



# SABER

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



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MARCH / APRIL 2026

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Rosey Carter**  
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1CDA President 2025-2027



Greetings Troopers,  
It's a great day to be  
a Cav Trooper! Greet-  
ings from Central  
Texas where spring

has arrived with the Mexican Plum Trees showing off their blossoms. We may get another round of cold weather before winter officially ends, but it will be short lived ... I did a test run of the lawn mower yesterday and am ready to go.

In January I took a trip to Mooringsport, Louisiana to visit with Ron and Sue Killingsworth. Ron is a retired Military Intelligence Warrant Officer who served in Vietnam and with the Cav. Ron was the scribe for the Headquarters, MI, and Signal Corps column of the *Saber* when I retired in 2014. I reached out to him with some 1st Cav Bosnia information and in true Cav fashion became instant friends. Ron invited me to run for a position on the board which set me on the path to serve today as the President. Ron is salt of the earth and his partner in life, Sue, is as kind and generous and as good a cook as you will find. They quickly jumped



on my bucket list of visiting all 254 counties in Texas and took me on a guided tour of several counties plus a new route home that hit a few more. Along the way we enjoyed the historic courthouses, stood on the tri-state marker (TX, LA, AR) and had slices of some of the best cheesecake south of New York City. Here is a picture of the three of us braving the chill to stand in front of the courthouse on state line road in Texarkana. I will certainly be back for another visit to Mooringsport and their beautiful home on Caddo Lake.

Last weekend was our winter Association Board Meeting. We hosted a stable call in Copperas Cove on Friday evening with several leaders from the Division joining the Board Members who were in town. My conversations with the Division Leadership reinforced that the Division continues to be as busy as ever – 3rd Bde is in Europe, 3rd ACR is at NTC, the Sustainment Bde is supporting everyone and the other line Bdes (1st and 2nd) are both training and planning for future rotations to Europe. On Saturday morning we held our Foundation Trustee Meeting and Board of Governors Meeting as hybrid events with in-person attendees and virtual (zoom) for those who could not attend.

Our Trustees oversee the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, which provides scholarships for active-duty Troopers and 100% Disabled/KIA family members, as well as a separate fund for scholarships for children and grandchildren of Troopers of the Ia Drang Valley. Scott Sjule, a former Association President, became our Executive Trustee during the Reno Reunion so this was his first meeting in the role. He is already working with the Trustees to build on the hard work that Pete Tattersall did for many years as the Chairman.

Our Board of Governors meeting was attended (in person or virtually) by fifteen of our Board Members and Dara, our Executive Director. First and foremost, I thank each of the attendees for taking time on a Saturday afternoon to participate in this meeting – an active Board is essential to having a functional and active Association. We will have the full minutes of the Board meeting available soon but let me highlight a few items.

Rich Kaye, also a former Association President, assumed duties as the Finance and Budget Committee Chairman in Reno and presented his first financial report. He reported that we remain a financially stable and healthy organization.

During her Executive Director's Update, Dara reminded us that due to the high cost to print and mail calendars, we can no longer afford to provide them at no cost. Going forward (2027 and beyond) calendars will be available for ten dollars.

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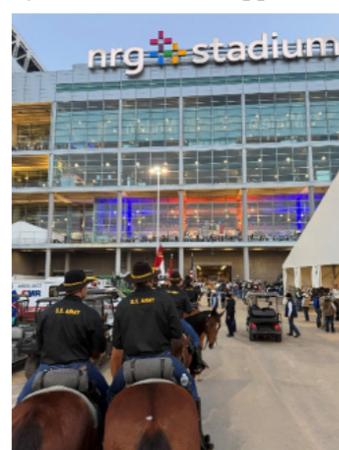
## HORSE DETACHMENT by 1LT Denning, Executive Officer

This has been a whirlwind of a rodeo season for our detachment. Our journey took us east of the Mississippi to share the spirit of the cavalry at the Dixie National Rodeo. Shortly after, we were honored to return to our home state of Texas to support the legendary San Antonio Rodeo. A truly memorable moment for us was presenting the colors at a mass enlistment ceremony, where we witnessed new service members from all six military branches take their oath of service. It was a powerful reminder of the shared commitment that binds our armed forces.



HCD Marches through Downtown Houston to kick off the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Season.

Throughout our travels, our Troopers had the pleasure of participating in "Horse Discoveries," where we shared the living history of the U.S. Cavalry with many of you. These interactions are the heart of our mission, and we are always humbled by the interest and appreciation you show for our heritage.



Troopers Walking into NRG Stadium for Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Armed Forces Appreciation Grand Entry Parade.

Most recently, we had the distinct honor of parading through the vibrant streets of downtown Houston to kick off the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. We were also thrilled to ride in the grand entry for their Armed Forces Appreciation night, a truly special occasion.

Beyond the bright lights of the rodeo, our "Yesterday and Today" and Mounted Cavalry demonstration teams had the privilege of engaging with over 200 students in the Houston area. In partnership with local recruiting battalions, our Troopers shared their personal stories and the unique opportunities the Army provides. These conversations with the next generation are some of the most rewarding aspects of our duty.

Although our Facebook page has been deactivated, the Horse Cavalry Detachment remains fully open to the public! Please come visit us at our barn for a tour or visit on Thursday at 1000 for the demonstration at 69007 Trooper Loop, Fort Hood, TX. We love and appreciate the support that this

amazing community bestows on us and look forward to our continued engagements and exchanges long into the future. Please call (254) 287-2229 with any questions.

## THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

**Dara C. Wydler**

302 N. Main St.  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703  
(254) 547-6537  
[FirstCav@1CDA.org](mailto:FirstCav@1CDA.org)

During the month of March, we celebrate Women's History Month.

This year's theme is "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future." This theme honors women who have and are reimagining and rebuilding systems to ensure long-term sustainability- environmental,

economic, educational, and societal. It recognizes the powerful leadership of women in creating a future that is rooted in equity, justice, and opportunity for all. From a military standpoint, the current four highest ranking women in the military are:

- ADM Linda Fagan (Coast Guard) - First female service chief and only woman to sit with the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- GEN Jacqueline Van Ovost (Air Force) - Leads the U.S. Transportation Command.
- GEN Lisa Franchetti (Navy) - Number two officer in the Navy and former commander of a carrier strike group.
- GEN Michelle Howard (Navy) - Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa.

These women have made significant contributions to military leadership and have overcome several challenges throughout their careers.

The 2026 reunion in New Orleans is quickly coming together and will be here before you know it. Make your reservations and don't forget to register. Registrations cancelled after 15 May 2026 are **non-refundable**. All the information you need is in the *Saber* (pages 12 & 13) or you can go online to our website at <https://1cda.org>. The hotel reservation cutoff date is 16 June 2026. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

**ADDRESS CHANGE**

**Don't Keep it a SECRET, Let us Know About It.**  
 To submit by e-mail, send to [memberships@1CDA.org](mailto:memberships@1CDA.org)  
 Clip and Mail to 1st Cavalry Division Association  
 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

Last 4 #'s of your SSN \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rank and Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**SNOWBIRDS**

If you have two addresses during the year, we need to know them. Please give us the dates and addresses for both households.  
 (Circle one) Winter Summer  
 Rank and Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 LAST 4#s SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
 1: Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 2: Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**1CDA EVENT CALENDAR**

July 8-12, 2026	78 <sup>th</sup> Annual 1CDA Reunion, New Orleans
Nov 9-11, 2026	17 <sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day, Washington D.C.
Aug 4-8, 2027	79 <sup>th</sup> Reunion will be in Columbus, GA
2028 Dates TBA	80 <sup>th</sup> Reunion will be in Killeen, TX

**SABER / CALENDAR RENEWAL DONATION FORM**

Renew my *Saber* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) @ \$20 per year (6 issues). Fill out and return the form below or attach your *Saber* label so we have your pertinent information.

*Saber*: 5 years for \$75

Calendar Subscription: 2027 Calendar \$10

Association General Fund Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your "In Memory of" acknowledgements will appear in the HONOR ROLL section of the *Saber***

Honor Roll privileges are given to members who make a donation to the Association, or scholarship donations to the IaDrang or the Foundation. Honor Roll privileges do not include calendar donations nor *Saber* renewals.

LAST 4 NUMBERS OF SSN \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Log in>>> *Saber* Newspaper >>> *Saber* Subscriptions/Renewals

**SABER**

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**ARTICLE SUBMISSION**

Original, clear copies, typed or printed are accepted via e-mail at [Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org).  
 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.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:**

**William Shook wrote in asking this question:**

At the end of my Vietnam tour I was never given the opportunity to get the insurance or I should say to pick up the \$10,000 life insurance that we had. If I were killed my wife would have gotten the money. How many others were denied the purchase of the insurance? I can't be the only one. Hope someone can help me.

Thanks, William W. Shook Jr., HHC 2/12 Cav, Came home July 2, 1969  
 Home: 724-499-5206 / Cell: 724-710-7665

Sir,  
 Here is the answer to your question:

**SGLI after Vietnam**

After Vietnam, Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) continues at no cost for 120 days after leaving the military, allowing service members to decide on their next steps. During this period, service members can convert their SGLI coverage to Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), switch to a permanent commercial policy, or both. However, each option has its own deadlines, and missing one can cost service members guaranteed coverage. If a service member is totally disabled at the time of separation, they may qualify to keep their full SGLI coverage at no cost for up to two years after leaving the military.



Dear 1st Cavalry Division Association,  
 I would like to express my sincere gratitude for awarding me with this \$1250 scholarship. It is an incredible honor, and I am truly grateful for your dedication to helping students like me succeed throughout their education journey. The money provided by the 1st Cavalry Division Association will support me financially so that I can pursue clinical hours or research instead of working to pay for tuition and continue my volunteering at the Children's Hospital of Alabama. All of these opportunities that have been afforded to me and that are to come are thanks to this scholarship. This money will go a long way as I progress towards medical school. Again, thank you

for helping me succeed in my educational journey and believing in my potential.  
 Sincerely, Jace Howard

My grandfather, Carmen Miceli, was in the 1st Battalion of General Custard's 7th Cavalry. He was a brave, strong, valiant, and grounded man, but most importantly, he was a best friend to my brother and me. He always knew how to make us laugh when we would cry, he would take us on adventures, and he would show us unwavering support – there was not one gymnastics meet that he would miss. Although I only had a short amount of time with him before he passed away, by receiving this scholarship, it is more than just financial support; it is a way for me to honor and continue the legacy that he left behind. Each step I take with this support is a way of remembering his memory and the example he set for me growing up. I accept this scholarship with gratitude and a commitment to carry forward the path he showed me, using this opportunity to make a meaningful difference just as my grandfather did.



Best, Erica Waters  
**Continued to pg. 4**

## Trooper's Tale



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

Send your stories to [Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)

**Best Battalion in the Army — and What I Learned to Pay Attention To** By LTC George J. Kalergis, 1-9 Cav, 5-7 Cav, 1-21FA 1967  
804-973-5563 <[GKALERGIS@AOL.COM](mailto:GKALERGIS@AOL.COM)>

I wasn't what you'd call a typical career Army officer. I started as a drafted enlisted Soldier, then fought my way through Officer Candidate School. OCS was the hardest thing I had done up to that point, and the fact that I wasn't a "spit-and-polish" kind of Soldier made it harder. But I did like leadership. And I liked the clean purpose of Field Artillery: Shoot. Move. Communicate. Put accurate fire where it mattered, when it mattered, for Soldiers who were pinned down and running out of time.

Six months after commissioning, in January 1967, I was on my way to Vietnam having fired only three training artillery missions from a camp stool at Fort Sill. My fourth was in combat. I was assigned to the 1/9th Armed Helicopter Squadron as an aerial forward observer, with the additional duty of right-side M-60 door gunner on a Huey gunship. I had never been on a Huey Gunship or even seen an M-60 up close or fired one, and now I was hanging out the door with it.

Because we covered a wide area of operations, I got to request fire from many artillery units. That gave me a strange advantage for a brand-new lieutenant: I could compare units in real time. And I quickly learned something nobody ever put in plain language during training:

Nothing took longer to hit a target than a round not fired.

As an aerial observer, two things mattered more than anything else:

1. How fast the first round was fired after my request, and
2. How close it landed to where it was supposed to land.

Accuracy was similar, but speed was where the real spread showed up. For the first several weeks, it took anywhere from two to five minutes from the end of my request to the first round leaving the tube. At first, I assumed the batteries hitting the low end of that range were doing well. Then one day I called a mission and the first round fired in forty seconds. Forty. Seconds. It stopped me cold. It was like watching someone do the same job under different rules of physics. I was thinking ... Why were they so fast? Why were they so much better than the rest? "Aside from that, Mrs. Lincoln, how was the play?"

After six weeks, I left the 1/9th to replace a forward observer who had been killed with A Company, 5/7th Cavalry. I spent the next four months on the ground, conducting search and destroy missions in the rice paddies, mountains, and jungles.

We rotated for three weeks in the field and one week back on an LZ providing security. By chance, the unit that had fired so rapidly for me was located on one LZ where we provided security for their perimeter. So I went to see them. I expected a secret. A trick. A wizard behind the curtain. There was no magic. Just discipline.

Their fire direction center ran like clockwork — no wasted motion, no confusion. Each crew member knew the job, knew why it mattered, and knew they were extremely good at it. Most importantly, their fire direction officer set a clear standard — forty seconds — and proved it could be done, repeatedly, until it became the new standard. That was the lesson I took with me for the rest of my career: standards weren't slogans. Standards were enforced reality.

Later, when I served as a fire direction officer, I set our standard at thirty seconds, and we lived there consistently. Even beat it at times. It could never be fast enough for us. This was the practical education I never got in any school.

A few years later, I became a battery commander of a 105mm unit in Korea. Vietnam was still going on, so I assumed the chain of command shared the same understanding: speed and accuracy were the bedrock of artillery. Strangely, I was wrong.

We only went to the field to actually shoot the howitzers a couple of times a year. (Budget constraints.) The rest of the time, the "important" metrics became the ones you could inspect on a Tuesday morning: barracks scores, appearance, rates, reports. Unlike the other units in the Division Artillery, I scheduled dry-fire training anyway and set hard goals—because if you couldn't do it dry, you wouldn't do it live.

Higher headquarters inspectors were impressed in the moment, but when it came time to write evaluations, that wasn't always what rose to the top of their minds. It was easier to reward what was visible every day on charts than what mattered when it counted. Most seemed ignorant of the standards I lived by.

Then in 1974, I was promoted to major and my new battalion commander, LTC Dave Meade, selected me as S-3 (operations and training). He picked me because we had already talked about what mattered: speed, accuracy, combat readiness—not as theory, but as a standard you could measure with a stopwatch. The first thing he said to me was, "Somebody has to have the best Field Artillery Battalion in the Army, and it might as well be us." I had been waiting my whole career to hear that.

We took the standards I learned in combat and built our training around them. The Soldiers responded immediately. Most young men didn't join the Army to

Continued to pg. 6

### 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](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

## OIF / OEF VETERAN 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion News

SSG Brandy Harvest HHC 1BSTB, 2007-2009  
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 August 24th, 2007, Bravo Company, 1-37 FA, and 707th EOD destroyed an identified IED trigger house and observation point. It was destroyed by EOD in order to deny the ability to detonate IEDs along the route passing by. The route to the house was cleared by TFIC, 1BSTB. In route to the house TFIC located 6 IEDs and the travel time took nearly 10 hours.



Trigger House before Detonation

Trigger House Before Detonation

The house was an abandoned structure and was previously used by insurgents in the past to monitor Coalition Force movement and to detonate IEDs along the route traveling in front of the house. Destruction of the building would contribute significantly to the re-vitalization of the markets in the surrounding neighborhoods and reconciliation efforts in the surrounding areas. The below pictures are of this event.



Trigger House upon Detonation

Upon Detonation

With a crew of only 18 Soldiers, the 1BSTB Maintenance Section was responsible for making sure 146 vehicles, along with other equipment within the Battalion, remained functional and safe. When a vehicle arrived in need of repair, they were there to fix the issue in a very timely manner. Maintenance was also responsible for any recovery missions that may have occurred within a convoy on mission. They were called on at any time and were always ready to leave Camp Taji within 30 minutes. The Special Troops Battalion would not have the vehicles or equipment needed to complete the mission in Iraq safely and effectively without them!



Trigger House after Detonation

After Detonation

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

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Continued from pg. 1

You can use the letter in the 2026 calendar to sign up for the next calendar, or you can reach out to the office and get signed up.

We received great news with regard to our Crossed Sabers Gift Shop which is collocated with the Association Headquarters in Copperas Cove. Tisha Blakley took over as the Manager early in 2025 and she is already making a huge difference. The Gift Shop is gaining a reputation once again in the Division as the place to shop for Cav Swag and is now profitable after moving from Fort Hood when the Cav Museum shut down a few years ago. Tisha is a dynamo and I highly recommend that you reach out to her for your Cav Swag needs. She can send you a catalog or help you on the phone (254-532-2075) to find what you need. The gift shop's website is also posted on page 15 in the *Saber*.

Dara also let us know that registration for the 2026 Reunion in New Orleans is now open. We already have 45 Troopers and 25 family members registered. The registration form is in this *Saber* and on our website. The banquet will be at the WWII Museum with live entertainment and a laser light show. Just this event will make your trip worthwhile!

Our reunion in 2027 will be in Columbus, GA and Dara is already working with the Chamber of Commerce and Fort Benning to arrange events and installation tours. The infantry museum will be a highlight of the reunion, and I am also confident that the post will roll out the carpet for our Air Cav Veterans.

Finally, Dara let us know that there will be two Foundation Trustee positions, ten Board Member positions, and our 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President position open for elections at the reunion. If you are interested in serving, please reach out so I can provide you with the duties and expectations. The 3<sup>rd</sup> VP position is a progression towards the Association President position with each role serving for two years so is an eight-year commitment but ensures that our Association is led by individuals who know our Association and how it runs. One key expectation for all three positions is that you will do your best to attend the Reunion each summer in person. Zoom is very helpful when someone cannot travel, but it does not replace building personal relationships with the Board and with our active Association membership so you can represent them well in the meetings.

As you make your plans for New Orleans (8-12 July), please extend an invitation to another Cav Trooper. This is the best way to grow our association — especially Desert Shield/Desert Storm and OIF/OEF Veterans who we need to become involved in greater numbers to keep our Association successful.

Bring a Battle Buddy — old or new!

First Team,  
Rosey Carter

## LRRP/Ranger News



**Pete Dencker**  
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Team 22 along the Cambodian border February 15-17, 1971

Ranger Team 22 operated out of Phouc Vinh, a former 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Base which in 1970 became the home of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. The Team consisted of Tim Harper, TL (from Ceylon, MI) Harvey Claypoole, Scout (from North Olmstead, Ohio), Sam Dixon RTO, (from New Castle, DE), James Doyle, ATL, Charles Monroe, Rear Scout (from Highpoint, North Carolina and Richard Wall, Scout (from Kent, Washington).

On the afternoon of February 15<sup>th</sup> at 1249 hours Team 22 was inserted into War Zone D in Phouc Long Province along the Cambodia border north of the fishhook area for the purpose of reconnoitering a major trail leading out of Cambodia into south Vietnam. The trail was suspected of being an important North Vietnamese transportation route that connected the Ho Chi Minh Trail to numerous distribution routes in South Vietnam. It was suspected of handling both personnel and vehicular traffic, it was 12-18 feet wide and mostly covered with woven mats of bamboo leaves.

The mission was uneventful until the night of February 16<sup>th</sup> when the Team set up a night defensive position on a hilltop near the trail. During the night, the Team members heard voices and splashing and monitored an enemy unit of an unknown size in a draw location below their position. The draw was heavily forested and provided concealment from aerial observation.

