



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



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THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

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



Greetings Troopers,
It’s a great day to
be a Cav Trooper.
I’m packing my bags
this week to travel to
Washington DC for

the Veterans Day events at the Memorials and I am honored to be representing each of you at the wreath laying ceremonies.

Since our last *Saber*, I spoke with SP4 Fred Taylor from C Co, 2/8 Cav in Vietnam who was inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame in 2016. He has also received the Florida Governor’s Medal of Merit. Fred is a three-time recipient of the Purple Heart and has continued to serve as a Veteran’s Advocate. We had a great talk, and I truly enjoyed our conversation.

I also heard from Bob Meyer, who served in 5/8 Cav during the Korean War and now lives in San Fran, California. Bob let me know that he is still going strong supporting Veteran programs and underprivileged children through the USMC Toys for Tots and other programs. Bob is also a wine connoisseur and, in the past, has created his own label for special occasions. He is hoping to attend our reunion in New Orleans next summer and I hope I have the honor of meeting him in person. It was another great conversation that reminded me of how great our Veterans are.

I also spoke with Steve Richey who is our scribe for the ENGINEER news. Steve and I spoke about the new 1st Cavalry Division Association chapter that he, Matt Rico and others are forming in Temecula, California. They met for the first time in mid-October and are starting the process to become a formal chapter. It’s great to hear that a new group of Cav Troopers is meeting to share memories. Steve and I also discussed something that I want to share here – our *Saber* Articles are all simply memories of those who take the time to reach out to our scribes – who are all volunteers. We don’t expect our scribes to fact-check anyone’s recall and if in some cases the memories are not exact or complete, then I just ask everyone to have the grace to understand that we are not intentionally misrepresenting history.

I was on Cooper Field on Halloween for the retirement of General Jim Rainey who served in the Cav three times and commanded the 2/7 Cav in Iraq for the battle of Najaf and the Second Battle of Fallujah. Jim spent the majority of the last twenty years deployed to either Iraq or Afghanistan. One of our greatest 21st Century Warriors hung up his spurs last Friday. There were five former Division Commanders present including GEN (Ret) Dave McKiernan who was the commander for two years while I was in the Cav, and LTG (Ret) Tony Ierardi who was the 1/7 Cav Commander and Division G3 while I was there. Both men were great leaders and mentors to me, and it was great to see them again.

Also present was our very own Horse Cavalry Detachment. I know they have their own column in the *Saber* but couldn’t help but add this great picture of their Commander on Cooper Field on an absolutely perfect day.

We still have not received official word that the Detachment is remaining in the Army (see my earlier articles for more info on that) but it was recently stated to me that ‘the results are expected to be favorable.’ Thanks again to everyone who wrote to your Congressional Representatives supporting the HCD.

I’ll end with a plug for our next Reunion in New Orleans from 8-12 July 2026. Please plan to attend and bring another Cav Trooper with you. This is the best way to grow our association – especially Desert Shield/Desert Storm and OIF/OEF Veterans who need to step up and join in order to keep our Association successful.

Bring your Battle Buddy – old or new!
First Team, Rosey Carter



HORSE DETACHMENT by CPT Megan T. Korpiel, Commander

Happy Fall y’all! With the new season and weather coming in we look back on an eventful last two months. We celebrated the Epic 101st birthday of the 1st Cavalry Division last month, where the Detachment was honored to close out the celebration with a rousing Cavalry Charge. We also honored our nation’s Colors with a mounted color guard at the Central Texas State Fair and Rodeo.

The Detachment is busy preparing the Horses and Troopers for their winter schedule. Troopers studied and practiced for tests to promote them to the next riding level. 10 Soldiers took the “B” Group exam, of which three ultimately earned their Spurs. These Soldiers prepared for months to meet the Detachment’s extremely rigorous standards.

Our upcoming appearances include a mounted color guard at Tarleton State College on November 15th. We will also participate in the Killeen Christmas Parade this December.

To kick off our winter schedule we will travel to California to march in the annual Rose Bowl Parade. We are extremely honored to represent the Detachment, First Cavalry Division and U.S. Army at events both in the great state of Texas and across the country. We hope to see you all soon!

The Horse Cavalry Detachment is fully open to the public! Please come visit us at our barn for a barn tour or our Thursday 1000 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.

Check us out on Facebook (1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment) where we post pictures from the barn and strive to keep everyone informed of upcoming events and ceremonies.

HOT TO TROT!

THE DIRECTOR’S CHAIR

Dara C. Wydler
302 N. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703
(254) 547-6537
FirstCav@1CDA.org



deeply admire the strength and resilience you’ve shown, both in uniform and everyday life. You’ve not only served your country, but you continue to inspire everyone around you. Knowing the sacrifices you’ve made gives Veterans Day a deeper meaning. I’m honored to share this day with all of you.

Soon many of us will make our way down to Washington, D.C. for our annual gathering. Even though the government is shut down, several events we participate in will still be taking place. There may not be a formal ceremony at the Vietnam Wall, but our First Team Veterans will still be there to pay tribute. The Veterans Day National Parade is still a go; this year we have doubled the number marching (make that casual walking).

The calendar will be pushed out in the mail mid-November. Please take the time to read the letter from your Association President, Rosey Carter. Due to the rising cost of postage and printing, we are no longer offering the calendar for free starting in 2027. You will have to subscribe to the calendar just like you do for the *Saber*. The subscription cost will be \$10. You will also find your reunion registration in the calendar packet.

The 2026 Reunion is shaping up quickly and we are already receiving registration forms in the mail. If you are planning to make this reunion a family vacation, please visit our website (1cda.org) for more information. There is a group tour option that will give you a discount for attending the reunion. I have also provided the link for the WWII Museum and the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau. A short drive away in Jefferson Parish, you can go on a swamp tour. Be sure to grab a glass of Swamp Juice before you head to see the gators. I have also provided a link for that tour on our website. Just some ideas to fill your time and make new memories.

On behalf of myself and the staff here in Copperas Cove, I am sending out a heartfelt thank you to all our members and their loved ones for the continued support of the association. May your holidays sparkle with moments of love, laughter, and goodwill, and may the year ahead be full of contentment and joy. Happy Holidays!

Stay safe and healthy; looking forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans in 2026.

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ADDRESS
CHANGE

Don't Keep it a SECRET, Let us Know About It.
To submit by e-mail, send to 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: _____

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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

Feb 21, 2026 Board of Governors Meeting, hybrid

July 8-12, 2026 78th Annual 1CDA Reunion, New Orleans

SABER RENEWAL / DONATION FORM

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CONSIDER DONATING TODAY**

SABER

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302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703
Phone: (254) 547-6537

Website: <http://www.1CDA.org>
www.facebook.com/AlumnioftheFirstTeam

Dara C. Wydler: Executive Director, firstcav@1CDA.org
Tina Wilgeroth: Program Director / *Saber* Editor / Graphics
Programs@1CDA.org

Karleen Maloney: Memberships / Scholarships / Chapter Director
Memberships@1CDA.org

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Original, clear copies, typed or printed are accepted via
e-mail at 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:

This scholarship is such a blessing! I am planning to go to optometry school after my undergrad so needless to say I will be paying a lot for school over the next couple of years. This scholarship is taking a burden off of me and my family's shoulders and makes my father proud to have served in the 1st Calvary!

All the best, Andrew Bowen



What the Ia Drang Scholarship Means to Me.

This scholarship means so much to me because of what my grandfather, Patrick Selleck, endured during the Vietnam War. As I grew up, he told me stories about his time in Vietnam. This past Memorial Day, my grandfather spoke at his hometown's Memorial Day Remembrance Service. The stories he shared during that service helped me begin to fully understand what he went through and how he served our country so bravely and supported others in his company.

Being awarded this scholarship has assisted me and my family to fund my education at James Madison University where I will be working towards a degree in nursing as a member of the Class of 2029. Upon completion of my degree, I hope to serve others just as my grandfather did as a member of the 1st Calvary Division. Thank you for providing me this opportunity and for supporting my education at James Madison University.

Daniel Duker

Dear 1st Cavalry Division Association,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for awarding my son, Fredwin Holomon II, the Foundation Scholarship. Your generous support will play a vital role in helping him pursue his B.S. at the University of Houston. This scholarship not only eases financial challenges but also serves as a powerful tribute to the legacy of the 1st Cavalry Division. Thank you again for your generosity and for making such a meaningful impact on our family.

Sincerely, Fredwin R. Holomon

Receiving this grant holds great significance for me. It not only relieves the financial stress of pursuing my education, but it also reminds me that my father's service and sacrifice as a Veteran are recognized and honored. Growing up, I watched his strength and perseverance in the face of the challenges he faced, and that has been one of my greatest sources of inspiration.

This support enables me to focus fully on my studies and future goals, while also upholding the values of dedication and resilience that my dad has instilled in me. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity—it is more than financial help; it is a reminder that I am not alone in this journey. This grant gives me both hope and encouragement, and I will do my best to make the most of it in honor of my father's service.

Sophis Rosin



I would like to thank the 1st Cavalry Division Association for offering me this scholarship grant. Learning I was a recipient, brought me and my family so much joy. Currently I am attending Montclair State University and this helps me get closer to earning my degree in Advertising. It is my dream to work in the promotion and public relations field for film studios and major streaming companies such as Netflix. Now I will work harder than ever to make that goal into a reality and this gift is a great helping hand.

Overall, this gift is greatly appreciated and I look forward to my next path in life thanks to the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

Ella Swift

Trooper's Tale



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

Send your stories to Programs@1CDA.org

Here is my story and personal recollections of what happened on May 24th 1970 at a place later called Medevac Meadows. I thought it appropriate sine Medevac crew members became Congressional Gold Medal Recipients in September of 2024. Thank you,

SGT Patrick L. Martin 15MED 1969, C Co, 2-8 Cav 1971

Last Man Standing

INTRODUCTION

It was July 15th, my daughter's birthday, when the past came crashing back into the present. The email was from Terry McCarl, historian for the 15th Medical Battalion. His message was simple but shattering: *Lee Caubarraux has passed.* Lee, my co-pilot, my brother-in-arms was gone. Just like that.

We had flown together into what became known, with grim irony, as Medevac Meadows, a name born from the wreckage of multiple downed aircraft and two harrowing days of survival and sacrifice. The Air Force gave it an even starker title: *The Battle of Medevac Meadows—BOMM*. A battle not waged for territory, but for life itself.

Terry's final words in the email were like a thunderclap in my chest: *"You're the last man standing."*

For over half a century, the events of May 24th and 25th, 1970 have replayed in my mind like an endless reel. I relive those moments daily, sometimes two, three, even five times a day. The smoke. The screams. The silence that followed. I remember everything.

Jim Mitchell, the medic on the bird that finally managed to pull the rest of the crew out on May 25th—everyone but me—once told me, *"Pat, you've got to tell the final story. You're the only one left who knows what really happened on that ground."* He was right. The other accounts, well-intentioned though they may be, could only scrape the surface. None of them captured the raw truth of what we endured while pinned down on that blood-soaked field.

The crew of aircraft UH1-6915121: Aircraft Commander – Steve Modica, Copilot – Lee Caubarraux, Crew Chief – Patrick Martin, Door Gunner – Gary Taylor, Medic – Terry Burdette, MACV Team 162 Medic – Richard Rocco

We were supported by Fire Support Base (FSB) Oklahoma from almost 10 miles away with artillery. The aerial support came from MACV Red Marker Forward Observer (FO) aircraft, OV1s and OV2s who had F100s from Bien Hoa on standby. The F100s were dropping 500-pound snake and nape bombs, being that we were inside their kill zone. FSB Oklahoma were firing 175mm and 8" rounds sometimes two in the air at one time and again within their kill zone.

As an observer to the incident Steve and Richard shared their versions, but they couldn't have seen what I saw. Steve was at the controls, facing forward into chaos. Richard was manning the left cargo door, eyes scanning outward. Only Gary had the vantage, 270 degrees of hell unfolding around us. And Gary, Gary died within moments of impact.

This leaves me to tell my version of the story.

