs creaking, water sloshing in canteens, the moaning and groaning from their injured, playing grab-ass with each other, laughing, talking, and playing music from transistor radios. It seemed surrealistic and odd but it made them seem human. The scariest thought Dan had was if any one of the 300+ soldiers turned their head to the right they would see our team and we would have the firefight of our life. Dan remembers shaking so much he made the jungle floor under his body make noise. He tried to control his fear but continued to make noise that could have given our position away. Greenly leaned over and told him that he had to try and stop making noise. Dan acknowledged that he'd try (while still watching soldier after soldier passing us). Dan became aware of just how scared he'd become. Never before, during, or after Vietnam had that level of fear gotten a hold of him (that was a sentiment probably shared by all the team!). Dan thought he would die that night and began to negotiate with the Man. He can personally attest to the fact that "There are no atheists in the foxhole." He vividly remembers that he negotiated with God telling him if he lived or got out of this he would go back to church and at some time build him a shrine. Greenly decided that he and Curtis would stay awake for the remainder of the night and we would not rotate guard as we normally do. Tim whispered for the remaining three of us to get some sleep; that it'd be a long night.

As Dan continued to negotiate with God he fell into a deep sleep. The next thing Roberts noticed were birds singing their beautiful songs. He knew there had to be birds in heaven and said to himself, "I made it to Heaven, thank you God!" As he lay there with his eyes closed and listened to the birds singing he felt warmth on his cheek. Curious about the source of the warmth Dan opened his eyes one at a time to locate the source. He saw a ray of light shining through the double and triple jungle canopy and it was the only direct light making it through the trees. It was this ray of light shining on his face and warming his cheeks. As Dan considered if this was truly heaven or a Divine intervention, he heard laughter coming from his right and turning his head towards the laughter, he saw his team members laughing at him. Roberts then knew that this was not Heaven but was still deep in the jungles of Vietnam and in harms way. "What happened?" Dan asked. They told him the NVA pulled out about sunrise and the Huey and pink team (a Cobra gun ship and a light observation helicopter, LOH) were on their way to pick us up, but they wanted to ensure that the NVA got further away before they picked us up. Dan wanted to know why no one on the team woke him up. Someone replied, "You looked like a sleeping baby and no one on the team had the heart to wake you up." Dan then wanted to know when we were getting outta' here and was told "shortly."

After the NVA had clearly left the area Tim called in a fire mission on where he thought they might be. The team collected the claymore, which to our amazement had blood from one of the wounded NVA on it, and packed our packs. As we were leaving we even found an NVA helmet.

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5th CAV News

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I hope everyone had a great time at our 2026 1st Cavalry Division Reunion. I hope many were able to attend. I personally was forced to be absent due to commitments to the Military Order of the Purple Heart, which is opening its national convention in my hometown literally at the closing of the Division Reunion. Anyone that follows this column knows I frequently speak of involvement by more recent Veterans in volunteer organizations, especially our regimental and Division associations. I am now privileged to reside in North Carolina, where Veterans form an unusually large part of the population, and where they (Veterans) are treated with much kindness and respect. Even here, however many Veterans organizations are very active in community and Veterans affairs are struggling to continue. The things they do for Veterans and the community, including fund raising and many hours spent on issues like Junior ROTC, Veterans homelessness and other community and Veterans issues will soon, in many cases cease. Services provided by volunteer, unpaid labor using private funds, and targeted exactly on local needs.

Military families have, all along been frequently involved in follow-up efforts to support both the military itself, and Veterans, as well as other community needs and as a result are still very involved in such things. It is interesting that following the beginning of the all-volunteer armed forces, the civilian population is increasingly unaware of military issues of all kinds, including, it seems, volunteering for more or less anything. The expansion of our economy following WWII saw a huge increase in these very things, and that continued for quite a while.

I have in the past year or so used material provided by Jim Dunnigan both as stories of the 5th Cav and as illustrations of life in the Army. The following illustrates the extent of family involvement, and while the 5th Cav is not directly involved, points out what in only a few years will be thought of as "generational" instead of patriotic or part of military family life. I now present part of Jim's latest.

D-Day, June 6, 1944, Jumping Out of a Perfectly Good Airplane! By Jim Dunnigan

It is 5 June 2026 as I write this. On the night of June 5 in 1944, Myrna's Uncle Howard, a farm boy from Minnesota, is on a plane with a bunch of young Troops from the 101st Airborne, preparing to jump into the darkness and parachute into France behind enemy lines, his first of two combat jumps. The next day, D-Day, thousands of Troops will make a beach assault in what they hope will be a fatal blow to the Nazi regime. His nephew, Stuart wrote the following account of his uncle's experience. Stuart's father, Sherman Nelson, was severely wounded later in the campaign. My father and uncle David had already been knocked out of action prior to D-Day.

I imagine that just about everyone receiving this had family members, (Myrna's mother and father were both Navy Veterans) who were directly affected by this war; some who participated, some whose counties were attacked and some both. Fortunately there was no such thing as PTSD in WWII so there was no problem integrating back into society. (As a note from the byline columnist, I assume Jim's tongue is deep in his cheek)

My uncle Dan landed D-Day+6, so missed the initial landing by a few days, but not to worry, there will still be months of hard fighting before VE Day on 8 May 1945. Approximately 16 million served in the armed forces in WWII. Only about 45 thousand are still living. 292,557 were KIA, other causes 113,842, WIA 670,846, missing 72,491.

Thank you Jim, that is about as good as an illustration of family involvement in the military gets, especially since it comes from one of our 5th Cav Vietnam Vets.

This sort of involvement continues through Korea and Vietnam, following which the volunteer system of sustaining our military took over. I have done no serious study of the question, but my personal observations tend to support the idea that volunteer organizations of all types began to show decreased public interest within about ten years and have continued to wane. As for the involvement of combat Vets in the volunteer portion of things such as Regimental and Division Associations, there seems to have always been a bit of a lag from the time of immersion in combat operations and the associations and that appears unchanged. But the numbers of Troops involved in those conflicts and in the military itself are decreased by quite a bit and that is reflected in the numbers of strongly patriotic, disciplined and unselfish volunteers found in the population. The impact of these people, the time they spend, and the money they raise as well as donate themselves would be difficult to calculate. And if history means anything this cannot be duplicated by government efforts.

People on the streets will have to make the decisions about volunteer civil organizations, but there is no better help for Veterans than other Veterans! History also teaches us that while government can and should be involved in Veterans affairs, they are unlikely to cover the complete spectrum of needs. Hence my continued vocal diatribes about support from you, the readers! You can (and many do) make a difference. Please spread the word! There simply cannot be too many of you!

Our 5th Cav website has been running much more smoothly, and folks are finding it easier to contact us for most issues including joining our ranks in the Association. Give it a visit and let us know what you think. You can find it by Googling <www.5thcav.org>.

Contact the scribe above to share your 5th Cav stories!

If you were ever a part of 5th CAV, make sure you're a member of their Association <www.5thCav.org> SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!

DIVISION DOINGS:

First Team Honors America's 250th Birthday written by Karleen Maloney & Tina Wilgeroth, 1st Cavalry Division Association



LTG Kevin Admiral III Corps CG about to cut the commemorative cake at the Freedom Ball

Throughout July 2026, the 1st Cavalry Division proudly commemorated America's 250th birthday with a series of events that showcased the Division's combat readiness, musical excellence, and rich Cavalry heritage. Soldiers, the 1st Cavalry Division Band, and the Horse Cavalry Detachment each played a unique role in honoring the nation's Semi-quintennial while strengthening connections with community festivities across Texas and beyond.

The Division's Soldiers participated in patriotic ceremonies, community outreach events, and Freedom Fest activities that celebrated the enduring values of service, sacrifice, and patriotism. Representing "America's First Team," Troopers joined fellow service members and local communities in recognizing 250 years of American independence while continuing the Division's mission of readiness and service.

On July 2nd adding the soundtrack to the celebration, the 1st Cavalry Division Band performed at the patriotic Freedom Ball 2026 hosted by III Armored Corps Saluting America's 250th at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center in Killeen, Texas.



CPT Curran Schenck commander of 1CD band during Freedom Ball

The 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment was scheduled to appear in the Celebration of America's 250th Birthday in Washington, D.C. Due to high temperatures on the Fourth of July, the parade was cancelled. The Horse Cavalry Detachment would have been dressed in period Cavalry uniforms and mounted on their horses. The detachment preserves the traditions of the original horse Cavalry while serving as a living link between America's military past and present. Their appearance always reminds audiences of the legacy and heritage that continues to define the First Team.

Then on July 5th the 1st Cavalry Division Band had the honor and privilege of performing at the National Medal of Honor Museum in their Freedom Fest in Arlington, Texas

Together, the Soldiers, Band and Horse Cavalry Detachment demonstrated the many ways the 1st Cavalry Division honors both its history and its commitment to the future. Through military professionalism, inspiring music, and historic cavalry traditions, the First Team helped make America's 250th birthday a memorable celebration of freedom, service, and national pride.

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LT Dan Band Concert Rocks Fort Hood by Ayumi Davis, Fort Hood Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas — July 10 was full of music, dancing, cheering, playing and fireworks as actor Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band took over Sadowski Field at The Great Place.

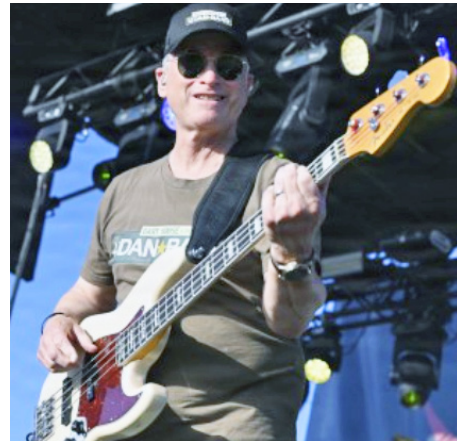
The Gary Sinise Foundation brought the Lt. Dan Band for a two-hour concert event with activities and games from the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, static displays of Army vehicles and food and drink for sale from stalls and food trucks.

"When we come to a military base with the music, it's all about lifting people up, and our little motto is 'Honor, gratitude and rock and roll,'" Sinise said. "That's what we do with the mission."

The band predates the Gary Sinise Foundation, Sinise's nonprofit that has been dedicated to supporting service members, Veterans, first responders, their families and those in need since 2011, according to the foundation's website. The Lt. Dan Band was formed by Sinise in 2003, touring with the USO overseas.

"I get a lot of joy out of seeing people happy and jumping around and having a good time," he continued. "In some way, that's what I do for fun."

Prior to the performance, MG Thomas Feltey, commanding general of 1st Cavalry Division, re-enlisted 120 Soldiers. Then, CSM John McDwyer, III Armored Corps and Fort Hood command sergeant major, welcomed the Lt. Dan Band out



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12th CAV News
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Welcome to my third try at a 12th Regiment column. I can't promise to get it right, only that I'll keep trying. Last time, I thought I had settled on a theme: "stories about people" (the ones we served with). I'm not abandoning that, of course. In fact, there's a people story here, but there's other stuff, too, so we'll call this "potpourri" (not that bag of smelly stuff your significant other puts in her underwear drawer, but that other meaning: "a miscellaneous collection of unrelated things"). Here is the first "unrelated thing."

Is the Lost Battalion Lost Again? In 1968 a two-sentence hand-written order sent LTC Richard Sweet's 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry (2/12) on a doomed mission to reach Hue during the infamous Tet offensive. With scant supplies, in harsh weather, and without artillery support, the battalion found itself surrounded by the 6th NVA regiment. Thanks to leadership, heroism, and grit, much of the battalion made it out alive. I'm not going to tell that story here, though I'll try an abridged version sometime in the future.

Sadly, the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, is missing again. Here's the "back story." On page 19 of the last *Saber* (and in previous issues) there's an ad: it reads, in part "...share your 12th Cavalry stories." That back-page ad wasn't doing anything, so I decided to put the pitch here, up front. There's plenty of stuff here from the 1st, admittedly because the recent scribes are Veterans of that battalion, so this is mostly for you guys in the 2nd. Other than Fred Wilson, doing Yeoman work to hold together the Branson annual reunion, there's nothing recently from the 2nd. Look, sorry for being direct, but don't complain unless you have something to add.

Send me something, anything. If you don't want to write to yourself, just drop me an email with your phone number; I'll call you and all you'll have to do is tell the story, like you would at the VFW over a beer. I'll do the writing. And while we are on the subject, this isn't supposed to just be about Vietnam-by-Vietnam Vets.

Has the Regiment done anything recently? I mean, there have been a couple of wars since the last of the division left Southeast Asia in 1972, so I must think there are other stories out there....and they don't have to be war stories, either, as this next piece should demonstrate. (If you want to read the whole story of the Lost Battalion, look for *The Lost Battalion of Tet: The Breakout of the 2/12th Cavalry at Hue* on Amazon or elsewhere. It's a delightful book that tells the story in detail.)

An Ordinary Vietnam Veteran

Though they may appreciate it, Vietnam Veterans don't really need to be told "Thank you for your service." What they want is to be known for who they are. Men living lives that earn the love and respect of those who know them. Though those close to him would certainly consider him so, in the narrowest of definitions Steve Hendrix wasn't a hero. He didn't charge a bunker, capture a squad of enemy soldiers, and he was among those of us who returned. Neither was he addled by his war, unable to function. It's sad that so many believe that those nonsensical stereotypes can describe us all.

Like most of us, Steve Hendrix was a husband, a provider, a father and a grandfather, a valued employee, and a friend. In fact, he did all that better than most of the rest of us. To me he represents those of us who are ordinary men living ordinary lives, far more so than a Medal of Honor recipient or, God forbid, the far opposite.

When Steve Hendrix came home from Vietnam in 1969, he stayed with his friend Gary Downs in Bardstown, Kentucky. Gary and Steve had served together in the 1st platoon of D Company 1/12th Cavalry, forging a bond that would last the rest of their lives. For Steve, that life ended on June 1, 2026.

The time spent with Gary and his wife, Ann, in Bardstown would be extra special, though, because Steve met a local girl named Dianne, who would become his wife of 50 years. Steve continued his service to his country for 20 years in the Oklahoma National Guard. He retired after 30 years with Oklahoma Natural Gas. He had a passion for Ford Mustangs. For his Vietnam service he was a recipient of a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantry Badge. He is special because he is us.

Ann Downs shared her thoughts about a lifelong friendship that started a half-century ago with the 12th Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and touched lives beyond just the two Veterans, "Steve's passing is breaking our hearts" she wrote. "He was tough when a situation called for it, but his heart was as tender as a teddy bears. Gary's mom & dad loved him like a son. We loved him like a brother and were delighted when he quickly went on his trips to Bardstown. May your family continue to be so proud and feel so lucky to have had him in your life. As my youngest son, Jamie, said 'He was a great man!'"

THE REUNIONS SECTION

1. The Value of The Tribe (Why Reunions Are Good for Your Health)

Soldiers see things that can never be forgotten. Catastrophic events—battles like Tam Quan, or Tet 1968—unarguably are traumatic to those who experience them. Lesser known is the cumulative effect of "smaller" events—being shelled at Khe Sanh, a friend injured or killed by a booby trap. Over time, the effect of these events piles up. Some believe that trauma and tragedy "hasn't affected me." It's possible, I guess—certainly, its impact is an individual thing. Worse, though, is avoidance—suppressing the memories. This "self-treatment," is a symptom (social withdrawal) itself. Borne of an old school "tough guy" mentality this self-imposed isolation too often leads to depression, alcohol, and drug abuse, and even suicide.