At daybreak of the morning of February 17<sup>th</sup>, the Team moved down the hill on a small trail towards the location where the enemy unit had camped overnight. SSG Tim Harper was walking point. Halfway down the hill at 0730 hours, the Team members spotted three individuals coming up the trail towards them. They were wearing mixed Khaki uniforms and were carrying AK-47s. SSG Harper initiated contact by rifle fire with the enemy Soldiers and the other Team members opened on them with their weapons. Rear scout Monroe fired several 40mm grenades at the enemy Soldiers, one of which struck some overhead jungle canopy and exploded scattering fragments back at him, wounding him. RTO Dixon called in contact to a radio relay station and requested helicopter gunship support and a ready reaction force. The 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Blues were dispatched to the site but while enroute were redirected to another friendly unit that was in contact and needed immediate reinforcement (Ranger Team 61). The enemy Soldiers broke contact at 0945 hours and maneuvered back down the trail.

Team 22 continued to move towards the enemy camp. On the trail they found three NVA backpacks filled with enemy supplies and one AK-47. The enemy camp turned out to be a sizeable bunker complex next to a river along the Cambodian border.

SSG Harper notified brigade of the situation and the team continued moving along the trail in the direction of a possible pickup zone (PZ) with Harper walking point. Whether it was a chance encounter or a counter ambush, the North Vietnamese Soldiers spotted Harper as he rounded a clump of bamboo thickets

at the exit of the bunker complex and opened fire on him, hitting him with multiple small arms rounds. One of the rounds hit the wooden stock of the AK-47 rifle he was carrying. It went through the stock and through his hand. Several other rounds hit him in the lower abdomen/pelvic area. The Team members were forced to drop back into the scattered bunkers. RTO Dixon called in the second contact and requested immediate medical extraction for Harper.

SSG Harper was out of sight on the trail bleeding badly and was unable to maneuver back around the bamboo thickets and link up with the other team members. Doyle assumed leadership of the team at that time and relayed the situation to brigade.

Claypoole was able to maneuver along the trail towards Harper and eventually reach him while Wall maintained suppressive fire on the enemy position. Claypoole was able to drag him out of the line of fire and back into the bunker complex. At 1015 hours, the brigade quick reaction force (QRF), Bravo Company, 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was alerted to move by helicopter to the site.

After Claypoole was able to drag Harper back to the Teams position, they established a defensive position in the bunker complex. Doyle continued to relay information on their situation to Brigade. Shortly afterward a LOH from the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Cav arrived on station, and at tree top level made several attempts to extract Harper but received intense enemy ground fire each time and was forced to exit the area. Helicopter gunships from the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Cav and aerial rocket gunships from the 2/20<sup>th</sup> ARA arrived on station and directed suppressive fire on the enemy positions. This gunship support enabled a Dust-off time to lower a jungle penetrator to the ground and lift out Harper. The plan was to get Harper to a field hospital at FSB Buttons. On the way to the field hospital, the pilot of the Dust-off radioed Team 22 to inform them that Tim had died from his wounds during the flight to the hospital.

Brigade instructed the Team to maintain its current position in the bunker complex while the Bravo, 1/8<sup>th</sup> Cav Troops moved to its position. There were no clearings nearby for the helicopters to land – other than the PZ further up the trail, which was now covered with enemy Soldiers, so the 1/8<sup>th</sup> Troopers were forced to repel down to the jungle floor under the cover of a 1/9<sup>th</sup> Cav Pink team. They immediately set cutting charges to trees to create and LZ/PZ for the rest of the QRF to get on the ground.

At 1118 hours, the QRF linked up with the team in the bunker complex. A sweep of the area produced assorted clothing, enemy web gear, grenades, and numerous rounds of ammunition. Team 22 was extracted at 1453 hours along with the QRF.

One back at Phouc Vinh, the team members were informed that they encountered a point element of a battalion-sized North Vietnamese unit that had just crossed the border into South Vietnam. Over the next few days, the area was heavily bombed, and units of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav were inserted into the area to drive the remaining North Vietnamese Soldiers back into Cambodia.

RTO Sam Dixon commented, "Over the years, Harvey and I have realized that the February 15<sup>th</sup> mission could easily have resulted in a very different outcome." "Without the help of the helicopter gunships from the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Cav and 2/20<sup>th</sup> ARA, and the Bravo 1/8<sup>th</sup> QRF, the members of Team 22 most likely would not have survived that situation."

## PLEASE CONTACT THE SCRIBE ABOVE TO SHARE YOUR LRRP RANGER STORIES!

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from pg. 2

Dear Association Members,

My name is Jason Monica, grandson of Lieutenant Colonel Roger Bartholomew, (USA KIA Vietnam, 1968) who was an aviator in the battle of the Ia Drang with 2/7 artillery, Air Mobile. I am a sophomore Economics and Political Science student at the University of Georgia. For the past year, I have been lucky enough to receive the Ia Drang Valley scholarship from the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association to help aid in my studies here at UGA as I pursue a career where I will be able to make an impact on the world. Growing up, I was always informed about my grandfather's service during Vietnam. Though I was never able to meet him, my mom, his eldest daughter, never stopped talking about him, even though she was barely 8 years old when he was shot down. I like to think his story and legacy continues through me, and that is a responsibility that I do not bear lightly. Thanks to the Ia Drang scholarship, not only am I able to afford the education I need to launch a successful career, but I am also able to participate in an institution that recognizes and values the service of my grandfather and the men with whom he served. In many cases, they may have served with him and that makes me doubly grateful for the examples they've set for my generation and beyond.

My sister, a freshman at Ole Miss, also received your scholarship this year and we're both so grateful. Thank you.

Sincerely, Jason Monica



**Jason & sister  
Shannon Monica**

in, but I'll never forget the sacrifices and honor of the 1st Cav, or the way they continued to watch out for their friends' kids and grandkids these many years by making this scholarship happen.

Growing up in a military family (my father was a Marine for 30 years and is now retired as a Master Gunnery Sgt) I feel especially grateful for all of you, and appreciate not only this grant, but your service and sacrifices for all of us.

I'm having a wonderful time at Ole Miss, meeting new people and studying hard in my freshman year. The Ia Drang/1st Cav grant is so appreciated. My major is still undecided, but my first semester was super fun and successful, with two As and two Bs to start the year right! And there was lots of football too!

Again, many thanks.

Sincerely, Shannon Monica

**War within the Wilson's** by Paige Wilson, scholarship recipient

From when I was a young age, my grandfather's participation within the Vietnam War has never gone unnoticed within my family. I always was aware of his actions, his harm within the war, as well as the aftereffects which I had learned about later in life. My family owns this pride within my grandfather, and we cherish the time we share with him because of his hard work that has reflected in his life and where he is now. He holds strong values, and passes them along to the rest of the family with honor. He teaches many lessons on reflection and emotions, especially when it comes to my brother, my father, and my uncle. The connection my family has curated over time, was a mass effect of the generations before us, and the generations of my family that I look up to, including Russell Wilson, my grandfather, and one of the strongest people I know. He continuously has persevered throughout his entire life, and he lays his own strength and wit along with our family and the people we bring along with us.

Awareness plays a large part in learning about those around you. My family always made me aware of the brave actions of my grandfather, and how it led me to be here today. Through Veterans Day at school, or even sitting with him in his garage while he explains who the pictures are of on his wall, and the memories he holds within these experiences and people. The most effect this war has had on my family, was providing us with hope, prayer, and love, and overall bringing us all closer. My most memorable time exploring the memories of my grandfather was when we partook in a family trip to Washington D.C., and specifically the Arlington cemetery. We were able to come together and see his friends of the past, visualize the true effects of war and humanity, as well as see the community that it has overall created within the United States. We also went along to see the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, the Korean War Memorial, and

Continued to pg. 5



Dear 1st Cavalry Association Members,

My name is Shannon Monica and I'm from the Atlanta, Georgia suburbs and attend the University of Mississippi as a freshman this year. I'm beyond grateful to receive your scholarship each semester. It has helped my parents and me to be able to afford college as I'm the last of four to attend. My older siblings were not aware of your organization, but you have assisted my older brother Jason, a sophomore at the University of Georgia, and me so very much.

I never got to meet my grandpa (Mom's father), who was a 1st Cav helicopter pilot killed in 1968, 40 years before I was born. But I feel like I know him because of the stories and memories relayed to me over the years, including the story of the heroism and the battles your members fought for all of us. Most people my age never heard of the Battle at the Ia Drang Valley, which he participated



## 5th CAV News

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I'm happy to report the 5<sup>th</sup> Cav website is up and seems to be doing well. You can Google 5thCav.org and get a link to put you in. Please visit us and let us know what you think! It's been a long time coming. The biggest credit for this ambitious undertaking is Sierra Marstall, the daughter of Gary Marstall, our treasurer. With her input and our long-time desire to have more contact with the battalions of the 5<sup>th</sup> Cav assigned to units other than the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav, you will see evidence of our efforts to include these other units of our historic regiment. It is our hope that we can be of assistance to anyone seeking information on any part of the 5<sup>th</sup> US Cavalry. The 5<sup>th</sup> Cav Regiment has been continuously active since 1855, and the Army felt we could add more overall if parts of the regiment were used to flesh out more than one division.

This year the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav is having its Division Reunion in New Orleans, July 8-12. These reunions are always a wonderful place to meet old friends and make new ones of Division Alumni who came before or after our assignment or find friends who share our past in some other way from units other than our own. It is natural if our unit engaged in a sever situation, to feel no one else could ever relate. That is the default setting for any warrior, but there are other connections to be found that also help in healing and putting to rest old nightmares. Many of these can be found at Division Reunions as well as finding help to reconnect with our own folks. Be sure to talk this up with any Cav alumni you come across.

My very first combat assault was a night assault. As the birds circled above the LZ, we could watch the last minute or so of the artillery prep. I didn't find it particularly comforting, but while there was no fight involved with that insertion, I did receive a real, breath holding jolt. As I ran to form up at the LZ perimeter, with a very heavy pack on, I tripped over what I at first thought was a rock. On reaching down to check what I tripped over my hand and found a still warm round of 105mm HE. With no idea what would have to take place for that round to be there, my heart skipped a beat! Welcome to the field, Truitt! Obviously, that was not the last time I received a good jolt of adrenaline and just as obviously I survived them all, but there is no doubt in my mind that there are very few things about combat I cannot relate to.

Learning how much folks who went before understood the things I saw, however, took me many years. Just as importantly to me, until I reconnected with the guys from my platoon, I had no real idea what impression I left with them. The only real demons I fought with in the years following were not about what I did. What I saw did have its part in those images, but the real question that haunted me was whether I had done the right things at the times it really counted. Had I moved fast enough, had the emergency treatments I performed been right, and did my actions or lack of same cost someone their life or a limb?

Only reconnecting with the men I served with could answer that question and the first step to finding out was a division reunion. The years and changing circumstances of how deployments and replacements are done have changed my reconnection problem quite a bit from what it now is, but to a larger degree than it might at first seem, it still is effective. It's also a fact that when we're young and early in our experience, we usually don't focus on the history of our unit, some of these units in the Cav have an enormous list of accomplishments. Those streamers in the Command offices of battalions (in our cases) mean something and our connections to our units as we mature let us learn about them.

Speaking of accomplishments, reflection on some of the military accomplishments the 5th Cav has been involved with, some are direct and some indirect. Some have taken place as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division and some by way of the Regiment. Still others by way of folks who move on and take some lessons with them. Speed of action has always been a cavalry hallmark and there are quite a few instances that could be used in modern warfare to point that out. Before wading into that pool, however, I must make a clear personal disclaimer. That disclaimer is that I am not privy to anything from an area that my imagination says will be far ahead of me. That is the current head sheds for our armed forces which not only examine history but work up plans and scenarios likely to be far beyond me. One of our former regimental commanders was George Patton. Who demonstrated many times what audacity and speed could do while caution and emphasis on preparation sometimes hold a unit up.

Preparation, however, was a big part of what GEN Schwarzkopf did just before using speed and audacity in Desert Storm, which the Division and our regiment were both part of. It is a source of pride that "my" division will continue to be one where these are maintained as doctrine. Along with speed, violence of action and first-rate equipment, we need our Troops to believe in themselves and their leaders and be proud of their units. That's called esprit de corps and is also needed to achieve the best military results. It should not be forgotten that this frame of mind, while saving lives can occasionally lead to circumstances becoming quite painful, and even knowing that should not cause us to doubt. We try to see things that might happen, but where things change rapidly or where intelligence is thin, painful memories can easily be formed. Here's to hoping that this never happens to any large portion of the 1st Cav! It's far too painful when it happens to a company or other smaller part of us. Our air assets and modern technology help a lot with knowing what's out there ahead of us and they work hard but we'll be learning to fill in gaps in intelligence as long as we exist since our foes will always be trying to deceive us. In every job and every MOS let's all be doing everything we can to make us the very best! And all of us old dinosaurs out here will keep cheering!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from pg. 4

we took a bus tour in order to truly see the amazing capital of the United States. These experiences create that generational connection within people, to come together and understand what others have committed themselves to, for those to see their recognition in their participation, it curates values and morals within people, that can then also be taken to other generations of people.

The strong values held within my family are surrounded by my grandfather and his participation in fighting for our country. My family does not let each other forget the importance and value of my grandfather surviving this war, as well as his overall participation within fighting for his country and family. This has curated strength, and certain morals within our family that we follow, like prayer, determination, and perseverance. God is the foundation of our families relationship, he provides light and grace within our lives and gives hope to our future and state of mind. Determination and perseverance go hand in hand with each other, by seeing past the faults and by getting through the hardships in life, you are able to stand where you are today, and be surrounded by those who support and love you. This is a strong one in my family because of my grandfather's injury within the war.

He was shot in the ankle, and taken to support by his friends and peers, he was determined to persevere through this event and see through it to get back to his friends and family, but there is also guilt that comes along with this. The guilt of leaving these other peers behind, leaving your country behind, or even a sense of leaving your fight behind you. These emotions drag on throughout your life, and eventually you are able to gain strength through these weak thoughts. This strength powers over those emotions, and it reflects within one's life, through their family, work, and overall how they present themselves.

These lessons were thoroughly taught to my family by just observing my grandfather, they were able to see his reflection of durability throughout life and apply that to their own. The masculine connection between the men in my family revolves around the experiences of their past, and those lessons are passed down to new generations created like my brother and me. This sense of power and determination will never end within my family because of my grandfather and his contributions. My brother and I have always been taught that real strength is reaching out for help, and real power in life is to not just 'tough it out.' My grandfather regretted not searching for help when he returned home from war. He experienced PTSD and many signs of severe trauma, but in those years, mental health was not on anyone's radar to take into consideration, let alone my grandfather's. There were little to no treatments available, and my grandfather was in a state of denial when it came down to his own health, because his main goals were taking care of his family and those around him. It wasn't until he had gained his strength back from these thoughts that he realized what he had fully gone through and the extent of what he had experienced. He learned that reaching out for help and assistance in a time needed is not a weakness in masculinity or humanity, it is a weakness in the mind. My grandfather ensured we knew this lesson, because he did not want the ones he loved to experience the same pain that he endured within his life, and time fighting in the war.

Being taught these lessons of life, and being provided with the perspective of someone learning these lessons themselves, is a true gift from the universe and God himself. Without my grandfather, my father would not have gained the same strength that he has now, my brother would not have the same determination in supporting our family, and I would not be in college getting the privilege of having an education. My grandfather's values, determination, and emotional maturity that he gained from the war has built the strong foundation of family and true connection within one another and being able to fully understand one another. He has been able to pass these morals down to my brother and I, and I will eventually be fortunate enough to pass his legacy onto new generations. This legacy was not only built on experience in the Vietnam War, but it is also built on being a husband, father, grandfather, and a variety of different roles he has pursued within his lifetime, and I just have the honor of keeping this legacy alive and continuing telling his story.

## WANTED:

**SGT RONNIE MARSHALL, HQ CO 3<sup>rd</sup> BRIGADE, 1970**

My name is Donald Tackett, Sergeant Major, US Army (retired). I'm trying to find information on a high school classmate of mine that was assigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st CAV in Vietnam. His name was SGT Ronnie Shinya Marshall. He was assigned on 31 July 1970. He died as a result of burns in an accident at his unit on 6 September 1971. I am looking for anyone who might have known him, his duty with 1st CAV, and the circumstances surrounding his death. Any info you can provide would be helpful. My contact info phone number is 678-725-0329. Thank you in advance.

Don Tackett <donald.tackett@aol.com>

**SP4 ROGER E. CARROLL, C TRP 1-9CAV, KIA 1969**

I have recently started listening to the Echoes of the Vietnam War podcast by Michael Croan. I have started wondering about my uncles who served in the Vietnam War. He was very helpful in supplying me with your contact information. In particular, our family doesn't talk much about my uncle, who was KIA during the war. SP4 Roger Eugene Carroll was in the 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, C Troop. He was killed on October 30, 1969, in the Tay Ninh province. His name is inscribed on Panel 16W, Line 4. I would like to find out about him, what he was like, and what people remember about him. I would like to find out who served with him and where they are from, if possible.

I know this is a long shot. This is currently not for any project or story. I am just trying to gather more information for my mother, Roger's younger sister, and me. If there is anything that I can do to help, then please let me know.

Thank you, Jonathan Schroder, P.E. <schroder.j@gmail.com> or 402-990-3342.

**Please contact the scribe  
 above to share your 5<sup>th</sup> Cav  
 stories here!**



**Have you been searching for your long lost 1CD  
 Battle Buddy?  
 Send us an email to Programs@1CDA.org  
 for the next Saber!**

## 12th CAV News



Thomas W. Kjos  
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### A Farewell

Thomas Lon Crabtree was a Christian man and a Christian soldier, so his passing brought to mind not Fiddler's Green, but rather the well-known hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers." I imagine Thomas "Marching," not "as to war," but to the peace of his father. Brother Crabtree passed into the arms of his Lord on February 3, 2026. He was 78 years old. His obituary, like most, will not likely include the details of his service to his country. So here, for those who served with him, and his many Veteran friends, is his military story.

Thomas was born in Utah, and grew up in Hobbs, New Mexico, where he graduated from high school in 1965. After enlisting in the Army, he trained as an infantryman, then airborne training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was awarded his wings in July 1966 and was "in country" in Vietnam within a month, assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), which at that time was operating in Binh Dinh Province, between the Central Highlands and South China Sea.

In August and early September, the battalion was in defense of Camp Radcliff, the Division base near An Khe in the Central Highlands. That low intensity combat soon came to a halt at the Battle of Hoa Hoi against the NVA's 18 Regiment, on October 2-3, for which the battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its heroism. On December 17th things got even tougher for young Thomas Crabtree's company at the Battle of 506 Valley, in which much of the Cav's 1st Brigade was involved, and in which 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry sustained 34 Killed in Action and 81 Wounded. For C Company, which had 10 of those KIA's, this was a day they would want, but would be unable to, forget. Unfortunately, the worst was yet to come.

On 27 December, 84 men of C Company, less one of its platoons, along with 112 artillerymen manning a battery of 105 mm and a battery 155 mm howitzers, were in defense of LZ Bird, a small firebase on low ground in a bend of the Kim Son River, when attacked at 1 AM by the approximately 1,350 men-strong 22nd NVA Regiment. (The 22nd was the sister Regiment of the 18th that had faced the 1/12th in the 506 Valley, both belonging to the NVA's 3rd Infantry "Sao Vang" (Yellow Star) Division.) The desperate defense of Bird was memorialized in Brigadier General (Ret) SLA Marshall's book "Bird: The Christmastide Battle," and was recently the subject of the documentary "Fragments of Memory" ("Mảnh Ký Ức") produced by Vietnam Television (VTV). Thomas was lucky that night, listening to the battle that engulfed his brothers over a PRC 25 radio with a small patrol more than a kilometer beyond the perimeter. The team was able to provide relay from Bird to LZ Pony, which is believed to facilitate a faster response of resources than otherwise might have been the case.