I am the last witness to the full scope of what happened inside that aircraft from the instant our skids touched the earth to the moment we were torn from the sky. My story should have been captured by the Army long ago. But it wasn't. And because of that failure—because of silence and oversight—choices were made in the aftermath that inflicted deep, lasting wounds on some of the crew. Wounds that never should have happened. But now, as the last man standing, I will speak. I will tell you what really happened at Medevac Meadows. And I will not let the truth die with me.

KATUM

How I got to this point isn't just a story, it's a chain reaction of fate, fueled by war, sweat, and the cruel irony that often accompanies survival. May 1st, 1970. The Cambodian Incursion had just ignited, and I was stationed at Song Be with my assigned aircraft, tail number 491. She was a good bird until she wasn't. Mid-mission, while evacuating wounded ARVN soldiers, the old girl started losing power. Orders came fast: return her to Phuoc Vinh, flush the engine, get her breathing right again. I saw this as my golden ticket, a brief break, maybe a cold beer or two at our makeshift pub. But war doesn't pause for beer dreams.

We touched down, barely had time to shut her down, and a ¾-ton truck pulled up like the devil himself was driving. It stripped the aircraft bare of gear, except mine and Terry's. Odd. I kept busy with my crew chief checks until the truck returned, scooped up our gear, and headed toward another bird parked just behind us. That's when the alarms started blaring in my head.

I climbed down from the rotor head and marched over, demanding answers. The reply? There were not enough Crew Chiefs was what I was told. "You're taking over this aircraft, 121. Yours is getting fixed. You're headed back to Katum." Just like that, my break evaporated. Turns out, 121's crew had just returned to maintenance when its crew chief decided he'd had enough, no reasons, no warnings, just gone. And there I was, walking right into the breach at exactly

Continued to pg. 5

TROOPER'S TALE COLUMN

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

Please consider sharing yours!

Send to Programs@1CDA.org

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

OIF / OEF VETERAN 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion News

SSG Brandy Harvest
HHC 1BSTB, 2007-2009
Luckybme04@yahoo.com

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



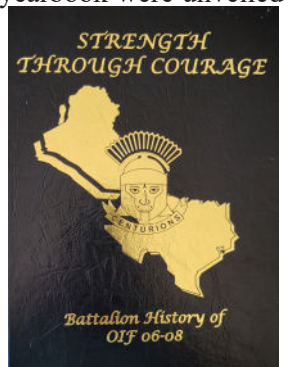
This column is a collection of stories submitted from 1BSTB Soldiers that served during OIF / OEF.

On July 28, 2007, at Camp Taji, Iraq, the temperature had reached 140 degrees Fahrenheit. At night the temperature dropped to a low of 103 degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature stayed at this constant range for nearly two weeks.



The Centurion Battalion celebrated its 2nd birthday at the Ministry Center in Camp Taji. Those in attendance were the 1st Brigade Commander Colonel Paul E. Funk II, 1 BSTB Battalion Commander Michael A. Dillard, Command Sergeant Major Robert Green, and all Centurion Soldiers not on a mission. During the ceremony the Battalion prayer and history yearbook were unveiled by Chaplain Thomas E. Collier. Those that were sent home under any circumstance were remembered. The diligence, courage, and commitment of 38 Centurion Soldiers were also recognized with awards, combat patches, and coins. For one new Soldier it was a hands-on event. With the ceremonial sword in hand, PFC Kellogg assisted with the cutting of the birthday cake.

"The miracle, or the power, that elevates the few is to be found in their industry, application, and perseverance under the promptings of a brave, determined spirit." - Mark Twain



VIETNAM DONUT DOLLIES

**nominated for the Civilian U. S. Award,
The Congressional Gold Medal HR 2081,**

Submitted by:

Joyce Rice Denke, Donut Dollie, VN 70-71.

**THEY WERE THERE FOR US IN VIETNAM,
NOW LET'S HELP THEM**

627 brave young women served in the American Red Cross from 1965 to 1972 in twenty-seven different units from the Vietnam Delta to the DMZ. Like the dedicated nurses in Vietnam who tended to physical wounds, these women tended to emotional wounds like depression, constant fear, suicidal tendencies, hopelessness, homesickness and loneliness.

The Vietnam Red Cross Donut Dollies didn't serve donuts and coffee like their namesake Red Cross Workers did in World War II, but the nickname stuck. Instead, they operated a two-fold program in Vietnam with recreation centers in the rear areas and a mobile operation out to the firebases. These women traveled in pairs to remote firebases to put on competitive programs. It was being engaged in those programs where the men suddenly found themselves back home with their mother, girlfriend, or sister. For the short time the Donut Dollies were there, their OD green world suddenly turned blue like the bright blue uniforms these women wore. The Donut Dollies paved the way for future women to go to forward areas.

These girls were exposed to some of the same harsh living conditions as the Troops and those stupid malaria pills and SOS as the Troops. They dawned the helmets and flak jackets in the rear areas on red alerts and occasionally on a firebase. One Red Cross woman was shot in the thigh by incoming to a helicopter. Three others died from non-combat causes.

The Vietnam Veterans of America, the National Military Women's Memorial, the American National Red Cross, and other distinct Veterans have endorsed this



Donut Dollies Joyce Rice Denke, standing on far right

House Resolution 2081. Imagine the brave Vietnam Veteran nurses and fighting Soldiers endorsing this resolution for a civilian. There are award winning documentaries available to learn more about the Donut Dollies: *The Donut Dollies*, *627 Who Also Served* and *A Touch of Home, the Story of the Vietnam Donut Dollies*.

This bill needs to be CO-SPONSORED by 290 of our congressman. Please contact your congressman today and ask them to Co-Sponsor HR 2081. What a great welcome home and long overdue recognition this would be for the dedicated Donut Dollies!

We are in need of legislative co-sponsors of this resolution and are in hopes some of your members might be motivated by this article to write their U. S. Congressman.

Thank you.

LRRP/Ranger News



Pete Dencker
234 Sontag Dr
Franklin, TN 37064
615-202-4804
pdencker@outlook.com



Knowing this issue will arrive in December most likely prior to Christmas week – I wanted to take a second to wish everyone and their families a Merry and Blessed Christmas holiday. Most of the friends and family, probably can't appreciate Christmas like those of us who were lucky enough to spend Christmas in a war zone away from family, and all the usual celebrations and trappings that are so much part of the season. So to that group - a special Thank You and Merry Christmas!

I wanted to start this article off by honoring one of our fallen. Once again I could find little information about Daniel – but Jim Regan came through when I asked the group a few weeks back. He was with the QRF that responded to the contact when Daniel was KIA.

Daniel Raymond Arnold was born on 22 April 1948. According to records, Florida was his home or enlistment state and Polk County has been included within the archival record. We have Frostproof listed as his city of birth. Daniel Raymond Arnold is buried or memorialized at Riverside Cemetery, Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia. Daniel is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC. Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 25w, Line 93.

From Bruce Brittain – a high school friend who was thinking of Daniel, "I called Danny's, mother, today, Ms. Barnes. She still lives, on Nesbit Ave., El Paso, TX., in the home, Danny grew up in. I sent her a copy of the rubbing of Danny's name, from the wall and a picture. She mentioned that she ran into Mr. Brown, the former Principal of Andress High School.

I also sent her this short note. "It was nice to talk to you today, about my grade-school-friend and your son, Danny. Everyone liked Danny. He had a warm personality, that endeared others, to him. He always defended the underdog. I mentioned that when Danny, was learning to type, my mother, Mary Brittain, helped him with some of his assignments.

At that time, you expressed your gratitude to my mother for her help. I see where Danny got his kind heart. I have thought of Danny many times. You are a strong woman and have had to endure a difficult trial. Be of good cheer, for there is life after this. Our Heavenly Father, will bless Danny, for all his goodness."

Sep 4, 2007, RIP Brother

Thanks again Jim for sharing your story of Daniel!

It was a usual day in the Company AO, about Mid-May '69, Rangers doing what they do when they are not in the bush. The call came out of our TOC, "WE GOT A TEAM IN CONTACT!" The energies and adrenaline pumped as we all did our "magic" to recover the Team. They had made contact with a Company size unit of NVA. Grabbed my gear and PRC 77, jumped on the Mule, and headed for the revetments where my "Calvary Horse" a Slick from Charlie 1/9 Cav was already cranking. Gunships had already been "bounced" for the Team. Cobras from 1/9th Cav and 2/20th ARA (Blue Max).

Response from those folks was never a problem or question. All they needed from us was a call and they hauled ass to the Team's AO to support. Tube Artillery was cranking. The remainder of the Company prepared for the worst and prayed for the best. Rangers grabbed their gear, which was always ready. Web gear, flack jackets, steel helmets with chin strap down. Everything that they would need if inserted into the "beehive." As I flew to the Team, it was a First Platoon Team, I monitored the radio, they already knew that I was in the air and how many minutes out from the PZ. The CO did his usual on the radio. "Watch your security, semi-automatic fire, keep me posted!" Capt "P" had a way that calmed down folks even in the most trying times, "COMBAT!"

Well the RTO reports that the PZ is "Hot" and they just suffered a KIA (Danny Arnold). The five-man Team is down to four. As we approach the PZ we can see the Cobras and LOHs making their gun runs and it's a horrendous site. Miniguns and 2.75 rockets tearing up the area. Another call from the RTO, "we have two WIAs." Wow! These guys are hurtin'! Smoke is popped and we slam into the PZ. I had told the Crew Chief to keep the Door Gunner under control so we don't fire up the Team. It was a small PZ but seemed as big as a football field. We could see the green tracers, could see the muzzle flashes from the Mike 16s, AK 47s, hear the steady thunk of the "Chunker," and saw what I thought to be B-40 Rockets slamming into the area around the Team. I unassed the bird and beat feet towards the Team.

As I approach the TL, I throw my claymore bag with M-16 Mags. Always carried about twenty extra. "Where's the Line 1?" I hollered. TL pointed to his right, towards the tree line. The guy with the Chunker turns and I throw a claymore bag full of "HE" at him. I'm really "pumped" and as I streak toward the body I see the ATL, Blanchard. He is lifting an extended LAW to his shoulder. I'm running about a hundred miles an hour and am right behind him as he squeezes down on the trigger mechanism. He sees the motion behind him; I turn my head away and wait for the backblast to blow my head off!! Nothing happens! IT'S A DUD, A MISFIRE!

Blanchard throws the LAW at the bad guys. I reach the dead Ranger and flop down. No question he's gone. Let's go Regan, get your stuff in gear and get out of here. I try to pick him up so that I can hump him over my shoulder. No go, he's not so big but he's "Dead weight." So I laid down with my butt into his stomach, grabbed as much of his web gear and fatigues as I could and rolled over on my knees. Up and running for the Bird! The Team is still putting out suppressive fires and moving toward the bird. The wounded Rangers are doing OK and able to move on their own.

Now comes the hard part. The terrain is much like that of the Florida swamp area. Humps of grass, so that you can't really put your feet down solidly. It seems

as if everything is in slow motion. I no longer hear the firing of the weapons. All I hear is the steady beat of the rotor blades. They seem to be a hundred miles away. Approaching the Slick, I wonder if I'll have the strength to finish the run.

The Team has reached the Bird and are on board. As I near the Bird, the Door Gunner suddenly decides that he wants to get into the act. His M-60 is scaring the daylight out of me. He's firing directly over me and all I can think of is, "oh no, they're right behind me and I aint going to make it!" I know in my heart that the bad guys are going to get me or the Door Gunner is going to "stitch" me with 7.62 rounds! I do a low crawl for the last yard or so.

Hands reach out and grab my burden and haul me into the Slick as it lifts off from the PZ. The Team and the Door gunners are "coming out "HOT" and expend about a million rounds into the AO. As I sit there with the Line 1 head in my lap I think, "Man, I can't even remember this guy's name!" Blanchard is having a "Hissy Fit" about me and the close call with the LAW. He settles down and they start to look after the wounded Rangers. Only "Te Te" stuff. Nothing now but the routine Radio Calls to Slashing Talon 65 that we were out and on our way home.

Crew Chief breaks out the cigarettes and we chill. Before we land I remember, this is Dan Arnold. Don't know much about him, I forget where he was from. He was a quiet, solid Ranger. I never got close to anyone during my tours in the 'Nam. Sometimes I think I should have done better and spent time chit chatting with the Soldiers. That just wasn't my deal. I may be bad on names but I remember lots of faces.