In his book, *Tribe*, Sebastian Junger draws on his experiences with a US Army platoon in Afghanistan, recounted in his earlier book, *War*, to explain how groups offer strength and support. This is particularly true of military combat units, Junger found. They laugh together, cry together and experience the same horrific events together. When a Soldier leaves (via DEROS, discharge, or wound) the unit, his tribe, his support structure, is lost. That's when symptoms manifest, out

of nowhere. Finding a tribe is essential to dealing with the demons that haunt us. We are innately tribal and find solace in groups of our peers. That's why group therapy is a widely accepted treatment for PTSD. The images of combat will never go away. "I wish my head could forget what my eyes have seen," expresses it well.

But it's not hopeless. Treatments aside, you also need to find your tribe, those people you love to be around. Family is one. Another is made up of the brothers with whom you shared those long-ago traumas. Those who have attended Delta's reunions know what value that can be. A Delta Veteran wrote, "I attended the first [D Company] reunion I knew about, in 2017, and my first comment to my wife after seeing just a few of the guys was, 'this is very therapeutic for me.'" You took an oath to your country, and carried not only pride, but the burden of your service. No one said you had to do it alone. We hope to see you in New Orleans. If not, reach out to a fellow Veteran, and create a group of two—or three. You'll never regret it.

"Group therapy is a highly effective, evidence-based treatment for PTSD. It reduces isolation, helps normalize trauma responses, and provides a safe environment to build coping skills alongside peers with similar experiences." Yahaira M. Patin-Betancourt, Psy.D., Clinical Psychologist, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Emotional Trauma Recovery Center

2. Tucson

Not all reunions are big deals, with banquets, speakers, and multiple events. I attended one—we'll call it a "gathering," something less formal and less costly—in Tucson, Arizona in early May. There were a dozen of us, all with Vietnam and single company of the 12th Regiment in common. We were from different "eras," five from 65-66, who trained together—developing the new "Airmobile" tactics and equipment—at Fort Benning before taking a boat across the Pacific. They have known each other for 53 years plus. There's just one other from my era, 67-68, and we're from different platoons, but never-the-less remember encountering each other to the awful music of small arms fire on a sandy ridge east of Quang Tri on February 1, 1968. These old men include a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, Delta's first Vietnam commander, a PFC who retired an LTC, but mostly we were just E4's, E5's, and a young lieutenant doing our duty and trying to get back to "the world" and to our lives. We spent three days together. No charges or fees, our own company treasury buying a lunch for 12 Veterans and their guests, then hosted by Tucson's Am Vets Chapter for a steak dinner.

3. New Orleans

The 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion recently held in New Orleans is, of course, "the big one." My Vietnam Cav company was represented by a dozen Veterans. Many took the opportunity to visit the National WWII Museum, which did not disappoint. Scheduled events, including the President's Reception, the Unit Luncheons, Ladies Luncheon, and others bring us together. The Long Roll Muster memorializes lost Brothers.

Outside of those events, there was still time to spend with old friends in other settings. There seemed to be a restaurant, sometimes two, on every block. Near the hotel was the Cajun Boil, which served up a nice étouffée along with live jazz-pop fusion. Across the street from our hotel was the Creole House, where we joined our twelve attending D 1/12 Veterans and a few significant others for a Friday lunch. For me this is value beyond the events. These men are my Tribe. The time spent with other Veterans, many with whom I served, but also a few from other times and other wars, is priceless. We told stories, shared memories, and toasted those who are no longer with us. These Veterans understand each other through their shared experiences. So yes, we will talk about it all.

On Saturday evening at the National World War II Museum, The Victory Belles, a trio reminiscent of the Andrews Sisters, wowed us with WWII era hits including *Shoo Shoo Baby*, *Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree*, and the iconic *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy*. The Banquet, our final event, honored Division Veteran Bruce Crandall, who recently passed, for his heroism at Ia Drang in 1965. To friends old and new we said, "Farewell until next year." To some—who they are we don't yet know—that farewell will sadly be forever.

4. The 12th Regiment Annual Reunion in Branson, Missouri

If you've never been to Branson, it will be worth the trip. Kinda Country Western kitsch. Or Dollywood without Dolly. Seriously, this is Americana. Dress is country casual, food is more than you can eat, and entertainment is let-yourself-go fun. The "Hits of the 60's" show is an annual 12th Regiment event. The Branson Hillside Resort (formerly The Welk) has been the Regiment's headquarters for over a decade (417) 751-0395. Room rates are reasonable and include a big breakfast buffet. Dates are September 15-19 (the banquet is Saturday the 19th, departure day is Sunday, Sep 20th). You can see the Branson Registration Form at <<https://www.catrack6india.com/>> or call Fred Wilson at (741) 331-1814.

CORRESPONDENCE

SGT Larry Van Beest writes: "I enjoyed your stories about the chaplains in the 1/12th. I'm wondering why I have never read anything about Chaplain Jack Keene (Have Bible-Will Preach)?? I served with the 1/12th (ABN) from May 66 to May 67. Chaplain Keene gave out what he called were TS Cards (Trying Situations need Tested Solutions), with the 66-67 calendars on the backside.

Do you have any information about him? I have read other stories regarding the Chaplains of the 1/12th, but again I never see mention of Chaplain Keene. Can you help me out? I appreciate any info you may have. God Bless old Trooper! Airborne!" (I checked around and didn't produce anything. How about you out there?)

Dennis (Doc) Black (B 1/12, 69-70) writes, "There is a recent book published, written by Ed Mann, titled *Jungle Ghosts*." It is about Ed's time with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry from 1969 - 1970. Ed walked point for the 3rd platoon. It is beautifully written and gives an excellent description of what it was like humping the bush. I can verify Ed's writing as I was the 1st platoon medic."

I checked it out, and I'll be adding it to my Vietnam and Military History library. Here is an excerpt from the Amazon review:

Jungle Ghosts is a gripping and evocative novel that immerses readers in the harrowing experiences of a Soldier navigating the dense, perilous jungles of Vietnam. The author masterfully captures the essence of the environment, painting vivid pictures that transport readers back to 1969, a time marked by conflict and turmoil."

Semper Paratus! That's all for now, folks!

7th CAV News



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We are beginning a new feature highlighting the careers and contributions of 7th US Cavalry Regiment Troopers. In this issue, we look at **CSM Justin Mansfield**, the senior enlisted Trooper in the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry.

As of this writing, Command Sergeant Major Mansfield is wearing two Stetsons – that of CSM, 1st of the 7th, and that of Brigade CSM while filling in for the assigned Brigade CSM for a short period.

CSM Mansfield began his career in 2002 as a 19D Cavalry Scout. Over the years, he has filled every position on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle while attending major courses required for advancement. Additionally, he has continued his civilian education and is currently completing his Doctor of Education (EdD) degree. We asked him questions about his career, and these are his responses...

What caused you to make the decision to join the Army?

I originally joined the Army because I wanted purpose, structure, and the opportunity to be part of something larger than myself. At the time, I do not think I fully understood what that actually meant. Like many young Soldiers, I probably saw the Army as a path toward growth, challenge, and opportunity, but I underestimated how much it would fundamentally shape the way I think about leadership, accountability, and service.

Which individual(s) from your time in the military stand out as having the most positive impact on you and why?

One individual who had a significant impact on me was 1SG Davis while I was assigned to Korea. Early in my career, he reviewed my first NCOER and was not pleased with the way it was written. Instead of simply approving it or criticizing it from a distance, he called in my platoon sergeant and essentially said he would handle it himself to ensure it was done correctly. What stood out was not just that he cared about the evaluation, but that he brought me in personally and explained why it mattered.

He told me that the most important NCOER is not necessarily the one that gets you promoted. It is the one that teaches you how performance is captured, how leaders evaluate potential, and how organizations truly see their Soldiers. He explained that awards and evaluations say a great deal about a unit and its leadership because they reflect what leaders choose to recognize, value, and document. That conversation completely changed the way I viewed counseling, evaluations, and leader responsibility. It was one of the first times a senior leader took the time to explain not just what we do, but why it matters.

Of all your duty stations or assignments, which one do you have the fondest memories of and why?

Honestly, it is not a specific duty station or assignment that stands out most to me. The moments I value most are the random phone calls or messages I occasionally receive from former Soldiers. Sometimes it happens days after an event, sometimes years later. A few of those conversations have started with something along the lines of, "At the time, I thought you were an ass, but later I realized how much you actually cared, and I just wanted to say thank you."

Those moments probably mean more to me than any assignment ever could because they remind me that leadership is often understood in hindsight. Sometimes the standards, accountability, or difficult conversations that feel frustrating in the moment are eventually recognized as a genuine investment. Knowing that something I said or did positively impacted someone long after we served together is probably the most rewarding part of my career.

What positive or negative changes have you seen during your time in the military?

One positive change I have seen is a stronger emphasis on leader development, emotional intelligence, and genuine investment in people. I see leaders today spending considerably more time discussing counseling, organizational climate, talent management, and the importance of understanding Soldiers beyond simple task completion. There is a growing recognition that leadership is relational rather than purely positional, and I believe that shift has positively influenced many organizations.

In many ways, I believe the purpose of challenging training is not simply to validate competence, but to expand confidence, resilience, and self-awareness. When conducted properly, those experiences help individuals discover that their perceived limits are often far lower than their actual capacity.

At the same time, I think one ongoing challenge is that the Army still struggles with consistency in how leaders develop people and evaluate potential, especially under tough training conditions and operational demands where time, resources, and leader attention are limited. It is easy to talk about mentorship and development when conditions are ideal. It is much harder to meaningfully invest in people while balancing field problems, deployments, maintenance requirements, staffing shortages, and competing priorities. That tension is where leadership is truly tested.

Over time, those experiences became one of the major influences behind my professional studies and research interests. Much of my work as a scholar practitioner focuses on understanding what it actually means to capture "potential" within a military context. We often discuss potential as though it is something obvious, objective, or universally understood, yet leaders frequently differ in how they identify, evaluate, and communicate it through counseling, evaluations, opportunities, and daily interactions.

Another theme I have noticed throughout my career, especially among senior enlisted leaders, is the constant emphasis on "mastering the fundamentals" or "getting back to the basics." I absolutely believe there is truth in that, but I also think it needs to be framed differently. Too often, we present the basics as a checklist of tasks or standards rather than helping Soldiers understand what they

can actually control and influence. At its core, a lot of military success begins with showing up to the right place, at the right time, in the right uniform. But more importantly, it requires showing up with the right attitude and a willingness to work, learn, and be coached.

In many ways, I think that is the real foundation leaders should focus on first. If a Soldier arrives coachable, motivated, and willing to learn, then leaders can teach them to master the fundamentals. That becomes much harder when someone arrives with a mindset shaped by cynicism, disengagement, or distrust.

We want to thank the CSM for his candor. By the way, when he leaves the squadron, his next assignment will be at the Sergeants Major Course to be an instructor in the Department of Command Leadership.

Obituary for Frank "Doc" Richardson

It is with great sadness I report that Frank "Doc" Richardson passed away on May 26, 2026, at his home in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was an extraordinary man and will be dearly missed by his family, many friends, and all who knew him. Frank was a Medic with Echo/RECON Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Air Cav Division in 1968/1969, at the peak of the Vietnam War.



On March 17th, 1969, during the battle of Hill 54, while under intense enemy fire, Frank brought the four severely wounded survivors from our devastated mortar pit back to the relative safety of the west side of the hilltop. There, he set up and began treating the wounded in a makeshift triage area that backed up to a sheer cliff. He had picked the perfect spot. There was nowhere to go, no escape, nowhere to pull back to if we were overrun, but it was protected from direct fire, and was the safest spot on the tiny LZ for the rapidly increasing number of seriously injured men.

By 0300, two hours into the battle, eleven men had been killed, most of Echo Company had been wounded, and many were in critical condition. Enemy fire was so intense that Medivac evacuation was impossible. Medic, Specialist 5 Firman "Doc" Titus, had been killed early in the battle and Frank was our sole surviving source of medical aid. He really had his hands full. In addition to the wounded that he personally moved into the triage area, severely injured GIs were being dragged in by their buddies in a steady stream, and the number of Soldiers who needed immediate attention continued to grow. Somehow, Frank was able to take charge of that chaotic situation, saving many lives while performing far above and beyond the call of duty.

One of Frank's buddies had been horribly injured and, in spite of his best efforts, the man was dying. Frank tried everything to save his friend's life but the wounds were mortal and there was never any hope. He stopped breathing while Frank cradled him in his arms just as a new batch of casualties was dragged into the small triage area. The immediate needs of those wounded Soldiers postponed all feelings of sorrow and loss that Frank might have had and completely replaced those thoughts with the mandate of performing a critically important job under totally impossible circumstances, the textbook definition of a Combat Medic. Doc Richardson closed the man's eyes, said a quick goodbye to his friend and went back to work, stabilizing wounded Soldiers and saving many lives.

A remarkable note to Frank's extraordinary performance on Hill 54 is that he was never formally trained as an Army medic. Third Platoon Leader, 1st Lieutenant Karl Swenson, chose him for the Hunter/Killer Team because Frank had been a paramedic in civilian life, and Karl knew the small team would never be assigned an Army Medic. What the team needed was someone steady, brave, and willing to run towards danger when everyone else took cover. Frank Richardson was exactly that person. Frank received the Combat Infantry Badge, not the Combat Medic Badge, but every Soldier who served beside him called him "Doc" with the greatest respect. Frank was the one you wanted nearby when Hell broke loose and somebody yelled "MEDIC!" He was, in every sense, a true hero.

1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion Recap Highlights from New Orleans



I just returned from the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion in New Orleans, and it was a memorable experience from start to finish. It was a privilege to reconnect with Veterans who have served in the Cav from the Korean War through today.

The hotel was excellent and located right in the French Quarter. The warm weather brought back memories of the war zone, but the opportunity to spend time with people who truly understood those stories made the trip more than worthwhile.

We were honored to have CSM Justin Mansfield join us at the 7th Cav Unit Lunch. He filled us in on many of the new procedures and how Garryowen functions in this brand-new age of warfare. Most of us were surprised to learn that 1/7 no longer has any 11 Bravos. We will cover the details of his presentation in the September issue of 7th Cav News.

Looking Ahead to Next Year:

Next year's reunion promises to be even better. It will be held in August at Fort Benning, where many of us trained. Start planning now to be part of it. We look forward to seeing you there!

Moving to the Old Soldiers Home

People looking to give an animal a forever home have a chance for a 'mane' attraction involving an equine from a storied Army Cavalry detachment. That opportunity surfaced this week, when the 1st Cavalry Division announced that one of its retiring horses is available for adoption.



Ricky Bobby, also known as AC Cotton, is a 17-year-old dark bay gelding now searching for a retirement barn after serving the unit since 2018. AC Cotton is an easy keeper, sociable with other horses, and would make a GREAT pasture buddy and trail horse.