The new year saw scattered contacts in the Kim Son Valley for C Company, then in February the 1st Cavalry Division launched Operation Pershing in Binh Dinh Province. Pershing, which has been described in 12th Regiment histories as a "tedious, unglamorous mission" lasted throughout 1967. Thomas, transferred in June to Company C 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry, missed most of it. The 2nd of the 327th, belonged to the 101st Airborne's 1st Brigade (historically, the "Bastogne Brigade" but known in Vietnam as "Nomads"), the first element of the 101st Airborne Division, and the third American ground combat unit overall (after the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade and the 173rd Airborne Brigade), to arrive in Vietnam. The battalion participated in sweeping the Duc Pho area when Thomas arrived, and Operation Wheeler began near Tam Ky in September.

In December, Thomas DEROS'd to "the World," assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 504th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. There he went straight to the Division's Raider/Recondo School, earning the badge before 1967 was out. He re-enlisted the same month, was promoted to sergeant and remained with the 82nd through 1970, then served in Germany from February to his ETS in December. In the meantime, as he put it, "the Army issued me a wife."

Thomas Crabtree was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Airborne Badge, various other qualifications, the Army Commendation Medal, Purple Heart, Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After his discharge, Thomas assisted student Veterans get connected to the VA, later was active in the VFW, and more recently with 12th Cavalry Regiment Association, for which his service in many capacities has been essential to its success. His son Ken wrote, "He was a proud Vietnam Veteran who lived a life dedicated to honoring ALL servicemen and women, especially to those who gave the greatest sacrifice. He lived a modest life led by his faith in God."

### My Introduction

Another Tom. It seems I am meant to follow Thomas Crabtree. I arrived in the Republic of Vietnam, the 1st Cavalry Division, and the 1st Battalion of the 12 Cavalry Regiment, at the end of November, just as Thomas Crabtree was leaving. Here I am again. I hope I'll not follow again too quickly, though I have reached my 8th decade. I waited some time at Camp Radcliff, then at LZ English (1st Brigade and Division Forward), before joining D Company and the guys in the third platoon. We spent the next few months together, traveling from Binh Dinh and the Highlands, to I Corps, Tet 1968, the Relief of Khe Sanh, and the A Shau Valley before I became the Company's Executive Officer. I DEROS'd in November during the Divisions move south to III Corps Northwest of Saigon. I spent the next year-and-a-half at Fort Ord, California, most of it in command of A-2-2, an Infantry Advanced



Individual Training company. I was then ordered back to Vietnam to serve in I Corps (again), this time with the 101st Airborne Division. In my 24 months in 'Nam, I would spend 23 of them in the northernmost part of the country. During that assignment I commanded two companies, E, then B, of the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry (historically, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of Bastogne, and the "Band of Brothers"). I ETS'd from Fort Lewis, Washington, after which I commanded an Engineer Company in the Army Reserve, and later resigned my commission, reverting to Staff Sergeant to lead

a 155-howitzer section in the National Guard. I have been a Post officer in the American Legion, and active with fellow Vietnam Veterans of D Company, 1/12th Cavalry. I edited a newsletter for those brothers, the experience that resulted in a request that I write this column.

### Summer Events

I am aware of these few. There are others, I am sure, but it's all I've got in the less than two weeks since I was asked to write this. I'd like to be contacted by those active in the various elements of the Regiment, so I can cover their events in this column. Anyone who as stories, or information of any kind, please contact me via the email above. D Company, 1st Battalion will have a "Gathering" (the fallback from a series of "full scale reunions") in Tucson, Arizona, May 5-8, hotel is the Casino del Sol, <<https://www.casinodelsol.com/tower-selection/>> and 855-765-7829, for information, Chuck Rose 210-854-4131, and look for a newsletter soon.

The Regiment voted last September in Branson to "do it again," (the 21st time). It's usually the first week in September, but I've got no further information at this time.

I hope to see you all in New Orleans in July. The information you need is in this paper and on the Association web site.

**Contact the scribe above to share your 12th Cav stories!**

**If you were ever a part of 12th CAV, make sure you're a member of their Association**

**<[www.12thCav.com](http://www.12thCav.com)>**

**SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**

### TROOPER'S TALE

Continued from pg. 3

polish floors and cut grass. They joined to become competent at a real mission (blowing things up!). They might not have been Harvard graduates, but they understood something many peacetime officers forgot, Pride came from mastery.

Soon we were consistently firing accurate first rounds in under thirty seconds and proving it in training evaluations. And something else happened that surprised a lot of people but didn't surprise me:

When a unit became excellent at its core mission, excellence spread. Maintenance improved. Barracks improved. Discipline improved. Not because someone threatened them, but because success was contagious when leadership respected the mission and the standard was real.

We all knew we had the best battalion in the Army. And here's the part that took me longer to learn:

In combat, seconds mattered. Later I learned the same was true in life, only the targets changed. Over time, I learned that attention wasn't just vigilance. It was honesty. Most of us didn't fail because we didn't see what was happening. We failed because we saw it and then explained it away.

So, here's a short inventory of what I learned to notice, late in life, after I ran out of reasons not to:

- Pay attention to what gets softer over time. Institutions don't usually break loudly. They fade. Clarity gets replaced by comfort one meeting at a time.
- Pay attention to who tells the truth when it costs them. Watch how they're treated. That tells you what the system really values.
- Pay attention to certainty. Certainty feels like control. But where curiosity should live, certainty often moves in instead.
- Pay attention to behavior when no one is watching. Beliefs are cheap. Behavior is not. Character lives in restraint and quiet protection of others.
- Pay attention to what exhausts you. Some arguments drain you because they're empty. Not every battle is cowardice to avoid. Some are wisdom to walk away from.
- Pay attention to how you handle your own mistakes. Shame freezes you. Responsibility moves you. "I was wrong" is a rare sentence and a powerful one.
- Pay attention to what actually reduces suffering. Not what sounds good. What works: a boundary, silence, truth, consistency, showing up again without drama. I don't have a theory of everything. I didn't trust anyone who did.

In Vietnam, the lesson was simple: **time mattered**. Later I learned the deeper version: **attention mattered**—because what you ignored yesterday became your normal today.

This is a small slice of my memoir, *The Year the Greek Survived*, now in final edit. If you've ever tried to build a unit worth following—or a life worth living—you'll recognize the rest of the story.

Pre-order/reserve: If you want a release announcement (and pre-order link when it goes live), email me at <[gkalgis@aol.com](mailto:gkalgis@aol.com)> with "PREORDER" in the subject. If you want a signed copy, use "SIGNED COPY."

Cordially,

George Kalergis, LTC FA (RET) 936-697-2976

## 7th CAV News



**Jack (Boz) Parente**  
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**Karl Swenson**  
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Greetings, fellow Troopers, and welcome to the 7th US Cavalry Regiment newpage! Karl Swenson here. I was the scribe for the 7th Cav for some five years before Jack took over about three years ago. You may have noticed two images on the banner. Jack asked me to write the column for a few months while he takes care of some business and advances his education a bit more. We plan to co-write the column for the foreseeable future, and we hope you will continue to read it and share your stories so we can fill it with content Troopers want to read.

### The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor: A Place Where Every Story Matters

Tucked into the quiet landscape of New Windsor, New York, stands a place built from sacrifice and the unbroken thread that binds generations of American warriors. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is a living archive that exists because a small group of good people believed that all combat-wounded Veterans deserve to have their stories remembered. Advocates worked tirelessly to get this done. Patric Morrison of Cornwall, NY, Everett Smith, publisher of the *New Windsor Sentinel*, and New York State Senator William J. Larkin Jr. are the principal forces behind the creation of the Purple Heart Hall of Honor. Their efforts led to the Hall's opening in 2006 at the historic New Windsor Cantonment which was the final encampment of the Continental Army and the birthplace of the original Badge of Military Merit created by George Washington in 1782.

Today, the Hall of Honor documents the stories of Purple Heart recipients. Its mission is simple but profound: to ensure that no combatwounded Veteran is forgotten. In the Hall there are displays of medals and battlefield maps. You'll find handwritten letters and photographs carried through monsoon rains, fragments of uniforms that once moved through the dust of Iraq, the jungles of Vietnam, the mountains of Afghanistan, and the hedgerows of France.

What makes the Hall unique is that it relies on Veterans, families, and friends to build its archive. The Hall grows because those who received the Purple Heart, or their loved ones, choose to share their stories. For Veterans who want to be included, the process is straightforward and free. Any Purple Heart recipient from any conflict can enroll. Families may also enroll recipients posthumously. To be listed, Veterans or their families must provide basic service information (name, branch, unit, conflict, date wounded), a short narrative of the circumstances, a photograph (optional but encouraged), and documentation confirming the award (DD214, orders, or a photo of the medal certificate). Enrollment can be completed online through the Hall's official website or by printing out and mailing the materials directly to the Hall in New Windsor. Once submitted, your profile becomes part of the permanent Roll of Honor and is accessible to visitors onsite and searchable online. <<https://www.thepurpleheart.com/>>

**60 Combat Wounded Veterans** gathered at the US Navy National UDT/SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, FL, to receive a personalized, hand carved cane from the Purple Heart Cane Project. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen from WW1, WW2, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq and Afghanistan were recognized. Canes were received either by the service member or by a relative. Heading up this magnificent event was Lloyd Lasenby, president of the Purple Heart Cane Project. Lloyd served as a squad leader with the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. He now spends his time working with the talented wood carvers who create these masterpieces of art, one at a time. The canes are a military history of each service member who receives one. Carved into the cane are the awards and decorations received, the patches of units served with in combat and the service member's name. The head of each cane has been fashioned into the head of an eagle, and each one is distinctively different. At this ceremony, a hero who was wounded during both WWI and WW2 was honored with a cane, received by his grandson.



**Purple Heart Canes**



Lloyd invites any Trooper who has received a Purple Heart to apply for a personalized cane. All that you need to do is to fill out the application form and send it to Lloyd along with a copy of your DD Form 214. You must provide your own transportation to Fort Pierce. Canes are given only once a year. You can get your application form on Facebook from the Purple Heart Cane Project's page there, or copy this link into your computer: <<https://purpleheartcaneproject.org/events/>> and send it to Lloyd at Purple Heart Cane Project, P.O. Box 650196, Vero Beach, FL 32965.

A final note – these canes are free to the recipients, but the project must pay the bills. Lloyd told me that they have at least \$57 invested in each cane that is given to a recipient as well as other costs of doing business. If you are looking for a worthwhile place for your donations, I can think of none better than the Purple Heart Cane Project, a 501-C-3 nonprofit organization. Please send Lloyd a few bucks, you will be creating memories for a combat Veteran. If all the 7th Cavalry did that, we could fund the project for a year! Join me in donating \$5 or \$10 to honor our brothers and sisters who have been wounded in combat.

**On 17Mar69, the 52 men of Echo 1st of the 7th Cav** engaged the enemy on a small hilltop by the Dong Nai River in III Corps, South Vietnam. Few ever heard of this battle, but the Veterans of Hill 54 remember it well, and we take this opportunity to commemorate our friends who died on that hilltop. Please remember our following who were all Killed in Action on March 17, 1969:

John Charles Davenport - Harold Paul Degner - Rodger Lynn Garlick - Eugene Green - Raimundo Marquez-Quinones - David Arthur Mitchell - Joseph A Petrar-

ca - Dewey Junior Ray - John Leonard Rueth - Firman Andrew Titus - Bernard Anthony Zambrano.

### The Clan of Garryowen by Jim Savage

Over the years British and Irish friends asked me what I did when I was in the Army. I proudly informed them that I was a member of the 3rd Squadron 7th United States Cavalry's "Garryowen Bagpipe Band." Next came questions about what clan we represented. I told them we didn't represent a clan, we represented the 7th Cavalry and the United States. Their questions made me think about clans and the Band.

Though we are not members of a Traditional Clan, we are indeed members of a special clan. The definitions of a clan is a "large group of relatives or associates." So, by definition, the 7th United States Cavalry is a clan, and anyone who served in the 7th is a member of this Clan. As Americans, our Clan is open to all who served in the 7th. All members are accepted with no thought of ethnic background. We are all equal members. I guess you can say we are the 7th Cavalry Clan of the United States of America.

"Garryowen" has become undoubtedly the most famous of all the regimental marches in the Army. It became the Official Song of the 1st Cavalry Division in 1981 during "First Team" ceremonies at Cooper Field, Fort Hood.

Closing out of the Gulf War and returning home to the United States in 1991, the 1st Cavalry Division band joined in leading the whirlwind celebrations by parading down a dozen avenues of Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Washington, DC, and New York.

After 1957 Ad hoc Bands were formed and funded at the Squadron level by the Squadron Commanders of the Regiment. It was only with the support of the Commanding Officers that the Bands even existed. The Sergeant of the Band supervised the day-to-day training of band members, performances, and traditions of the Bands.

An inquiry came from an Association member about the differences in the uniforms, badges, headgear, and even the socks worn by the various bands. His point was that in a Traditional Clan all these things have specific meanings, and he is correct. In a Traditional Clan they do, but "Garryowen" is an Irish tune adopted by LTC George Armstrong Custer 7th US Cavalry. While many of Custer's Troopers were of Irish and Scottish descent, Custer didn't put one clan over another.

As Americans, we acknowledge and respect the traditions of all people, but in the end, as a young country, we established our own Traditions and heritage. Each Garryowen Pipe Band was formed to represent the heritage and history as seen by each Regimental / Squadron Commander. Garryowen Sirs! Like the Troopers of the 3/7 did when they rolled into Baghdad, "Adjust and Adapt," so did our Commanding Officers, like a Traditional Clan. <<http://7thcavalry.atwebpages.com/band/7-cav-Regiment.html>>

### Rules of Combat

So, when we all went through that initial basic training, we were told repeatedly about what was going to happen in combat. However, I remember things as being just a tad bit different than what that drill sergeant was forcing into my brain. After spending right at 30 months in a combat zone, I realized there were some discrepancies between what happened and what should have happened. To that end, here are some of those classic Rules of Combat – the ones they never taught you.

If it's stupid, but it works, it's not stupid. / Never draw fire; it irritates everyone around you. / Contrary to popular belief, you are not Superman. / When in doubt, empty the magazine. / The lowest bidder manufactured your weapon. / Never share a foxhole with someone braver than you. / If you can't remember, the Claymore is pointed toward you. / All 5-second hand grenade fuses last three seconds. / Try to look unimportant; the enemy may be low on ammo. / The enemy diversion you're ignoring is the main attack.

Thanks to **Frank Kling** for sending these. More coming in the next issue...

**Hello everybody, this is your Association Secretary, John Guillory**, with a special message. Just wanted all you Association members to know there will be an election for the officer position of 7th Cavalry Association President at the July 2026, ICDA Reunion in New Orleans. The three-year term of our current President, Michael Campbell, will conclude at the close of the 2026 reunion, and Michael is not seeking reelection. So, if you are interested in leading this fabulous organization as its President, for a three-year term in office, please submit your name and contact info to me. Text, email or write to John Guillory, 951-283-7458, 780 Mandevilla Way, Corona, CA 92879. In closing, I would also like to take this opportunity thank Mike for all his good work as Association President, it has been a pleasure. Garryowen!

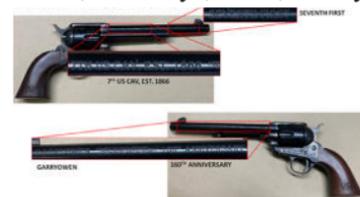
**LTG (Ret) Dale Allen Vesser** served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967, and from 1970 to 1971 commanding the 2/7 Cav. He was awarded the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and 40 Air Medals. He had a distinguished 47-year career and retired at the rank of Lieutenant General. After retiring from active duty, Dale served as Assistant Under Secretary of Defense for Resources and Plans during the George H.W. Bush administration. Sadly, LTG (RET) Dale Vesser passed away on 16 September 2025, shortly after his 93rd birthday.



**A last item for any weapon aficionados out there.** Are you a collector of handguns? If so, we have the deal for you. 1st Squadron 7th Cavalry has contracted with Cimarron Arms to produce a Cimarron 1873 US Cavalry .45 Cal single-action revolver. If you are interested, please check out the deal at the following website <[TinyURL.com/7th-cav](http://TinyURL.com/7th-cav)> The manufacturer is planning a run of only 200 guns, and around 80 of them have been sold.

**That's about it for this issue.** Send in your stories, birthdays, obits, buddy search, requests for info, etc. to either of your scribe's email addresses. Thanks to everyone who wrote to their representatives protesting the deactivation of our Horse Detachment. Sometimes the lost cause isn't quite as hopeless as it seems.

Garryowen!



## 8th CAV News



Larry "The Saint" Hempfling  
10820 Clearwater Dr  
St Louis, MO 63123-4913  
TheSaint@primary.net  
314-229-7701  
www.8Cavalry.com



As I sit racking my brain about what to write about, I wonder how much longer I will have material to do just that. I'm sure others who are currently writing for the various units are dealing with the exact same thing. In my case, I am close to the tail end of writers that has volunteered to do the writing for the 8th Cavalry. At least that is my impression, and I dare anyone to tell me differently. Now I must say that it was quite a surprise to receive the contribution from the Veteran of Korea, Lloyd Grable, and I cannot thank him enough.

It is not my nature to fill the lines with stories about combat, but most of us have those memories and sometimes it is a good thing to get those thoughts off our minds. We all know we will take those experiences to our graves, but sometimes it is a good thing to share with others who understand better than the unexperienced. However, something I personally think we should all do for our families is to write about that part of our lives. We are after all a part of history and yes some of those things are tough to recount without getting emotional, but as I said, I know my family would like to know about that part of my life. My son and sister encouraged me to do so, and I am currently honoring their request.

My family has had five members serve our Country. My dad was a WWII Veteran who was on his way to Saipan by ship. He told me there was an announcement that WWII was over and that ship rocked from applause and the crew making that ship do so. The ship was diverted to Hawaii where my dad ended up in graves registration receiving those who were KIA's in the Pacific. He told me it wasn't a pleasant job, but he didn't care because those men sacrificed their lives for our freedoms.

My Uncle Ed was on LST-Navy Post War and I don't know much about his time in the Navy. Then came my turn, which wasn't a pleasant experience either. After my tour, my brother John came of age, and my dad asked him to please join the reserves as he couldn't take another son in combat. John obliged and became an MP in the Reserves. By the time Vietnam ended brother Tom hadn't come of age, so dad didn't have to worry. Then came my brother John's son, David. He was in the Reserves, but as a truck driver then his unit ended up being sent to Iraq. More concerns considering all the bombings and mines on roads in Iraq, but Dave made it home safely, too. Along comes my son Joshua, who joined the Army. Josh ended up in the 4th Infantry Division and went to Afghanistan. Once again, the Good Lord took care of the Hempflings and Josh came home safely.

Now I am considering how I started this writing frustrated about lack of contributions and I get a letter from yet another Korean War Veteran **Harry Mendoza**, who has shared some of his memoirs with me to use in my 8th Cavalry writings. Harry writes on Jan 2, 1949, I walked in an Army Recruiting office in Gallup, New Mexico. I was told I was too young and needed my mother's permission to join. They gave me a form for her to sign, so I went outside to sign her name and gave it to the recruiter, and I was accepted.