I daydream now and then and recall mostly the good times we had, like stealing Latrines from the civilian engineers, and stuff from Bien Hoa, (requisitioning), and watching LURP the dog "bait" other dogs, and keep the rats under control, flying to Vung Tau to get a Ranger out of the Hoosegow. That's another TALE!

I try to remember all the funny stuff, like running around the base road with the Ranger Trainees and terrorizing them. Hearing LURP the dog tearing thru mosquito nets in the billets at night chasing rats as big as cats. Then the scary stuff creeps into my mind. I'll never know how I survived. Yes I do know, it was because I was serving with the best Infantry outfit in Vietnam. Rangers who led the way.

Thanks, Jim - until next time – Hope your holidays are blessed!

RLTW

"For those who've fought for it – life has a flavor the protected will never know"

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

WANTED:

SGT J.D. STARRETT, KIA, BINH THUY PROVINCE, D/1-5 CAV, 1970

I would like to contact (or be contacted by) any member of D Co, 1st Bn, 5th Cav Reg, 1st Cav Div who was deployed in Binh Thuy Province Vietnam circa October 1970. I am specifically searching for info on SGT J.D. Starrett, KIA, Binh Thuy Province, 04 Oct 1970.

James Sutocky, (916) 233-9670 <jsutocky@yahoo.com>

JERRY HUCKABAY, C/1-7 CAV, 1967-68

My father, Jerry Huckabay, served with the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam from May 3rd, 1967, until April 23rd, 1968. I am hoping someone who served with my father in C/1-7 will recognize his name and will be able to help me trace his time in Vietnam and possibly the Army. I have his Army personnel records but they have very limited information. Just looking for a little help if possible. Thanks, and I look forward to hearing from you. Have a great day.

Nolan Huckabay, 806-622-8430

8th ENG SFC (RET) ROBERT DODSON

I am Bob Dodson and I am hoping to reconnect with any of my battle buddies I served with along the way, especially when I was with the 8th Engineers in 1965.

I enlisted in the Army in July 1954 and completed my basic training at Fort Ord, California. Following this, I was stationed with the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell. In March 1955, I successfully graduated from jump school and was subsequently assigned to an airborne test platoon. 1956 I was deployed to Germany where I served in A Company, 127th Airborne Engineers. Upon my return in 1959, I rejoined the 82nd Airborne, specifically A Company 307 Engineers. In 1961, I was assigned to the 82nd Division Repelling Team. The Air Assault concept was initiated in 1962, and by December 1963, I was assigned to the 11th Air Assault Division. In 1965, I was deployed to Vietnam, and in 1966, I served as an instructor at the Engineer Department of Ft. Benning Infantry School. I returned to Vietnam in July 1969 and in 1970 resumed my instructional role at Ft. Benning School for the Engineering Department. I concluded my military service and retired from the Army on February 28, 1975.

If our paths crossed, please call me. I'd like to reconnect. Thank you.

Robert W. Dodson, Former Follow Me Chapter president, (334) 298-5852

LOOKING FOR A LONG LOST BATTLE BUDDY?

If you have been searching for someone that you served with within 1st Cav, try posting it here.

Submit requests to
<Programs@1CDA.org> for the next Saber!





5th CAV News

Harold P. "Doc" Truitt

4584 50th St W

Rosamond, CA 93560

661-810-5971

rr3-6bandaid@antelecom.net



Writing this column for the *Saber*, along with my involvement with the U.S. 5th Cavalry Association has, over the years been an honor and privilege. It is so even though it is a job not hard to get. Willingness to do the job being the only absolute requirement, but that in itself will bring a fellow into contact with a large number of people who have been with the regiment or have an interest or business to conduct with us. Doing this has allowed me a much closer acquaintance with many, who I might have met otherwise but would have had neither the need nor opportunity to know fairly well. Knowing these people is a treasure!

One such person who it was my distinct pleasure to know, was Terry Skipper. This man, and his fellow 1st Cavalry Division mates were in the first major campaign of the Cav in Vietnam, when they went into the Ia Drang Valley. That effort and those that followed were added to our history and gave the Cav a mystique, well-deserved reputation of extreme combat efficiency. That reputation began to be evident to me from the day I received my first set of ill-fitting fatigues and that first haircut, that seemed so close it wouldn't be a five o'clock shadow for several days. In every one of the various cadres, whether merely collecting and moving recruits, or actually training them, it seemed those big yellow patches on the left arm of some would show up. Of course the new guys were soaking this stuff up as fast as we could and it became clear very soon that patch and unit was not to be trifled with. Terrance Arden Skipper was such a Soldier.

Terry stayed in the Army following Vietnam and retired as a First Sergeant. I got acquainted with him after joining the 5th Cav Association about 2006 or thereabouts. He stayed involved in the business of the association in one way or another up until he departed for Fiddlers Green October 17, 2025. His outlook on life and sense of humor placed him squarely in the group I was more or less in awe of in those early days in the Army.

I have always lived my life taking challenges as they came up and rarely feared anything as it came along, as we really get little choice in such things and undue concern only gets in the way, but I will admit to a bit of a thrill when I got orders to the 1st Cavalry Division, largely reflecting on the early things I heard. They were true and I am proud to say I became a part of it. Men like Terry Skipper were folks I respected and looked up to. I will miss him very much. Below is Terry's obituary:

1SG (RET) Terrance Arden Skipper, 2/5 D Co 1st Cavalry Division was a dedicated Soldier and esteemed member of the United States Army. He passed away at home on October 17, 2025, at the age of 85. Born on December 8, 1939, Terrance devoted his life to military service. He was the proud recipient of several distinguished awards, including the Air Medal, Expert Infantryman Badge & Combat Infantryman Badge [MCIB], Meritorious Service Medal, VSM w/2 Bronze Service Stars, VSM w/1 Silver Service Star, RVN Gallantry Cross w/ Palms, Good Conduct Medal [six awards], Four Overseas Bars, and Five Service Stripes all reflecting his courage and commitment to his country. He remained a member of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, the US 5th Cavalry Association and a lifetime member of the VFW.

Terrance was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 64 years Elisabeth Baur Skipper of Eselsburg Germany, his father Arden Weaver Skipper, his mother Pauline Mayle Skipper both of Oakland and his sister Sandra Glass of Gaithersburg MD.

Terrance is survived by his cherished family, including son Michael Skipper, daughter Susane Harrison, son-in-law Richard Harrison, grandson Jadon Harrison and his brother Gary Lynn Skipper along with many nephews and nieces. His legacy of service and dedication to family will be remembered by all who knew him.

A burial service was held in Oakland, MD, where friends and family gathered to honor his memory and celebrate his life. Terrance's contributions to his country and his unwavering love for his family will be cherished forever.

I want to thank not only my 5th Cav mates of all generations as well as all those of the Division for the way you support the reputation and dignity of our unit. Thanks also for reading this column and tolerating the efforts of us all to represent the Division in print.

Contact the scribe above to share your 5th Cav stories!
If you were ever a part of 5th CAV, make sure you're a member of their Association
<www.5thCav.org>
SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!

TROOPER'S TALE

Continued from pg. 3

the wrong time. They needed a replacement. I was it. That's how I became the reluctant guardian of 121.

She was fresh, only 30 hours on her frame. Still had that new-aircraft smell, and the crash kit hadn't been gutted yet. That survival axe inside? Special Forces would trade you an AK for one. They were gold. And now, it was mine. Just like that, I was airborne again, trading power, trading peace for the jungle hell of Katum.

On May 24th, we were making our way back from Phuoc Vinh to Katum after dropping off my daily logs to maintenance. Routine stuff, but there was nothing routine about May 24th, in 1970. Along for the ride was Richard Rocco, MACV medical advisor with Team 162, the Redhats. Richard flew with us so often we joked he should earn frequent flyer miles. He rode shotgun more times than I could count, using the flights to fetch PX supplies, especially beer. Two to three cases was the norm. I even wired a headset into his seat so he could monitor our comms. On this flight, he perched to my right, on a wooden ammo box, as always. Then the call came in. Wounded South Vietnamese paratroopers, 3rd Brigade caught in the nightmare depths of Cambodia's Fishhook region. Intelligence had pointed them to an enemy bunker complex, but instead, they found hell. Richard's ears perked up, those were *his* guys. Without missing a beat, he asked if he could go with us to help Terry, our medic. I had no problem, but Steve, our Aircraft Commander, had final say. He gave the green light.

We were just a few miles from Katum. We dropped gear, prepped Richard with a chicken plate scrounged from under our seats and offloaded everything we didn't need. Yes, even the beer. Two Cobra gunships from B Company's Blue Max unit thundered in from Quan Loi to escort us. The jungle swallowed us soon after. The LZ was a ghost of a landing strip, overgrown with buffalo grass and surrounded on both sides by dense jungle. We came in from the southwest, guided by two MACV advisors embedded with the South Vietnamese Airborne Brigade forces. Tension crackled in the air like a live wire. We were surrounded by a recent firefight's echo. Richard knelt beside me, M16 clenched, eyes scanning. Terry mirrored him across the cabin. Gary and I manned the M60s, ready for whatever the jungle might spit out at us. In that moment, as the rotors perform the distinct sound of wop wop wop, we weren't just Soldiers or medics or advisors. We were in their last line of evacuation.

MAYDAY. MAYDAY.

We were nearly down less than a foot from the earth when it all went to hell. Steve lost control. The bird slammed into the ground with a gut-wrenching force, the kind of impact that screams damage before you even look. I barely had time to curse the landing before my eyes caught Lee, seizing the controls from Steve, eyes wide with urgency. That's when the master control panel lit up like a damned Christmas tree. In that blinding instant, it hit me, we were under fire. The world exploded into chaos.

I whipped around, grabbed the M60, and unleashed hell into the tree line. Beside me, Richard was already firing. Bullets shredded the air. From both sides, a merciless crossfire hammered us, Terry and Gary to our right, Richard and I to the left. Those giant red crosses on our Medevac weren't just symbols of mercy, they were targets, bold and bright.

Lee grabbed the controls, pulled pitch with the turbine screaming, the aircraft rocketed upward like it was clawing for safety, but we weren't getting out of this one. At thirty feet, the rotor blades sliced into the tail boom, metal on metal and the tail nearly tore free. The fight for survival gave way to sheer instinct. We spun, a screaming spiral of doom, then crashed hard onto our right side. In an instant, Gary was gone; crushed, killed without a chance.

The right side ignited. Flames danced across the wreckage. Terry, thrown into the fire, was struck by the hoist as it tore loose and smashed his jaw, trapped, burning. Lee was crumpled against the door, Steve slumped over the console, trying to get a Mayday out. Richard and I were a tangle of intercom cords and litter poles. The bird had come down at a 45-degree angle, slamming me against the transmission bulkhead.

Time blurred. Somehow, Richard and I freed ourselves after we crashed. He dove low, back into the inferno, pulling bodies, Terry, Lee, Steve, dragging them from death. I went high, ripped the M60 from its mount. Climbed onto the side of the burning wreck, I fired into the tree line, desperate to buy Richard seconds. Seconds were everything.

Then, salvation streaked in, a Blue Max AH-1G Cobra gunship appearing over my right shoulder, maybe 25 feet above. It unleashed everything it had. I later heard they took 29 hits, blew out the canopy, and kept firing until another Blue Max Cobra relieved them.

I didn't last long. A .51 cal round slammed into my chicken plate, blowing me clean off the aircraft. My upper back lit up like it had been hit by a shotgun loaded with birdshot. I hit the ground and blacked out. That chicken plate that I had such a love/hate relationship with just saved my life.

When I came to several hours later, I learned there had been multiple rescue attempts while I was out, each one failed. Two more Medevac birds were lost, abandoned in that cursed field. Miraculously, their crew survived, extracted before fate could finish the job. And so, it was the battlefield that would be remembered not for its geography, but for its sacrifice. They called it *The Battle of Medevac Meadows*.