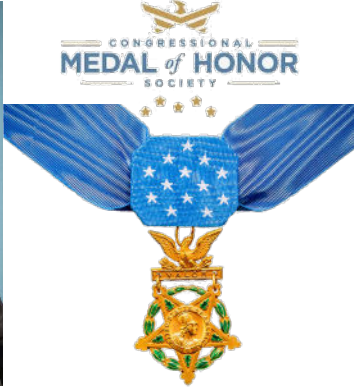
Fort Hood, Texas, is home to one of just four remaining horse-mounted units

Continued to pg. 19



IN REMEMBRANCE U.S. ARMY COLONEL BRUCE CRANDALL

February 17, 1933 - May 31, 2026



Congressional Medal of Honor Society Mourns the Passing of Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipient Bruce P. Crandall

Colonel Bruce Perry Crandall, United States Army (RET), a devoted husband, proud father, spirited storyteller, and cherished friend to many, passed away peacefully on May 31, 2026, at his residence at Mirabella at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. He was 93 years old. Now, there are only 63 living Medal of Honor Recipients.

Though recognized nationally for his heroism during the Vietnam War, those who knew Bruce best remember the warmth of his wit, the depth of his humility, and the fierce loyalty he gave to the people and communities he loved.

Bruce was born in Olympia, Washington, in February 1933. He grew up with a love for baseball and a strong sense of duty that would guide his life. An All-American high school athlete, he earned a scholarship to the University of Washington with hopes of one day playing professional baseball for the New York Yankees. That dream changed in 1953 when he was not drafted by the Yankees, but by the United States Army.

Bruce had already joined the Army National Guard at just 15 years old. After completing basic training at Fort Lewis, only a short distance from his hometown, he attended Engineer Officer Candidate School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, followed by fixed-wing and helicopter flight training. Commissioned as an Army officer in 1954, his first assignment placed him with a topographical mapping unit in San Francisco, contributing to surveys of the Alaskan frontier. His first overseas assignment came in 1956 at Wheelus Air Force Base in Libya, where he served as a flight instructor and unit test pilot while helping map the North African desert. Subsequent assignments took him to Panama and

Costa Rica, where he flew thousands of miles of aerial mapping missions over previously unmapped regions of Central and South America. Later, as a platoon commander with the 11th Air Assault Division, he helped develop and refine the air assault tactics that would forever change Army aviation.

In early 1965, Bruce served with the Dominican Republic Expeditionary Force before deploying to Vietnam as a flight commander with Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). Known by the call sign "Ancient Serpent 6," he quickly became affectionately known among his Soldiers as "Old Snake."

On November 14, 1965, during the Battle of Ia Drang, Bruce led a flight of sixteen helicopters carrying Soldiers into Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley. As enemy fire intensified, follow-on aircraft were ordered to abort their mission. Recognizing that the infantry battalion on the ground desperately needed ammunition and that wounded Soldiers remained trapped under fire, Bruce made a decision that would define his legacy.

Though resupply and medical evacuation were not part of his assigned mission, he voluntarily returned to the embattled landing zone. With complete disregard for his own safety, he organized volunteer crews and repeatedly flew his unarmed helicopter into one of the most dangerous battlefields of the Vietnam War. Throughout the day and into the evening, he completed 22 flights through relentless enemy fire, delivering critical ammunition, evacuating wounded Soldiers, and inspiring fellow aviators to continue flying missions into the fight.

His actions saved countless lives, strengthened the resolve of the Soldiers on the ground, and became one of the most celebrated acts of courage in Army aviation history. For his extraordinary heroism, Bruce was awarded the Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush in 2007.

Bruce's actions during the Battle of Ia Drang were later chronicled in the bestselling book *We Were Soldiers Once... and Young* by Lieutenant General Hal Moore and Joseph Galloway and portrayed in the 2002 film *We Were Soldiers*.

Crandall continued serving throughout the Vietnam War, including a second combat tour, and ultimately flew more than 900 combat missions. During Operation Masher in 1966, he earned recognition for rescuing 12 wounded Soldiers under fire. After being severely injured when his helicopter was shot down in 1968, he recovered and continued his Army career in a series of leadership and engineering assignments before retiring from the Army in 1977 as a lieutenant colonel.

His military decorations include the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, 24 Air Medals, the Vietnam Service Medal, and numerous other awards and commendations.

In retirement, Bruce remained a tireless ambassador for Army aviation, the Medal of Honor, and the men with whom he served. He was honored by the Air Force's Gathering of Eagles in 1994, inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame in 2004, and recognized through the naming of the headquarters building of the 1st Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in his honor.

8th CAV News

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Having just returned this past Sunday from the Reunion in New Orleans and wanted to tell all the 8th Cavalry Troopers both those who were there and those reading this article what a nice time was had by all of us. I think everyone would agree what an amazing place the World War II Museum is. I've been to several military museums and this rates very high in the amount of information, films and displays I've ever seen. The section where the film on the concentration camps was a very emotional experience. I promise anyone with a soul would not have a dry eye during viewing the film.

The highlight for all I would think was the night of the banquet at the museum. The three young ladies' performance as the Andrew sisters was spot on from that era of entertainment. What a wonderful way to end the evening it was.

I always look forward to seeing the many faces and sitting down to shoot the breeze with those we see at reunion each year. Goes to show you how important it is to stay in contact with all the Brothers with whom we served. My goodness how when I look back and think that I almost didn't go to that first reunion hosted by Mike McGhie. Only with the urging of my good wife and the letters I had received from both Ed Regan and Mike McGhie did I venture to Las Vegas in 1996. I ended up hosting two reunions here in St. Louis later.

Speaking of reunions, I recently received a phone call from active 1SG Tom Domak who proposes that he would like very much like to get a group of us Vets who served with the 8th Cavalry to come down to Ft. Hood so we along with some of the active 8th Cavalry Troopers and us Vets could begin a conversation about developing a relationship and plans to begin planning just that.

I personally like the idea and was going to present 1SG Domak's idea at reunion, but I will have to go into more details in the next Saber article for the 8th Cavalry as after being nominated and approved as the next president of the 8th Cavalry I was not only honored, but completely forgot doing so.

It's a great idea and believe it or not, the exact proposal was made to the active Troopers many moons ago by us Vets of the 8th Cavalry to no avail. Disappointing but it looks like the timing could be more convenient now due to the active Troopers of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of the 8th will all be at Ft. Hood at the same time very shortly.

So, with that I will let all of you read a recent email from **Tom DeYoung** where he is sharing some of his tour to be posted in the 8th Cavalry section of the *Saber* News.

It was an unusually cold snow December in 1965. Following high school, I took a job as a manager trainee with a large, grocery store chain. I was on a rotation assigned to different stores, from the largest to some of the smallest, to gain an

understanding of the various operations in each. Covering other bases, I was also pursuing a degree in music education at the local college with a major in piano and minor in organ. I was totally engaged in this as well, participating in various choral groups. Working full-time and going to school full-time was probably not the wisest decision I could have made, but I need to work to pay my tuition and college fees. As you can guess, both suffered. I dropped out of school for a semester to get caught up financially but got caught up in another way. I received a nice letter from President Lyndon Johnson that began: "Greetings! You have been selected by your friends and neighbors to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States." Life took a different and unplanned direction.

I went to see the Air Force recruiter, but my Local Draft Board #281 would hear none of that - "You're going in the Army." The AF recruiter took me to the Army recruiter who said if I would go RA, I could pick my MOS. So, I did and signed up to be a clerk/typist and went off in January to Fort Knox for Basic Training. That was followed by Infantry AIT at Fort Jackson, SC (How did that switch in MOS happen???). While there I thought there must be another avenue so I applied and was accepted for OCA. After a time as a "Hold Over," I was off to Fort Benning and Infantry OCS in the newly formed 9th Battalion under the command of LTC John Stannard; I would see him again in a future assignment. I was in 91st Company commanded by CPT Moses. Following commissioning as a 2LT in January, I was off to Fort Knox again this time as a training officer in a BCT Company.

By June I had my orders to 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam. After "Cherry School," I went to AnKhe assigned to Charlie, 2/8th. Life can be full of surprises: LTC John Stannard was battalion commander." Not strange enough? How about this one from Stars and Stripes: It's a small world, especially for two members of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade. Two Sky Troopers who were roommates at Officers Candidate School, Fort Benning, GA have found themselves together again. This time as platoon leaders with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry. I was probably the most surprised man in the Army when I walked in and found (Gerald) Welden standing there commented LT DeYoung. The two officers joined up on the Bond Son Plain where the 1st Brigade has been fighting an uninterrupted series of combat operations since September 1966. Following a time with Weapons Platoon, CPT Flatley assigned me to one of the Rifle Platoons. That assignment wasn't going to last long. In November during the Battle of Dak To, Bravo Company lost its commander, it's experienced lieutenants, and part of the command group, leaving it with no combat experience officers in the midst of battle. I was reassigned to Bravo Company to await the arrival of CPT Peter O'Sullivan and several new lieutenants. (The stories of Bravo for the period that follows can be found online at <eagerarms.com>). Upon completion of that tour in RVN I returned to Fort Knox to command a Basic Training Company A-19-5 only to find myself back in RVN 11 months later.

Thanks to Tom for his contribution as he is helping me to fill the 8th Cavalry section of the *Saber* this time. And to all of you, I'll see you in New Orleans. Honor and Courage, Larry Hempfling D/2-8 68-69

**Contact the scribe to share your 8th Cav stories!
If you were ever a part of 8th CAV, join your Association, SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**

Limited Edition 1st Cavalry Division Prints

Both Military Edition Prints are autographed by the artist and numbered



Turning the Corner
Task Force Baghdad
by James Dietz
31" x 19"
\$40

Operation Iraqi Freedom
Task Force Baghdad Print
As a commemorative to the division's tour of duty, this painting by James Dietz captures the essence of a street scene in Baghdad with Cav Troopers and the equipment they used in the effort to help the Iraqi people "turn the corner" on the road from tyranny to democracy.



Liberation of Baqubah
Oct 2006 - Dec 2007
Iraq
by Joe Kline
28" x 20"
\$40

Deployed to Diyala Province, Iraq in September 2006 with 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. 1-12 CAV assumed an area of operations of over 300 square kilometers. The battalion pursued an aggressive campaign of counter-insurgency operations focused on securing the war torn provincial capitol. Determined to strike at the heart of the insurgency, 1-12 CAV established permanent combat outposts in the most dangerous parts of Baqubah: Buhriz, Khatoon, Old Baqubah and Tahrir. From these outpost 1-12 CAV conducted aggressive, near-continuous combat operations to destroy the insurgency. The Liberation of Baqubah was in keeping with the proud history of the 12th Cavalry Regiment.

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION PRINTS

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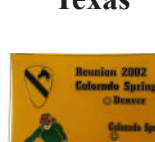
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2024
Kentucky



2025
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2026
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1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

Dennis Webster
513 Louise St, Copperas Cove, TX 76522
254-220-2164
Dennis.Webster7@gmail.com



I previously covered the Distinctive Unit Insignias of the Cavalry, Aviation, and Artillery units assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division the July/August 2025 SABER. This will be a continuation of the Distinctive Unit Insignia for the units currently assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division in this issue of SABER. This time we include the DUI of the Engineer and Support battalions currently assigned to the First Team with one exception. The 91st Engineer Battalion was inactivated in October 2025, but I'm going to include their DUI in this article.

As a reminder, a Distinctive Unit insignia (DUI) is a metallic heraldic badge or device worn by Soldiers in the United States Army. The DUI design is derived from the coat of arms authorized for a unit. DUIs may also be called "distinctive insignia" (DI) or, imprecisely, a "crest" or a "unit crest" by Soldiers or collectors. The U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry is responsible for the design, development, and authorization of all DUIs.

THE DUI OF THE 3D ENGINEER BATTALION

Description: A Gold color metal and enamel device 1 1/4 inches (3.18 cm) in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Gules, within a bordure indented the Roman numeral III Argent. Attached above the shield on a wreath Argent and Gules a beaver couchant at the foot of a palm branch Proper.

Symbolism: The beaver is the old symbol of New York dating from 1623, when it was on the arms of New Netherlands, and is now on the seal of New York City, the original location of the unit. The palm branch is symbolic of tropical service. The shield is red bordered with white, the Engineer colors, the border being indented in allusion to the Engineer work in connection with field intrenching.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 3d Engineer Regiment on 9 February 1924. It was redesignated for the 3d Engineer Battalion on 11 March 1942. The insignia was redesignated for the 3d Engineer Combat Battalion on 31 January 1950. It was redesignated for the 3d Engineer Battalion on 30 October 1958. It was amended to update the description and symbolism on 25 July 2013.



THE DUI OF THE 8TH ENGINEER BATTALION

Description: A Silver color metal and enamel device 1 inch (2.54 cm) in height consisting of a shield blazoned: Gules on a bordure embattled Argent eight horseshoes Azure.

Symbolism: The shield is red with the white border, the colors of the Corps of Engineers. The eight horseshoes indicate the numerical designation of the organization and its mounted service.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 8th Engineer Battalion on 26 December 1928. It was amended to change the designation to Engineer Squadron on 3 April 1930. It was redesignated for the 8th Engineer Combat Battalion on 17 August 1949. The insignia was redesignated for the 8th Engineer Battalion on 18 May 1955.



THE DUI OF THE 91ST ENGINEER BATTALION

(Inactivated 16 October 2025)

Description: A silver color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86cm) in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Gules, a plate charged throughout with a masoned stone arched bridge Proper. Attached below the shield is a scroll inscribed "ACTS NOT WORDS" in black letters.

Symbolism: Red and white are colors associated with the Corps of Engineers, and the masoned bridge represents Engineering accomplishment.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 22 November 1939.



THE DUI OF THE 15TH SUPPORT BATTALION

Description: On a Silver metal and enamel device 1 inch (2.54 cm) in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Per bend Argent and Sanguine, in chief a spike of bluebonnet (Lupinus Texensis) slipped and foliated Proper.

Symbolism: The colors of the shield, white and maroon, are the Army Medical Department colors. The bluebonnet, the Texas State flower, indicates the unit was organized in Texas.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 1st Medical Squadron on 11 July 1928. It was redesignated for the 15th Medical Battalion on 29 December 1950. It was redesignated for the 15th Support Battalion with the description and symbolism revised on 22 April 1987.



THE DUI OF THE 115TH SUPPORT BATTALION

Description: A Gold color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86 cm) in width overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Per fess indented of six Gules (Brick Red) and Buff, on a chief Or a bend Sable. Attached below the shield is a Gold scroll inscribed "PREPARED IN PEACE OR WAR" in Black letters.

Symbolism: The color Gules (brick red) was used to indicate the Transportation Corps and buff

was used to represent the Quartermaster Corps. The six points of the fess allude to the six citations awarded the organization during World War II and the Korean War. The chief, suggested by the shoulder sleeve insignia of the 1st Cavalry Division, refers to the close association of the organization with that Division.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 15th Supply and Transport Battalion on 18 September 1963. It was redesignated for the 15th Supply and Service Battalion on 20 June 1966. It was redesignated for the 15th Supply and Transport Battalion on 28 October 1971. The insignia was redesignated for the 115th Support Battalion with the description and symbolism amended on 22 April 1987.