After Basic Training at Fort Ord, California I was assigned the 1st Cavalry Division, 8th Regiment 2nd HQ Company in Tokyo, Japan. Life was good until June 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea. While in Tokyo I had time to finish my schooling and thus received my GED diploma. The 24th Division was the first to be sent to Korea, they were quickly run over. The 1st Cavalry and 25th Infantry Divisions quickly followed. They fought a delaying action at the Naktong Perimeter. It was then that GEN Walker issued an order for the 8th Army to fight or die. The 8th Cavalry went into this defensive position on Sept 1950. Meanwhile GEN MacArthur landed the 1st Marine Division at Inchon and cut off the North supply line. The 8th Army broke through at Puson, and the North retreated. The 2nd Battalion 8th Cavalry was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for the defense at Naktong and subsequent breakthrough following the Inchon landing. The U.S. forces and the ROK pushed all the way to the Nala River. Seoul was declared liberated in Sept 1950. Everyone including GEN MacArthur thought the crisis was over. In November 1950, the Chinese crossed the Yala in mass human waves. There were thousands of Chinese blowing bugles, throwing grenades, and firing all kinds of rifles. They charged the 8th Cavalry and ROK and the 1st and 2nd Battalion of the 8th Cavalry abandoned positions as more human waves followed for the next 2 days. The 8th Cavalry was told to get out any way they could. COL Richard Cohen, our Battalion Commander, headed south to higher ground and met up with some ROK Soldiers also trying to get out. COL Cohen ordered me back into the Valley below to search for any survivors. Needless to say, how I felt as I went around, I found wounded calling for help and the dead were all over. I did manage to find a few Troopers who were mobile and I asked them to follow me as I knew the way out. It was a miracle I wasn't hit as there was firing all around including from our own tanks. There were 27 Troopers that followed me out of the Valley. We went into a reorganizing area where we remained, I believe for the winter. We lost as many Troopers from the freezing cold as we did from the enemy. Rotation home started that Spring. My CO at the time came to me and told me that since I was the oldest in time served in Korea of the original 186 Troopers that weren't wounded, killed, or captured, I would be the first to go home. I never mentioned that I suffered 2 broken ribs and still carry a piece of shrapnel in my right leg. There is a lot more to my story, but it is not as interesting. Thank you, Harry Mendoza.

Well, there is no more to say in this writing, we thank you Harry. I think all will agree that this man is not only a survivor but a genuine hero. With that I will close and be in touch for the next 8th Cavalry Article.

Honor and Courage  
Larry Hempfling D2/8 1968-1969

## DIVISION DOINGS:

### *Picogrid and 1st Cavalry Division Advance Integrated Counter-Drone Defense for U.S. Army*

About Picogrid: Picogrid is a technology company that builds products to integrate mission-critical systems. Its hardware and software products connect sensors, unmanned platforms, and digital systems, enabling unified control and data flow in defense and industrial environments. Deployed globally and supported by leading Silicon Valley investors, Picogrid delivers infrastructure for mission execution across land, sea, air, and space. Learn more at <picogrid.com>.



Photo Caption: Picogrid's Expeditionary C2 Nodes (ECN) served as the backbone of a distributed network, fusing data from multiple vendors to power the Army's detect-to-defeat operations.

EL SEGUNDO, CA – January 23, 2026 – Picogrid recently supported Army testing efforts at the National Training Center (NTC) in Fort Irwin, California. Working with the 1st Cavalry Division, Picogrid demonstrated how rapidly integrating sensor networks through an open integration layer can enhance force protection and maneuver awareness as the Army advances its modernization efforts.

Under the Army Transformation Initiative, Soldiers are training and deploying with next-generation equipment that will give them an advantage on the battlefield. GEN Randy George, the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, recently described how Soldiers should feel empowered to become subject matter experts on new technologies so their feedback can inform the Army's research, development and procurement decisions: "We want to give things to units and let you tell us what works, what doesn't, and you should be the ones deciding what we buy and don't buy. It has been unit leaders who have told us what our new mobile brigades are going to look like."

The U.S. Army's NTC has long served as the proving ground for how units fight, adapt, and integrate new capabilities under realistic operational conditions. During the 26-02 rotation, the 1st Cavalry Division leveraged that environment to advance its Army Transformation Initiative objectives, bringing together emerging technologies, operational experimentation, and an ambitious approach to modernization. Prior to their NTC rotation, the 1st Cavalry Division worked with a range of sensor providers across radio frequency (RF), acoustic, and radar modalities, evaluating how different detection approaches could complement one another in complex training scenarios.

Building on initial sensor testing, Picogrid leveraged its integrated software and hardware stack to orchestrate disparate systems through its integration layer, Legion. Within a matter of weeks, Picogrid facilitated the integration of five different sensor products including systems from DroneShield, R2 Wireless, Squarehead, Echodyne, and CHAOS Industries, allowing detections from multiple sensor types to be fused, correlated, and shared.

By combining inputs from passive RF and acoustic sensors with radar data, Picogrid enabled triangulation and track correlation to produce higher-fidelity UAS tracks. This multi-sensor approach provided operators with a more complete and resilient understanding of the airspace, demonstrating how layered sensing can enhance situational awareness and operational resilience in contested environments.

The integrated setup also allowed the unit to experiment with how sensors are employed in dynamic environments. The Army operators defined protection areas around maneuver elements and key assets, enabling passive sensors to monitor activity continuously while selectively activating radar only when needed. This approach supported refined tracking while limiting unnecessary emissions, illustrating how software-enabled integration can support more adaptive and survivable operations.

"It was inspiring working alongside Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division. Their leaders and operators had energy and determination to work hard on hard problems," said Jake Jeffries, Head of Deployments and Partnerships at Picogrid. "Our team was enabled by them to do incredible work, getting to prove the value of the Picogrid approach to connected command and control. That collaboration between military and industry is essential to advancing innovation across the defense ecosystem."

Beyond local sensing, Picogrid helped ensure that data generated during the rotation could contribute to the Army's broader command-and-control ecosystem. Sensor data was converted into Integrated Sensor Architecture formats and passed into Forward Area Air Defense Command and Control (FAAD-C2) systems, allowing information collected at the tactical edge to populate common operating pictures used across the force. This demonstrated how new capabilities can align with existing Army programs while supporting continued modernization.

The rotation also highlighted the unique challenges associated with protecting maneuver forces in modern conflict, where threats evolve quickly and units must operate across wide areas with limited time to react. By supporting experimentation at scale, Picogrid helped demonstrate how integrated software infrastructure can enable units to push the bounds of innovation connecting sensors, sharing data, and adapting tactics in ways that keep pace with emerging operational demands.

Picogrid plans to continue supporting future exercises and training events as the Army advances its modernization efforts, building on lessons learned and reinforcing the value of rapid integration and close collaboration between government and industry.

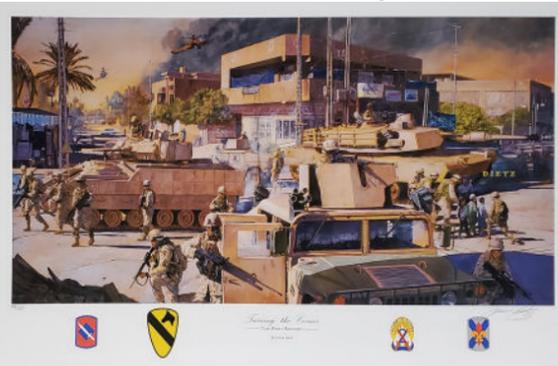
### *6-56 ADA Validates Counter-UAS Capabilities During Demonstration*

FORT HOOD, Texas – Soldiers from 6th Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery trained alongside civilian personnel during a live unmanned aerial system demonstration on Jan 29, 2026, at Fort Hood, Texas. The event focused on counter-unmanned aircraft systems and integration,

Continued to pg. 18

**Please contact the scribe to share your 8th Cav stories!**  
**SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**  
**If you served with 8th Cav,**  
**Join your 8th Cav Association**

## Limited Edition 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION PRINTS

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Liberation of Baqubah Print Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ Total:\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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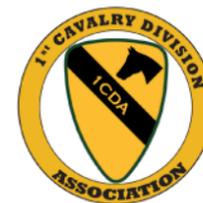
## NEW PINS



2024 Kentucky



2025 Reno



1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div Assn Pin  
1.5"  
**\$6.00**



## 1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

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



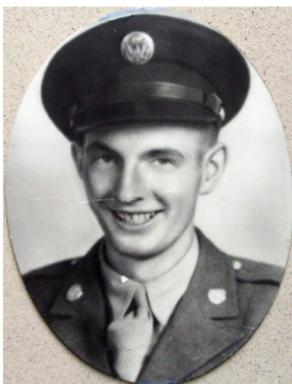
### 2026 MILESTONES

Every year we mark milestones in our personal lives, milestones for the units that we served in, and milestones as a country. As we look back, we can count the centuries, decades, and years of events in our past. This year, 2026, marks the 250th year since the signing of the Declaration of Independence and there will be many special events that will mark this special time in our country's history. The Battle of the Little Big Horn happened 150 years ago in June. This September the 1st Cavalry Division turns 125. World War II began, for the USA, in December of 1941 and that was 85 years ago. In March of 1951, 75 years ago, UN forces pushed the North Korean and Chinese Communist forces out of Seoul and back to the north. Sixty years ago, the 1st Cavalry Division participated in ten major operations in Vietnam including Operation Masher/White Wing and Operation Thayer I and Thayer II. The ground campaign of the Gulf War began 35 years ago for those of us that fought in that war, another milestone. Operation Enduring Freedom began in October 2001, shortly after the attacks on 9-11, marking 25 years from that terrible event. Ten years ago, the 1st Cavalry Division Headquarters and two brigades deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom IV.

The following are milestones of heroics and sacrifice by First Team Troopers.

### EIGHTY-SIX YEARS AGO, 1945

**PFC William J. Grabiarz**, E Company, 5th Cavalry was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions on 23 February 1945. He was a scout when the unit advanced with tanks along a street in Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands. Without warning, enemy machinegun and rifle fire from concealed positions in the Customs building swept the street, striking down the troop commander and driving his men to cover. As the officer lay in the open road, unable to move and completely exposed to the pointblank enemy fire, PFC Grabiarz voluntarily ran from behind a tank to carry him to safety but was himself wounded in the shoulder. Ignoring both the pain in his injured useless arm and his comrades' shouts to seek the cover, which was only a few yards distant, the valiant rescuer continued his efforts to drag his commander out of range. Finding this impossible, he rejected the opportunity to save himself and deliberately covered the officer with his own body to form a human shield, calling as he did so for a tank to maneuver into position between him and the hostile emplacement. The enemy riddled him with concentrated fire before the tank could interpose itself. Our troops found that he had been successful in preventing bullets from striking his leader, who survived.



### SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, 1951



**1LT Lloyd L. Burke**, G Company, 5th Cavalry was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions near Chong-dong, Korea on 28 October 1951. Intense enemy fire had pinned down leading elements of his company committed to secure commanding ground when 1LT Burke left the command post to rally and urge the men to follow him toward three bunkers impeding the advance. Dashing to an exposed vantage point he threw several grenades at the bunkers, then, returning for an M1 rifle and adapter, he made a lone assault, wiping out the position and killing the crew. Closing on the center bunker he lobbed grenades through the opening and, with his pistol, killed three of its occupants attempting to surround him. Ordering

his men forward he charged the third emplacement, catching several grenades in midair and hurling them back at the enemy. Inspired by his display of valor his men stormed forward, overran the hostile position, but were again pinned down by increased fire. Securing a light machine gun and three boxes of ammunition, 1LT Burke dashed through the impact area to an open knoll, set up his gun and poured a crippling fire into the ranks of the enemy, killing approximately seventy-five. Although wounded, he ordered more ammunition, reloading and destroying two mortar emplacements and a machine gun position with his accurate fire. Cradling the weapon in his arms he then led his men forward, killing some twenty-five more of the retreating enemy and securing the objective. 1LT Burke's heroic action and daring exploits inspired his small force of thirty-five troops.

### Sixty years ago, 1966



**PFC Lewis Albanese**, B Company, 5-7th Cavalry was awarded the Medal of Honor Posthumously for his actions on 1 December 1966. PFC Albanese's platoon, while advancing through densely covered terrain to establish a blocking position, received intense automatic weapons fire from close range. As other members maneuvered to assault the enemy position, PFC Albanese was ordered to provide security for the left flank of the platoon. Suddenly, the left flank received fire from enemy located in a well-concealed ditch. Realizing the imminent danger to his comrades from this fire, PFC Albanese fixed his bayonet and moved aggressively into the ditch. His action silenced the sniper fire, enabling

the platoon to resume movement toward the main enemy position. As the platoon continued to advance, the sound of heavy firing emanated from the left flank from a pitched battle that ensued in the ditch which PFC Albanese had entered. The ditch was actually a well-organized complex of enemy defenses designed to bring devastating flanking fire on the forces attacking the main position. PFC Albanese, disregarding the danger to himself, advanced 100 meters along the

trench and killed six of the snipers, who were armed with automatic weapons. Having exhausted his ammunition, PFC Albanese was mortally wounded when he engaged and killed two more enemy soldiers in fierce hand-to-hand combat. His unparalleled actions saved the lives of many members of his platoon who otherwise would have fallen to the sniper fire from the ditch and enabled his platoon to successfully advance against an enemy force of overwhelming numerical superiority.

### THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, 1991



**PFC Ardon B. "Brad" Cooper**, A Company, 1-5th Cavalry was awarded the Silver Star posthumously for his actions on 20 February 1991 during Operation Knight Strike. His M2A2 Bradley IFV was hit; its gunner, SGT Ronald Randazzo, was killed and two other men were wounded. Another Bradley, commanded by SSG Christopher Cichon, came forward to evacuate these casualties. While Sergeant Cichon and the soldiers from his Bradley were rescuing wounded personnel from the first Bradley, the Iraqis continued to fire. PFC Cooper covered a wounded man with his own body to shield him from enemy fire and was hit in the neck by a fragment from a mortar round, just as SGT Cichon's

Bradley was struck on the turret by a round which shattered its TOW launcher, spraying Cooper with shrapnel. He died later from heavy loss of blood. SSG Cichon's Bradley was still operational, and after picking up the wounded, its crew managed to withdraw it from the line of fire. SSG Cichon was also awarded the Silver Star for his exceptional leadership and courage while under enemy fire.

### NINETEEN YEARS AGO, 2007

**CW4 Keith Yoakum**, A Company, 1-227th Aviation was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal posthumously for his actions on 2 February 2007. He was piloting an AH-64D Longbow Apache Helicopter engaged in aerial operations in Baghdad, Iraq, during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. During a reconnaissance mission, CW4 Yoakum's aircraft was seriously damaged by heavy enemy machine gun fire, which required him to land immediately. Without regard for his own safety and to protect his comrades, CW4 Yoakum chose to remain with his wingman to destroy the enemy. With his main gun inoperable, his only option was to climb in altitude and then dive while firing his Apache's rockets. Ultimately the aircraft succumbed to its battle damage and crashed.



**Live the Legend!**

## JOIN THE SABER TEAM

### THE SABER NEEDS YOU!

### SABER WRITER OPENINGS:

- 9<sup>th</sup> CAV Scribe
- 15<sup>th</sup> Med/15<sup>th</sup> BSB Scribe
- Engineers Scribe
- VA News Updates

### HONOR YOUR UNIT HERITAGE!

### Share YOUR Stories

### Consider writing for your Unit Column

Email for details: [programs@1CDA.org](mailto:programs@1CDA.org)



## 15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB



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



### 2026 REUNION INFORMATION

The 2026 15th Med Bn Assn Reunion/100-Year Anniversary of the 15th Medical Battalion Celebration will be held at the Hyatt Place Oklahoma City, OK from Wed, 22 April -Sunday, 26 April. For details, please go to our website at <[15thmedbnassociation.org](http://15thmedbnassociation.org)> and click on "Reunion Info." Looking forward in seeing everyone there!

The detailed schedule of events is posted on the website. Below is an abbreviated schedule.

#### WED, 22 APR

1500-1700 Reunion Registration  
1500 Hospitality Room opens

#### THU, 23 APR

0900-1100 Executive Committee Meeting (Private meeting for EC members only)  
Free time for personal touring

#### FRI 24 APR

1000-1200 Angel Spouse (Auxiliary) Meeting  
Free time for personal touring

#### SAT, 25 APR

1000-1400 Purple Heart Video Interviews  
1400-1430 100-Year Anniversary of 15th Medical Battalion Ceremony  
1430-1600 General Membership Meeting (Annual Business Meeting)  
1600-1630 Group Photo  
1700-1800 Happy Hour  
1800-2000 Banquet  
2000-2200 Fund-raising Auction

#### SUN, 26 APR

0800 Breakfast and Checkout

### COMMEMORATIVE CHIPS AND STICKERS FOR 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION MEDEVAC CREW MEMBERS WHO SERVED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

Since Public Law 118-87 was enacted on 26 September 2024, anyone, living or deceased, who served in 1st Cav Medevac as an Aircraft Commander, Copilot, Crew Chief, Medic, or Door Gunner is an official recipient of the Vietnam Dustoff Crews of the Vietnam War Congressional Gold Medal, hereafter referred to as the "CGM." This includes those who served in the 15th Medical Battalion and Medical Co, 1st Composite Service and Support Battalion (activated mid-April 1971) which was re-designated as Medical Company, 215th Composite Service Battalion (Support) on 30 June 1971.

Original projections at the time the law was enacted were that the CGM would be designed and struck, and the Congressional Presentation Ceremony would be held in Washington DC around the end of 2025 at which time bronze replicas of the CGM would be available for purchase from the US Mint by CGM Recipients. Due to several unforeseen circumstances, the whole process has been delayed. The current projections are that the Congressional Presentation Ceremony will likely not be held until mid to late 2027, at which time, bronze replicas of the CGM are expected to be available for purchase from the US Mint.

In January of 2025, one of our members, Patrick Martin, Medevac Crew Chief, 69-70, decided there should be a challenge coin, or chip, for 1st Cav Medevac recipients of the CGM. He developed a plastic chip like a poker chip, 1.8" in diameter. Below are photos of the front and back of it. He also developed stickers with the same image as on the front of the chip in sizes of 2, 3, 4, and 5 inches in diameter. He is offering these chips and stickers for sale.

Please contact Patrick Martin at <[medevac121@gmail.com](mailto:medevac121@gmail.com)> or 785-259-2787 for pricing. Challenge coins and stickers from Pat Martin will be available for sale at the 2026 reunion, 22-26 April in Oklahoma City.

Please note that these chips and stickers are in no way construed to replicate the artwork on the CGM. which will likely not be known until mid to late 2027.



FRONT



BACK

### REMEMBERING THE MOVIES IN NAM

Does anyone remember the movies we watched for entertainment in Vietnam? I'm thinking specifically of Phuoc Vinh because that is where I was from Dec 68-Nov 69. I'm recalling that we had movies a couple of nights per week, but it could have been more or less frequent.

I believe the movies were provided by the Military Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Service of the Department of Defense. I have no idea how the films were distributed to units. I believe notices for movies were posted on the bulletin board and announced over the PA system.

I don't remember any movies, but it seems like they were, for the most part, comedies, musicals, action or western movies. I believe that war movies like WWII and Korean War movies were rarely shown. However, the movie *The*

*Green Berets* starring John Wayne, was the only major Hollywood feature film about the Vietnam War produced while the war was still actively being fought. It was highly popular among some Troops for its patriotic tone, though criticized by others for its lack of realism. One of our members who was at Tay Ninh when the movie was shown reported that guys threw garbage at the screen and booed in protest!