THE GATES OF HELL

It doesn't matter how you frame it, how you spin it, or how you try to soften the edges this memory always bleeds the same: pure, unfiltered terror. The kind that makes your boots tremble. The kind that punches through your chest and hollows you out. I was scared, scared as hell. I would've cried if I thought it would do any good, who was left to care?

When I came to, the world was swallowed in black. Not just dark, pitch dark, dead silent and still. An eerie, unnatural silence that pressed on my ears like the jungle itself was holding its breath. As I lay there trying to piece together what had happened, what was real and what wasn't, I looked up through the jungle canopy and saw a sky full of stars, millions of them. For a fleeting moment, just a heartbeat in time, it reminded me of home, of camping under the stars as a Boy Scout. But the warmth of that memory faded fast. I had no clue where I was. No clue where friend or foe might be lurking. All I knew was this: I was alone, weaponless, and neck-deep in danger. Up shit creek without a paddle and my back was screaming in agony and to make matters worse I apparently woke up right during the enemies second try at over running us.

While my mind was scrambling to collect the scattered marbles of consciousness, the silence shattered: thump... thump. Mortars. Then, seconds later—pop, pop—flares burst overhead, igniting the jungle in an eerie, pulsating yellow glow. Limbs and leaves stretched like ghostly fingers. The darkness turned into something alive, something hostile. And then... all hell broke loose.

What followed was a nightmare stitched into reality, something no words can truly capture. The jungle exploded with gunfire. Tracer rounds raked the forest floor in blazing red streaks. It was like that night infiltration course we crawled through in Basic Training, with M60s blazing overhead except this time, the tracers weren't flying 20 feet above us. No, these rounds skimmed the earth like death itself was sweeping the floor. If I had dared to lift a hand, it would've been blown clean off.

Continued to pg. 22

12th CAV News



Thomas Lon Crabtree
1104 Paradise Dr.
Lady Lake, FL 32159-6108
432-853-4851
MMCTLC3@aol.com
www.12thCav.com



SALUTE-SEMPER PARATUS! Here we are at the end of another year and welcoming in the busiest and most revered holidays of the American Culture. For many of us, a time of conflicting thoughts hoping to enjoy the festivities of Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year celebrations, yet, haunted by memories of 60 years ago when the most serious casualties of battle were incurred October through December for 1-12th and 2-12th. Most likely, this was the situation for all the other Cav battalions during the same time periods.

Hope all are looking forward to an enjoyable holiday season with family, friends and our Veteran Brothers. This November 2025, there is a significant event for 12th Cavalry Troopers, almost on par with the birth of Christ we celebrate at Christmas. Honorary Colonel of the 12th Cavalry Regiment, COL (RET) James Webster Dingeman celebrates his 100th year birthday on November 23, 2025.

Spoke with **COL Dingeman** 1 November. He and Sylvia are in good spirits and look forward to this great occasion and celebrating with family in Washington DC. COL Dingeman has been a tremendous influence on the growth and development of the 12th Regiment Association inspiring 12th Cavalry Veteran Troopers to excel in all efforts to build the Association and was a motivating presence to Active Duty Troops during our reunions at Ft Hood. In our conversation he indicated that at this pinnacle, it was time to step back and make room for someone else to step up should there be an interest in inheriting and sustaining our Legacy. "It is a large pair of boots to fill" in this column writers words, yet, with tremendous personal rewards.



HAL OF VALOR

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Sponsored by:

James Webster Dingeman



Born:
Virginia

Home:
Grand Rapids, Michigan

James Dingeman graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Class of 1948. He retired in 1978 as a U.S. Army Colonel.

COL Dingeman West Point 1948

COL Dingeman graduated West Point 1948, commissioned as 2LT Infantry. He served in Trieste Italy, 2D Battalion 36th Infantry and Korea 7th Infantry Division as assistant G3 and Aide-de-Camp to CG of I Corps (Korea) to 1959. Returned to the States and acquired an MBA from Syracuse University then served in Command and General Staff College, Ft Leavenworth. Later, HQ Combat Development Command Ft Belvoir, VA, Commander 4th Training Brigade, US Army Armor Center Ft Knox, KY and Ft Benning, GA as Director of the Leadership Department, Chief of Management and Budget Army Infantry School and Comptroller US Army Infantry Center. After attending National War College, in 1968 COL Dingeman was assigned to Vietnam as Commander of 2-12th Cavalry, 1968-1969. He then returned to Washington DC to HQ MDW as Army Aide and Military Representative to the President. Additionally, COL Dingeman served as Executive Secretary National Security Assistant of Counterinsurgency and AG to Robert F. Kennedy. In 1976 the Colonel served as Comptroller US Army support Command Hawaii.

His awards and decorations include Combat Infantry Badge, Air Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit w/four Clusters, Ranger Tab, Jump Wings, VN Cross of Gallantry w/Gold Star and Palm, Vietnamese Honor Medal 1st Class, Vietnamese Unit Civic Action Medal and Presidential Unit Citation from Korea. A Beacon of Leadership to those who know him. It has been a privilege and education to have worked with COL Dingeman over the last 20 Years as part of the as part of the leadership and development of the 12th Cavalry Association. SNAP SALUTE TO YOU SIR! HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Thanksgiving and best to you and family during the holidays and years to come (TLC)! Send the COL and family good tidings and greetings by phone 703-780-0330/239-995-6805 or email <jimsylding@aol.com>.

In the past five issues I tried to present a historical overview of the development and mobilization of the Airmobile Concept from 1963 through 1965 in commemoration of the 60th year since the War began and for (some of us continues today). I came across an article written by Tin Nguyen, 8/21/2018, titled *A New Look at the Ia Drang*. It was an interesting article that helped fill some gaps about 12th Cavalry participation in the battle. I recommend that those interested go to <www.historynet.com/new-look-ia-drang/>. 12th Cavalry had been the 'Shiney Bayonet Battle' 10-14 October 1965. They were pulled back to An Khe for a short break until the Plei Me Special Forces Camp was decimated by the 32D and 33RD NVA Regiments October 19-25 who was attempting to amass in a staging area with the 66th NVA Regiment. ARVN Commander Troung Chinh requested assistance from assistant Division Commander 1st Cavalry BG Richard Knowles. Knowles set up command HQTRS in Pleiku and extended the area of responsibility to cover the Chu Pong Massif and Ia Drang Valley area. 1st Cav was dispatched to reinforce the ARVN Units. 1-12th, 2-8th 1st Brigade were dispatched to the Plei Me area to drive the amassing NVA units back into Cambodia using B52

Bombers to support the ground Troops sent in. NVA, well equipped with 14.5 twin barrel anti-aircraft guns and a 120mm Mortar Battalion, managed to turn away the bombers and stop the assaulting ARVN and Cav forces from advancing into their strongholds. There were nine encounters by 2-8th and 1-12th with the enemy forces. 32D-33RD NVA managed to amass in the Ia Drang quadrant. Cav units were pulled back while 1-7th under Hal Moore was inserted into Ia Drang 12 November area and landed on LZ X-Ray 200 meters from the 66th Regiment. NVA had gathered the units in the area. No serious engagements occurred until 1-7 attempted to vacate the area but then was ambushed by the amassed NVA Units. While 2-5th attempted to march to LZ Albany they were ambushed on 16 November. 2-12th was then inserted into the Albany area to reinforce 2-5 and ARVN Airborne units. With heavy Artillery Support 2-17th and additional B52 Bombings the NVA were eventually pushed back into Cambodia. 2-5 and 1-7 were brought back to base camp while 2-12th remained at LZ Albany. They were the last group to be extracted on 26 November per MAJ Ray Welch then 1LT C Company 2-12th participating Operation 'Clean Sweep.'

Three major operations by 1st Cavalry Division after Shiney Bayonet were dubbed 'All the Way' 27 October - 9 November 2nd Brigade; Silver Bayonet I, 9 November - 18 November 3d Brigade; Silver Bayonet II, 18 November - 26 November 2d Brigade. November - Dec 1965, 1-12th had six KIAs, 2-12th 11 KIAs. They were: 1-12th-HHC-SSG Damon Horn, A CO-SGT Neil Hans, D CO-PFC Rodney Harris, SGT Ralph Onana, PFC James Pottkolter, PFC Seaford Hemmings. 2-12th- B CO-SGT Charles Cox, SGT Walter Oliver, SP4 Robert Tilquist, PFC Laris White Jr, SGT Ronald Loerlin, PFC Joseph Brady, C CO-SGT Paul Robertson, SP4 Joseph Clardy, SSG Edward Lovell, PFC William Burnett, A CO-SGT Willard Elder.

Thus ended the 1st Phase of the 12th Cavalry Legacy, December 1965. During your holiday festivities remember these men and their families. Wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Offer up your prayers for COL John Gergulis and Babes. He took a fall and seriously hurt himself. Prayers for Tom and Pam Paoli, Pam is in the hospital.

Until next year - "May the Chief Chopper Pilot hover over us, the Original Paratrooper correct our parachute malfunctions, and the head Point Man keep us in the assigned AO."

'Boot to Boot'
Crabtree Out!



COL James Dingeman at the 2015 Reunion



COL Dingeman BN CMDR 2-12th 1968



**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>

SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!

7th CAV News



Jack (Boz) Parente
143 Autumn Dr.
Hauppauge, NY 11788-1039
(631) 338-1365
bozparente@gmail.com



Greetings, Garryowen Troopers! Welcome to the Nov/Dec2025 issue of 7th Cav News. During my term as 7th Cav scribe I have had the good fortune to read lots of stories, books, and memoirs written by fellow Garryowen Veterans, and I am always amazed by the amount of quality writing our regiment has generated. Some of these tales are entertaining and fun to read, like Buck Jones's tale of the Vietnam War's best rear job, and last month's *Saber* story of Bobo and Bobby.

Some stories are inspirational, like the one about COL (Ret) Edward Fisher, CO of Bravo 1/7 in 1968, who was contacted by an ex-Soldier. The 7th Cav Vet said it was Fisher's example as a leader that started him on a path that brought him financial success, and he wanted to do something for Fisher in return for his transformational leadership. Fisher responded that he needed nothing for himself but agreed to let the man donate to Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital. The hospital soon notified him that a man who wishes to stay totally anonymous had donated \$350,000 on a \$1,000,000.00 commitment to the hospital in Fisher's name, (and Happy 86th Birthday! COL Edward Fisher). The same anonymous 7th Cav Veteran has committed an additional \$1,000,000.00 to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Port Royal S.C. to the memory of Major General G.I. Forsythe. This story of great generosity is something we all can learn from.

There are tales like *Why Now?* by Bob McConnell, Benny Cooper's rendition of *Hill 54*, Frank Kling's story about Dave Domzalski, and Adrian Garcia's excellent book *The Third Herd*. There are the books by prolific writer and 7th Cav Vet Mark Levy, *How Stevie Nearly Lost the War and Other Postwar Stories*, *The Best of Medic in the Green Time*, *Dreams, Vietnam, Other Dreams*, and his remarkable VN website <MedicintheGreenTime.com>.

Our own 1st Cavalry Division Association Secretary, John Guillory, wrote an incredibly accurate, well researched, well written, and thoroughly detailed memoir of *The Battle of LZ Sump* which is highly recommended reading. This list of 7th Cav Veterans' writing accomplishments is far from complete and is just a small sample of our Trooper's writing skills.

Now, an excellent new book has just come to my attention, and it's one of the best. *Vietnam War Diary – As Told By A Combat Infantryman* is a detailed and very readable book by **Jasper Catanzaro, Bravo 5/7 (1966-67)**. Jasper is a highly accomplished writer, and this book reflects his skill.