THE DUI OF THE 215TH SUPPORT BATTALION

Description: A Gold color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86 cm) in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Or, a chevron Gules charged with two lightning flashes conjoined chevronwise Or, in base a blacksmith's hammer and tongs saltirewise surmounted by an anvil, all Proper. Attached below the shield a Black scroll inscribed "NOTASK TOO TOUGH" in Gold letters.

Symbolism: Gold/buff and scarlet are the colors traditionally associated with Support units. The chevron symbolizes support and is charged with lightning to indicate the Battalion's mission of forward support. The Blacksmiths, the unit's nickname, is recalled by the anvil and blacksmith's tools. Black represents dependability and solidarity.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 14 April 1992.



THE DUI OF THE 553D SUPPORT BATTALION

Description: A gold color metal and enamel device 29/32 inch (2.30 cm) in height overall consisting of the lower part of a gold disc with a black ring enclosing a light blue hub and on gold rays extending from the hub, a wavy three-pronged black device between outer rays bearing five light blue rectangles respectively. At the top on a gold scroll arched above the hub, looped at the sides and inscribed "ASK - WE DO" in black letters.

Symbolism: The central hub and radiant segments denote the unit's support mission and capability for providing a nucleus of personnel for operation of centralized supply and stock control activity. The blue billets suggest requisitions received and processed and reports pertaining to supply data. The black wavy lines allude to the organization's supervision of petroleum supply companies. The wheel also stands for movement of all supplies by transportation companies within the Battalion's purview. Gold and blue denote the unit's origin as a Quartermaster Battalion. The two groups of five billets and the three prongs allude to the numerical designation of the unit.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 553d Supply and Service Battalion on 28 June 1967. It was redesignated for the 553d Support Battalion with the description and symbolism revised on 30 July 1993.



THE DUI OF THE 615TH SUPPORT BATTALION

Description: A Gold color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86 cm) in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Per chevron nebuly Gules and Buff a bayonet palewise of the first surmounted by an anvil Sable. Attached below the shield a Black scroll inscribed "FORGE THE EDGE" in Gold letters.

Symbolism: The colors buff (gold) and scarlet represent Support organizations. The division of the shield, per chevron nebuly, further symbolizes support and alludes to association with Aviation. The motto "FORGE THE EDGE," is recalled by the charges, an anvil and bayonet.

The bayonet also denotes readiness and the mission of support to the individual Soldier in the field. Black signifies strength and solidarity, scarlet courage and sacrifice.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was approved effective 16 September 1996.



THE DUI OF THE DIVISION SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION (Originally the DUI of the 15th Sustainment Brigade)

Description: On a yellow rectangular shaped device arced at top and pointed at base 3 inches (7.62 cm) in height and 2 inches (5.08 cm) in width overall, a bowed black bend and a bowed black bend-sinister saltirewise charged with five yellow mullets, in chief a black horse's head; all within a 1/8 inch (.32 cm) black border.

Symbolism: Black and yellow reflect the colors of the unit's lineage. The arches, symbols of support, indicate the vital support provided by the brigade. The stars highlight the five principle support functions of Support, namely: Supply, Maintenance, Transportation, Field Services and Human Resources. Together, the arches that form a stylized Roman numeral ten and the five stars represent the numerical designation (15) of the organization. The horse's head symbolizes the long history of the unit tracing back to the days of the horse cavalry.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 13 January 2006.



Once Cav, Always Cav! FIRST TEAM!

15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB



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1122 Main St, Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-3150
TerryAMcCarl@gmail.com
<https://15thMedBnAssociation.org>



2026 15th Medical Bn Assn Reunion Account

The 2026 15th Medical BN Association Reunion held 22-26 April at the Hyatt Place Bricktown in Oklahoma City, OK was a truly enjoyable and memorable reunion thanks to the exhaustive efforts of our hosts Ron “Huey” and Susan Huether.

The 100-year anniversary of the activation of the 15th Medical Battalion celebration was held in conjunction with the reunion and that was reported on in the Mar-April 2026 *Saber* column.

Attending the reunion there were 16 life members, 13 associate members (spouses and family members), 1 honorary member and 3 guests.

Our group was honored to have two distinguished guests from the Woodring Wall of Honor and Veterans Park in Enid, OK: Elaine Johns, Executive Director, and Jack Toney, board member. The Woodring Wall of Honor and Veterans Park which is described as a living military memorial, park and museum honors, re-members, and educates the public about Oklahoma Veterans from all branches of the military. For additional information, see <<https://woodringwallofhonor.com>>.

During the reunion, video interviews of Purple Heart Recipients in attendance were conducted by Elaine and Jack. Recipients interviewed were Roger Bodwell, Bill Cooley, Ron Huether, David Sheets, and Leo Williams. Videos of their interviews will be available for viewing at <<https://woodringwallofhonor.com>> after the Purple Heart Gallery is dedicated August 7, 2026.

Coincidentally, Jack Toney has a connection to the 1st Cavalry Division, having served in D Co, 2nd of the 7th Cavalry Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division from May 1969-1970, and awarded three Purple Hearts!

The banquet was held at the hotel on Saturday evening. Elaine Johns spoke at the banquet about the mission and activities of the Woodring Wall of Honor and Veterans Park. Also, at the banquet, Auxiliary President Velma Smith presented the Auxiliary Angel of the Year Award to Debbie Tabor. Velma Smith also presented a gift from the Auxiliary to Susan and Huey Huether in recognition of their hard work and dedication to the 15th Medical Battalion Association. The winner of the drawing for \$500 to offset room costs was Jon Lundquist.

We were honored once again by the attendance of Jamie Gregg Spisak, niece of SP5 Johnny G. Gregg, KIA 26 November 1968. Jamie has been an honorary member of our Association since the 2014 reunion. SP5 Gregg and all members of his Medevac Crew consisting of 1LT Stephen C. Beals; CWO James D. Doran; SP4 John S. Alling; and CPL Robert E. Jones along with 6 wounded patients were KIA when their

Medevac helicopter was shot down on 26 November 1968. This event has been determined to be the most costly US Army Aero-Medical Evacuation Mission of the Vietnam War.

The Saturday evening festivities closed with the fund-raising auction to which members contributed items to be auctioned off to raise operating funds for the Association. Veteran auctioneer Jim Calibro served as the auctioneer with assistance from John Tabor. As usual, it was a lively and fun event with fierce competition in the bidding! The amount collected was \$995.

Below is 2026 Reunion Members Group Photo. From Left to Right: Dale Behm, Dave Sheets, Mike Smith, Barry Brown, Bill Cooley, Dennis Behm, John Tabor, Huey Huether, Leo Williams, Mike Ahern, Jon Lundquist, Ron Ingram, Jack Toney, Roger Bodwell, Dan Toothman, Bill Stovall, Jim Calibro, Larry Silvey



Below is the 2026 Reunion Auxiliary Group Photo. From Left to Right: Kathryn Stovall, Sandy Cooley, Debbie Tabor, Patsy Silvey, Peggy Gardiner, Marlene, Ingram, Cindy Lundquist, Velma Smith, Beverly Wedgman, Susan Huether, Nicki Sheets, Jamie Spisak, Elaine Johns



CGM Interim Award Ceremony for Dustoff and Medevac Crews who served in the Vietnam War

At the CGM (Congressional Gold Medal) Interim Awards Ceremony to be held in Oklahoma City on 22 September 2026, 108 awardees, 11 of which served in 1st Cav Medevac, will receive their Interim Congressional Gold medal, a handshake(s) a certificate and recognition from 330+ attendees.

The ceremony venue is filled, but it will be live-streamed on the Vietnam Dustoff Association’s Facebook page beginning at or just before 10:00 am CDST from Oklahoma City. It will last 1.5 to 2 hrs. Additional information will be posted as it becomes available on the 15th Medical Battalion Association Facebook page and in the Mention Section of the 1st Cavalry Division-Alumni of the First Team Facebook page.

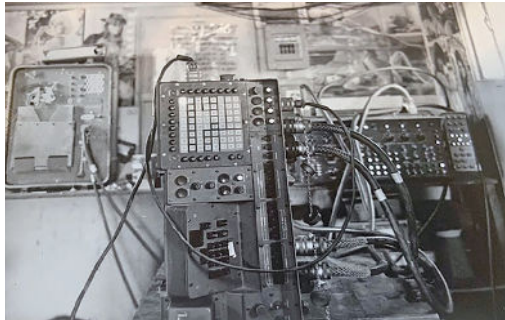
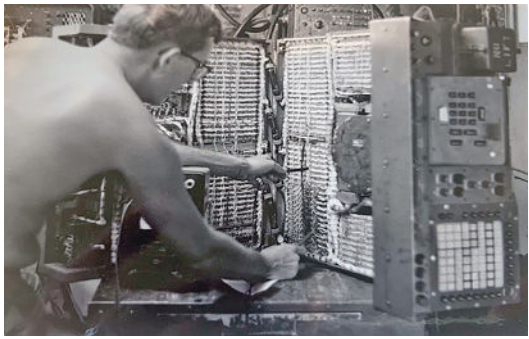
Always remembering our 1st Cav Troops on duty around the world. FIRST TEAM! STANDING BY! SERVICE, NOT SELF! SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE!

Contact the scribe to share your 15th MED stories!

If you were ever a part of 15th MED, join your Association <www.15thMedBnAssociation.org>
SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!

Computers in Vietnam by Paul Ingevaldson, 27th Maintenance Battalion, 1969-70

Yes Grandson, we did have computers in Vietnam. The next time you talk to your grandchildren about the war, you can rightfully tell them that we actually used computers in Vietnam. I know that for a fact because it was my job to repair them. I believe that the Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computer, FADAC, was the first standalone digital computer ever used by the Army in a combat environment. In fact, the first one that we ever repaired was hit by shrapnel that evening and was sent to Saigon and labeled NRTS (not repairable this station). So here is my story.



settings for artillery. It was designed to replace the manual process used at the time to set the guns. It even had the capacity to enter weather information collected by weather balloons.

Once I learned the new machine, it became my job to train Army personnel in the use of the computer primarily to officers on their artillery rotation at Fort Sill. The machine had 8K of memory and 36K of storage. You entered the gun location and the target location and the computer told you the correct settings. It was mobile to a certain extent, but it weighed over 300 pounds and had a heavy case, a table and a generator to provide the power.

I was drafted into the Army on July 3rd, 1968. I had been working as a computer programmer for Sears, Roebuck and Company. I was initially assigned to Radio Repair school at Fort Sill Oklahoma for my advanced training. Subsequently I was assigned to the Staff and Faculty Battalion at Fort Sill where I was first introduced to the FADAC. It was designed to be used in the field to compute the

In May of 1969, I was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division located in Phouc Vinh, Vietnam as a FADAC computer repairman. My MOS was 34G20. At the time, this MOS was normally earned by going to a specialized FADAC repair school. I guess the Army, in its wisdom, assumed that since I knew how to program a computer that I certainly must know how to repair one.

We received a steady flow of computers to repair during my time in Phouc Vinh even after the destruction of repair number one. In most cases, the problem was loose circuit boards, filters that were hopelessly clogged with dirt and sand and circuit boards that were totally inoperative due to the grime no longer being stopped by the non-functioning filters.

Over the years I have talked to a lot of artillerymen primarily over social media. Most would tell me that Freddie FADAC was totally useless since they could calculate the firing problem faster using the manual method. They have also told me that they were untrained in its use, they were required to check its solution by using the “sticks” anyway or they used it to check the “sticks” solution. I also heard that it was used for the larger 8-inch guns and not for the 105’s and 155’s since it was easier to fire a first shot more quickly and then adjust. The larger shells required more accuracy due to their killing radius. This comment also seems to imply that the FADAC may have been more accurate.

Some of these training issues were verified on my two trips out to FSB Buttons and LZ Jaime in 1970 to repair the FADAC on-site. In one case the filters were so clogged that the machine overheated and would not work. In the other case, the power cables to the generator crossed a path used by vehicles and the cables were hopelessly frayed. Some people also complained that the generator was very loud and could be used as a target from outside the wire. Others told me that they used it as a convenient table for coffee.

There is little doubt that the FADAC was not correctly designed for life in the bush. It was heavy, required a dust free environment, constant maintenance and a certain level of training in these early days of computerization. Remember, this was before the advent of the personal computer. Perhaps we could say that this was one of the first personal computers. What a place to test the concept!

I have no axe to grind with the people who tried to use the FADAC. They had a much tougher job than I. However, as a draftee, I did what I was told and did it the best that I could considering the circumstances. I did not fully appreciate that this was one of the first, if not the first, uses of a small computer in combat. Needless to say, the rollout and usage was not the best but that often happens when the concept is brand new.

Paul Ingevaldson, 630-989-8311 <ingepi@me.com>

2026 REUNION 1CDA MEMBER ATTENDEES

Sangodogbon Akinsoga A/1-21FA, Lonnie Alexander D/1-12C, Richard Anuskiewicz 1-9C, Aaron Augustus C/1-5C

Cindy Ballinger HHC, 615ASB, Basil Bell D/1-12C, Russell Bernhardt A/1-5C, Gumersindo Berrios HHC/2-5C, Bill Bilo B/1-77FA, David Blouin C/1-9C, Ernest Bosarge D/1-8C, Edmund Boucher D/2-7C, Robert Bowles LRRP/Ranger, Paul Braun C/2-8C, Michael Brennan LRRP/Ranger, James Burn B/15TC, Tommy Bye 1-12C

Michael Campbell HHT/1-7C, Rosey Carter HHC/13SIG, George Cesena A/1-5C, Arthur Colbert D/1-12C, Michael Cooke B/20ENG, Raymond Craig D/2-7C, Fred Crowell C/2-7C, Lawrence Curtis LRRP/Ranger

Anthony Daisy B/1-7C, Orgene Davis A/1-21FA, Thomas DeYoung C/2-8C, Forrest Decker LRRP/Ranger, Alvino Deimes LRRP/Ranger, Stephen Derbes 1-5C, George Dhane A/2-7C, Samuel Dixon LRRP/Ranger, Robert Dodson 8 ENG, William Dorsey 1-9C, James Dotson D/2-8C, Gary Downs D/1-12C, Daryl Durbin B/1-9C

Gordon Eatley C/2-20 ARA, Jeff Erisman C/8ENG, Douglas Evans D/1-7C, John David Floyd LRRP/Ranger, Tom Ford LRRP/Ranger, John Fox B/2-5C, Stanley Freeborn LRRP/Ranger, Norman Fulkerson D/2-12C

Richard Galvan A/1-12C, John Garmong 8 ENG, Bennie Genrty LRRP/Ranger, H Wayne Givens C/8ENG, Paul Goad C/8ENG, Dan Griffin C/2-12C, Albert Guarnieri C/2-7C

Scott Hancock LRRP/Ranger, William Hand LRRP/Ranger, Trevor Hassett HH-C/1-8C, Robert Heintz A/2-5C, Felix Helms B/1-9C, Larry Hempfling D/2-8C, David Hendrickson D/1-12C, Richard Hernandez HQ/1CD, Jay Hockenbury HHT/1-9C, Tim Hodge E/1-7C, Thomnas Holcombe A/1-5C, Robert Holliday C/8 ENG, Michael Hoopaugh B/1-9C, William Hornbuckle LRRP/Ranger, James Horne HHC/2-7C

Curt Ireland C/2-8C, William Jackson B/2-19FA, Bertyl Johnson C/2-8C, Donald Jones A/1-5C, Patrick Jones E/1-7C, James Jordan B/2-12C