The "theatre" was located between the EM quarters and the HSC HQ Office. The screen was a sheet of plywood painted white. Everyone brought their own folding lawn chair. Preparation for a movie largely consisted of rolling down sleeves and generously applying insect repellent to all exposed skin.

There was a bunker near the theatre. The movies were frequently interrupted by incoming and everyone headed to the bunker. When the "all clear" was sounded, the movie usually was resumed, but I remember one time in December of 1968, the incoming went on for what seemed like all night and we never got to see the rest of that movie. I don't remember what it was, but it was a really great movie, and I hoped that it would be shown again sometime later, but it never was.

Also frequently, Medevac would bring in mass casualties, and the movie would be stopped. Everyone at the movie would head to A & D (Admissions and Dispositions) to perform their medical duties or at least to carry litters of patients in for treatment. Sometimes the movie would resume or not, depending on the circumstances.

In his book, *DEROS For the Undefeated*, Buzz Harrison, CPT, MC described when the movie, *The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly* starring Clint Eastwood and Eli Wallach was shown at Phuoc Vinh, the roar of cannons from a Civil War battle scene was so loud and intense that the audience thought it was incoming and headed to the bunker. After a good laugh, they returned to the theatre to watch the rest of the movie!

If you have any comments on the movies, please email them to me at <[historian@15thmedbnassociation.org](mailto:historian@15thmedbnassociation.org)>.

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

**Please contact the scribe to share your 15<sup>th</sup> MED stories!**  
**SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**  
**If you served with 15th MED,**  
**Join your 15th Med Bn Association**

## Are you Active Duty & serving in 1st Cav?

you or your spouse may qualify for a 1st Cav Division Association

### SCHOLARSHIP

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- Being a member of 1st Cavalry Division Association
- Must be currently assigned to the Division for the length of scholarship  
**CANNOT be on orders or ETS**
- Letter of recommendation from Command Team for Active Duty / employer for spouses

**Accepting applications only 1 April - 1 Aug 2026**  
**NOT accepting early packets**

This Scholarship encompasses FALL 2026, SPRING & SUMMER 2027 sessions

Email for further details  
[Memberships@1CDA.org](mailto:Memberships@1CDA.org)

### TAPS:

- We were notified of the following deaths:
- ABT, SGT Charles J., D Co, 5-7 CAV, 1970-71. 8 August 2025.
  - ADAMS, SP5 Howie, HHB, 1-77 FA, 1968-69. 7 February 2026.
  - BURNS, SGT, Billy D., C Co, 2-7 CAV, 1965. 22 August 2025.
  - CRABTREE, SGT Thomas L., C Co, 12<sup>th</sup> CAV, 1966-67. 2 February 2026.
  - FARMER, SSG Francis E., 1-21 FA, 1971-72. 23 February 2026.
  - FOLK, SP4 Joseph, 15SS, 1966-67. 10 December 2025.
  - HERREN, COL (RET) John D., B Co, 1-7 CAV & HHC, 1-7 CAV, 1965-66. 7 February 2026.
  - HILDENBRAND, PFC Richard R., HHC, 15<sup>th</sup> SS, 1970-7. 6 February 2026.
  - PARKINSON, SP4 George T., C Co, 2-7 CAV, 1965. 21 June 2025.
  - PROKOPOWICZ, COL (RET) John H., 10<sup>th</sup> RRU, 1965-66. 28 January 2026.
  - RAGANO, MG (RET) Frank P., CDR, HHC, 27<sup>th</sup> Maint., 1968-69. 15 January 2026.
  - YSAIS, SGT Felix E., A Co, 2-7 CAV, 1967-68. 18 September 2025.

### ACTIVE-DUTY TAPS:

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

## 78<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION in New Orleans, LA, 8-12 July 2026

The 1st Cavalry Division Association invites you to join the rest of the First Team Family in New Orleans, LA for the 78th Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association from 8-12 July 2026. All Life and Associate Members are welcome to attend this special event. Gold Star Families and Widows of our members are always welcome to attend.

Whether this is your first time in New Orleans or you're a seasoned visitor, the city's invigorating spirit is sure to inspire you to jump in and see and do so much. Discover the spontaneous joy that is the Crescent City's calling card. Subtract a few hours for sleep, multiply your dining pleasure by at least three times a day, and you have the perfect equation for an amazing New Orleans experience. New Orleans a city where history, music, food, and celebration come together like nowhere else in the United States. From the lively sounds of jazz to stunning Creole architecture, mouthwatering cuisine, and world-famous festivals, this city captivates at every turn. Whether you're strolling under the oak trees, savoring beignets, or dancing in a second line parade, there's no place quite like NOLA.

Please register early to assist us in coordinating the best reunion possible. Some events have limited seating available due to the size of available rooms. All members of the Association must register and pay the \$40 Registration Fee except for our Active-Duty Troopers who pay \$20 to register. Family members attending with an Association member, Widows of 1st Cavalry Division Troopers, and Gold Star Family members that attend do not have to pay a registration fee. *The registration fee will no longer be refundable regardless of when a member cancels.*

Online registration opens 1 October 2025; the Reunion registration form will be included in the *Saber* from November '25 through June '26. Those sending in registrations post-marked after 15 May 2026 must pay a late registration fee of \$50.

**NOTE: Cancellations are non-refundable after the 15 May 2026 deadline.**

### TRAVEL

The hotel offers Valet Parking at \$52 a day. I have added a link to the website for additional parking information.

For those who plan to fly, there is a link for airport information on the website. Please keep in mind there is no shuttle available to any hotel in New Orleans. The **taxi rates from New Orleans Airport** are as follows:

- **\$36.00** for a ride to the Central Business District (CBD) or French Quarter for up to **two passengers**.
- For **three or more passengers**, the fare is **\$15.00 per person**.
- Taxis are required to accept **credit card payments**.

### LODGING

We will be utilizing the Sheraton New Orleans. Reservations can be made through the website link or by calling the reservation desk. Make sure that you identify yourself as attending the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion.

- **Sheraton New Orleans - \$179**  
(504) 525-2500 Press 1  
500 Canal St, New Orleans, LA 70130

Or go to the website and use the reservation link provided on the right-side menu.

### RV Parking

- Pelican RV Park New Orleans (504) 708-5359  
3716 Downman Rd (approximately 6.1 miles from the Sheraton)
- Three Oaks and a Pine (504) 779-5757  
7500 Chef Mentour Hwy (approximately 7.1 miles from the Sheraton)
- Jude Travel Park of New Orleans (504) 241-0632  
7400 Chef Mentour Hwy (approximately 7.2 miles from the Sheraton)

### UNIQUE NOLA TOURS

Unique NOLA Tours has established a coupon code for our members attending the reunion. The code gets you 20% off any of your tours while in town. No limitations, any tours, any number of people. Use the code: **1CDA25**

They have six tours at various times of day to suit various schedules. The most popular are the Sinister Criminal Intentions, Lewd Spirits (for adults), and a Family Friendly Ghost Tour for all ages.

Here's their daily tour schedule (all times US Central):

- Garden District Tour: 10am
- The Local's Guide to the French Quarter Tour: 10am & 4pm
- Pestilence, Pandemic & Plague Tour: 1pm
- Kid-friendly Ghost Tour: 5pm
- Sinister Criminal Intentions, The Original True Crime Tour: 7pm
- Our Favorite Ghosts Tour: 8pm
- Lewd Spirits Pub Crawl and Ghost Tour: 5pm & 8pm

### REUNION EVENT OVERVIEW

You will notice several changes to the reunion schedule. All Unit Luncheons have been moved to Friday. The Memorial (Long Roll Muster) will be held in conjunction with the Legacy Breakfast. Our Trustee and Board meetings will be held in the evening accommodating those members who are unable to attend the reunion.

The Association will be providing our guests with transportation to the WWII Museum on 8 July (1200-1800) and 9 July (0900-1600) at no cost. Reduced tickets can be purchased at the museum for entry. The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in *the war that changed the world*—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn. The museum currently sits on six acres with seven separate buildings which house artifacts, exhibits, and multimedia experiences. For more information about the museum please use the link provided to the right.

The Ladies' Luncheon will be held somewhere special. You will be transported to the New Orleans School of Cooking. You will enjoy a cooking demonstration of local and authentic New Orleans cuisine, an opportunity to devour the delicious food that was prepared and receive take-home recipe cards.

As usual, we will have all other planned events at the resort: Legacy Breakfast

(Long Roll Muster), Unit Lunches, Purple Heart Breakfast, Association Banquet, Group Breakfasts. We will have meetings of the Chapter Presidents, Foundation Trustees, the Board of Governors, and our General Membership meeting. During our General Membership meeting on Saturday morning, we will hold elections for the Association and Foundation.

Seating for all events is open except for the Reunion Banquet on Saturday night. If you are attending the banquet, you must get your tickets **marked with a table number** at the Banquet Seating table when picking up your registration packet. If you want to sit with specific people, we recommend that you all go to the Banquet Seating table together with your tickets available. Do not wait until the last minute or we may not be able to meet your needs.

Cavalry casual attire is appropriate for all reunion events. Wear what you feel comfortable wearing; a coat and tie, your uniform (if it still fits), casual clothing with an open collar, jeans, or shorts. We want you to attend and are not overly concerned about what you wear, so long as it is not indecent! The Association will provide a Reunion Hospitality Room in the hotel for you to gather and enjoy yourself. Drinks (beer and wine) in the Reunion Room are free, but we ask that you generously donate to help us pay for this room. The Reunion Room will open daily at 0900 with the bar opening at 1200 hours. The Crossed Sabers Gift Shop will set up a store in the hotel to sell all kinds of Cav-tastic First Team merchandise including shirts, hats, Stetsons, pins, decals, and other items too numerous to mention.

### THE BEST PART OF THE REUNION:

The best part of any reunion is the people that attend. The 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion brings in Troopers from every era of the First Team's history. Troopers that rode horses, fought in the Pacific with MacArthur, occupied Japan, fought in Korea, or stood watch on the DMZ will spend time with the Sky Troopers of Vietnam and the Troopers from Operation Desert Storm, Fort Hood, Bosnia, and the latest combat Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The equipment and terrain might be different, but the common bond of serving with America's First Team binds us together. Saddle up and ride into New Orleans in 2026!

## Scooter & Wheelchair Rentals Available at Mobility City 504-420-6685

<<https://neworleansla.mobilitycity.com/rentals>>

## REUNION T-SHIRT PRE ORDER FORM

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Deadline: May 15th!

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS – REUNION 2026

The By Laws of the Association provide that the Officers and members of the Board of Governors shall be elected by the General Membership at the General Membership meeting conducted during the Annual Reunion. Further, the President may appoint a Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for office and that other nominations may be made by Life members from the floor at the General Membership meeting. The Resolutions of the Trust Agreement of the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association require the election to the Board of Trustees for positions coming vacant each year shall occur at the Annual Reunion. Candidates for all offices must be Life members of the Association.

The President has appointed a nominating committee to recommend Life members of the Association for election or re-election to fill the terms of office for the following positions that become vacant as of 11 July 2026:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**
- 2 Foundation Trustees**
- 10 Board Members**

Any Life member of the Association, including an incumbent, who wishes to be considered by the nominating committee for one of these positions, should forward a letter to the **Chairman, 2026 Nominating Committee, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703**, requesting consideration for nomination to the specific office.

The Nominating Committee must receive all requests no later than 15 April 2026 to assure sufficient time for processing and full consideration.

Requests must be accompanied by appropriate documentation that includes proof of service with the 1st Cavalry Division (e.g., a DD214 or equivalent) and a biographical sketch. The biographical sketch needs to outline the applicant's full name and provide ranks, dates of service and units assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division.

Additionally, it needs to provide the dates and positions for any offices held at National or Chapter level in the Association and similar information for any other Veteran's organizations the applicant belongs to. Any instances of special support for Association programs should also be included if applicable.

The election will be held during the General Membership meeting at the 78th Annual Reunion of the Association on Saturday, 11 July 2026 in New Orleans, LA.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted. A Life member making such nomination will be expected to provide the information outlined above on the nominee and in addition provide assurance that the nominee is either present at the General Membership meeting or has agreed to accept nomination to the specified office.

## REQUEST FOR REUNION SILENT AUCTION BASKET FUNDRAISER

- We are asking for ALL Regiments, Unit Associations, and Chapters to donate an item or basket, minimum value of \$50, to the silent auction to raise funds for our Active-Duty Scholarship Fund.
- Donations from individuals are welcome as well!



**78<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL 1<sup>st</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION, JULY 8-12, 2026, in NEW ORLEANS**  
is open to all members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association

**WEDNESDAY JULY 8**

0900-1800 Registration Open  
0900-1800 Gift Shop Open  
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open  
1200-1800 WWII Museum  
Buy Tickets at Venue

**THURSDAY JULY 9**

0900-1700 Registration Open  
0900-1700 Gift Shop Open  
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open  
0900-1600 WWII Museum  
Buy Tickets at Venue  
1900-2200 President's Reception\* (Cash Bar)

**FRIDAY JULY 10**

0730-0900 Legacy Breakfast\* & Long Roll Muster  
0900-1800 Registration Desk Open  
0900-1800 Gift Shop Open  
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open  
1130-1500 Ladies' Luncheon\*  
1200-1400 Unit Luncheons\*  
1500-1600 Chapter President's Meeting  
1600-1700 Foundation Meeting  
1700-1900 Board of Governors Meeting

**SATURDAY JULY 11**

0730-0900 Purple Heart Breakfast\*  
0900-1500 Registration Desk Open  
0900-1600 Gift Shop Open  
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open  
1000-1200 General Membership Meeting  
1430-1530 Veterans Briefing  
1745-1845 Cocktails (Cash Bar)  
1900-2230 Association Banquet\*

**SUNDAY JULY 12**

0700-0830 Group Breakfast\*  
0700-0900 LRRP/Ranger Breakfast\*

**MAIL TO:**

1<sup>st</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION, 302 N. MAIN, COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522-1703

The 78<sup>th</sup> Annual ICDA Reunion is at the **Sheraton New Orleans, 500 Canal St., (504) 525-2500 (press 1), July 8-12, 2026 in New Orleans, LA**

Registration fee is required for Lifetime and Associate Members, not guests. Fee includes info packet with name tag(s), booklet and pin.

\*\*REFUNDS: Cancellations must be received by 5:00pm May 15, 2026, in our office (254-547-6537) for a refund.\*\*

\*\*Cancellations are non-refundable after the May 15, 2026 deadline. Registration fee is non-refundable.\*\*

Are you a member of ICDA?    Yes    No  
Is this your first reunion?    Yes    No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit (s) #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year (s) #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit (s) #2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year (s) #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests/Spouse/Other: (For nametag purposes)  
#1: \_\_\_\_\_  
#2: \_\_\_\_\_  
#3: \_\_\_\_\_  
#4: \_\_\_\_\_  
#5: \_\_\_\_\_  
#6: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Next of Kin Name & Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: (circle one)  
Credit Card      Check: # \_\_\_\_\_  
CC #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
CVV#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**THURSDAY JULY 9**

- President's Reception/Mixer  
Cash Bar, Buffet

**FRIDAY JULY 10**

- Legacy Breakfast
- Ladies' Luncheon
- Unit Lunch (Circle your unit)  
5C 7C 8C 9C 12C ENG  
AVN ARTY HQ LRRP

**SATURDAY JULY 11**

- Purple Heart Breakfast
- Association Banquet (Circle your unit)  
5C 7C 8C 9C 12C ENG  
AVN ARTY HQ LRRP

**SUNDAY JULY 12**

- Group Breakfast
- LRRP Breakfast

**Registration Fee BEFORE May 15, 2026:**  
(Members only, not guests)

**Late Registration Fee AFTER May 15, 2026:**

- Active Duty w/ID Registration Fee
- Reunion Donation
- Saber Newspaper Renewal

	Quantity	Price	Total
_____	_____	\$ 50.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 60.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 60.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 70.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 60.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 70.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 60.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 60.00	\$ _____
_____	1	\$ 40.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 50.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 20.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	Donation	\$ _____
_____	_____	(\$20 per year or \$75 for 5 years)	\$ _____
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

\*Tickets are required for entry / Registration & Gift Shop are CLOSED each day from 12-1pm for lunch.

## 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 **Friday, May 1, 2026.**  
Please send to [Memberships@1CDA.org](mailto:Memberships@1CDA.org)

### COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE CHAPTER

Our chapter had our last meeting on February 12, our attendees were Mike C., Terry & Yolly L., Jon & Nancy F., John & Susan, Jim & Charlene J., Richard R., Frank B., Barry C., Steve K. New member: Mike Kolin who was a 1/5 Medic, Apr '68 – May '69. Our guests were Dan R. & Olivia Rich from K9Cav.

We celebrated 3 February birthdays. We received a thank you letter from Fischer House for our December Banquet Pass-the-hat donation. Jim wants to use this this year's December Banquet donation to support the Oregon Vietnam Wall Memorial Fund (Washington Park Memorial).

Dan R. of K9Cav reports on his efforts to pass Veteran friendly legislation in Washington State. Recently passed, a bill to allow Veterans with therapy dogs to get handicap placards for parking. A proposed bill for Washington State will provide for the expulsion of any therapy dog that is unruly or aggressive. Congratulations to K9Cav for their efforts.

Al Rackley's memorial and interment is tentatively scheduled for **May 8.** May the souls of the faithful, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

See you at our next regular meeting, **Thursday, March 12, 1200 hrs., Elmer's Restaurant**, 10001 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. Remember also the 25th ID Lunch, **2nd Tuesday**, Super King. Let the healing continue.

### CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Next chapter meeting: Saturday, **April 25, 12:00pm** at the New Britain Ct Elks Lodge, 30 Washington ST. New Britain 0605. 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 Bob Waz, Paul Marling, Tom McBriarty, Tom Uznanski, Rich Magner, Stuart Topliff, Al Johnson, Ed Peltier, Keith Moyer.

### CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER

Hello, Crossed Sabers Chapter! Starting in early April we will restart our monthly stable calls. The first one will be held in early April, date not nailed down yet, but it will be held at the 1st Cav Division Horse detachment on Ft Hood. We are the largest chapter in the association and need to get reengaged with the active-duty Troopers and leadership. Local Veterans, we need to recruit! Recruit your friends, neighbors, coworkers, church members, anyone you see wearing Cav gear. We have a huge community of Veterans around us and many have no clue we have an organization as wonderful as ours! I urge you to bring a friend to the next stable call that is a Cav Veteran and has never heard of our association. I will ask the association to list the date on the website once they are nailed down. Thanks again and look forward to seeing everyone in early April. God Bless the Cav! Tim Hodge, Crossed Sabers Chapter President

### NY/NJ CHAPTER

The NY/NJ Chapter held its quarterly meeting on March 7. Our guest speaker was LTC Matthew Pride, Professor of Military Science at CUNY and St. Johns Universities Army ROTC programs. LTC Pride focused his remarks on the training of the next generation of Army leaders. LTC Pride is also a West Point graduate and this gave him the unique position of being able to comment about both ROTC and USMA officer training programs.

LTC Pride is also a combat Veteran and discussed his deployments to Northern Iraq. He was responsible for providing General Engineering Support to the Multinational Division. He served as the Brigade Theater Engineer for the International Security Assistance Force, headquartered at Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan.

The NY/NJ Chapter will hold its next meeting on **May 9, 2026**, starting at **10:00am** at the Elks Lodge in Ridgefield Park, NJ (30 Spruce Avenue, Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660). Guest Speaker: TBA. 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 or charges to attend. Coffee and a buffet lunch will be served. Donations to the chapter are always welcome.