Here's an excerpt from the book:

Thursday, October 6:

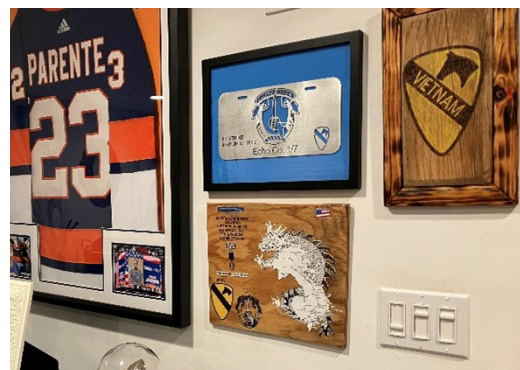
It's my birthday, and I turned 21 today. I wouldn't realize it until later that night after asking others what day it was. With the help of other companies, we are closing the loop, on any enemy left in the area. After entering this larger village, in late afternoon, we are ordered to stop the advancement. My platoon was out front, and I was at the lead. Stopping to rest, I was near a body of water that looked reasonably clean. I bent over at the water's edge and washed my hands and face. It was sunny now and getting quite hot. While washing my hands in the water, I realize we must be getting close to the South China Sea. Through the trees, I can feel a cool breeze you can only get when you're next to a large body of water. While bent over, I notice something in the water about 15 feet away. Ken Falcon, who was with me then, was walking up to the water's edge, going towards what I was staring at. I finally realize it's the nose of someone hiding just below the water's surface. In a split second, I whirl, moved my M-16 up and aim at the object. At the same time, I yell out to Ken, "Watch out. There's something in the water." At that moment, everything happened in slow motion. A head is rising out of the water. I fire, and the first-round splashes next to his left ear. His head is still rising out of the water as I adjust and fire at least two more rounds. At this range, I didn't miss. Ken was now shooting at the V.C. Ken hadn't seen him hiding in the water until I yelled.

I don't need to see what my bullets accomplished. If there is one V.C., there are more. I get up and move out of the village along the dike, with Ken following me. Walking about 30 feet, the village opens up. Now, I can see the South China Sea straight ahead and to my right. I see about 15 feet of open dark water to my left, then reeds. In front of the reeds, just above the water line, I see three more V.C.s hiding in the water. They were hiding underwater with just their noses breaking the surface to breathe. I fire one shot into the water between them, and soon, all three stand up with their hands above their heads. They look to be very young, around 15 to 17 years old. Their only clothes are black shorts, no shirt and no weapons. I order them not to move, in my broken Vietnamese. "Dung lie!" I yell out. With my hand still on the trigger of my M-16, I wave for them to come to me.

As they approach me, out of the corner of my eye, I see someone, a Soldier, coming around the reeds from the direction of the sea. This Soldier is unknown to me and not from my Battalion. He runs up, or should I say sloshes up, through the waist-deep water yelling, "Kill them, kill them!" He screams out that if I don't kill them he will. While keeping my eye and still having my M-16 pointed at my prisoners, I yell back, "They are my prisoners, and we have orders to capture any V.C. alive." As I respond to him, four others from his outfit, sloshing in the waist-deep water, join him. It looks like they are all blood thirsty.

Soon, their sergeant joins the rest of them. Keeping my eyes on the prisoners, I told him what I had told the first Soldier. "They are my prisoners, and we are ordered to take prisoners alive." I have my hands full now. I keep the prisoners in my sight and don't know if these Soldiers are so intent on killing they might shoot me. However, Falcon, who left me alone, got some guys from the outfit and told them I was in trouble, and soon, I now had ten fully armed buddies backing me up. Standing on the dike, were ten of my platoon aiming at the six US Soldiers. The sergeant saw that the situation was serious and now had a situation on his hands. He then calms his men down and tells them, "They're his prisoners, let's go," they turn around in the waist-deep water and head back to wherever they came from. As they leave, the prisoners are hoisted out of the water onto the dike I was standing on and then tied up. They are led away to a chopper to be sent back for interrogation. I would later find that these young men I captured had some valuable information on the enemy in this area, to give to our intelligence section...

To be continued... Jasper's book, *Vietnam War Diary – As Told By A Combat Infantryman* is available on Amazon in paperback, on Kindle, and as an audio book. Check it out.



Not all the talent in the 7th Cav is in the writing department. My buddy, the very talented Nando Salinas, a Sergeant with C 2/7 in 1966-67, sent me this beautiful hand-made plaque, left of the light switch in the photo.

It immediately went up on my trophy wall even before we framed it. The amazing craftsmanship and detail work are just outstanding. Thank you, Nando. You're a true artist.

The following tale is taken from the Echo Company Anthology: Stories from Vietnam War.

The Man Who Would Not Die, written by Jack "Boz" Parente, edited by Marc Levy

We froze, staring into the ditch as the wounded NVA twisted in agony. His face was gone, his brain bulged from cracks in his skull, yet he lived and breathed, strange spasms inching him forward. If not for that head wound he might have been crawling. Was he really alive? It shouldn't have mattered. He should have been one more dead gook, the same as the rest of them. But none of us raised a weapon to finish him off. And none of us knew why.

The lieutenant walked to the ditch and had a look, surprised we hadn't popped the guy, but made no move to do it himself. Mousy the Christian wanted to wait a few minutes. "Let him die naturally," he said. "Like the others." He meant the other NVA we killed in the ambush that morning. The lieutenant agreed. "Chow down, but make it quick," he said.

He knew we were tired and nervous. The last seven days had been one quick firefight after another. Nobody hurt, much ammo spent, a couple of blood trails, and not a single body. But today things went well. It happened at sunrise: the ear-splitting blast of six daisy-chained Claymores exploding all at once. Then silence, and we stuck our heads up to see...nothing. Not one body. But they began to scream, and they howled like animals, their bodies hideously mangled, swept by the blast into the ditch. We threw frags at the screaming, and clamped our hands over our ears, and kept throwing until the screams stopped and all we heard was the rustling sound of bamboo.

The blast killed four outright. "Hamburged" we said of the mutilated men. We finished off two barely alive, and now this one, this nightmare, this reward for an otherwise perfect ambush. The six of us just stood there, waiting. None of us wanted to do it, but he just wouldn't die. We couldn't wait much longer so we figured why not the whole fire team? They griped about spoiling their breakfast but got off their asses and walked to the ditch.

"Fire in the hole," I called out. Locked and loaded, we raised our weapons. "Ready, three...two..." That's when that wreckage of a human being spasmed, from its ruined face came a gurgling sound. Arms twitching, legs convulsing, and the world erupted in gunfire. Dodging from cover to cover the lieutenant ran to us, his RTO behind him. "How many?" he said, thinking the NVA had returned. "Where are they?" "It was just us finishing the prisoner, 3/6" I said.

The others nodded. The LT looked down at what was left of him. Why had we used so much ammo, he asked. What made this so one different? A grunt name Paul muttered, "Cuz he moved, LT. I swear to God. He just kept moving." Everybody agreed. The lieutenant looked at us like we were crazy. He told Mousy to search the body for intel before we moved out. Mousy knelt in the mud, snatched the dead man's AK, ammo vest, his blood-soaked wallet. Inside there was an I.D. card, a little money, a photo of a young woman holding a child. They were smiling. Mousy handed me the rifle and ammo and tossed the wallet to the lieutenant.

As we moved out, I dropped back to Paul. "Did you think he was still alive?" I asked. Paul kept walking. "I don't know, man. He was... I don't know." By evening the story was changing. Mousy remembered something we hadn't talked about. "The faces in the photo," he said. That's what stayed with him. A woman. A child. Their smile. A husband dead. A father gone too soon. An insignificant detail not worth mentioning. Just one more victim of that brutal war. Just a small thing.

This is your newsletter. My job is to put together the kind of column you folks want to read. Email me your suggestions. Am I doing the right thing? Not enough current events? Too many war stories? Let me know. And please, send in your buddy search, obits, birthdays, etc. and especially, the stories of your time with the 7th Cav. Contribute to our history. Add to our legacy. Send traffic, over.

****Please don't forget about our Horse Detachment.****

To express your concerns about this needless destruction of our history and tradition for no purpose whatsoever please write to: The Office of the Chief, Public Affairs
1500 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1500
That's about it for this issue.
Send in your stories.
Boz, out.



Contact the scribe above to share your 7th Cav stories!

If you were ever a part of 7th CAV, make sure you're a member of their Association

<www.us7thCavalry.org>

SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!

8th CAV News



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



Hello again 8th Cavalry Veterans, yes it looks like you all are stuck with me for the next little while. Sitting here a few days ago a thought came to mind about the following questions: Do you ever think about what was going through your mind on that plane ride over to Vietnam, Iraq, or Afghanistan? I remember well and the thoughts weren't the best concerning my longevity. But the Good Lord had other plans for me. My wife and I are blessed with a son who is currently serving our country, and yes, he was a grunt who served with the 4th Infantry Division in Afghanistan. Then he was assigned with the 173rd Airborne and went to Italy with them. In Italy Josh and his wife welcomed their 1st child, a son, Silas. Once back on U.S. soil and after the birth of his second child, a little girl whose name is Margot, I received a phone call that he changed his MOS, soon to be a recruiter which was fine with me. A whole less worry for me, his mom and his wife.

This subject will be old news by the time it is published in the *Saber*; I would like to tell those that have never experienced the Kentucky Kampout (yes that is how we spell it) and about how this event got started. After hosting my first reunion here in St. Louis in 1997, Top Gun, your previous *Saber* scribe suggested a few of us who lived in the Midwest to go visit Billy Lewis in Tennessee. So Top Gun and I, Johnny Mays, Tommy Harris and Big George Thaler headed to Tennessee. Now we roughed it and I mean exactly that. We slept on the ground, in a pup tent, and in vehicles around the campfire. We hadn't seen Billy Lewis and Tommy Harris since Vietnam, so we had some catching up to do. Needless to say, we had a great time being together and vowed to continue the tradition. Billy sold his home in Tennessee so the next year we ended up in Kentucky on a small piece of property that Top Gun owned near Kentucky Lake. Once again, we roughed it that weekend, but we got wind of a resort not more than a mile or so down the road. The following year we rented cabins there and finally slept in beds. Smiley brought pots and pans and utensils. I brought a grill and charcoal. We finally had breakfasts, purchased steaks among other trimmings and ate like kings. A few years later we decided to move again and it was only a few miles from there, so off we went back to Tennessee.

Now during this time Mike "Mouse" McGhie was writing the *Saber* articles for 8th Cavalry and was skilled on the internet. Just like the 1st Cavalry Reunions, 8th Cavalry Reunions grew through the years so back in 2005, we met in Las Vegas where Mouse hosted a reunion that had over 200 attendees. At the Saturday night dinner General Edwin Scholes (former CO of D 2/8) was the guest speaker. There wasn't a dry eye in the place including his during that speech where he spoke of the things D 2/8 and the Infantrymen had to go through in combat.

Back to current events, I returned the middle of October from that Kentucky Kampout. It goes to show you just how much those friendships we had so long ago are still going strong. Not the turnout we had with so many years having passed, but these few days together still means a whole lot to all of us. And I'll tell you just how much that is.

Our former Battalion Commander COL Rich Wood drove 2 ½ hours to spend several days with us and I won't mention Rich's age. Gene Willis is also a regular and his friend Wes who served Alpha Company in 8th Cavalry drove from Oklahoma, Jim and Nancy Nix from North Carolina, John and Jan Lee from Florida, Phil Leekey from Chicago, Alan Smith from California, Phil Chaffey and son John flew in from Oregon, Randy Whitman with a truck load of wood came from Nashville, Tennessee, Tommy Harris from Georgia, Paul Braun and grandson Brian from Illinois, Ed Regan drove from New Jersey, and I came from St. Louis, MO with steaks and homemade bratwurst from a local butcher here in St. Louis.



Kentucky Kampout 2025 Attendees

Top Gun lives locally, so he has been the host of this get together. The point is, no matter how far it is, all of us who attended will go to the end of the earth to spend this time together and nothing will stop us from doing so. The majority of it is no different than the 1st Cavalry Division Reunion. Our time is spent sitting around a campfire just shooting the breeze and reminiscing. I must, also, give many thanks to Top Gun's wife Jennifer for all the wonderful breakfasts she and some of the other ladies up at the Amvets hall prepared for us each morning and the dinners that were provided several evenings. On Sunday morning we drove down the road to a Legion Hall for a breakfast provided there. Needless to say, we are not hungry when we leave.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and I remember that hump down the Red Ball back to LZ Rita for Thanksgiving dinner. Not quite like my mom's turkey and that wonderful dressing she made, but much appreciated by all of us in D 2/8. Then eventually back out in the field south of Rita where we spent Christmas 1968. Quite frankly I did not even remember that it is was Christmas



Thanksgiving in Vietnam, 1968

out there in the jungle. Many of us finished our tour and returned home for the following Holiday season and what a joyous time that was and for our families. With that said, I would like to wish all of you current and ex-8th Cavalry Troopers a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.