Ronnie Killingsworth 191MI, JD Kirby A/1-12C, David Kirk B/2-7C, Thomas Kjos D/1-12C

Frederick Lange D/1-12C, Nathaniel Lars 2-12C, Gerald Larson B/2-8C, John LeBrun LRRP/Ranger, Carl Lee D/1-7C, John Lee D/2-8C, David Lesperance 1-8C, James Loman B/1-7C, Dave Lutgen HHC/15Admin, Roger Lutz D/2-7C, Gary Lux 13SIG, Walter Lymuel 7C, Partick Lyons LRRP/Ranger

Fred MacLennan D/1-12C, Kevin MacWatters HHC/3-32ARM, Terrell Macy C/2-8C, Rory Malloy 1CD, Justin Mansfield A/1-7C, Paul Marling D/1-12C, Gary Marstall HHC/1-5C, Douglas Matze LRRP/Ranger, Thomas McBriarty A/228AVN, Kirk McCullough HHB/2-20ARA, Robbie McPhail E/1-7C, Glenn Merritt LRRP/Ranger, Kirk Metcalf 2-12C, Galen Mundy HHC/1-9C

Patrick Nardi D/2-7C, David Neff A/1-5C, James Noel HHC/1-5C, Allen Norris B/2-19FA

Karl Oestreich 2-7C, A. Wayne Okken LRRP/Ranger, James Ong HSC/15MED Jack Parente C/1-7C, Terry Park LRRP/Ranger, Elizabeth Pepe 1-229AVN, J. Shawn Perry HHC/1CD, William Pickle C/2-8C

Kevin Raftery 15MED, Gilbert Ramirez LRRP/Ranger, Anthony Rancatore D/1-12C, Ronnie Rash A/1-5C, Daniel Roberts LRRP/Ranger, John Rodney D/1-7C, James Rohret A/2-12C, David Russell LRRP/Ranger

Ronald Saizon HHC/1-7C, Robert Saucedo B/1-7C, Walter Seymour 8 ENG, Jonathan Shockley HHC/1-5C, Craig Showers HP 1CD, David Shows LRRP/Ranger, Howard Shute LRRP/Ranger, Sam Smith E/1-7C, Allan Smith 2-8C, Donald Smolinski 15S&T, Larry Spaun C/2-8C, Gary Stites HHC/2-8C, Karl Swenson D/1-7C

Peter Tattersall B/228AVN, Fred Taylor C/2-8C, Raymond Temple A/2-7C, Ollie Titus HHC/S-3 8ENG, Teodoro Torres HHC/2-12C, Judith Trumbull Gold Star Gary Ullom C/8ENG

Rick VanDeurzen 8 ENG, Glen Vela HHC/615 ASB, Michael Vuolo 15SS Terry Wanish LRRP/Ranger, Terrance Ward C/2-8C, Dennis Webster HHC/1CD, Larry Whelan A/2-8C, Neal Whetsel 15SS, Kenneth White LRRP/Ranger, Jay Whitney A/1-5C, Joseph Wilgeroth 1ACB, Richard Wilkos D/1-12C, Terry Williams E/1-7C, John Wilson 1CD JAG, Charles Windham LRRP/Ranger, Phillip Worsley A/2-7C, Eugene Wright B/2-12C, Dara Wydler HHC/615th Michael Yoshida 1-7C Jerome Zdancewicz C/2-7C

STAFF

1st Cavalry Division Assn: Dara Wydler, Karleen Maloney, Tina Wilgeroth
Registration Volunteers: Cindy Ballinger, Lynn Heinz, Debbie Matze, Mike Vuolo, Joe Wilgeroth

GIFT SHOP: Tisha Blakley
Gift Shop Volunteers: Cindy, Jacob & Jason Ballinger, Liz Benoist, Kirk Blakley, Pat Jones, Robby McPhail, Terry Wanish



**Thank you to all our
valuable volunteers!
We could not have done
it without you!**

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
New Orleans, LA on 11 July 2026

The meeting of the membership of the 1st Cavalry Division Association was called to order by the President of the Association, Rosey Carter, at 1006 hours with a quorum present.

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and had her board members introduce themselves. She led the members present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The minutes of the 2025 meeting of the membership of the 1st Cavalry Division Association held in Reno, NV on 14 June 2025. Minutes were published in the July/August 2025 *Saber* and posted on the bulletin board at the reunion for the past three days. The reading of the minutes was waived. A motion to accept the 2025 minutes was made. The motion carried and the minutes were approved as written.

Howard Shute and the LRRP Rangers held a special ceremony for Karleen Maloney. She was presented with a Quilt of Honor for her military service.

The President asked the Secretary to present the Nominating Committee Report to the membership. Dara Wydler read the names nominated for office as recommended by the Nominating Committee to the membership. They are:

3rd Vice President:
Tim Hodge

Trustee-Foundation:
Sam Dixon

Board of Governors:

Cindy Ballinger	Roger May
Arthur Bryan	Allen Norris
Richard Hernandez	Elizabeth Pepe
Willie Keller	Karl Swenson
John Lebrun	Mike Vuolo

The President notified the members that Roger May had stepped down from his duties as a Board Member. She opened the floor to nominations for his replacement. Doug Evans was nominated to replace Roger on the Board. With there being no further nominations, Dennis Webster made a motion to elect the committee’s nominees by proclamation, second by Mike Vuolo. Motion carried.

The Executive Director, Dara Wydler, provided a financial report on the Association. Her report covered the first quarter starting 1 January 2026 and ending 31 March 2026. She reported that the current assets of the Association were \$2,590,398. The liabilities for the Association are \$10,386. The fund balance of the Association is \$5,494,094, an increase of \$181,249. The Market Value of our investments is \$5,504,480. The unrealized earnings from investments are \$2,864,462. The Association currently owns \$1,758,121 in high-grade bonds, which produced an annual income of \$77,868. The Association contributes \$12,000 to the Foundation each year. The Chairman of the Committee reported to the membership that the association was in good financial shape.

The Trustee of the Foundation and President of the Association, Rosey Carter, provided a financial report on the Foundation for the year starting January 01, 2026, and ending 31 March 2026. The Foundation is made up of two segments, the Foundation (Base) and the Ia Drang Scholarship Fund. The total assets of the Foundation are \$3,321,857. The Foundation (Base) assets are \$1,711,595, an increase of \$234,870. The Ia Drang portion of the assets is \$1,610,262, a decrease of \$65,027. Liabilities, which are payments for the administration of our accounts, are \$7,500. The fund balance, or net worth of the Foundation, is \$3,314,357, up \$169,852. The Foundation portion of the fund balance is \$1,704,095, an increase of \$234,870. The Ia Drang portion of the fund balance is \$1,610,262, down \$65,018. The Market Value of the Foundation’s investments as of 31 March 2026 was \$3,521,730, an increase of \$618,860 from last year, or 21 percent. The Ia Drang share of their securities is \$1,968,570, up \$18,649 or 0.96 percent. The Foundation Base had unrealized earnings of \$1,741,708. The Ia Drang Fund has unrealized earnings of \$322,903. The Foundation Base has high-grade commercial bonds in the portfolio. The Foundation bonds produce an annual income of \$50,035 providing an annual yield of 4.1 percent. The Ia Drang bonds are valued at \$34,214, a yield of 4.33 percent. The Foundation provides scholarships to the children of those killed in action and the children of those that are 100% permanently disabled, and Active-Duty Troopers and their spouses. The Ia Drang fund provides scholarships to grandchildren of Troopers in specified units that were active participants in the battles.

Scholarship grants given out for the 1st Qtr. of 2026 are broken down below:

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| • 100% / KIA | 51 Students | \$68,750 (\$231,807.48) |
| • Ia Drang | 38 Students | \$47,500 (\$195,321.50) |
| • Active Duty | 0 Students | \$0.00 |

Robby McPhail asked if scholarships are made by segments or twice a year. Rosey answered, twice a year.

The Executive Director, Dara Wydler provided the membership with a briefing on Association Programs:

- 2026 Reunion: Currently there are close to 310 members and guests attending the reunion.
- 2027 Reunion: August 4-8, 2027; Columbus, GA; Fort Benning excursions and museum tours.

- 2028 Reunion: Fort Hood, TX September 13-17, 2028.
- 17th Annual Veterans Day 2026: 9-12 November 2026, Crystal City Crowne Plaza. A reception will take the place of dinner, while the hospitality room stays the same. The cost to attend will remain \$50.
- Calendar Subscriptions (2027): 744 requests

The President asked for a show of hands vote for Fort Hood, Texas and the 2028 reunion. By unanimous vote, we are heading home in 2028. Hotels will be determined by the Executive Director.

The Executive Director briefed the membership on our Paver Project. A contractor has been hired to place the pavers on the south side of the Division Headquarters (the non-Cooper Field side). DPW has approved the dig permit. Hoping to have project completed by September 13, 2026.

The President updated the membership on the WWII Memorial located in Queensland, Australia. She will provide a write-up and pictures in the next *Saber* edition.

New business from the membership floor:

- A request was made to possibly lower the quorum from 50 to 40 members at the General membership meeting.
- Patrick Nardi recommended highlighting the meeting in the booklet and create an invitation to get more people to the meeting.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ron Killingworth, second by Allen Norris. The meeting adjourned at 1042 hours.

Dara C. Wydler
Secretary

SILENT AUCTION PRIZE WINNERS

Cindy Ballinger	American Flag blanket donated by 8 th Cav Regt Glass Fish anonymous donation
Gumersindo Berrios	Framed print donated by Rosey Carter Bourbon Basket donated by 5 th Cav Assn Railroad Glasses anonymous donation Horse Soldier Basket donated by 1CDA
Paul Braun	Handmade wood carving donated by Larry Spaun
Rita Burrell	Apple Pie Basket donated by 8 th Cav Regt
Rosey Carter	100 th Year Cav Sign donated by 1st Cav Div
Marolyn Dalcour	Texas Wine Glass Basket donated by 1CDA
James Dotson	Whisky basket donated by Top Gun
Norman Fulkerson	Texas Wine Basket donated by 1CDA
Vanessa Harris	Mardi Gras Glasses donated by 1CDA
Tim Hodge	Gulf War Ball Caps donated by the Raftery’s
John LeBrun	Bourbon Glasses & Watch donated by LRRPs
Carl Lee	We are the Cav Sign donated by 1st Cav Div Nola Wine Basket #1 donated by 1CDA
Rory Malloy	Bourbon Basket #2 donated by 5 th Cav Assn Nola Wine Basket #2 donated by 1CDA
Ronald Saizon	Helicopter donated by Howard Shute Vietnam Ball caps donated by the Raftery’s
Doc Shockley	Coin Collection donated by Bill Hornbuckle
Craig Showers	7 th Cav Sign donated by Mike Campbell
Glen Vela	Iraq Ball Caps & Afghan Ball Caps donated by the Raftery’s
Mike Vuolo	Flag Coin Holder donated by 1CDA
Dara Wydler	Crown Royal donated by Rosey Carter

Thank you to all who participated &
donated items for the fundraiser!
All proceeds go to the
Active-Duty Scholarship Fund.
Total raised was just over \$3,000.

CHAPTER NEWS
UPDATES

We invite all of our Chapter Presidents, VPs or POC's to contribute any photos, news, or updates about your Chapter, to be **posted here in the Saber!** We would love to hear updates from all of our Chapters spread across the United States. **WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THIS PLATFORM TO SHARE YOUR BULLETINS.**

Submission deadline to appear in the next Saber is **Tuesday, September 1, 2026.**
Please send to Memberships@1CDA.org

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Next Chapter meeting is our Annual **Barbecue/Picnic** Tuesday, **July 21, 1:00pm** at the **Hayes Haven Marina**, 59 Railroad Ave, Chester CT 06412.

All members, prospective members and guests are invited, no matter what branch of service. For further details contact President **Keith Moyer**, 860-885-4330 or email [<kpmoyerco@hotmail.com>](mailto:kpmoyerco@hotmail.com).

L-R: Back row Bob Dagata, Paul Marling, Glen Bentz, Steve Zielinski, Bob Waz, Keith Moyer.
Seated: Jack Kranyak, Tom McBriarty, Al Johnson.



NORTH CAROLINA TARHEEL CHAPTER

Last meeting of the North Carolina Tarheel Chapter which closed on June 13, 2026.



NY/NJ CHAPTER

The next meetings of the NY/NJ Chapter will be held on **September 12** and **November 7** at the **Elks Lodge** in Ridgefield Park, NJ. Our guest speakers are TBD.



NY/NJ Chapter meeting May 2026

Our May guest speaker was LTC Ky Fehlbaum, a West Point graduate and member of the Golden Knights Parachute Team. After commissioning, he became a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot, graduating first in his class at Fort Rucker, AL. Then, from 2010-11, he was a platoon leader in Central America with 1-228 Aviation, flying medical aid and limited Special Operations Forces support missions. His next assignment was with the 2d Combat Aviation Brigade as an Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Company XO and Garrison HHC Commander in South Korea in 2012, flying VIP transport and DMZ corridor patrol missions.

After the Aviation Captains' Career Course, he convinced the Army to move him and his then-wife to Paris, France in 2014, where he pursued a graduate degree in advance of a French language teaching assignment back at West Point. While teaching French, he was also the OIC of the parachute team, performing demonstration jumps at events like the Belmont Stakes and the NYPD-FDNY Annual Softball Game.

The NY/NJ Chapter President, Robin Bartlett, was recently honored by the "Quilts of Valor" Foundation in recognition of his service to the chapter and the nation.

The NY/NJ Chapter holds quarterly meetings starting at **10:00 am** at the **Elks Lodge** in Ridgefield Park, NJ. Our meetings are open to all service members regardless of branch, division, or unit assignment. We welcome spouses, relatives, friends and interested parties. There are no dues to attend. Coffee and a buffet lunch is served and a donation to the chapter is requested.

Interested persons are encouraged to contact **Robin Bartlett**, Chapter President to be added to the email list. Send an email to [<rbbartlett01@gmail.com>](mailto:rbbartlett01@gmail.com) or call **201-856-7530**. Join us to greet old friends and make new ones.



ATTENTION
CHAPTER PRESIDENTS & TREASURERS

I have mailed out 2025 tax packets, and they were also available at the 2026 Reunion in New Orleans. Packets are due to me by 29 August 2026.

Reporting is due to the IRS in the first week of September. If I don't have your Chapters packet, I cannot report. Please ensure to have it to me by due date.

I'll accept packets by email, [<memberships@1cda.org>](mailto:memberships@1cda.org) or regular mail (302 N. Main St Copperas Cove, TX 76522).

If your chapter has not received the packet, please let me know and I will get one out to you.

Thank you,
Karleen Maloney
Chapter Coordinator



SEND US YOUR CHAPTER PHOTO!

NOT CURRENTLY A PART OF A
LOCAL CHAPTER?

We encourage you to connect with the
Chapter nearest you.

Contact the Chapter president and meet new
Cav brothers/sisters!

Refer to the Chapter Index found on next page.

SHARE YOUR CHAPTER NEWS
AND UPDATES HERE!

CHAPTER INDEX

COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE
Pres: Terry Low
16560 S Harding Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045-9679
(503) 210-5558
Email: tangolima2505@comcast.net
Meets 1200 2nd Thurs of each month at the Elmer's Restaurant, 10001 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland, OR. No meeting in Dec.