To be added to our meeting distribution list, send an email to <[rbartlett01@gmail.com](mailto:rbartlett01@gmail.com)> or call Robin Bartlett, Chapter President at 201-856-7530. Please join us to greet old friends and make new ones.



CUNY Army ROTC

### SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY CHAPTER

Sheridan's Chapter (greater Chicago Area) is saddened to report the loss of our Chapter President, Richard R. Hildenbrand, on February 6, 2026. Our former President, Don Smolinski, offers this tribute to him,

"We are saddened by the unexpected passing of our chapter president, Rich Hildenbrand, HHS, 15th S&S Bn, 1970-71 on 6 February 2026. Rich was a member of the Sheridan's Cavalry Chapter since 2010. He was the longtime chapter treasurer, efficiently keeping track of the chapter's financial records and membership. Several years ago, he assumed the additional role of president, showing his dedication to the chapter. His leadership was an inspiration to all. He will be greatly missed. Until we meet again in Fiddler's Green, Rich, rest in peace."

Sheridan's Cavalry Chapter has scheduled the following meeting dates for 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.

Sheridan's Cavalry Chapter participates in the Unaccompanied Veterans Military Honors Ceremony at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL. This quarterly ceremony remembers those veterans buried each quarter without the benefit of military honors due to no next of kin, homelessness, etc.

Dates for this year are **April 10, July 13, and October 20, 2026.** Ceremony begins at 9:00 am.

### WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION



Linda presents a coin to MG Madora

For our February 21, 2026, meeting, we were honored to have Major General (USA-Ret) Albert J. Madora as our guest and speaker. The event was especially meaningful as MG Madora and a few of our members were West Point classmates and served in Vietnam during the same timeframe. MG Madora spoke about the leadership lessons he learned in the Army and from serving in 1CD in Vietnam from 1970-71. He went on to command Air Defense and Test and Evaluation organizations before retiring as a Major General in 2002. Following his Army career, he led the Raytheon (now RTX Corporation) corporate

effort to develop counter-improvised explosive device (IED) systems. A chapter member thanked MG Madora - as one such system saved his life in the middle east! The **chapter meets every third Saturday**, January - May and August - October. Contact <[signalinda88@gmail.com](mailto:signalinda88@gmail.com)>.



Chapter members with MG (USA-Ret) Albert J. Madora (front row, fourth from left)

## ATTENTION CHAPTER OFFICERS/POCs:

- If you have a change in your leadership, you are required to inform 1CDA HQ. This is important for decimation of information.
- Plan to attend the Chapter Presidents Meeting **Friday, July 10, 3-4 pm** at the 78<sup>th</sup> Reunion. If you hold a position in your chapter, it is highly recommended you attend. Come gather new ideas for your Chapter!
- ALSO don't forget to bring your **Chapter Silent Auction Donation** benefitting the Active Duty Scholarship

**EMAIL US YOUR CHAPTER NEWS UPDATES**

## CHAPTER INDEX

### COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE

Pres: Terry Low  
16560 S Harding Rd.  
Oregon City, OR 97045-9679  
(503) 210-5558  
Email: tangolima2505@comcast.net  
Website: www.Hood2Hood1stCav.webs.com

Meets 1200 2nd Thurs of each month at the Elmer's Restaurant, 10001 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland, OR. No meeting in Dec.

### FLORIDA TROOP E "BLACK HAT"

Pres: Juan Kellogg  
607 SE 47th St., Apt. 7  
Cape Coral, FL 33904-5506  
Email: juankellogg@embarqmail.com  
Website: www.seahog.org/cav/index.html

Meets 4th Sat each month from Sept.-May 1:00 pm at Mission BBQ, 12984 S. Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33907

### 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.

### 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.

### SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY

(Greater Chicago Area)  
POC: Donna Pacanowski  
6043 W. 59th St  
Chicago, IL 60638-3553  
(312) 401-0548  
Email: dnnpenwsk9@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.

### 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.

### 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 11 am at Camp Knox Masonic Lodge #919, 1158 N. Dixie Hwy, Radcliff, KY.

### 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

### 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.

### NORTH CAROLINA TARHEEL

Pres: Johnny Parker  
10915 Tradition View Dr.  
Charlotte, NC 28269-1411  
(704) 517-5445  
Email: shagon19@gmail.com  
Contact for Membership: Don Gibson  
803 McDonald Church Road  
Rockingham, NC 28379-8529  
(910) 417-9104  
Email: dtbjgibson@gmail.com  
Meets 2nd Sat of Mar, Jun, Sept & Dec.

### WALTER H. WESTMAN NORTHLAND

Pres: 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.

### WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION

Pres: Linda Jantzen  
3913 Ridge Road  
Annandale, VA 22003  
(210) 849-9036  
Email: signalinda88@gmail.com  
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division Nat'l Capitol Region

Meets 3rd Sat in Jan-May off Jun-Aug. Meets again Sept-Dec. Nov meeting held in conjunction with 1CDA Veterans Day gathering.

### 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.

### JAMES H. UNRUH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

Pres: Michael T. Mazzaro  
Cenpenn Chapter. 1CDA  
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



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

## CROSSED SABERS GIFT SHOP located at 1CDA HQ



Scan the QR code to view the Online Catalog or type [shop.1CDA.org](http://shop.1CDA.org) into your web browser.

302 N. Main St Copperas Cove, TX 76544

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*The Crossed Sabers Gift Shop is a Non-Profit Organization. Net income is distributed to the Association for the Scholarship Program and to the Soldier Travel Fund, which allows active duty Soldiers of the Division to attend away Reunions as guests of the Association.*

*We accept telephone orders with payment by **MASTERCARD, VISA, DISCOVER** or **AMERICAN EXPRESS** or you can order online at [shop.1CDA.org](http://shop.1CDA.org) using your credit card.*

**New Spring Catalogs Are Printed and Available for \$5.00!**

Make your check payable to 1st Cavalry Division Association and mail to: 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.

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**20% OFF COUPON**

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1 per person

Expires: **June 30, 2026**

Excludes Stetsons, Consignment & Reunion items

## GOT CAVALRY HISTORICAL QUESTIONS?

**Did you know we have a 1CDA Historian?**

Reach out to **Dennis Webster** with any questions, or information regarding 1st Cavalry Division history!

**[Dennis.Webster7@gmail.com](mailto:Dennis.Webster7@gmail.com) or 254-220-2164**

From the Director's Desk Office of ICDA

**WE SUPPORT**



**UNITED STATES ARMY  
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 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association (ICDA) 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 ICDA 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 ICDA 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 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. "Once Cav, Always Cav.... First Team."

The next *Saber* newspaper is the **May / June 2026** edition.  
Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is **Friday, May 1, 2026.**  
Please email to [Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)

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FOR THE MILITARY.**

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**IF YOU'RE VISITING  
FORT HOOD**

If you're visiting Fort Hood, be sure to visit the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Headquarters (Bldg. 28000). They have a free 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Walking History Tour. The tour is outdoors. It starts at the south entrance of Heritage Hall (1<sup>st</sup> 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.

***We want to hear from YOU!***

Do you have a long lost 1st Cav Division story to tell, perhaps you want to share an old photo of you and your battle buddy?  
Share your treasured thoughts with your 1st Cavalry Division Association Family.  
***We THANK YOU for your service!***

**DONATION CHECKS**

When sending in multiple donations to either Association, Foundation and IaDrang, we ask if you could please do it by writing out separate checks to each entity.  
It will make the banking process smoother since they are all separate bank accounts.  
***Many Thanks!***

**COMMEMORATE A  
FALLEN COMRADE**  
with our **Brick & Paver Campaign**  
Buy a brick to be engraved & placed by Heritage Hall at Division Headquarters

**USEFUL VETERAN ASSISTANCE INFO:**

<<https://www.archives.gov/>> National Archives & Records Administration, Veteran service records  
<<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center>> Central repository of personnel-related records for both the military and civil services of the United States Government. 314-801-0800  
<<https://www.veteranmedals.army.mil/>> U.S. Army Veteran Medals  
<<https://nvf.org/>> National Veterans Foundation: crisis management, information and referral needs of all U.S. Veterans and their families. 310-642-0255  
Vet-to-Vet toll-free helpline: 888-777-4443  
<<https://nationalresourcedirectory.gov/>> Dept of Veteran Affairs, The National Resource Directory is a searchable database of resources vetted for Service members, Veterans, family members and caregivers. 800-342-9647  
<<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>> Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-8255  
<<https://www.dav.org/>> Disabled American Vets is a non-profit charity that provides a lifetime of support for Veterans of all generations and their families. 877-426-2838

**SPECIFICALLY FOR TEXAS VETERANS**  
<[www.TVC.texas.gov](http://www.TVC.texas.gov)> Texas Veterans Commission advocates for all Texas Veterans, assisting with: VA Claims, Employment, Education, Entrepreneurship, and VA Healthcare Advocacy. 254-238-7124  
<<https://www.texvet.org/>> Informative resource guide for Texas Veterans and family members. 512-341-4924

**1CDA BULLETINS:**

**As of January 2026**

- **PCI Oral History Book Update:**  
The president sent out letters anticipating shipment in Spring 2026. Contact them with questions or refunds. 1-800-982-1590 or by email at [PCIservice@publishingconcepts.com](mailto: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

## 1ST CAV VEHICLE MEDALLION

### NEW ITEM!!



Metal Cav Patch  
for your vehicle or motorcycle  
3"x 2"  
0.07" thick  
with 3M Automotive Grade  
Adhesive Back

Embossed Aluminum Medallion

### 1CDA Cav Medallion Order Form

Full Color Metal Cav Patch, 3"x 2", 0.07" thick,  
Embossed Aluminum Medallion  
with 3M Automotive Grade Adhesive Back

**\$30.00 ea**

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Form of Payment:

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Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV on back: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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302 N. Main St.  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

**FREE SHIPPING**

## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

### We are restocked with Tribute & Vietnam Shirts

#### Both are available in short sleeve & long sleeve!

### TRIBUTE SHIRTS

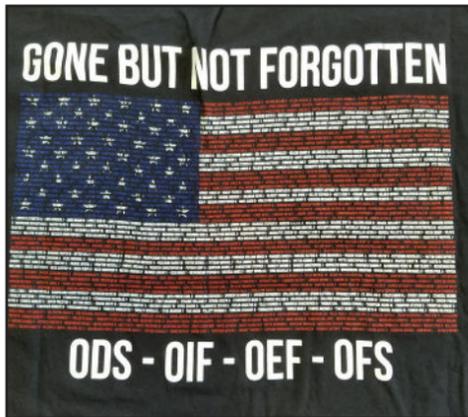
**Description:** 100% cotton black shirt

**Front:** white Cav patch on upper left breast

**Back:** says "GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN" and lists the names of our fallen Troopers from ODS, OIF, OEF, OFS in red, white and blue.



Front



Back Design

### 1st Cavalry Division Shirts Order Form

Short Sleeve Shirts \$23 each

Long Sleeve Shirts \$26 each

**FREE SHIPPING**

**TRIBUTE SHIRTS** (fallen Troopers from ODS, OIF, OEF, OFS)

Description: Black shirt w/white Cav patch

Short Sleeve L XL 2XL 3XL

Long Sleeve M L XL 2XL 3XL

**CIRCLE YOUR PREFERRED SIZE**

**VIETNAM SHIRTS** ("Remembering 5,618" Cav Troopers)

Description: Gray shirt w/black Cav patch

Short Sleeve 2XL 3XL

Long Sleeve M L 2XL 3XL

**CIRCLE YOUR PREFERRED SIZE**

# of Shirts: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Form of Payment:

Cash  Check (payable to 1CDA)  Credit Card (Service Charges Apply)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV on back: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: 1st Cavalry Division Association  
302 N. Main St.  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

**SHIPPING & HANDLING IS FREE**

### 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



Front



Back Design

## DIVISION DOINGS

### Continued from pg. 8

giving 6-56 ADA Regiment crews the opportunity to test their radar, kinetic, and electronic warfare systems against live unmanned aerial systems. Crews operated their full capability set, including the KU-band radar, Coyote interceptors, 30 mm and M240B weapon systems and electronic jamming platforms, to see how their equipment detects, classifies and responds to evolving drone threats. 1LT Martin Ocampo, a platoon leader assigned to Delta Battery, 6-56, said training was important for a unit on the leading edge of the Army's counter-UAS modernization effort. "Drones are at the center of the current fight," Ocampo said. "Bringing our kinetic and electronic warfare vehicles out here allows our crews to see radar performance against real UAS profiles and improve how quickly they classify and engage. This is the type of training that helps us set the pace for counter-UAS across the Army." Ocampo said working alongside civilians provided valuable repetitions.

"Every live track helps our Soldiers get faster and more lethal," he said. "It ensures we can protect whichever maneuver force we are attached to." The UAS demonstration demonstrated two different one-way attack drones, giving ADA Soldiers a firsthand look at how small, unmanned aircraft operate in contested environments.

SPC Noel Stoehr, a Joint Fire Support Specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery was invited to fly the OWA during the demonstration. "The drone was intuitive to operate, but the attack run requires a lot of skill because the camera is not stabilized," Stoehr said. "Keeping the target centered is difficult as you close in. It showed how valuable AI can be for precision terminal guidance." Stoehr, a former corporate pilot, said integrating drones into reconnaissance and strike operations has major implications for fire support Soldiers. "Normally we have to get close to the enemy to observe and call for fire," he said. "A drone can cover more ground, keep us safer and even conduct strikes if needed."

CW2 Andrew Westerberg, a targeting officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, said the demonstration helped leaders understand how AI-enabled one-way attack systems interact with Army fires formations. "This event tied emerging UAS threats into the fires warfighting function," Westerberg said. "Watching 6-56 ADA track these drones in real time builds the foundation for future counter-UAS integration across III Armored Corps."

The combined training allowed civilians to showcase developing drone technologies while giving 6-56 ADA realistic scenario-based repetitions to refine detection, classification and engagement procedures.



Photo Caption: A U.S. Army Mobile-Low, Slow, small unmanned aircraft Integrated Defeat System, or M-LIDS, comprised of the M1277 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle, or M-ATV, M153 Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station, or CROW, equipped with a M240B machine gun and LOTUS electronic warfare jammer assigned to Delta Battery, 6th Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, is positioned on a training area during a civilian one-way attack drone demonstration on Jan. 29, 2026, at Fort Hood, Texas. The M-LIDS is a U.S. Army two-part system designed to detect, track, identify, and destroy small drone threats. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Russell Shirley-Jones)

Photo Caption: A U.S. Army Mobile-Low, Slow, small unmanned aircraft Integrated Defeat System, or M-LIDS, comprised of the M1277 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle, or M-ATV, M153 Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station, or CROW, equipped with a M240B machine gun and LOTUS electronic warfare jammer assigned to Delta Battery, 6th Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, is positioned on a training area during a civilian one-way attack drone demonstration on Jan. 29, 2026, at Fort Hood, Texas. The M-LIDS is a U.S. Army two-part system designed to detect, track, identify, and destroy small drone threats. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Russell Shirley-Jones)

## 1st Cavalry Division Conducts Crane Course in Lithuania

Command Story by SPC Kemarvo Smith

PABRADĖ, Lithuania – U.S. Army Soldiers aspired to new heights while conducting a Crane Utilization and Certification Course held with Lithuanian Armed Forces, Feb 10, 2026, on General Silvestras Žukauskas Training Area, Pabradė, Lithuania. A combined total of 12 Soldiers from Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division and Forward Support Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, partnered with the Lithuanian Armed Forces to conduct the crane certification.

This certification allows U.S. Soldiers to fully utilize maintenance capabilities at Pabradė to its fullest extent by enabling them to conduct tank maintenance more safely and efficiently with assistance from their Lithuanian partners. Not only did the Soldiers improve their efficiency and safety, but they also increased their lethality by improving their overall readiness with crane maintenance.

U.S. Army COL Daniel Myers, the 510th Regional Support Group Commander, discussed how maintenance boosts lethality. "Now that we have this increased maintenance capability, we're that much more lethal," said Myers. Before completing the course, U.S. Soldiers relied on the M88 Armored Recovery Vehicle to remove tank components inside a confined maintenance tent. This significantly increased the time required to perform even simple maintenance tasks.

SSG Frank Elias, a wheeled vehicle mechanic assigned to Fox Forward Support Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, discussed the importance of conducting the certification. "What makes this training significant is us working with our counterparts, not only gaining proper training on using the equipment here locally but additionally being able to train our Soldiers on proper use of the borrowed equipment," said Elias.

The certification process also emphasized safety in order to create a secure environment for Soldiers working with the equipment. SSG Matthew Cotto, a wheeled vehicle mechanic assigned to Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, discussed the importance this training provides for maintaining safety measures. "The biggest take away was safety and just learning the dos and don'ts to make sure all of our Soldiers are safe while operating," said Cotto.

U.S. Army Soldiers and the Lithuanian Armed Forces concluded the crane utilization and certification course which ensured Soldiers were able to conduct tank maintenance while increasing their efficiency, safety and overall readiness across Europe's Eastern Flank.

Photo Caption: U.S. Army Soldiers participate in a crane utilization and certification course, Feb. 10, 2026, on General Silvestras Žukauskas Training Area, Pabradė, Lithuania. Soldiers participated in the crane utilization and certification course to conduct tank maintenance to ensure safety when operating and to enhance readiness. Our units are rapidly integrating technology and tactics through experimentation from the tactical to the operational level to shape strategic outcomes. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Asher Atkinson)



## Army announces Winners of Inaugural Best Drone Warfighter Competition

By LTC Vonnie Wright



Soldiers operate a drone on the Best Tactical Squad Lane

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — The U.S. Army announced the winners of the inaugural Best Drone Warfighter Competition, a three-day event held on Feb 17-19 that brought together elite drone operators from across the active duty, reserve and National Guard components. The competition was hosted by the Army Aviation Center of Excellence and the Maneuver Center of Excellence, in Huntsville, Alabama, sponsored by the Army Aviation Association of America in partnership with the University of Alabama Huntsville.

The event drew over 200 competitors and more than 800 attendees, showcasing the Army's most skilled small-UAS operators. Participants competed in three distinct challenges designed to test speed, precision, teamwork and creativity in small-UAS employment: a high-speed drone race, a tactical squad lane and an innovation showcase, highlighting the Army's commitment to integrating advanced unmanned aerial systems at every echelon of the force.

Winners of the 2026 Best Drone Warfighter Competition are:

Best Drone Operator: SGT Javon Purchner; 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas

Best Tactical Squad: SSG Angel Caliz and SPC Jonah Burks; 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany

Best Innovation: 1LT Ryan Giallonardo, CW3 Robert Reed, CW2 Nathan Shea and SFC Brent Wehr; 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania Army National Guard

Competitors raced Neros Archer FPV drones through a complex obstacle course; executed cross-country hunter-killer missions in paired teams to identify and neutralize targets; and showcased Soldier-designed technologies in front of a panel of experts aimed at improving survivability, lethality, and battlefield adaptability.

Beyond identifying top performers, the competition demonstrated how rapidly the Army's unmanned capabilities are advancing. The event reinforced the service's focus on developing operators who can excel in contested environments and contribute to combat formations that are more lethal, agile and technologically integrated.

The Best Drone Warfighter Competition aligns with the Army's broader modernization priorities, underscoring the role of advanced unmanned systems in strengthening readiness and preparing Soldiers for the demands of future conflicts.



Winner of the Best Drone Warfighter Operator: SGT Purchner of 1CD

## Leading the Charge: Captain Megan Korpiel's Lifelong Bond with Horses Shapes Cavalry Command

Story by PFC Michelle Lessard-Terry

FORT HOOD, TX- CPT Megan Korpiel learned long ago that leadership is not about force. It is about patience, awareness, and timing. Those lessons didn't all come from an Army manual or a leadership course. They came from horsemanship. "Everything I've learned about myself, I learned from my horses," Korpiel said. Horsemanship was the subject of her college application essay, and today it guides how she commands the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment.