Back in touch next year and until then, I bid you all goodbye for now.

Prayers for Al Rackley suffering from pancreatic cancer and for Tom De Grand suffering from several health issues.

Honor and Courage
Larry "The Saint" Hempfling
D 2/8 1968-69

**Please contact the scribe to share your
8th Cav stories!**

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NEW MEMBERS:

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SGT BEAUDOIN, DAMIEN TX C 7-17
SGT BENEFIELD, GARY MS 3-8C
1SG BOWMAN, DORMAN MD HHC 1-1CD
1SG BUTCHER, RANDY II TX HHC 1CD
SSG CANESTRARO, LUIGI SC HHC 1-1ABC
SP-4 CATANZARO, JASPER FL 5-7C
2LT CERBONE, WILLIAM PA G 1-9C
SSG CLARK, MATTHEW TX 1-12C
SPC COREA, ELIAS H TX HHBN DIVARTY
E-4 DELZEIT, BRIAN KS C 1-227AVN
SGT DRUM, WILLIAM FL A 1-1CD
LTC (RET) DULLAHAN, JOHN ND 2-8C
SGT ELLIS, ZACHARY TX D 6-56DIVARTY
SGT FIORIO, DOMENIC RI
SP-5 FRANCIS, JAMES E. KEMO, AZ HHC 15TC
E-4 FUNDERBURK, VYRON TX 3-8C
SFC HERNANDEZ, KEILA TX HHC DIVARTY
SGT HUGGINS, PETER-KEFA MO C 1-115BSB
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PVT KEVY, TELXELRA SILVA ELTON MA HHC 1-82FA
CPT LEE, STEPHEN HUNTER TX HHC 2-12C
CPT LEWIS, RAMONA K. TX E 2-227AVN
2LT MODY, MAX S. TX 3-8C
1LT MOTT, ELIJAH TX C 1-115BSB
1SG MURPHY, SEAN TX E 2-3CAV
SGM PRATER, WILLIAM WA HHC 1BDE
SGT REYN, BRITTNEY TX 15BSB
E-4 SCHEMBARI, JOHN NV F 1-9C
MAJ SCOTT, DEVERREAU MD C 1-1BDE
PFC SMITH, JOHN D. VA A 1-77ARTY
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Both Military Edition Prints are autographed by the artist and numbered



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

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



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

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

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION PRINTS

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1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

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513 Louise St, Copperas Cove, TX 76522
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Dennis.Webster7@gmail.com



Following up last issue's coverage of the Division Commanders, we'll look at the listing of those that served as the Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Cavalry Division.

The rank of Command Sergeant Major was not established until July 1967. Prior to that time the senior enlisted rank was Sergeant Major. While units were authorized the position of Sergeant Major, records often do not indicate the name of the Sergeant Major.

This list attempts to identify the names of the senior enlisted Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division beginning in 1965.

There are several Sergeants Major that filled the position when gaps in report times or other issues dictated. Although never assigned the following CSM's deserve to have their names mentioned since they filled their positions while filling the gap, they are: **CSM GERALD SCHINDLER, CSM DONALD SANDERS, CSM DONALD R. FELT, CSM RYAN MCLANE, and CSM MICHAEL HALL.**

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION COMMAND SERGEANTS MAJOR

SGM CHESTER R. WESTERVELT

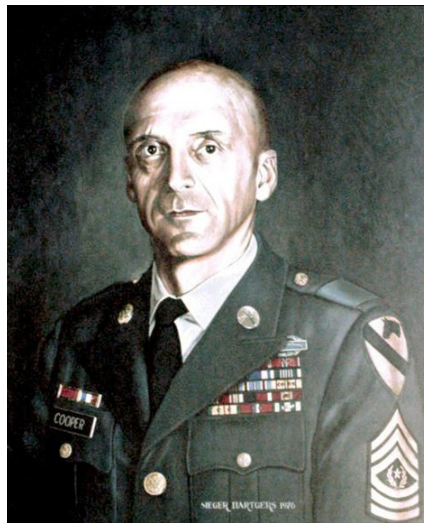
July 1965 - June 1966

SGM Westervelt was a Veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and was the Division Sergeant Major of the 11th Air Assault Division (Test) at Fort Benning and continued in that position and served with the First Team in Vietnam.

CSM KENNETH W. COOPER

June 1966 - July 1967

CSM Cooper was a Veteran of WWII, the Korean War, and served in Vietnam. After completing his one-year tour in Vietnam as the Division CSM, he went to several other assignments.



CSM Kenneth W. Cooper
1966-1967
1970-1970

CSM WILLIAM O. MARSHALL

July 1967 - May 1968

He was an Airborne Soldier who served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. CSM Marshall was wounded and awarded the Purple Heart. He retired from the Army after thirty years.

CSM JACK B. MOORE

May 1968 - October 1968

Served as the Division Sergeant Major of the 1st Armored Division at Fort Hood before being assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam.

CSM VERN O. PETERS

October 1968 - April 1969

Born in Saskatchewan, Canada, he enlisted in 1940 and was a highly decorated combat Veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. He was entitled to wear the Combat Infantry Badge with 2 Stars. CSM Peters served with the 1-12th Cavalry and as the CSM of the 1st Brigade, 1CD in Vietnam prior to his service as the Division CSM.

CSM LAWRENCE KENNEDY

April 1969 - April 1970

He enlisted in the Army at age 16 and served in Artillery units. He trained the Troopers of the 1-9th Cavalry at Fort Benning and deployed to Vietnam as the CSM of the 1-9th CAV in 1965. CSM Kennedy's career spanned 3 wars, and he was awarded 4 Legions of Merit, 4 Bronze Stars, 5 Army Commendation Medals, and he participated in 506 airborne jumps. He also served as the III Corps CSM in 1973.



CSM Lawrence Kennedy
1969-1970

CSM KENNETH W. COOPER

April 1970 - July 1970

Kenneth Cooper is the only person who has served as the Division Sergeant Major of the 1st Cavalry Division twice and the Division Parade Field at Fort Hood is named in his honor. CSM Cooper was killed along with MG George Casey, the Division CG, and several other members of Casey's staff in a helicopter crash as they were flying in bad weather to visit wounded Cavalry Troopers in the hospital.

UNKNOWN

July 1970 - May 1971

After the death of CSM Cooper it is believed that the position was filled by the 1st Brigade CSM, but this was never confirmed. One possibility is CSM John E. Bennett.

CSM ARNOLD E. ORR

May 1971 - January 1972

Born in Oklahoma and served in the Army for thirty years. CSM Orr saw service in World War II, Korea, and was the 1st Armored Division Sergeant Major prior to taking the position in the First Team at Fort Hood, Texas.

CSM WILLIAM CORN

January 1972 - July 1973

He was the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery CSM prior to serving as the Division CSM. He was active in the 1st Cavalry Division Association before and after his retirement from the Army.

CSM HOMER R. MOSS

July 1973 - January 1975

Joined the Army in January 1945, and served in the Pacific in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Awarded a Silver Star in Vietnam and CIB for Korea and Vietnam. He served as the 2d Brigade CSM and his last assignment was as the Division CSM.

CSM WALTER W. KRUEGER

February 1975 - November 1977

During his more than 32-year military career, CSM Krueger saw combat in both Korea and Vietnam. He was the First Team CSM, the 1st Armored Division CSM, V Corps CSM and his last assignment was as the CSM U.S. Army Europe and the 7th Army. He was the CEO of the Noncommissioned Officer Association at the time of his death.



CSM Douglas Hayes
1977-1983

CSM DOUGLAS B. HAYES

November 1977 - February 1983

He served in the United States Army for 30 years, the last 5 years serving as the CSM of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. He served with the 7th Cavalry in Japan in 1953 and with 1-9th CAV and 2-7th CAV in 1971. CSM Hayes served two tours in Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

CSM KENNETH E. PARSONS

February 1983 - July 1983

He was an Infantry Soldier and was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for service in Vietnam.

CSM DELBERT O. JENNINGS

July 1983 - February 1985

Enlisted after graduating High School in 1954 and was trained as an airborne infantryman. Served with the Division in Vietnam and was awarded the Medal of Honor for actions taken in the Kim Song Valley, Republic of Vietnam on 27 December 1966 while assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 12th Cavalry. His last assignment in the Army was as the First Team CSM. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



CSM Delbert Jennings
1983-1985

CSM A. C. COTTON

February 1985 - November 1988

An Armor Soldier, he served in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in 1967-68 and later served as the Regimental CSM of the 11th ACR in Germany 1980-83 and as the Brigade CSM of the 194th Armored Brigade at Fort Knox prior to being assigned to the First Team. The only VFW Post located on an Army installation, Fort Hood, is named in his honor.

CSM ROBERT E. WILSON

November 1988 - February 1991

He served with 2-8 Cavalry and 2-7 Cavalry in Vietnam and was the 1st Cavalry Division Command Sergeant Major at Fort Hood and during Operation Desert Shield. During Operation Desert Storm, he was the VII Corps Command Sergeant Major. CSM Wilson's decorations include the Silver Star Medal, the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, and Purple Heart.

CSM GILBERT PAEZ

February 1991 - July 1992

He enlisted in 1964 and was trained in Artillery and Air Defense Artillery before becoming a Cavalry Scout. Served in Vietnam with the 1-10th CAV. He was the Division CSM during Operation Desert Storm and then at Fort Hood. CSM Paez retired as the CSM of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and visits the First Team Troopers often from his home in San Antonio, Texas.

CSM CHARLES M. GEE

July 1992 - November 1994

A Cavalry Scout, he was assigned to Mechanized Infantry, Armor, and Cavalry units during his career. Served as the Battalion CSM for the 1-32d Armor with the 2d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division in Operation Desert Shield /Storm, and was the 1st Brigade CSM prior to his assignment as the Division CSM.

CSM JOHNNY D. DUNCAN

November 1994 - December 1995

J.D. enlisted in 1971 and had an assignment in the 82d Airborne. He later served as the CSM of 2-66 Armor and the 1-2d ACR and was in the VII Corps in Operation Desert Storm. His assignment prior to the 1st Cavalry Division was as the CSM of the 194th Armored Brigade at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

CSM DENNIS E. WEBSTER

January 1996 - August 1998

CSM Webster enlisted in the Army in 1972 as an Armor Crewman. He served as the CSM of two squadrons, one during Operation Desert Storm, in the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment and was the Regimental CSM of the 3d ACR and the 11th ACR before being assigned as the 1st Cavalry Division CSM. Retired as the CSM of III Corps and Fort Hood and served as the Executive Director of the 1st Cavalry Division Association from 2002 to 2016.

CSM PAUL M. INMAN

August 1998 - April 2001

He enlisted in 1972 as an Artilleryman and served in multiple artillery positions and as a Battalion CSM. His first assignment with the First Team was as the Division Artillery CSM. He took over as the Division CSM and concurrently served as CSM for the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, and Multi-National Division (N) and Task Force Eagle Bosnia-Herzegovina for SFOR4 and SFOR5. CSM Inman's last assignment in the Army was the CSM of I Corps at Fort Lewis, Washington.

CSM JOHN D. SPARKS

June 2001 - February 2003

He enlisted in 1978 as an Armor Crewman. CSM Sparks served as the CSM of 1st Squadron, 3d ACR at Fort Carson and was the CSM of the 2d Brigade, 1CD prior to his assignment as the 1st Cavalry Division CSM. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom as the CSM of the Coalition Forces Land Component command. His last assignment was as the CSM of TRADOC, Fort Monroe, Virginia.

CSM RICHARD HERNANDEZ

February 2003 - June 2004

He enlisted in 1974, and his first assignment was as a jeep driver for the 1st Cavalry Division G-2. CSM Hernandez later served as the Operations Sergeant Major for 1-7th CAV, the CSM for 1-12th CAV, and the 1st Brigade CSM before being assigned as the Division CSM and deploying to Iraq with the First Team.