CONNECTICUT
Pres: Keith Moyer
48 Boretz Rd.
Colchester, CT 06415-1009
(860) 885-4330
Email: kpmoyerco@hotmail.com
Facebook: CTCAV
We meet quarterly. Email me for info. All new & prospective members welcome.

CROSSED SABERS
Pres: Tim Hodge
(254) 718-4533
Email: Tim@allaboutinsurance.com
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division Association Crossed Saber Chapter
General membership meetings Mar & Oct.
Stable Calls: 4th Thurs of each month, 6pm, except Nov, Dec and the month of the Association Reunion. Stable Calls at various locations in Central TX area.

FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST
Pres: Jesse Crimm
4445 Silverwood Ln
Jacksonville, FL 32207-6241
(904)534-8899
Email: thecrimms@gmail.com
Meets at noon on 3rd Tues of every month. Locations alternate between westside & southside Jacksonville. Call 904-534-8899 to be notified & placed on mailing list.

FLORIDA TROOP E "BLACK HAT"
Pres: Juan Kellogg
607 SE 47th St., Apt. 7
Cape Coral, FL 33904-5506
Email: juankellogg@embarqmail.com
Meets 4th Sat each month from Sept.-May 1:00 pm at Mission BBQ, 12984 S. Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33907

FORT KNOX AREA
Pres: Thomas Ken O'Barr
12210 Valley Dr.
Louisville, KY 40026-9501
(502) 228-8032
Email: ko42@bellsouth.net
POC: Robert W. Griffin
64 Tabor Lane
Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6158
(270) 737-5908
Email: lyngriffxx@windstream.net
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Div Fort Knox Area Chapter
Meets 3rd Sat of the month at 11am at Camp Knox Masonic Lodge #919, 1158 N. Dixie Hwy, Radcliff, KY.

JAMES H. UNRUH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
Pres: Michael T. Mazzaro
Cenpenn Chapter. ICDA
P.O. Box 10033
Lancaster, PA 17605
(717) 389-1000
Email: cenpenn1cda@gmail.com
Meets 1800 2nd Tues of each month, except Nov, Dec, and Jan at Lititz VFW Post 1463, 14 N. Spruce St., Lititz, PA 17543

KETTLE MORaine
Pres: Fred Douglas
2742 E. Main St, Lot 5
East Troy, WI 53120-1379
(262) 379-9930
Email: FDouglass@centurytel.net
POC: Michael Lorber
4819 Longwood Dr., Mt. Pleasant, WI 53403-9769
(262) 554-8310
We meet quarterly on 2nd Sat of Mar, Jun, Sept at 12pm at the Bunker in Waterford, WI. Election of officers are the 2nd Sat of Dec at 12pm at Meyers Restaurant in Greenfield, WI.

LOS ANGELES/ ORANGE COUNTY
Pres: John Guillory
780 Mandevilla Way
Corona, CA 92879-8251
(951) 283-7458
Email: manhunter6869@yahoo.com
Vice Pres: Scott Alexander
5310 Silver Canyon Road A
Yorba Linda, CA 92887
Email: salexander48@hotmail.com
Meets quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct) 0900 on 3rd Sat of month at American Legion Post 132, 143 S Lemon St., Orange, CA 92866



Send us YOUR Chapter photo, so it can appear in the next issue!

LRRP/RANGER of the 1st Cav Division during the Vietnam War
Pres: Doug Matze
9623 Springhouse Dr.
Chesterfield, VA 23832-9304
(804) 790-1955
Email: Doug.Matze@lycos.com
Website: www.lrrprangers.com
Full chapter meeting during Reunions.

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY
Pres: Robin B. Bartlett
63 Burlington St.
Norwood, NJ 07648-1515
(201) 856-7530
Email: RBBartlett01@gmail.com
Facebook: New York New Jersey Cavalry
Instagram: NYNJcavalry
Meets quarterly at Elk Lodge 25 Cedar St, Ridgefield Park, NJ, 10am-1:30pm. Free coffee & buffet lunch. Send email to be added to mailing list for updates on upcoming meetings.

SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY
(Greater Chicago Area)
POC: Donna Pacanowski
6043 W. 59th St
Chicago, IL 60638-3553
(312) 401-0548
Email: dnnpcnws9@gmail.com
Facebook: Sheridan's Chapter 1st Cavalry Division
2026 April 11, August 08 (Picnic), October 10, and December 05 (Christmas Party).
All meetings are held on Saturdays at 1:00pm at the Roselle American Legion Hall, Post #1084, 344 East Maple Ave., Roselle, IL 60172.

WALTER H. WESTMAN NORTHLAND
Pres: Henry Kaynes
(612) 203-0999
Email: hkaynes@comcast.net
POC: James D. Wright
12781 Able St. NE
Blaine, MN 55434-3261
(763) 757-7140
Email: 1stCav-MN@comcast.net
Facebook: Walter H Westman-Northland Chapter 1st Cavalry Division Association
We meet quarterly, locations change each time to different areas of the state. Call for updated information.

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Dennis.Webster7@gmail.com or **254-220-2164**

From the
Director's Desk

Office of 1CDA

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SOLDIER FOR LIFE

The mission statement for *Soldier for Life* is to connect Army, governmental, and community efforts to build relationships that facilitate successful reintegration of our retiring Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families in order to keep them Army Strong and instill their values, ethos, and leadership within communities.

Soldiers start strong, serve strong, reintegrate strong, and ultimately remain strong as Army ambassadors to their communities. The 1st Cavalry Division Association (1CDA) and its members will help to ensure Veterans connect to resources and their communities as they make the important transition from Active, Reserve, Guard or become civilian leaders. The 1CDA stands ready to help prepare those Soldiers to thrive as civilians and Veterans.

Why is this important to the Association?

The *Soldier for Life* concept helps Veterans ‘bridge the gap’ from the service through reintegration into their communities. The 1CDA has 25 chapters across the US to help facilitate veterans during their reintegration and beyond. It is here that their Army Story becomes a legacy that perpetuates the proud traditions of the 1st Cavalry Division. “Once Cav, Always Cav.... First Team.”

IF YOU'RE VISITING
FORT HOOD

If you’re visiting Fort Hood, be sure to visit the 1st Cavalry Division Headquarters (Bldg. 28000). They have a free 1st Cavalry Division Walking History Tour. The tour is outdoors. It starts at the south entrance of Heritage Hall (1st Cav HQ) and walks around Cooper Field. Open to the public. If you want to watch from the comforts of your home, check out this link:

<<https://youtu.be/zE5npJiKpUo>>

You can also still visit the Horse Cavalry Detachment for a barn tour, they do their weekly Cav Demonstration on Thursdays, 10am at the stables, but call to verify 254-287-2229. They are located behind the National Mounted Warfare Museum, which is now open!

National Mounted Warfare Museum hours are Tuesday thru Saturday from 10am-5pm, 254-286-5684. No visitor pass is required for The Detachment nor the Museum, as they are not on post.

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Buy a brick to be engraved & placed by
Heritage Hall at Division Headquarters

1CDA BULLETINS:

- Oral History Book Update from PCI:**
Due to issues with their print vendor, the book is taking longer than anticipated. Tentative ship date is now mid-late fall. Contact them with questions or refunds. 1-800-982-1590 or by email at PCIservice@publishingconcepts.com.
- Calendar Subscription required to stay on the calendar mailing list, 2027 Calendar \$10
- Associate Memberships are increased to \$20
- \$10 charge for each calendar requested

The next *Saber* newspaper is the
September / October 2026 edition.
Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is
Tuesday, September 1, 2026.
Please email to Programs@1CDA.org

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National Archives & Records Administration
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Veteran Service Records / 314-801-0800
<<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center>>

U.S. Army Veteran Medals
<<https://www.veteranmedals.army.mil/>>

Department of Veteran Affairs / 800-342-9647
<<https://nationalresourcedirectory.gov/>>

Disabled American Veterans / 877-426-2838
<<https://www.dav.org/>>

Vietnam Wall of Faces
<www.vvmf.org>

Burial Record Database
<www.findagrave.com>

Lifeline for Vets / Nat'l Veterans Foundation / 310-642-0255
<<https://nvf.org/>>

Vet-to-Vet toll-free helpline: 888-777-4443
Veterans Crisis Line / 800-273-8255
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Description: Gray shirt w/black Cav patch

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VIETNAM SHIRTS

Description: 100% cotton grey shirt
Front: Cav Patch with years 1965-1972 written above, Vietnam written across the Baldric
Back: "Remembering 5,618" with Color image of Memorial Wall & Flag



DIVISION DOINGS

Continued from pg. 5

to the stage to kick off the concert.

“Gary Sinise formed the Lt. Dan Band in 2003, and in the last 22 years, Gary and the band have played over 590 concerts in support of active-duty Troops, Veterans, Gold Star family members, wounded service members and other first responders,” he said. “Every Lt. Dan Band concert is a personal reminder of America’s gratitude of our nation’s defenders.”

From there it was straight to the music, with the band performing popular cover songs from “Sweet Caroline” to “Don’t Stop Believing,” as well as original music from McCanna “Mac” Sinise, Gary’s son who died of cancer in 2024.

“He’s supporting this concert today with his music,” Gary said of his son to the audience. “And it’s all for you because gosh, where would we be if nobody wanted to serve our country?”

Naysa Nance, an Army spouse, said she enjoyed the event and it was fun hanging out with people.

“It’s all about coming together,” Nance said about events like the concert on post. “Not all of us are here with family and friends. A lot of our spouses are deployed and it’s just us, so we can come together and not be alone and meet some people and all share the same kind of connections.”

The event culminated with a 20-minute fireworks display.

“We need to have a strong force, and you are it,” Gary said to the audience at the concert’s conclusion. “You are freedom providers. Now we can never do enough for you, but we can always do a little bit more.”

IRONHORSE Conducts Reanimated Tissue Training

Story by SSG Zelika Stewart, 1st Cavalry Division

FORTHOOD, Texas — Combat medic specialists with the 1st Cavalry Division’s 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team “Ironhorse” conducted reanimated tissue training using cadavers April 21-22. The exercise aimed to establish trauma management benchmarks and reinforce critical life-saving interventions for real-world scenarios. The Ironhorse brigade collaborated with Maxfi Surgical Simulations and Safeguard Medical to procure human cadavers, artificial blood, and pump technology that simulates pulsatile blood flow at controllable rates, pressures, and stroke volumes.

“This training is critical to our success on the battlefield,” said SSG Dalton Howell, a medical platoon sergeant with the 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team. “With reanimated tissue training, medics can see the immediate effectiveness of their interventions.”

Howell oversaw medical treatment and casualty evacuation throughout the exercise. He emphasized that the simulation provides the closest possible representation of actual casualties, allowing Soldiers to safely learn and make corrections. “Practicing these advanced procedures is fundamental to the outcome for real patients,” Howell said.



Soldiers carrying a mannequin during re-animated tissue training. Photo by SPC Julian Winston



Soldier filling out a Tissue Training Tactical Combat Casualty Care Card.

Photo by SPC Julian Winston

rigid. With a cadaver, there are actual joints, muscles, and skin tissues,” Blue said. “The cadaver we used today had an amputated leg where you could see the bone, tissue, and the blood coming from the artery.”

Beyond individual skills, the exercise provided leadership with data to assess unit readiness. “It set the standard for realistic combat trauma management,” said 1LT James Hoffman, a physician assistant with the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment. “Commanders can identify capabilities and training gaps at all levels, which are then integrated into brigade combat team operations.”

Hoffman noted the training reinforced advanced interventions necessary for large-scale combat operations. “Reanimated tissue training is the closest we can get to battlefield injury without war,” Hoffman said. “Testing systems like walking blood banks and prolonged casualty care are essential for LSCO.”

The training improved technical proficiency while encouraging leadership and teamwork under pressure. By utilizing the most realistic simulations available, the 1st Cavalry Division ensures its Troopers remain prepared to provide life-saving care in any environment.

Black Jack Brigade Cases Colors for Upcoming European Rotation

FORT HOOD, Texas — The 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division “Black Jack” cased its colors May 1, 2026 in a ceremony marking the unit’s upcoming rotation to Europe. The casing of the colors formally signifies the brigade’s transition to a forward-deployed unit.

The brigade and its nearly 4,000 Soldiers and associated equipment will deploy to Eastern Europe over the coming months to support Operation Atlantic Resolve. Units will be positioned across NATO’s eastern flank to deter aggression and build readiness alongside allies and partners.

“Make no mistake — our adversaries are paying attention,” MG Tom Feltey, 1st Cavalry Division commander, said during the ceremony. “When an armored brigade combat team deploys forward, it sends a clear and unmistakable signal. The ABCT is the embodiment of American ground combat power.”

COL Jose Reyes, the brigade commander, highlighted the extensive preparations for the mission, including two National Training Center rotations. One of those rotations served as the Army’s first “Transformation in Contact” trial for an armored brigade.

“The Black Jack Troopers are CAV Ready to answer the call,” Reyes said. The brigade last deployed to Europe in 2023. Black Jack will replace the 1st Cavalry Division’s 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, which is concluding its own nine-month rotation.

The 1st Cavalry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas, is a combined arms division tasked with transforming how armored divisions fight and win on the battlefield. It is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army and serves as a vital component of the U.S. military’s ground forces.



Photo by SPC Michelle Lessard-Terry

Intelligence Unit Leverages Technology to Protect Soldiers

By Derika Upshaw, Fort Hood Public Affairs

The III Armored Corps Intelligence and Data Fusion Lab and vendors demonstrated new sensor integration capabilities that support decision-making abilities at echelon on Friday at the Pilot Knob Range at Fort Hood during their sensor integration demonstration.

MAJ Eric J. Slater, officer in charge of the III Armored Corps Sensor Integration office, says their system aims to fix the historical problem of receiving information from sensors. Previously, sensor data was routed to a dedicated computer. Systems were not interoperable, preventing sensors from communicating with one another effectively. In contrast, the new system can read over 100 different systems and can be programmed to meet the needs of any command team’s current information system.

“You have to communicate with each other in order to get the complete picture of everything that’s going on around you, and what that introduces is latency,” Slater explained, providing an example.

“It’s slower for you to have to communicate what you’re seeing to him, and him to have to communicate what he’s seeing to you, for both of you to have a complete understanding,” he said, using the interviewer and a Soldier as an example.

Slater said their solution was to pull all the sensors into one system.

“We’re using a middleware solution to pull in all of the sensor data, and then we’re sending it to an intelligence system,” he said. “We’ve created a connection to an intelligence platform that’s capable of characterizing the threat ... based upon known enemy platforms.”

Slater explained from there, the data is immediately routed to the mission command information system commanders are using.

“How powerful that would be to see every single piece of information coming off your sensors coming to your screen in a refined manner that enables you to make tactical decisions at the correct place with the correct information,” Slater said.

The demonstration displayed four types of sensors from short and long-distance systems — Acoustic, Discovair G2+, Falcon Medium and EchoShield Radar. The demonstration simulated a real-world event using Soldiers from 2nd Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division using sensor integration and unmanned aircraft systems to detect and respond to enemy drones and tanks.