The 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment was officially established in 1972, serving a unique mission that blends heritage, public engagement, and Trooper development. Korpiel began riding horses at age five and competing by eight. Horses quickly became the center of her world. She joined 4-H, a youth organization similar to Scouts, where members develop leadership skills, public speaking ability, and responsibility through hands-on work. From an early age, she assumed leadership roles within her clubs, often representing them at competitions and county fairs.

At age 10, her parents bought her first horse. It came with conditions. "They told me, 'This horse is your responsibility,'" Korpiel said. While her parents covered major expenses, the day-to-day care was her responsibility. Feeding, training, and grooming her horse became part of her routine. From age 10, until she joined the Army at 22, caring for horses was her "full-time job."

Her riding career grew more competitive as she got older. In high school, she trained green, inexperienced horses, preparing them for riders who lacked the knowledge or the means to do so themselves. Working with multiple horses taught her to be a better rider and added skills to her "toolkit."

Continued to pg. 19

## SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

1CDA supports four scholarships for qualified applicants:

### ACTIVE DUTY SCHOLARSHIP

Soldier has to be a member of 1CDA & assigned to 1CD. This grant is offered to the Soldier and spouse.

### FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

**100%** Offered to the child/children of 1CDA members with a 100% disability rating, that were assigned to 1CD.

**KIA** To be used by child/children of Troopers killed in action while assigned to 1CD.

### IA DRANG SCHOLARSHIP

Exclusive to the children & grandchildren of the Veterans who were involved in the battles of the Ia Drang Valley during 3-19 Nov 1965.

**BY MAKING A SCHOLARSHIP DONATION, YOUR NAME WILL APPEAR UNDER HONOR ROLL ON PAGE 23.**

<b>Active Duty</b>	<b>Foundation</b>	<b>Ia Drang</b>
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Form of Payment:

Cash    Check Enclosed    Credit Card (Service Charges Apply)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV on back: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amt: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:** 1st Cavalry Division Association  
302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522

All scholarships of the 1CDA are tax-exempt charitable organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all donations are tax deductible.

## 78<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 1ST CAV DIV ASSN REUNION T-SHIRTS

Cut off date to pre-order your shirt is **15 MAY 2026**

**Pre-order YOURS today!!**

Adult Sizes Only

**S** Please indicate quantities in boxes.  
 **M**  
 **L**

**XL** **\$23.95 each**  
 **2XL** **+S/H= Total**

**3XL** \_\_\_\_\_



Front



Back

Description:

Cav patch w/Mardi Gras beads on the left chest with full-color Mardi Gras design on the back.

Please check box if you plan to pick up your shirts at Reunion, no shipping charges apply.

\*\*\*If you want your shirts shipped, please use the chart below to determine postage rates.

### Shipping Chart:

1 Shirt @ \$9.50 / 2-8 Shirts @ \$16.50 / 8+ @ \$21.50

**Reunion T-shirts will NOT ship prior to 15 JUNE 2026.**

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**Please mail order form to:**  
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Check enclosed    Visa    M/C    Discover    American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

CVD# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## DIVISION DOINGS

Continued from pg. 18

One of her most formative experiences came through the Interscholastic Equestrian Association, where riders are assigned unfamiliar horses just moments before competition. "You literally pick a horse from a hat. You get no time to warm it up, and then you go, and you show that horse. So you're judged on how well you can ride that mount with virtually no experience on the horse's back," said Korpel.

When applying to colleges, none had a horseback riding scholarship. Although the college Korpel chose did not have an equestrian program, she started one. She continued riding throughout college and after joining the Army. Those years taught her lessons she now applies to leading Troopers, and Korpel believes that awareness carries directly into being a great leader.

"Horsemanship and leadership are very similar," she said. "The small nuances of learning when to apply pressure, and learning when to take it off translates to leadership and being in tune with your emotions and your body language." Korpel went on to say that, as one of the oldest horse detachments, they've had the most time to develop techniques and the most time under their belts to establish best practices. That uniqueness presents challenges.

"Every single problem that we face, no one else has faced before, and so as a commander, my job is to provide the right resources to my Troopers, the right management of tasks, and then provide recommendations," Korpel said. "I'm a big problem solver, so it's kind of fun to be able to track down how to get that done."

Horse selection for the detachment follows strict criteria rooted in tradition. Preferred mounts are American Quarter Horses that are dark in color and within a specific height range. The uniform appearance reflects historical cavalry standards. All horses must be saddle-broke and trained to walk, trot, and canter. From there, they are trained to handle gunfire, cannons, formations, and crowds. Developing those skills requires careful pairing.

"How we typically do that is, we pair a horse and an experienced rider together, and then they can mesh and match. It's a really cool thing to see, because that Trooper takes so much pride in that horse, and in developing that horse," said Korpel. The Troopers themselves are volunteers. Many arrive with no riding experience. Before being accepted, they complete thirty days of schooling, pass a written test, and present a barn tour with the command team. Within 18 months to two years, many become capable riders and skilled horsemen. "We're not professional rodeo athletes," Korpel said. "But we do our best as a command team with our training program to implement the correct equestrian skills for both riding and horsemanship."

Korpel's command philosophy is built on three principles: be respectful, work hard and do the right thing, and be honest. "I firmly believe that everything else can be figured out after that, if it doesn't fall into one of those three categories," she said. Her goal is to produce a formation that can be relied upon and a legacy of Troopers defined by respect, competence, and honesty. Public visibility remains an important part of the detachment's role. Korpel hopes people who see the unit in action feel inspired.

"I hope they look at us and they say, 'I want to be part of the Cavalry. Whether that's actually on horseback, a tank, or in a helicopter.' I hope that when they

look at our organization, they want to be part of the United States Army."

When asked to describe commanding the Horse Cavalry Detachment, Korpel did not hesitate. "Leading the Charge." For Korpel, it is a phrase that reflects both tradition and forward momentum. From the barn to public engagement, and everything in between, she continues to lead the way she always has, leading the charge by pushing forward progress for the sake of the horses and her Troopers.

Photo Caption: U.S. Army CPT Megan Korpel, commander, Horse Cavalry Detachment, 1st Cavalry Division, poses with one of the detachment's horses during an interview on Fort Hood, Texas, Jan 29, 2026. Korpel learned horsemanship from a young age, teaching patience, awareness and timing - making her a better leader. (U.S. Army Photo by SPC Michelle Lessard)



## OTHER REUNIONS:

**D 1/5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Vietnam Veterans (1965-1971), 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion, 21-23 April 2026.** Savannah, Ga, POC: David Michalak, 734-777-5019 or <dmich1248@gmail.com>.

**15th Medical Battalion Association 2026 Reunion /100-year Anniversary of the 15th Medical Battalion Celebration, 22-26 April 2026.** Hyatt Place Oklahoma City/ Bricktown, 20 Russell M. Perry Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73104. Reservations: <https://shorturl.at/Lewqk> or call 405-702-4028. Group code: G-MBAS. POC: Huey Huether, 830-456-5580 or <medevac2@15thmedbnas-association.org>. Info at <15thmedbnasassociation.org>.

**D Co 2/8 Cav 2026 Reunion, 1-5 May 2026.** Doubletree Motel Columbus, Ga, 5351 Sidney Simons Blvd. 31909. Reservations call 706- 327-6868.

**D Co 1/12 Cav Gathering, 5-8 May 2026.** Casino del Sol in Tucson, AZ, Reservations: 855-765-7829. POC: Chuck Rose 210-854-4131 and look for a newsletter soon.

**1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion, 8-12 July 2026.** Sheraton New Orleans, 500 Canal St, New Orleans LA. Reservations Dept: (504) 525-2500, Press 1 or use the provided link to make reservations on-line: <https://book.passkey.com/e/51069296>. Do NOT reserve more than one room.

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

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

## AIR CAV NEWS



**LTC (RET) J. Shawn Perry**  
 191 Scenic Bluff Drive  
 Guntersville, Alabama 35976  
 (254) 458-0428  
 Stetsonlife1cda@gmail.com



Nothing quite like watching winter finally loosen its grip here in the beautiful mountains of North Alabama. The dogwoods are starting to pop, the ridges are turning that perfect shade of fresh green, and you can feel spring breathing new life into everything—from the trails around Sand Mountain to the crisp morning air rolling down into the valley. After those chilly months, it's a welcome sight to see the sun climbing higher and the whole landscape waking up. Makes you want to throw open the windows, crank up some music, and get ready for the good times ahead.

Let's jump back to May nineteen sixty-eight—Operation Delaware, one of the boldest airmobile pushes in Vietnam. The 1st Cavalry Division, still fresh as the Army's first fully helicopter-borne outfit, teamed up with the 101st Airborne and ARVN forces to storm the A Shau Valley. Picture this: over three hundred UH-1 Hueys and CH-47 Chinooks lifting thirty thousand Troops in fifteen days, dodging triple-canopy jungle and NVA anti-air fire.

Here they come—Hueys slicing through mist, rotors thumping like heartbeats, dropping Troopers right into enemy strongholds while Cobras laid down suppressive fire. It wasn't just transport; it was shock and awe before the term existed. The op cleared a major supply route, smashed base camps, and proved Air Cav could turn mountains into highways. Those pilots earned every medal—they flew low, fast, and fearless.

That iconic shot of Hueys hovering over Troopers in the bush? That's the raw grit of '68—pure First Team magic.

Fast-forward to now: between January and February 2026, the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade wrapped up a big restructuring at Fort Hood. Mid-December twenty-five saw a solemn inactivation ceremony—colors cased for the 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment (Lobos) and 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment (Pale Horse). Those units had racked up thousands of flight hours post-Europe rotation, including helocast drills at Belton Lake and "Grounded Gunnery" shoots. Troopers got reassigned, gear redistributed—classic Army pivot to leaner, meaner formations. But the Brigade's already building, they stood up a Modern Adversary Small Tactics team, UAS whizzes coding drones for recon and strikes in human-machine teams. Talk about evolving.

On the tech front, U.S. Army aviation's charging ahead. First, Flight School Next—rolled out late twenty-five—swaps old trainers for single-engine birds that hammer home "stick and rudder" basics, prepping pilots for big fights where GPS might go dark. Second, the Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft, that V-280 Valor tiltrotor, doubles speed and range over Black Hawks. By late twenty-six, it'll haul Troops farther, faster, while "Launched Effects" drones—think mini scouts launched from Apaches—handle EW and eyes-on-target. Less manpower, more punch.

And hey, why not lighten it up? Why do Army pilots love coffee? Because without it, they'd just be hovering... get it? Hovering. Like, stuck in place. (Ba-dum-tss.)

Wrapping this up—mark your calendars for the 78th Annual 1st Cavalry Association Reunion, eight to twelve July in New Orleans. The Big Easy's calling: Sheraton hotel, old friends, stories that'll outlast the jazz. Whether you're a Vietnam Vet or a drone operator, it'll be one hell of a "First Team" huddle. See you there, brothers and sisters—stay sharp, keep flying.

Clear Right! Shawn

**Please contact the scribe to share your 1st Cav Aviation stories here!**

## NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY MARCH 29



National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29 honors the men and women who served and sacrificed during the longest conflict in United States history.

It was on March 29, 1973, when combat and combat support units withdrew from South Vietnam. Generations later, Veterans of this time period are gaining the respect that was not so freely given upon their return. Involving five U.S. presidents, crossing nearly two decades and 500,000

U.S. military personnel, it left an indelible mark on the American psyche.

Returning Veterans did not always receive respectful welcomes upon their arrive on American soil. There were 58,000 killed, never to return. National Vietnam War Veterans Day recognize the military service of these men and women who answered the call to service their country when she needed them. They didn't make the decisions to go to war.

On National Vietnam War Veterans Day, we recognize the service and duty rendered by all servicemen and women of this era.

### HISTORY

U.S. Sens. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., and Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., introduced legislation in 2017 to honor Vietnam Veterans with a day on the anniversary of the withdrawal of military units from South Vietnam. President Donald Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Day Act on March 28, 2017, calling for U.S. flags to be flown on March 29 for those who served.

*We Thank Our Vietnam Veterans*



## PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2026

NO. 26-4A

Contact: Mokie Porter  
301-996-0901

### Vietnam Veterans of America Issues Statement on the Department of Veteran Affairs' VA Interim Final Rule – Evaluative Rating: Impact of Medication (RIN 2900-AS49)

Vietnam Veterans of America issues Statement on the Department of Veteran Affairs' VA Interim Final Rule-Evaluative Rating: Impact of Medication

\*\*\*UPDATE\*\*\*

(Washington, D.C.) — Vietnam Veterans of America acknowledges the Department of Veterans Affairs' decision made today to halt enforcement of the Interim Final Rule titled "Evaluative Rating: Impact of Medication."

"Over the past several days, VVA engaged directly with VA leadership in a civil, respectful, and solutions-focused dialogue regarding the concerns expressed by veterans across the country," said Tom Burke, VVA National President. "From the beginning, our objective was not to inflame the situation, but to ensure clarity, protect confidence in the disability evaluation process, and advocate responsibly on behalf of those who served."

"Veterans' trust in the system matters. When uncertainty arises—particularly regarding disability compensation—anxiety spreads quickly through our community. It is essential that changes to policy be clearly communicated and fully understood before implementation," Burke added.

"We appreciate Secretary Collins and his team for listening to those concerns and for taking action to halt enforcement while continuing to collect public comment," said Burke. "That decision reflects a recognition that Veterans deserve."

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the nation's only congressionally chartered Veterans service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era Veterans and their families. VVA's founding principle is "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

Vietnam Veterans of America  
8719 Colesville Rd., Suite 100  
Silver Spring Maryland 20910  
United States



## NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY MARCH 25

National Medal of Honor Day on **March 25** is dedicated to all Medal of Honor recipients. It was on March 25, 1863, when the first Medals of Honor were presented. Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton presented Medals of Honor (Army) to six members of the "Great Locomotive Chase" or "Andrews Raiders" for their volunteering and participation during an American Civil War raid on April 12, 1862.

Created in 1861, the Medal of Honor is the United States of America's highest military honor. It is awarded only to U.S. military personnel, by the President of the United States in the name of Congress, for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty.

There are three versions of the Medal of Honor: one for the Army, one for the Navy and one for the Air Force, with personnel of the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard receiving the Navy version.

Since its creation, there have been 3,468 Medals of Honor awarded to the country's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.

## 545<sup>th</sup> 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.

### LIKE A LOT OF UNITS IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY, THE 545<sup>TH</sup> WAS FACED WITH THE LOSS OF TRAINED PERSONNEL IN EARLY 1966.

The bulk of the lower ranks of the MP company were men drafted in early 1964 when the 11<sup>th</sup> MP was formed as a unit of the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Division.

By February 1966, these men were leaving to be separated from active duty. Your author was in a group due to be out by March 10. The biggest fear of these men was that the President might extend the active-duty obligation. Probably did not happen because of political concerns.

### STOCKADE DUTY WAS NEW TO THE 545<sup>TH</sup>

At Ft. Benning any Army prisoner was sent to the main post MP's. During the field exercises in 1964, someone approved big bucks to have a portable triangular shaped enclosure designed and built. The sides were built of small aircraft cable with heavier cable top and bottom. Where they intersected the vertical and the horizontal cables were linked together by a round metal clamp that maintained the relationship between the vertical and horizontal cables. At each corner a metal post provided vertical support for the fence. A hand winch was used to pull the posts into position. The whole structure was linked together. In order to move the apparatus it had to be collapsed, rolled up, and manhandled into a truck. The men hated it. This conglomeration was set up to be used as the division stockade. A small shipping container with slots cut into the sides was set inside the fence as a cell.

Upon return to An Khe, your author and Gerald Ives were assigned to be stockade guards. There was only one prisoner, PVT Hall, in the stockade. He was awaiting transfer to Ft Leavenworth for 104 years. He had killed a Major. Supposedly he had made the statement that he would kill himself before he got there. He did have some superficial scratches on his wrists. At mealtimes one of the guards had to walk him up a dirt road to the Headquarters mess tent. One day he asked your author what would happen if he ran. The reply was, "I would shoot you." Evidently he was not serious about suicide. Your author would have had no choice. There were weapons lying around everywhere.

Taking care of POWs was much easier. They were generally more docile, being glad to be away from being killed and happy to receive medical care and something to eat. Most of those your author dealt with were young draftees. PVT Hall liked to test us on occasion. Each morning he was given a plastic safety razor with which to shave. One morning when told by your author to hand the razor back through the fence, he refused, saying if you want it, come and get it. Your author took off his pistol belt and weapon, handed them to partner Ives, and started through the gate. PVT Hall then handed the razor through the fence. One day PVT Hall was gone without any fanfare.

The next prisoner was a motor pool sergeant with 12 years of service, SGT Nolan. One night he walked into our operations tent and said that if we did not take his weapon, he was going to kill the commanding general. He was an agreeable prisoner. Your author always was of the opinion that he wanted to go home in a bad way and was willing to throw away twelve years toward retirement to get there.

One night Ives and your author relieved Bob Dean and his partner at midnight. We were getting really short. The 1<sup>st</sup> Cav had been there for more than five months and had not suffered a major attack on the base at An Khe. There was a little booth at the stockade with one light bulb where a body could settle down and read without interruption. The stockade was across a deep creek from an area where Chinooks were parked. And then it happened! The base was being mortared and apparently the Chinooks were a target. The aim of the mortar men was a little short. The shells were dropping around us. Ives and your author doused the light, hit the ground and crawled to the creek. There was very little water in it, so it was possible to get eight or ten feet below the surrounding terrain. Your author was not happy, but Ives was very upset. He did not have a weapon. Your author still had his pistol but had only one magazine with him. After all, why did a body need more than one when one's prisoner was locked up. Ives kept repeating, "What are we going to do if they break through?"

After the barrage was over, we checked on our prisoner. He was shaken. Seems that shrapnel rattling off his cell was upsetting. He asked if he could sit outside his cell the rest of the night. We agreed to his request; we were being replaced at 04:00. Shortly after the attack was over, SGT Kurt Hoffman came down to check on us. Seems that in our haste to get to the creek one of us had kicked the commo wire loose from the field phone.

Ives and your author came back on duty at 16:00. At sunset we told SGT Nolan he needs to go into his cell to be locked up for the night. The conversation went something like this. *I ain't going! Why not? You boys would not let me out of here last night! Well, you were safer than we were. We were out in the open and you were surrounded by steel. I don't care! I am not going back in.* At this point your author picked up the field phone and called the desk sergeant to explain our problem. Think it was John Pike, one of the best. He said, "You are about to go home are you not? Just hang loose, I will send some help." In a few minutes three MP sergeants came down, and had a little confab with SGT Nolan, where upon he went back in the cell.

Well, your author thought we were pulled in from the field to be safer when we got really short, and then this happened!

### THE LAST FEW DAYS

The men about to go home started getting new car brochures. The most common thought was, after being poor for two years, to get a job and buy a new car.

The 1SG, Ed Pinault, had to give each departing man a re-up talk. Your author's talk went something like this. 'Well Ketron, I don't guess there is any reason to ask if you want to re up?' None at all, SGT Pinault'. What the good Sgt did not know was that he held an Ace. There were so many 1<sup>st</sup> Cav men going home, the rumor was that we might depart via Troop ship. Your author would have extended six months to get to leave by air rather than suffer another cruise on the ocean.