CSM NEIL L. CIOTOLA

August 2004 - October 2005

Enlisted in 1976 as an Armor Crewman and was the CSM of the 1st Battalion 33d Armor, and CSM of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1CD. He took over as the CSM of the 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq and continued at Fort Hood. CSM Ciotola was later the CSM of III Corps and deployed with III Corps and was the CSM of Multinational Corps-Iraq.

CSM PHILIP F. JOHNDROW

March 2006 - April 2008

CSM Johndrow joined the Army in 1979 as an Armor Crewman. He previously served with the First Team as Operations Sergeant Major, 3d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; First Sergeant, B Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3-8th Cavalry, 1st Cav Division. His assignments as a CSM were with 3-2d ACR where he spent 15 months in Iraq supporting OIF I & II with the 1st Armored Division. CSM Johndrow was deployed in Iraq in support of OIF III with the 3d Infantry Division. While serving as the First Team CSM he deployed with the Division to Baghdad for OIF 06-08. He is currently a member of the Association Board of Governors.

CSM RORY L. MALLOY

June 2008 - April 2011

CSM Malloy enlisted in 1985 and has served in every Infantryman leadership position from Team Leader to Command Sergeant Major. He was the CSM of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the CSM of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Ft. Polk before becoming the CSM for the First Team. He deployed with the Division to Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was the Commandant of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy prior to retirement. He is currently the 3rd Vice President of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

CSM ISAIA T. VIMOTO

April 2011 - July 2012

He entered the Army in 1981 and was trained as an Airborne Infantryman. Served twice in combat, once as the First Team CSM. CSM Vimoto was a battalion CSM in the 101st Airborne Division and the CSM of the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team in Vincenza, Italy and served with them in Afghanistan.

CSM JAMES P. NORMAN III

August 2012 - September 2013

CSM Norman enlisted in 1981 as an Armor Soldier. He participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 3-8th Cavalry, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division as the battalion CSM and as the Brigade CSM with 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. After completing his time with the First Team he was the CSM of U.S. Army Japan and was in Japan during the disaster relief for the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami.

CSM ANDREW L. BARTEKY

November 2013 - November 2015

He enlisted as a Cavalry Scout in 1987. CSM Barteky served as the CSM of the 1-32d Cavalry in the 101st Airborne Division and as the CSM of Joint Task Force-Bravo in Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, and as the CSM of the 3d Brigade Combat Team "Rakkasans," 101st ABN before coming to the First Team. He served twice in Iraq and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with V device. He served with the First Team in Afghanistan.

CSM MAURICE JACKSON

November 2015 - October 2017

CSM Jackson enlisted as an Infantryman in 1987 and served in Operation Desert Storm with the 24th Infantry Division. He was the CSM of the 4-2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment during one deployment to Iraq. He also served as the CSM in the Old Guard with the 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry and deployed to Afghanistan with the 3-4th Infantry before becoming the CSM of the Operations Group at Fort Irwin, California. He was the CSM of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood and in Afghanistan.

CSM SHANE E. POSPISIL

October 2017 - July 2019

He entered the Army as an Infantryman and has completed Airborne School and was assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning. He participated in Operation Restore Democracy in the Republic of Haiti, Operation Restore Hope in the Republic of Panama, and Operation Atlantic Resolve in Europe. He has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He was a Squadron Command Sergeant Major, Regimental Command Sergeant Major, 2d Cavalry Regiment and the CSM for the United States Military Training Mission, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before coming to the First Team.

CSM THOMAS C. KENNY

September 2019 - August 2021

CSM Kenny enlisted as a Cavalry Scout in 1991 and has served as the CSM for Area Support Group Kuwait (ASG-KU) Third Army, CSM for 189th Infantry Brigade First Army Division West, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; and the CSM for the United States Corps of Cadets West Point, New York. He has deployed to Saudi Arabia/Kuwait (Operation Vigilant Warrior), Bosnia (Operation Joint Guard), Kosovo (Operation Joint Guardian), and Iraq twice (Operation Iraq Freedom III- Sadr City, Baghdad & OIF V-Ramadi/Fallujah/Baghdad). CSM Kenny has served in every enlisted position from Private to Division CSM.

CSM SHADE S. MUNDAY

August 2021 - February 2023

He enlisted as a Combat Engineer in 1995. He has served as a Bridge crewmember, Senior boat, Section Leader, Drill Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, and First Sergeant. CSM Munday's assignments as a CSM were with the 299th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, the Brigade CSM of the 36th Engineer Brigade, and the Regimental CSM of the 3d Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood before he became the CSM of the First Team. He is currently the CSM of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

CSM LEVARUS J. JACKSON

May 2023 - Present

CSM Jackson enlisted as an Armor Crewman in 1995 and has served as a Tank Commander, Tank Platoon Sergeant, Drill Sergeant, Observer Controller, Company and Troop First Sergeant. His CSM positions include the 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado; Taskforce Southeast Command Sergeant Major, USFOR-A, Logar, Afghanistan; Command Sergeant Major, 1st Armor Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas; and the United States Army Armor School Command Sergeant Major, Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning, Georgia. CSM Jackson is currently the 34th Command Sergeant Major of 1st Cavalry Division and recently returned from a deployment with the Division in Poland.



**CSM LeVarus Jackson
2023-Present**

78TH 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 Menteur Hwy (approximately 7.1 miles from the Sheraton)

Jude Travel Park of New Orleans (504) 241-0632
7400 Chef Menteur 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!

REUNION T-SHIRT PRE ORDER FORM

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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:

- 3rd 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, 2025 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.

78th ANNUAL 1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION, JULY 8-12, 2026, in NEW ORLEANS
is open to all members of the 1st 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:

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION, 302 N. MAIN, COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522-1703
The 78th Annual 1CDA 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 1CDA? 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)	1	\$ 40.00	\$ _____
Late Registration Fee AFTER May 15, 2026:		\$ 50.00	\$ _____
Active Duty w/ID Registration Fee		\$ 20.00	\$ _____
Reunion Donation		Donation	\$ _____
Saber Newspaper Renewal		(\$20 per year or \$75 for 5 years)	\$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

*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 **Monday, January 5, 2026.**
Please send to Memberships@1CDA.org

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



Our next general meeting is **Saturday, January 17, 12:30pm** at the **Manchester American Legion**, 20 Legion Drive, Manchester, CT 06040. All members, guests, and friends no matter what branch of service are invited. For further details contact president Keith Moyer 860-885-4330.

L-R Keith Moyer, Al Johnson, Jack Kranyak, Tom McBriarty and Frank Infante

CROSS SABERS CHAPTER

As your new president, I would like to say "Thank You" for trusting me to lead our chapter, the largest chapter in the association. It is a true honor and I will treat it that way!
Would also like to recognize to following elected officers: Joe Wilgeroth - Vice president; Tony Cole - 2nd Vice president; Dennis Webster - Treasurer; Scott Sjule - Secretary



September attendees

We had a great turnout for our business meeting in September and I hope to continue to have the same turnouts. Going into the holidays, we have some opportunities to represent our chapter. The first is helping with the preparation of the wreaths for the **Veterans Cemetery November 22nd @ 10am** at the **Killeen Special Events Center** and then the laying of the wreaths **Saturday November 29th 10am** at the **Central Texas Veteran Cemetery**. If you can attend any of these events, please wear your Stetsons! We generally gather in a common area and then go to work. Look for the Stetsons! Look forward to seeing all of our brothers and sisters, honoring our fallen Veterans, and hopefully meeting some new chapter members! Please recruit when possible.
In closing, I would like to give a big shout out to our past President Tony Cole, for a job well done! Thank you Tony!
Take care God Bless and First team! Tim Hodge, President

FLORIDA'S FIRST COAT CHAPTER

Every year the city of Jacksonville presents a "Vets 4 Vets" conference that our chapter regularly attends. You could say we more than attend since we are visual standouts in our local chapter uniform. The visual impression actually reinforces our personal commitment to each other. We are also joined by our neighbors from the geographic south, Ormond Beach, who make it a point to be present as well. Here is some visual proof:



FORT KNOX CHAPTER

Our Fort Knox Area Chapter is preparing for next July 2nd and 3rd 2026 offering Veterans from the Vietnam Era historical rides at the replica Vietnam Memorial Wall in Elizabethtown, KY. This will be the event of the year!
Robert W. Griffin VP

NY/NJ CHAPTER

The NY/NJ Chapter met on October 25 and was treated to a presentation by Jack McLean, best-selling author of *Loon: A Marine Story*. LZ Loon was a remote, highly contested, American military position near the Laotian border in I Corps. The LZ was situated on a hill, 8 kilometers south-southeast of Khe Sanh airfield, close to the border between North Vietnam and Laos. During "Operation Robin" in June 1968, after a devastating three-day battle against the PAVN, characterized by heavy artillery and ground assault, the landing zone was deemed untenable and evacuated with heavy losses for the Marines. Jack McLean is a survivor of that battle and related his story of survival.



Jack McLean, Robin Bartlett

McLean is a Vietnam Veteran, historian and best-selling author. He received his acceptance letter to attend Harvard University while in Vietnam and became the first Vietnam Veteran to enroll. After service with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 3d Marine Division, McLean returned home to a changed American. Decades later, after years of grappling with the mental turmoil of PTSD and the physical repercussions of his exposure to Agent Orange, he reconnected with his fellow Marines and began a powerful journey towards recovery. A video that discusses the battle and aftermath can be found on YouTube by searching for: Travails with Charlie – Large by Jack McLean



NYNJ Chapter meeting 10.25.25 attendees

The NY/NJ Chapter will hold the next meeting in **March 2026**, starting at **10:00 am** at the **Elks Lodge** in Ridgefield Park, NJ. 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 to attend. Coffee and a buffet lunch is served and a donation to the chapter is requested.
Interested persons are encouraged to contact Robin Bartlett, Chapter President to be added to the email list. Send an email to rbbartlett01@gmail.com or call 201-856-7530. Join us to greet old friends and make new ones.

SO CAL CHAPTER

(New Formed Chapter)

We are a new chapter in the Marietta area. Our next meeting to vote on officers and the constitution and bylaws will be **January 17, 2026**, at **1pm** at the **Zarka Cigar Lounge** located at 41890 Enterprise Circle Temecula, CA 92590. Contact Matthew Rico mlrico@yahoo.com 858-525-1283.

CHAPTER IRS TAX PACKETS

The IRS has mandated that each chapter submit a yearly report to ensure compliance with their regulations. Currently, the National Headquarters files a chapter's tax form on their behalf. Failure to submit the required packet on time will result in your taxes not being filed appropriately.
Your Chapter can choose not to be under our tax-exempt umbrella. However, National Headquarters still requires a yearly packet for each chapter. The Chapter would also be required to file any tax forms.

We did not receive two IRS Tax Packets this year.

- James J. Mason, West Michigan Chapter
- Jumping Mustangs Chapter

I did not file your 990N's with the IRS. Your tax free status has been pulled by the IRS and you have been removed from the Chapter Index.
Please contact me if you have questions.
Thank you, Karleen memberships@1cda.org

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.

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

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

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

FLORIDA TROOP E "BLACK HAT"
Pres: Juan Kellogg
607 SE 47th St., Apt. 7
Cape Coral, FL 33904-5506
Email: juankellogg@embarqmail.com
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

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

JAMES H. UNRUH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
Pres: Michael T. Mazzaro
Cenpenn Chapter. 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

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

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

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

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

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.

SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY
(Greater Chicago Area)
Pres: Rich Hildenbrand
(630) 665-8183
Email: rich.hildenbrand@outlook.com
Temp POC: Donna Pacanowski
6043 W. 59th St
Chicago, IL 60638-3553
(312) 401-0548
Email: dnnpcnws9@gmail.com
Facebook: Sheridan's Chapter 1st Cavalry Division
2025 meeting dates are March 8, May 10, August 9 (picnic), October 11, and December 6 (Christmas party).
All Meetings and events held at Roselle American Legion Post #1084, 344 East Maple Ave., Roselle, IL 60172.

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.



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** into your web browser.

302 N. Main St Copperas Cove, TX 76544

254-532-2075

1stCavGiftShop@gmail.com

Stetson Services Available!