“The enemy fly drones in, we detect it, we say with high confidence this is a legit target,” CW2 Trenton Huntsinger, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, explained. “It goes to our targeting software and we confirm that target. It will then launch aircraft, so we’re going to launch two bumblebees, which are quadcopter UAS (unmanned aircraft system), to go interdict.”

Attendees were able to see the systems in action in the intelligence center tent as the sensors were displayed on the screen processing the information.

COL Alvin Word, director for the Intelligence Transformation Integration Directorate, Intelligence Center of Excellence, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, said he was impressed with the team’s demonstration.

“They are absolutely advancing the concepts of what we think we need on the



Discovair drone-detection system capable of flying 400 ft in the air prepares for a sensor test flight before the integration demonstration

Continued to pg. 19



July 17, 1944

1st Cavalry
Division Association
was formed in the
Admiralty Islands

FIRST TEAM!

HAPPY 82nd BIRTHDAY
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

7th CAV NEWS

Continued from pg. 7

that preserve the legacy of the Cavalry in a living tribute to the Army’s origins. The military has a history of allowing service members to adopt working animals, such as retired military working dogs, though equine adoption programs remain less widely known. One example is the Caisson Horse Adoption Program, run by U.S. Army North, which helps place horses from ceremonial units into new homes. A cost-cutting plan announced in July 2025 initially aimed to eliminate most of the Army’s ceremonial horse units before being partially reversed months later. (Based on a Stars and Stripes article written by Lydia Gordon)

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And now, we’re asking for some of your money. As you know, we lost our 7th US Cavalry website some time ago. Websites cost money, website maintenance costs money, and we don’t have a lot of it. So, we’re asking 7th US Cavalry Association members to consider a one-time donation specifically for our new website. Any amount will be welcome. Please send your check to our treasurer, Bob Anderson, at 9030 Conservancy Dr NE, Ada, MI 49301-8822.

And since you’re paying for it, you should tell us what you would like to see included on that website. Whatever ideas you may have will be up for consideration. Do you want membership rosters, chat rooms, blogs, FAQ pages, sharing sites, marketplaces, trading sites, etc.... Please send your thoughts to Karl Swenson, 3526 E Park Ln, Bloomington, IN 47408, text to 812-345-4055, or email to <kcswenso75@gmail.com>.

Contact your 7th Cav scribes to share your Cav related stories!

If you were ever a part of 7th CAV,
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TROOPER'S TALE

Continued from pg. 3

Our report cleared the “V” funnel for the high-altitude Arc Light strikes that followed in the April 13–19 window. This timeline aligns perfectly with the standard targeting delay required for human-intelligence (HUMINT) verification and mission planning at MACV, confirming our report was the primary trigger for the interdiction. The resulting interdiction in the “V” funnel destroyed the PAVN 7th Division’s armored spearhead “left hook” before it could reach the open terrain leading to the Bien Hoa and Long Binh logistical hubs. By destroying their mobile maneuver, the air strikes forced the NVA to stop and settle into a stationary siege at An Loc. This turned into a two-month-long battle of attrition that decimated three full NVA divisions (the 5th, 7th, and 9th).

An Loc was the final major defensive line. If the NVA had completed the bypass to Bien Hoa, they would have had an open road to Saigon. By forcing the enemy to stop and settle into a stationary siege of attrition at An Loc, that chain of events bought the vital time that commanders like GEN Abrams and LTG Hollingsworth officially credited with saving Saigon in 1972. Brigade Security Platoon never fired a shot. But as history shows, sometimes it is the littlest of things, like an ad-hoc reconnaissance mission, that helps save American lives... once upon a time, long ago, in a galaxy far, far away.

Thank you for your time and help in preserving this piece of 1st Cavalry history
Respectfully,
Christopher “Doc” Keefauver 541-523-5436
Combat Medic, HHC 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division

Feel free to send us your recent 1st Cav
related news article written about you!

Programs@1CDA.org

DIVISION DOINGS

Continued from pg. 18

modern battlefield,” Word said. “But they are doing it in such a way that this isn’t just an experiment, this is a demonstration of capability right now that with a little bit more refinement that we’ll be able to deliver meaningful, impactful capabilities to the tactical layer, so that we can find, fix and finish the adversary before he even understands what is coming.”

Rather than presenting a prototype for future use, the demonstration featured a field-ready system available now.

Huntsinger said the system is already in use within 1st Cavalry Division. The system was compared against the traditional route of relaying system information for engagement versus implementation of the information integration system. Huntsinger found there was a 27-minute delay in engagement with the previous process, versus two to five minutes using the current implementation. The current system also optimizes UAS mechanisms to promote safety.

The event was geared toward general officers, brigade command teams, Transformation in Contact commanders and staff, intelligence personnel, transformation leads and operation personnel. Slater said the main thing he wants commanders to take away from the demonstration is the importance of helping them become more lethal.

“I want commanders to understand that the corps is throwing its weight behind designing these solutions in order to make them effective in the operation environment and provide their intelligence professionals with the tools necessary in order to be successful at enabling their targeting as well as their situational understanding and their protection of their own forces,” he said. “I want them to really come back to us with feedback of ‘Here’s what I needed from you,’ ... to push us further along with helping them be successful.”

LRRP/RANGERS NEWS

Continued from pg. 4

As the team moved towards our LZ for extraction we saw the pink team come into view. Shortly the Huey was on his final approach to the LZ to pick us up. We loaded onto the Huey and flew back to base for debriefing and a warm beer.

An overflight the next morning didn’t find anything and nobody believed us at Division. A day later that Regiment attacked a fire base. The CO made mention of that mission in his farewell letter where he says we proved the doubting Thomas’s wrong. Dan (and the rest of the team) are still not sure if our mission had some Divine intervention or just dumb luck by our not engaging them or the NVA not physically falling over us!

Thanks Tim and Mike – for reliving this mission with me!

That’s it for this issue – hope to see everyone at Benning!

“For those who’ve fought for it – life has a flavor the protected will never know!”

PLEASE CONTACT PETE DENCKER TO
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AIR CAV NEWS



LTC (RET) J. Shawn Perry
191 Scenic Bluff Drive
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(254) 458-0428
Stetsonlife1cda@gmail.com



Air Cav News: Legacies of Valor and the Future of the Fight

Greetings from the “perch” here in Albertville, Alabama. As I sit here, the quiet of the morning is a stark contrast to the high-tempo operations that define the “First Team.” We are a community that lives at the intersection of profound history and unrelenting progress. This month, that intersection feels particularly significant as we bid farewell to a titan of our branch and look toward the technological horizon of the Cavalry.

A Final Salute to Colonel Bruce Crandall

It is with a heavy heart that I share our collective farewell to Colonel Bruce “Snake” Crandall. To say he was a hero of LZ X-Ray is an understatement; he was the embodiment of what it means to be an Army Aviator.

I have often spoken about the mentors who shaped my path, but none cast a longer shadow than Colonel Crandall. When I was a young officer, studying the accounts of his repeated, unprotected flights into the hellscape of the Ia Drang Valley to resupply our infantry and evacuate the wounded, I found my North Star. It wasn’t just his skill at the controls that resonated with me—it was his absolute determination. He didn’t just fly missions; he willed his aircraft and his crew to succeed against impossible odds.



For me, Colonel Crandall set the standard for what a leader should be. Throughout my career, including my time as an XO with the 2-227th, I constantly asked myself: *How would the “Old Snake” handle this?* He taught me that being an Aviator isn’t just about technical proficiency; it is about selfless service and the relentless pursuit of mission accomplishment, no matter the risk. He remains the standard by which I measured

my own Soldiers and pilots. Colonel, thank you for your service, your courage, and the standard you set for all of us. You will be missed, but your spirit remains in every cockpit of the First Team.

The 1st Air Cavalry Brigade: Sustaining the Edge

While we honor our past, the current Troopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade continue to push forward with that same “Crandall-esque” determination. The Brigade has remained laser-focused on lethality and readiness.

Recent field exercises have emphasized “expeditionary air operations,” forcing units to operate out of austere, dispersed locations. This is not just training for training’s sake; it is about mastering the ability to hide in plain sight and strike from unexpected vectors. The Brigade’s recent focus on “Integrated Gunnery” has integrated ground-based scouts with airborne assets, ensuring that when the 1ACB engages, it is a synchronized, all-domain effort. They continue to prove that the Air Cav is not just a support element—we are the decisive factor on the modern battlefield.

The Next Horizon: Aviation Modernization

As we look to the future, Army Aviation is undergoing a massive shift to ensure we remain the world’s premier fighting force.

The **Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA)** program, centered on the V-280 Valor, remains our top modernization priority. The ability to travel further, faster, and with greater endurance will change the calculus for every commander in the field. But the real game-changer is the integration of **Launched Effects (LE)**. We are moving toward a paradigm where our manned aircraft serve as the “quarterbacks” for swarms of autonomous drones. These LE assets can penetrate contested airspace, identify enemy air defenses, and even engage targets, all while our pilots maintain a safe stand-off distance.

Additionally, our training initiatives are evolving. The Army is leaning heavily into **Synthetic Training Environments (STE)**. These aren’t just flight simulators; they are immersive, high-fidelity virtual battlefields where a pilot can train against realistic, adaptive adversary tactics in a complex, multi-domain scenario before ever stepping into a real cockpit. We are ensuring that the next generation of aviators has the digital instincts to match their raw “stick and rudder” skills.

Closing Thoughts

Whether we are reflecting on the grit of LZ X-Ray or looking at the advanced capabilities of the V-280, the core of the Air Cavalry remains unchanged. It is about the Trooper. It is about the courage to fly into the unknown and the commitment to bring everyone home.

Thank you to all who keep our history alive and our future bright. Keep the fire hot and the rotors turning.

Clear right!

Shawn



Reunion attendees at the Aviation and 9th Cav Unit Luncheon New Orleans 2026

NEW MEMBERS:

E-4 ABOUBAKAR, KASSAMBARA TX 1-2ABCT
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LTC(RET) FERRIS, MARSHALL A. MN A 1-227AHB
WO1 FLEMING, DANIEL TX B 3CR
1LT FRANKE, BRANDON TX 3-16FA
MSG FRAUSTO, MANUEL TX D 1-1C
WO1 GARDNER, QUINCY TX 3-3CR
2606 GORING, SIERRA-TINA TX HHC 1-DSTB
E-4 GUTZMANN, DANIEL WI HHC 1-1CD
PFC HENRY, LILIANNA G TX 1-7C
SGT HERRERA, JONATHON TX HHC 1-HHBN
PFC HIGGINS, EVAN T. TX C 6 56ADA
PV2 HOEFLACK, ETHAN R. VA C 8BEB
PV2 HOEFLACKER, ETHAN VA C 2-8C
CPT HOVLAND, EYLUL DALMA TX 1-553CSB
CPL HUFLEY, OLIVIA TX HHC 1CDSB
PV2 HUMES, LANDON TX D 1 227AVN
1SG INCLE, HERMINIO TX B 1-215BSB
E-4 JURADO, AUTURO IL F 1-215BSB
SPC KITCHENS, CHRISTOPHER TX D 3-227AVN
MAJ (RET) KNIGHT, WILLIAM F. TX HHC 1-27MAINT
PFC LAMB, CONNER FL A 1 3CR
SPC LAUREANOMATIAS, KEVIN J. PR 2-12C
SPC LAZ, STEPHEN TX 1-1CD
PV2 LEWIS, COLTON TX E 8ENG
PV2 MC CORMACK, KATE VA 1-115BSB
CPT MEISLER, RYAN TX 3CR
CPT MONTERO, ERIK TX 2-12C
2LT MULCAHY, DENIS TX 2-82FA
SGT NAULT, SHANE WI A 2-12C
SGT NEVINS, LOGAN C. TX A 3-227ACB
2LT NITSCHKE, KATELYN A. TX 1-207SIG
SPC NOGUEDA-CHAVEZ, OCTAVIO CA 1-1CD
PV2 PADGETT, SAMUEL KY V 1-12C
PFC PURGERSON, ZACKARY A. TX B 2-8C
CPT RABIN, BRANDON TX DIVARTY
PFC RIVAS, JORDAN H. TX 1-515BSB
PV2 ROGERS, PARKER W. TX B 1-5C
PV2 SALAS, ORTIZ JAUN JOSE IN 1-1CD
PFC SANTOS, JOSEPH R. TX 1-5C
SPC SATTERWHITE, RAJON NC 1-3ABCT
SGT SCHUTTE, DYLAN T. TX 2-12C
SSG SCOTT, JOHN TX HHT 3BDE
SGT SHULMAN, EMANUEL NY C 1-227AVN
E-2 SINGH, JACOB FL 6-9C
SPC SMITH, JASON TX 1-1CD
SGT SMITH, KEVIN KY HQ 1-615ASB
1LT SPENCER, TIMOTHY III TX HHC 2-7C
CPT SPIKES, GABRIEL TX HHC 1-9C
MAJ STOKES, TIMOTHY TX CHAPLAIN 1-1CD
1LT STRAUSS, KIM TX 1-1CD
SPC TAVARES, JEAN-PIERRE TX 3-227AHB
E-3 TAYLOR, CLAUDIA TX 3BCT
SGT TERRELL, BILLY RAY JR TX 2-82FA
1LT TODD, ETHATN J. TX 1-115BSB
MR. TREADWAY, DALE TX 179 L ASSOC
CPT VAN DRUME, TRAVIS MA 2-216CAB
2LT VAN ALLEN, COLLIN TX HHC 2-8C
SGT (RET) WARREN, JOSEPH KY D 1-15MED
SFC WEBSTER, ROBERT D. TX 1-215BSB
2LT WELLS, CAYDEN L. TX 1-5C
SPC WYNN, ALANA TX HHC 1-9C



WELCOME TO THE 1CDA TEAM!

Anyone who served within the
1st Cavalry Division
YOU earned the right to be a part of the elite
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION!
Are your battle buddies members?

545th MP Co News

Lawrence Gardner Ketron

232 New Beason Well Rd

Kingsport, TN 37660

(423) 967-8226

LgKetron@earthlink.net



The 545th MP Company of the 1st Cavalry Division (AIRMObILE) To the reader community: I have been asked to author a series of articles about the experiences of the men of the 545th MP Company of the 1st Cavalry Division (AIRMObILE). I joined the company in July of 1964, shortly after its inception at Ft. Benning, GA, as the 11th MP Company of the 11th Air Assault Division (TEST). The men still alive in the original company of 1964-1966 are now in their late 70's and early 80's and wanted their stories documented while they could still remember them.

AS TOLD BY CSM (RET) DALLAS MILLS, AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE 11TH/545TH MP COMPANY

During the Montgomery, AL riots in March 1965, the state of Alabama and Maxwell AFB requested assistance from the U.S. Army in containing the rioters who were coming from other states and overwhelming the AL National Guard and the AFB security personnel. Twelve Soldiers (2 squads) were detailed to report to Maxwell AFB to assist. SSG Fonseca led six men and two vehicles for the trip. They had a trailer for their equipment which consisted of some field gear??? Two motor scooter type cycles that didn't work very well and would malfunction and injure the operator if he weren't careful (back to those later).

I flew down with six other Soldiers as the advance party and we carried all our gear in our ruck sacks. When everyone arrived, we maintained our squad integrity with SGT Fonseca leading the AFB Squad to protect the entrances and provide security for the aircraft. My squad was to be a back-up for the AL National Guard, who was patrolling the streets and help if groups of rioters were contacted. We carried riot batons and side arms (no bullets mind you), but the National Guard had riot batons and live ammo with orders to crack heads and shoot if they believed their life or limb was in danger.