Most of us from the southeast had not been west of the Mississippi River. Your author pitched the idea of pooling our money to buy a serviceable automobile and drive from California to see the west. The response was very favorable. Ketron, that is a great idea, count me in!

Most of us draftees had been together for a majority of our time in the Army, we had been in each other's homes while at Ft Benning, knew the families, and in a few cases had established romantic relationships which later turned into marriages. Every day someone was gone, sometimes leaving in small groups. About the last day of February, the late Delmar Egan (TN), the late Harry Collins (TN), the late Paul Dalton (TN), the late Roger Gregory (NC), and your author left together. We were in Camp Alpha in Saigon for 9 days trying to get a flight home. One day your author saw SGT Nolan of stockade fame under escort heading out of the country. The process to leave was to be called to grab your bags, load into a truck, go to the airport, and watch Airmen, Marines, Sailors, Koreans, and other personnel load on to a US bound Continental Airlines Boeing 707. If there were any seats left, Soldiers were called from the top of the list. Then you were loaded back into the truck and returned to Camp Alpha.

Beer was available after 16:00.

**Please contact the scribe to share your 545<sup>th</sup> MP stories here!**

## NEW MEMBERS:

PFC ALEXIS-JACK ASHANTI TX 1-DIVARTY  
2LT ALLEN KASSIDY AK C 1-215CSBN  
SSG ANDERSON NEIL MO 91ENG  
2LT ARWADY BRANDON M TX 1-120QM  
PFC BECERRA JESSE TX HHB DIVARTY  
2LT BIRDSONG DAKOTA TX 1-9C  
MAJ BRODERICK MOLLY TX HHT 3ABCT  
E-5 BRUNO THOMAS AZ HHC15TC  
SGM CABALLECO RICHARD R. TX 1-5C  
PV2 CANAS MICHAEL TX HHBN 3BCT  
E-3 DALACIES JEAN PIERCE BALURTE TX 3-16FA  
E-4 DYKES RUSSEL TN C 2-12C  
1LT EDEGBE NAOMI TX HHC 1-115BSB  
SGT FIFER BLAKE TX HHC 1ABCT  
SPC FRAZIER RICHARD CA D 2-5C  
PV2 FREEMAN JULIAN S TX 1-3BDE  
2LT GAGNON JESSE TX 1-15BSB  
PV2 GAVORNIK NICADEMUS TX C 2ABCT  
SGT GIFFIN SHAWN TX F 3-227AN  
MR. GOOCH REX TZ 175 L-ASSOC  
CW2 GOODRICH MICHAEL TX B 1-15BSB  
PV2 GUARDADO ISAAC TX 1-3BDE  
PFC HADLER GREY VA A 1-5C  
SPC HAMMOND CUTTER B FL 2BCT  
PV2 HARRIS GAVIN MT 1-1CD  
SFC(RET) HARTMAN SCOTT FL A 4ABCT  
MR. HAYES WILLIAM PA 176 L-ASSOC  
SGT HELLING GRIFFIN TX 2-5C  
CW5 HINCH SAM OK C 1-9C  
PFC HORN DIKAEL TX DIVARTY  
SSG KWOK GREGORY TX 1-7C  
SGT LARS JEANNIE MO 2-12C  
SGT LAVENDER BLAKE R TX 1-9C  
PFC LIMON-PRECIADO JAZMIN CA 1-9C  
PVT MANGUM COLE W TX 1-1CD  
PV2 MATHURIN JONATHAN FL 3-16FA  
SGT MERCADO ANDREW TX HHC 1-8C  
SFC MORMAN VERONICA OK D 1-27MSB  
PV2 NICHOLS TAMARA TX E 1-56ADA  
SSG NIEVES LUIS R. TX A 3ABCT  
E-7 O'NEILL EDWARD TN 1-215BSB  
SFC PRICE ROBERT W. SR. AZ 1-9C  
PV2 RERRICHA SETH PA D 1-58AVN  
MSG RITTER JEFF TX HHB 1-82FA  
SPC SALAZAR ANTONIO TX 8BEB  
SGT SALERNO FRANK J. NJ B 1-77FA  
CW2 SHAVER TRAVIS OH HHC 1-227AVN  
SGT SINGLETON SHAWN T. AL HHC 1-8C  
CSM VOWELL DAVID TX 1ACB  
E-3 WEST DWAYNE TX C 2-8C  
PV2 WHITSTON GAGE M. OK 1BDE  
MAJ WILKINSON ALEXANDER TX HHBN 1-1CD  
E-3 WILKS ADIRAN V. TX HHB DIVARTY  
SPC WOOTEN JOHN IN 194ARN



**WELCOME TO THE 1CDA TEAM!**

**Are your 1CD buddies a member?**

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@lcda.org (Karleen)
firstcav@lcda.org (Dara)
programs@lcda.org (Tina)

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I want to subscribe to the 2027 Calendar for \$10. If not, I will be taken off the Calendar mailing list. (Be sure to include your 2027 Calendar donation above.)

VETERAN AFFAIRS NEWS:

VA Increases In-Home And Community-Based Services Expenditure Cap For Veterans With Complex Conditions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced an increase in the expenditure cap for in-home and community-based services for Veterans with certain complex medical conditions.

VA's skilled home health care program will now cover the costs of in-home and community-based services for Veterans with spinal cord injuries, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, and other complex medical conditions at 100% of the cost of similar care in a VA Community Living Center. This is an increase from the previous rate of 65%.

The rate increase will significantly reduce out-of-pocket costs for eligible Veterans and their families for services like home health aide, home respite, community adult day health care, Veteran Directed Care, and skilled home health. This will make it easier for Veterans to continue residing in their homes.

VA estimates 200 Veterans will take advantage of the higher expenditure cap in fiscal year 2026. The skilled home health care program has enrolled approximately 1,800 Veterans since it was established in 2019.

"This important change will enable Veterans with complex medical conditions to continue receiving high quality care while remaining in their homes, surrounded by friends and family," said VA Secretary Doug Collins. "By matching the expenditure cap for home and community-based services with the cost of care in our Community Living Centers, we are enabling Veterans to maintain their independence and home connections."

The rate increase is the result of Section 120 of the Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act of 2025. VA encourages Veterans and their families to speak with their VA social worker to learn more about these changes.

<https://news.va.gov>

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR ADDITIONAL VA EDUCATION BENEFITS?

VA is making it easier to find out

The Department of Veterans Affairs is making it easier for eligible Veterans to learn about their education and training entitlement under the Supreme Court's 2024 Rudisill decision.

1.04 million Veterans were impacted. VA informed 380,000 of the impacted Veterans that they would need to submit a claim for VA to make an official decision on entitlement; however, VA is no longer requiring any Veterans to request a review to learn about their earned VA education and training benefits under Rudisill.

Additionally, as a result of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims' Perkins v. Collins decision, Veterans who served for a single obligated period of sufficient length could also be eligible for two different education programs based on different months and days of service within that single obligated period.

What does this mean for me?

VA will automatically review the files of all 1.04 million Veterans who were previously identified as being potentially eligible for benefits and either issue a formal decision or inform you of additional action that is required. If you were previously informed as one of the 380,000 Veterans by VA to request a review to receive a formal decision on how the Rudisill decision impacts you, you no longer need to submit a request.

If you have applied for benefits but have not received a decision, you will soon receive confirmation from VA, via U.S. mail, that your application has been received, and the status is pending until VA is able to review the file.

If you are a Veteran who may be eligible for benefits through a qualifying single obligated period of service, VA will also automatically review your file and either issue a formal decision or inform you if additional action is required.

What if I'm in school already?

VA will automatically review records for benefits under Rudisill and Perkins if a Veteran exhausts their VA education benefits while enrolled in school.

What steps is VA taking to improve the process?

VA is updating systems to automatically evaluate Veteran files without any further action on your part. Veterans no longer need to request a review to learn about earned VA education and training benefits.

To learn more about this change, visit the Impact of the Rudisill and Perkins Court Decisions on Veterans' Education Benefits webpage.

<https://news.va.gov>

## WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME UNDER HONOR ROLL SECTION?

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:

SP5 ADAMAS, W. Howard	\$50	E-5 GINOP, Thomas	\$25	1SG LeBLANC, George	\$100
SGT AMBURGEY, Paul W.	\$50	IMO Kenneth Verrett		IMO SP5 Jonny Roberge, Leominster MA	
SSG AMBROSE, John P.	\$100	MAJ GREINKE, William	\$50	SP4 LINDALE, John	\$75
E-5 BENNER, David	\$100	CPT HALL, Sanci	\$25	MR. & MRS. MARTIN, Anthony	\$600
IMO All Those Lost in VietNam		SP4 HORIN, Dennis R.	\$10	IMO Roger Martin	
BG BILO, William C.	\$500	IMO John Madison		CPT MACKEL, John	\$100
IHO of those Troopers of B Btry 1-77FA		MAJ (RET) JENNINGS, George W.	\$10	SP5 McCLUNG, William	\$150
And SVC Btry 1/30 in 1970		COL (RET) KALINOWSKI, William J.	\$50	SGT OESTREICH, Karl D.	\$30
SPC BOYLE, Ray N.	\$20	SP4 KELLOGG, Juan	\$15	IMO Fallen Comrades	
SGT BURKHARDT, Robert J.	\$25			PSG PALMER, Leslie	\$100
CPL CANARELLI, Lous	\$10			IMO SP4 Roger E. Denny A 1-77FA, KIA	
IMO Louis P. Canarelli Jr.				3-11-69 RVN	
SSG COLES, Douglas D.	\$25			E-4 PROCTOR, Gino	\$10
MR. DANIELS, Thomas E.	\$50			IMO William D. Pinegar	
CPL DEFRONZO, Francesco	\$50			SGT QUNN, Stephen	\$30
SGT DOWNING, Jack *CORRECTION	\$100			SPC RAPP, Richard	\$100
IMO 1LT Tom Matthews				E-5 SNIEZYK, Gerald	\$125
COL (RET) FLEMING, Blaine T.	\$50			CW3 THOMAS, Kenneth	\$100
IMO LTG Harold Moore				SGT VANDERPUTTEN, Michael D.	\$50
CW3 FRAZER, William C.	\$70			IMO 25 Scout Dogs, Vietnam	
				SGT YEVONISHON, John S.	\$20



As of March 2, 2026

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

IaDrang & Foundation are both a tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in accordance with the IRS under section 501(c)(3), Charitable Organizations, Code Section 170.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association in New Orleans  
July 8-12, 2026

Normally we have volunteers from the host Chapter in the state where the reunion is being held, to assist with our activities. Unfortunately there is not a Chapter in Louisiana. Therefore, we are asking for volunteers from within our reunion attendees to help make it another successful reunion. Family members are welcome to volunteer as well! Below are the events and times:

**REGISTRATION DESK:** Hand out packets and tickets.  
Wed-Fri: 0900-1200 / 1300-1500 / 1500-1800

**SILENT AUCTION MONITOR:** Set up tables each morning and secure items at the end of day.  
Times: 15 minutes before registration desk opens and closes

**1CDA HOSPITALITY ROOM:** Police trash from tables, check name badges, ensure things run smoothly.  
Wed-Sat: 0900-1400, 1400-1900, 1900-2400

**BUS MONITOR DETAILS:** Trip to WWII Museum. Track bus boarding & exiting counts.  
Wed: 1200-1800 / Thurs: 0900-1600 (Buses will run continuously).

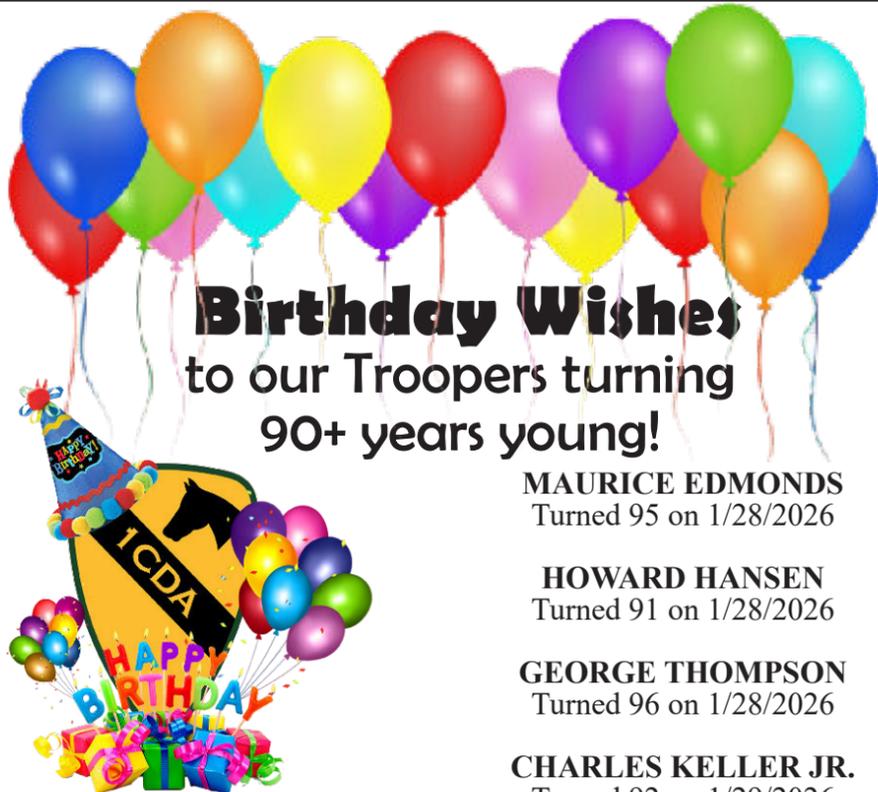
**LEGACY BREAKFAST DETAILS:** Read Long Roll Muster script for each war.  
Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, OIF/OEF. Fri: 0730-0900

**UNIT LUNCHEON DETAILS:** Over see lunch & collect tickets to confirm attendees.  
Needed for 5Cav, 7Cav, 8Cav, 9Cav, 12Cav, Artillery & Engineers Luncheons.  
Fri: 1200-1400

**GIFT SHOP DETAILS:** Ensure customers do not enter with drinks or bags; assist customers as needed.  
Wed-Fri: 0900-1200, 1300-1500, 1500-1800 (3 volunteers needed for each time slot):  
Sat: 0900-1200, 1300-1600 (2 volunteers needed for each time slot)

To sign up for your time slot, contact:  
1SG (Ret) Dara Wydler, Executive Director, 1st Cavalry Division Association,  
Office: 254-547-6537, <firstcav@1cda.org>

Thank you!



## Birthday Wishes to our Troopers turning 90+ years young!

**MAURICE EDMONDS**  
Turned 95 on 1/28/2026

**HOWARD HANSEN**  
Turned 91 on 1/28/2026

**GEORGE THOMPSON**  
Turned 96 on 1/28/2026

**CHARLES KELLER JR.**  
Turned 92 on 1/29/2026

**JOHN CARTWRIGHT**  
Turned 94 on 2/01/2026

**RICHARD MAZZOCCA**  
Turned 91 on 2/02/2026

**DERYL HERREN**  
Turned 95 on 2/06/2026

**MELVIN DRAKE**  
Turned 90 on 2/14/2026

**ROBERT LYNN**  
Turned 93 on 2/22/2026

**ALBERT MEDEIROS**  
Turned 96 on 2/25/2026

**JULIUS MIANECKI**  
Turned 95 on 1/02/2026

**THEODORE COGUT**  
Turned 98 on 1/03/2026

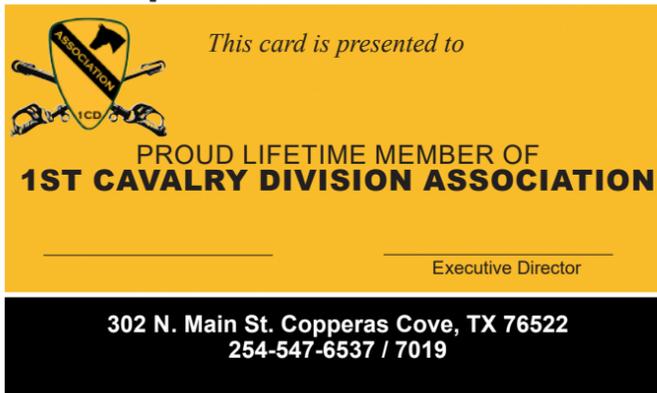
**CARL FJELSTAD**  
Turned 92 on 1/03/2026

**DAVID RILEY**  
Turned 92 on 1/14/2026

**JOSEPH BURKHART**  
Turned 98 on 1/16/2026

**RICHARD JOHNSON**  
Turned 96 on 1/19/2026

## Replacement Membership Cards



We have revamped the Lifetime Membership cards! If you would like to order one, please fill out the order form below. Due to spacing issues, we are going to type in your name as it appears in our database. There is no space for your rank.

The new cards are NOT available for Associate Members, the new cards are only available for our Life Time Members. On the back of the card it says:

1st Cavalry Division Association is a non-political, non-profit 501(c)19 fraternity for Soldiers and Veterans currently serving or have served in 1st Cavalry Division.

The Association is a group of Soldiers and former Soldiers from Private to 4-star Generals who share a bond of service with the FIRST TEAM who are dedicated to supporting the Division and each other.

### 1CDA Membership Cards

Total Due: **\$5.00 each**

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

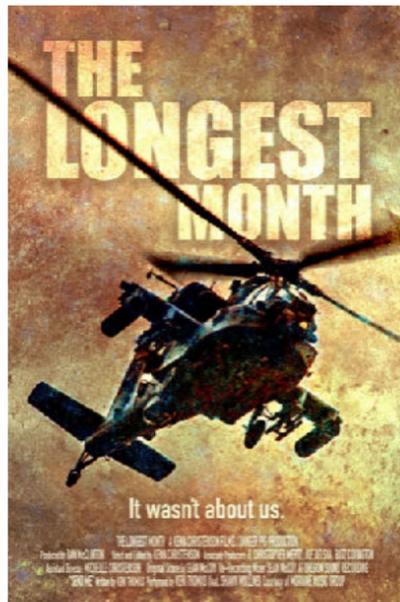
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: 1st Cavalry Division Association  
302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522

## AWARD WINNING DOCUMENTARY: *THE LONGEST MONTH*

*Four hard-hitting stories from the deadliest period in U.S. Army Aviation since Vietnam. Actual footage from the events and interviews of the Soldiers who were there, bring these intense and touching stories of courage and sacrifice to life.*



"The Longest Month" is a documentary film dedicated to telling the story of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade Soldiers that participated in the events during "The Surge" in OIF 06-08.

Some of these interviews took place at the 1CDA Headquarters in 2019.

The Longest Month is an unscripted documentary, covering events that took place in Iraq during February of 2007 at the beginning of what is commonly known as "The Surge."

This documentary examines the actions undertaken by members of the 1st and 4th Battalions, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry

Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, as described by the Soldiers involved in these events. More helicopters were shot down in Iraq during this time period than any time since the Vietnam War.

The Longest Month chronicles four events that exemplify the challenges faced by these individuals to not only complete their missions but survive the unprecedented 15-month deployment.

Produced by: Dan McClinton and Directed and Edited by: Kenn Christenson

If you wish to read the story behind this documentary:

<<https://www.hollywoodintoto.com/longest-month-movie-us-veterans/>>

### 1ST AIR CAV BRIGADE DOCUMENTARY THE LONGEST MONTH

**\$26** ALSO AVAILABLE ON  
DVD & BLU RAY

131-minutes: includes promotional trailers & additional scenes

CIRCLE DVD or Blu Ray Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Form of Payment:

Cash  Check Enclosed  Credit Card (Service Charges Apply)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV on back: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: 1st Cavalry Division Association  
302 N. Main St.  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

**SHIPPING  
IS FREE**