Fortunately, we had only one small attack which ended quickly when we stated we would break heads if they did not behave and be gone!

Back to the motor scooter type cycles, they were given to the Army by the manufacturer (who?) with hopes that the Troops would love them and they would have a market for millions of cycles. To their dismay, the Troops hated them because they were dangerous and if they broke, no parts were available.

I don't remember any shots being fired but the AL National Guard did break several heads, and I guess bad news travels fast and the rioters headed for high ground.

We were relieved after seven days and really wanted to be extended. We were living in motel type barracks with daily room service and a 24-hour mess hall (dining hall to them). We only had one injury and that was from the motor scooter malfunctioning and wrecking the rider's hand and wrist.

This was a couple weekends ago, but the rioting was created by a "would be" governor using continued segregation as his main party plank?

Our mode of transportation back to home base was the same as going, but when we arrived our goat had been stolen. The Pathfinders who were next door to us had a goat painted their branch colors and they jumped that goat a time or two. We rustled their goat a couple times and even painted our colors on him once. The Pathfinders started getting a little upset and opined they may ambush us if we messed with the goat again. Our platoon SGT Pike opined that we better mind our own business in the future! The goat didn't go to Viet Nam, so I don't know where he wound up.

Your author's note: At first the whole company was put on standby, but it was soon determined that the disorder was going to be too large for one MP company to manage. The company was released from standby and the 503rd MP Battalion out of Texas was assigned that duty.

REPLACEMENT ORIENTATION

During our Viet Nam tour the replacements started to trickle in about six months after we arrived. Some of the original men left because they were "short timers" when they arrived, they had been shipped even if they had only a few months to do before discharge. Some left due to injuries and some left because they could not assimilate or did not want to.

The "newbies" unlike us had to attend an orientation to educate them on the dangers of one-steppers, if one would bite you, just lay down and get comfortable. Then there was the fire ants that lived above ground nests that looked like large rocks and was very difficult to break down. Last, but not least, Punji stakes, of course this was the sharp bamboo stick that was smeared with excrement and placed in an area that Soldiers passed through. There were several other dangerous objects they were designed to maim or kill you. By the time the newbie had completed the orientation they were walking backward most of the time to ensure nothing ambushed them from behind. This made them perfect prey for anyone who was a prankster. Yours truly just could not allow a situation like that to pass without testing it a time or two.

When the newbies pulled their boots off at night, they would usually sit them right in the entrance of their tent to dry and air out; I could not pass that one up. I would cut off about eight inches of their tent rope and soak it in water, then place it in their boots. The screams the next morning told you who got caught.

THE DEMISE OF SUSIE

I had a monkey (Susie) that I had rescued from the river after a Vietnamese had shot her with a broad head and she fell in the river but was still alive. The little witch loved to jump on your back and bite your neck?? One night I had her tied to a tree that the outgoing mailbox was attached to and one of the newbies was posting a letter home and Susie jumped on his back and bit him. He had an involuntary release which caused him a lot of embarrassment and the following morning I found Susie hanging from the tree with a broken neck. I didn't even attempt to determine who the murderer was (can't say that I blame him)!

Susie was considered by most of us to be a good pet and was well treated.

THE TRIALS OF GOING HOME

For the group men of going home in early March of 1966 of which your author was a member, there were several frustrating issues. We were flown to Qui Nhon in a Caribou where we waited for a C-130. The next stop was Cam Ron Bay where we sat on the hot PSP runway for a while and watched some Special Forces personnel unloaded from a Caribou, a cow, and a village chief. Offended

us that the cow was more important than getting us back to the US.

The next stop was Tan Son Nhut air base at Saigon. From there we were trucked to Camp Alpha, the replacement center. We were taken to a warehouse where we were required to dump our bags onto the floor to be searched for government property. Then began a nine day wait for a seat on a Continental Airlines flight to the US. The process was to wait for your name to be called to load into a truck to be taken to Tan Son Nhut. There we had to wait patiently while Air Force, Navy, Marine, Korean, and civilian personnel were called to board.

Then if any seats were unfilled, Army personnel were called from the top of the list. Made several trips before our turn came. The only relief was the first milk that we had had since we left Fort Benning was available in the mess hall, even chocolate. Beer was available after 16:00. We also had to dodge work detail selection. Your author got picked one day to cut weeds on an empty lot outside the camp. The man in charge had on a clean set of jungle fatigues and spit shined jungle boots. We were never issued jungle fatigues. They rarely go north of Saigon. I got one pair of jungle boots. Grated on our sensibilities. The 1st Cav kept personnel in Saigon to try to get possession of equipment that we needed.

One incident that occurred one day after 16:00 was when a group of us 1st Cav Troopers were having beer while squatting close to a garbage can sticks in my mind. 1st Cav Troopers could only be identified by lack of unit patches on their shoulders, lack of gold stripes on their sleeves, green t-shirts, and blacked out name tags. A small group of 1st Infantry Soldiers were close by and tossing their empties in the direction of the garbage cans but purposely were missing the mark. When a Trooper made a comment about the aim of those Soldiers, a big one took offense and wanted to fight. Your author explained to that knot-head that we had had enough fighting to suit us for a while. His friends seemed to agree with our position, and he calmed down.

THAT DAY FINALLY CAME!

One day our group was called to board a Tan Son Nhut bound truck, never to return! A Continental Airlines Boeing 707 with blond haired stewardesses was awaiting us. At that time, the 707 was just coming into service and was at the top of the line. The pilot announced over the intercom that upon our liftoff, we would be in a sharp climb to avoid any ground fire. As the plane took off down the runway, a body could have heard a pin drop. True to the word of the pilot, he put it into a very steep climb. When he leveled off the plane there was a collective exhaling of air. Our flight landed at Okinawa for fuel and a crew change. Your author thought that he was the last deplaning passenger to stretch his legs, but there in the corner was the late Paul Dalton in a tight embrace and "lip-lock" with a lovely stewardess. As I filed past, I thought "Why him? There are 115 or so of us to pick from." But then you would have to know Paul.

Our final stop was Oakland Army Air Terminal, CA. Total flight time was about thirteen hours.

Of the group with your author on that trip (Delmar Egan, Harry Collins, Paul Dalton, all East Tennessee, and Roger Gregory of North Carolina), your author is the only one alive today.

Please contact the scribe to share your 545th MP stories here!

TAPS:

We were notified of the following deaths:

CAPSHAW, SGM (RET), A & C Co, 1-7 CAV, 1967-68; C & E Co, 1-7 CAV, 1970-72. 22 May 2026.

CRANDALL, COL (RET), Bruce P., A Co, 229 AVN, 1965; B Co, 1-9 CAV, 1967; HHC, 1-9 CAV, 1968. 31 May 2026. (Medal of Honor Recipient)

ETZWILER, SGT Robert L., A Co, 1-7 CAV, 1966-67. 05 May 2026.

EVANS, CPT Diane Carlson, 36th Evac Hosp & 71st Evac Hosp, 1968-69. 20 May 2026. (Founded the Vietnam Women's Memorial; longtime Friend of the Cav)

FISCHER, CPL Wallace R., SVC, 1-5 CAV & E Co, 1-5 CAV, 1948-51. 10 January 2026.

HILL, COL (RET) Howard D. III, B Co, 1-9 CAV, 1966-67. 06 June 2026.

HILL, LTC (RET) William H., 15SS, 1965-66. 30 May 2026.

JONES, LTG (RET) Donald W., HHB, 2-20 FA, 1962; HHB S3, DIVARTY, 1972; HHB CDR, 2-19 FA, 1974; HHC ADC, 1CD, 1984. 30 April 2026.

LACHMANN, SGT Klaus W., 2-12 CAV & HHC, G3, 1CD, 1967-68. 8 July 2026.

RICHARDSON, DR. Francis H. Jr., C Co, 1-7CAV, 1968; E Co, 1-7CAV, 1969. 26 May 2026.

SCHNELLE, SGT Ronald D., C Btry., 1-30 FA, 1968-69. 09 June 2026.

TAYLOR, 1LT Fred E., B Co, 1-77 FA, 1964-66. 23 August 2024.

WHETSEL, LTC Neal C., 15SS, 1968. 18 July 2026.

ACTIVE-DUTY TAPS:

We have not been notified of any non-combat Active-Duty deaths.

OTHER REUNIONS:

Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Association Reunion, 12-16 August 2026. Embassy Suites. Albuquerque, NM. Contact Jim Sheridan 901-850-0500 or <vhcmaed@sprynet.com>

12th Cav Regiment Association Reunion, 15-19 September 2026. Branson Hillside Resort (Formerly Welk), MO. Contact Fred Wilson 740-331-1814.

D/2-8 Cav Kentucky Kampout, 15-18 October 2026. Paris Landing Motel, KY. Contact Larry Hempfling 314-229-7701.

Have your upcoming reunions posted here!
Email to Programs@1CDA.org

THE 2027 CALENDAR SUBSCRIPTION CONFUSION

To address some confusion regarding the 2027 and future calendars, the calendar must now be prepaid in order to subscribe and receive it. This is a change from previous years and applies to all subscribers.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES AND SUBSCRIPTION PROCESS

A Donation Opportunities Form was sent out along with the 2026 Calendar, like the one below, asking members to check the block if you want to subscribe to it. However, it is important to remember that simply checking the box does not complete your subscription; a \$10 fee for the 2027 Calendar is also required.

PAYMENT REQUIREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION LIST

We have seen a lot of boxes checked, indicating you want it, yet a \$10 fee for the 2027 Calendar was not included. If this is your case, you will not be receiving the 2027 Calendar. If you are in question, please feel free to email us.

- memberships@1cda.org (Karleen)
- firstcav@1cda.org (Dara)
- programs@1cda.org (Tina)

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Here's \$ _____ for _____ year(s) @ \$20 per year (6 issues.)
or \$75 for 5 years

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One-of-a-Kind Monument to Honor
the Military Service Members
Who have Defended our Freedom
for the Last 250 Years

Located in the Washington D.C. Mall

July 28-Aug 27

Type into your internet browser
<https://monument250.usaa360.com/>
to learn about this unique tribute

Time Lapse: <https://f.io/FohtoaWW>

AMERICA

Our Members are Being Recognized on this Monument!





Rendition photo left:

The stripes of the flag will contain the first/last name of the approximately 40 million Veterans that have served in the U.S. military since 1776.



PURPLE HEART FACTS:

On Aug. 7, 1782, George Washington created the award (originally called the Badge of Military Merit) to give to Soldiers for any commendable action. It was only awarded to a few Soldiers during that time and forgotten about until it was reinstated on Washington's 200th birthday, Feb. 22, 1932.

Purple Heart Day was established in 2014 to honor and recognize those who have been awarded the decoration.

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration still presented to service members.

Purple Heart Day: August 7

NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR

<https://www.thepurpleheart.com>
374 Temple Hill Rd.
New Windsor, NY 12553
845-561-1765

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Email for details <programs@1CDA.org>

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Honor Roll privileges are given to members who make a donation to the Association, or scholarship donations to the IaDrang or the Foundation.
THANK YOU! to our members who graciously donate to YOUR Association!
We appreciate your generosity, we could not do it without our members!



HONOR ROLL

Thank you for the generous donations from our following Troopers:

8th Cavalry Regiment Association	\$2,000	SFC LARSON, Dwight	\$25	PSG PALMER, Lee	\$100
SP-5 BIRD, Stephen W.	\$5	<i>IMO Robert Edward Welch 4/2/47-5/13-68</i>		<i>IMO PFC William White KIA RVN 7-23-68</i>	
<i>IMO SP-4 Dempsey Parrott KIA 05/04/68</i>		LTC (RET) MINNEY, Robert W.	\$1,000	<i>A Battery 1-30 FA</i>	
2LT BOONISAR, Richard M.	\$50	<i>IMO LTC Bill Hill</i>		SP-5 PARKER, Raynauld J.	\$50
SGT CANTWELL, Gary L.	\$15	SP-5 MIRAGE, Paul	\$50	<i>IMO E BTRY 82nd ARTY (AVN)</i>	
<i>IMO John E. Crowley</i>		MR. & MRS. NELSON	\$5,000	LTC (RET) ROSE, Charles H.	\$25
SSG COCKRUM, W. Dean	\$100			CW4 SOMMERS, Gerald	\$200
<i>IMO Bruce Crandall and Hal Moore</i>				<i>IMO Sam Tenario SP-4 1st Cav</i>	
SGT DEMPSEY, David	\$50			<i>KIA '67& IMO LTC Don Horton</i>	
<i>IMO SGT Carl R. Houser</i>				1SG SPARKS, Philip T.	\$25
SFC DODSON, Robert W.	\$100			<i>IMO 1SG Bary James Minter</i>	
<i>IMO CAV Vallen</i>				PFC STORMS, Charles	\$10
SP-5 GASTON, Hillary	\$75			MSG (RET) TORRES, Teodoro	\$100
CPT HALL, Sanci	\$75			PFC ZELLER, Al	\$25
SGT HUGHES, Danny R.	\$20				
<i>IMO SGT Buckner</i>					
SGT IVERSEN, Raymond W.	\$90				



Scholarship Donations
In Memory of Leland C. Komich
Ms. Carla Falkofske \$25
Ms. Alicia LaRocco \$100



As of July 1, 2026

Editor Note: Honor Roll privileges do not include calendar donations nor Saber renewals.

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1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

17th ANNUAL WASHINGTON D.C. VETERANS DAY FESTIVITIES

VETERANS DAY RECEPTION

The 1st Cavalry Division Association in conjunction with the William A. Richardson National Capitol Region Chapter will sponsor a Hospitality Suite and small gift shop from **9-11 NOVEMBER** and will host the **17th Annual First Team Veterans Day Reception** which will be held on **WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2026, 1830 hours**.

For accountability, please submit the order form along with your money to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.

- Full payment must be received no later than **31 October 2026**.
- We can accept all credit cards – ensure that your card number and expiration dates are written correctly and legibly.
- Provide your name, address, unit you served with and the name(s) of your guests with your payment.
- If you wish to attend the parade, please let us know. Dara will send in the application for the group.

On **11 November**, wreaths will be placed at the World War II, Vietnam, and Korean War Memorials as they are each year on Veterans Day.

1. World War II Memorial Ceremony begins at **0900**
2. Vietnam Memorial Ceremony begins at **1300**
3. Korean War Memorial Ceremony begins at **1500**

Call the hotel and tell them you are with the 1st Cavalry Division Association, **Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport Hotel**, 1480 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia. Call 703-416-1600 to make your reservations.

Join us in D.C. for Veterans Day!

17th ANNUAL VETERANS DAY RECEPTION

\$50 per TICKET
Wednesday, 11 November 2026

NAME: _____ UNIT: _____

GUEST NAMES: _____

ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____ # Tickets: _____ Credit Card: _____ Check: _____

NAME ON CARD: _____

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP DATE: _____ CVV # on back: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

ATTENDING PARADE: _____ HOW MANY: _____

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302 N. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

You can fill out the above Veterans Day Reception form and return in the mail or go to our website, <www.1CDA.org> to sign up online.