Reshaping, Brim Trimming & Crown Sizing
\$10 for wool / Donation for Beaver Felt

HOURS:
MON - FRI
9 am - 4 pm

Get all your Cav-Tastic souvenirs here!

Books, Challenge Coins, Clothing, Crafts, Flags, Hats, Jewelry, License Plates, Medals, Military Brass, Patches, Pins, Stetson & Accessories, Ties, Unit Stickers & Much More!

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** using your credit card.

Printed Catalogs Are 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.

Crossed Sabers Gift Shop
20% OFF COUPON
Telephone Orders Only

Mention coupon code **123125** to receive your discount.

1 per person

Expires: **Dec 31, 2025**

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 or **254-220-2164**

From the
Director's Desk

Office of 1CDA

WE SUPPORT



SOLDIER FOR LIFE

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

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

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

**IF YOU'RE VISITING
FORT HOOD**

If you’re visiting Fort Hood, be sure to visit the 1st Cavalry Division Headquarters (Bldg. 28000). They have a free 1st Cavalry Division Walking History Tour. The tour is outdoors. It starts at the south entrance of Heritage Hall (1st Cav HQ) and walks around Cooper Field. Open to the public. If you want to watch from the comforts of your home, check out this link:
<<https://youtu.be/zE5npJiKpUo>>

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

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

**COMMEMORATE A
FALLEN COMRADE**

with our Brick & Paver Campaign

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

1CDA BULLETINS:

As of November 2025

- 2026 Calendars were mailed out!
- The **Oral History Book** is still in the printing stages. Stay tuned for updates via website, Facebook or Saber. Sorry for any inconvenience.
- Associate Memberships are increased to \$20

1/1/25: \$10 charge for each calendar requested
7/1/23: Saber price increased to \$20/year or \$75/5 years
1/1/22: ALL Bounced Checks will incur a \$25 fee

The next *Saber* newspaper is the
January / February 2026 edition.
Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is
Monday, January 5, 2026.
Please email to Programs@1CDA.org

THE SABER NEEDS YOU!

SABER WRITER OPENINGS:

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

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Consider writing for your Unit Column
Email for details: programs@1CDA.org



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!

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> 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

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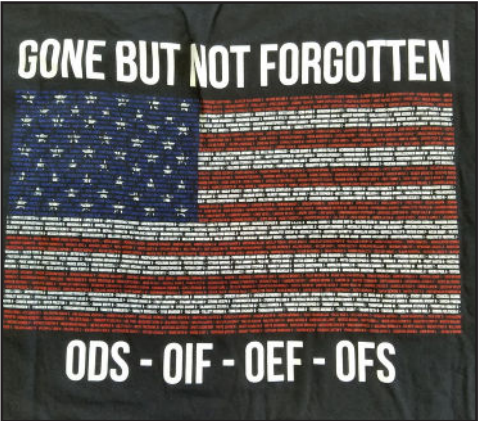
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Front



Back Design

1st Cavalry Division Shirts Order Form

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VIETNAM SHIRTS

Description: 100% cotton grey shirt
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written across the Baldric
Back: "Remembering 5,618" with Color image of Memorial
Wall & Flag



Front



Back Design

ENGINEER News



Steve Richey
P.O. Box 250
Wildomar, CA 92595-0250
(714) 931-3123
D9Dozer@verizon.net

meals. The General told him going back on the line increased his chances of getting shot, but Jim wanted to go, and the General released him. He was on his way back to his unit the next day but didn't get to stay.

Having been General Pershing's orderly and knowing most of the General staff and a lot more very high-ranking officers, most company commanders didn't want him in their company for fear he might say something critical about how the company was ran to one of the high-ranking officers Jim knew.

So from the time he left General Pershing, he bounced around to several units. He drove ammo trucks carrying artillery shells to the front, he was in the observation balloons for a while, he flew gunner in a plane in the 94th Aero Squadron, knew both Billy Mitchel and Eddy Rickenbacker well. He was forward recon with John Hackett, who started one of the biggest battles of the war by shooting a German in a neutral zone across the river from where the US Soldiers were camped.

He was a motorcycle dispatch driver on an Indian motorcycle and drove in mustard gas, which was chlorine, for hours. When he took his glove off, the outer layer of skin came with it. Most of the outer layer of skin came off when they cut his clothes off. The gas bleached his hair white at the age of 29 and was white the rest of his life.

He was in the lost battalion and on the front line the day the war ended. He said the instant quiet drove several men out of their mind. The Germans came across no man's land to shake hands with the Americans, but the Americans were having none of it. My grandad told me it was the biggest, toughest, fist fight he ever saw. When it was over, several men were dead. He was in the 1st Cav when they had horses. Pershing was buying 20,000 horses a month at the start of the war.

I have my grandad's Croix de Guerre medal with a cluster. I value it more than the medals I was awarded from being in Nam. He was 1st Cav. He fought the Morro in the Philippines and that's where he first met GEN Pershing. For a while he was the light middle weight boxing champion of the Army in the Pacific. He was not in the 8th Combat Engineers. I was, but he was my grandfather, a real Soldier, and I thought I'd introduce him to you. I wrote a book about him, Jim Bolin, you can get on Amazon, that tells a lot of his story.

Now for the 8th Engineers. Over the years I've talked with General Smith, LTC Walters, GEN Kavanaugh and COL Suydam, all Soldiers who did their job well. The were all 8th Engineers. GEN Smith was a two-star general and would have been a three-star general, but two star was as high as you could go in the Engineers. He told me the Russians had put out a contract on him to be killed for the work he was doing. He told me once, "No one in the 8th Engineers ever needs to take a back seat to anyone in the Army!" and I could tell he meant it. He was so very well organized and had incredible intent in anything he was tasked to do. I know in his mind, he had what he needed to do done, and pressed his men hard to accomplish it physically. That's why one of his nicknames was "5-minute Smith." Everything was to be done, ready, built, completed, in "5 minutes." These men put their pants on one leg at a time just like you and me. Their job was to organize what you and I did.

I talked with **Kent McCutchen** last week. We've been talking back and forth now for over four years. We were in Nam together, but I never knew him or talked with him there. He was on more LZ's than anyone I know. I was on 55 of them. He was on several more than that, some the same LZ's, several times. He told me once of having to work under his dozer to repair a track, which was sitting on top of dead enemy soldiers. It doesn't get much more grisly. He now lives on his farm, near Leavenworth, Indiana, has terrible health, but has a great attitude and I enjoy talking with him, every time I call.

I would talk with the current men of the 8th Engineers, but those boys Those men and women, never, ever, say anything. It's a mystery why they don't. I enjoy talking with my elders, evidently they don't.

Joe Wagle in Detroit is great. He drinks Yuengling beer, when he can get it, knows nearly all there is to know about electricity, worked with it many years, and could probably give Jackie Gleason and Paul Newman a run for their money on a pool table. He fishes in the summer and plays pool in the winter. He's part of an honor guard for funerals for Vets like you and me. Joe shows up to show his respect.

I stop to see CPT Estes in San Jose when I go that way. Speedy Lopez was his driver. Both were great Soldiers. Speedy came to the 8th from the Infantry. I've lost contact with Speedy. CPT Estes was in a convoy, the story of which, raises the hair on my neck.

KC Jones is the king of cruises. He lives in Florida in between taking cruises. He's living life well. Guy Patterson lives in Florida as well. Guy and I spent time in Germany together a few years back. He'd break out the wine after dinner in our room, and with a half a bottle gone, I'd begin to hear stories of Vietnam, him forgetting I was in the same barracks with him. I loved the stories, knew there was a lot of embellishment, but who cares. The time I get to spend with old friends who were in 8th in Nam, is always time well spent.

Les White and I talk often. He lives in Missouri. I envy him. He cruises

I'd like to introduce you to Jim Bolin, my grandfather. For a while he was an orderly to General Pershing, in France. He wasn't an orderly very long. He asked the General if he could return to his infantry company. He told the General he didn't train to shine boots, press clothes, and deliver



Jim Bolin

around in his classy cars, is still bright minded and quick witted. He's always great to talk with and I reach out to him often.

We're starting a 1st Cav chapter in Temecula, Ca. I think it has about a 70% chance of not succeeding. We Nam Vets are old, the Afghanistan and Iraq Vets, aren't much for joining, you never ever hear from any women Soldiers, but I hope I'm wrong. At the first meeting, 7 of us sat around a table and for me, I felt at ease knowing the others had walked the walk as I had and it was comforting to know they had. I sat next to Bryan, thinking he had spent twenty years in the Army and had got out a LT. I thought that was strange, but I didn't question it. Matt told me later on, he was a LTC, Lt. Col., and that made more sense. We sat in a cigar lounge, sipping beers, and just quietly talking, enjoying each other's company. I hope we can have several more meetings and grow in numbers, but as it was, it was good.

Mike Lapsansky went into Cambodia in May of 70. He tells me of lining up in a formation on an airstrip near Cambodia, prepared to get in the helicopters for the combat assault into Shakey's Hill. The Commanding General of the 1st Cav stopped and chatted with him a moment. The infantry were already at Shakey's Hill. He was a surveyor as was I. I DEROS'd in March and missed Cambodia. Lucky me. He and Dave Morken were at Shakey's Hill. I talk to Dave often also. We roomed together in Newport Beach for a year after we came home from Nam. I got to go to heaven and didn't have to die. The beach was covered with women in bikinis. It was a target rich environment. Was a great year. We would have dinners for 30, get our fish for dinner from one of our friend's father who was in the seafood business, and great music from John Doty's collection, also one of our roommates. He had spent a year in Nam at Ton Sunute in the Air force. That year we supported the Spinada winery. We called it "Spinout."

There's not a lot in here about the 8th Engineers, just the guys who I served with. There are so many more I could mention, SGT Mathias, the Swamp Thing comes to mind. Titus getting zapped through the landline as he was calling in a sitrep and lightning hit the commo wire. Knocked him unconscious, I thought he was dead, but luckily he wasn't, and then we had to laugh. We laughed when an emersion heater blew up and blew out every screen in the emersion heater area in the mess hall.

We laughed out on an LZ when we got incoming and a backhoe operator dived headfirst into a fox hole he dug 4' deep, not knowing we had another backhoe dig one end of it 8' deep. Knocked the guy right out. I found it amusing when CPT Suydam and Hayes cleared a French Mine field by dropping napalm on it then throwing down flares to ignite the napalm. The mines cooked off over the next half hour. That's just great Soldiering. We laughed also when we cut this giant tree down on a bet CPT Betteridge made with another company commander and it landed precisely where it needed to. It could have wiped out two or three buildings but didn't. We laughed when Wally Morken became incensed on trapping a rat in our barracks and when we thought it out, got it to run into a Havahart trap, Wally shot his hands in the air in a gesture of success, and when he did, not thinking to close the trap door first, the rat ran back out of the trap. That's the night Dave felt something touching his mustache and when he went to brush it away, he ended up grabbing the rat, then stood up in his cot, right through his mosquito netting. He looked like he had a green skirt on and the rat got away, again.

We also laughed when The Chief ran over the S-1 C hut with a frontend loader, shoving it over, leaning at a 45-degree angle, DXing the newly built C-hut. He knew the loader needed mechanic work, he didn't know the brakes were out and stomped on the accelerator to get it into the repair tent, but since he had no brakes, and going very fast, he dropped the bucket to stop the loader, in mid turn, was lined up on the S-1 hut, had no steering or brakes, and hit it really hard.

And, I should really mention the dark and rainy night Ron Powell, the LTC's driver, came up with the idea of us going to Division, an offering the two Doughnut dollies our fine selves to spend the evening with, and when we got there, drenched like two rats in the rain, found two full Colonel's had the same idea, but they were already there. We were idiots, if Ron was still alive I would remind him of this.

Why all this reminiscing? I'm 79, just like Kwai Chang Kane, reaching the time for him to leave the Shaolin temple, it's time for me, being a very old Soldier, to fade away, and that's what I'm going to do. I left Vietnam 55 years ago. It's time for someone much younger, brighter, and capable to write this column. I'm in the way. Was in the way. Not now.

Keep your gun clean, your powder dry, be aware of where you are and what's around you always, but you know this. You've had the 1st Cav training.

**We are looking for a new
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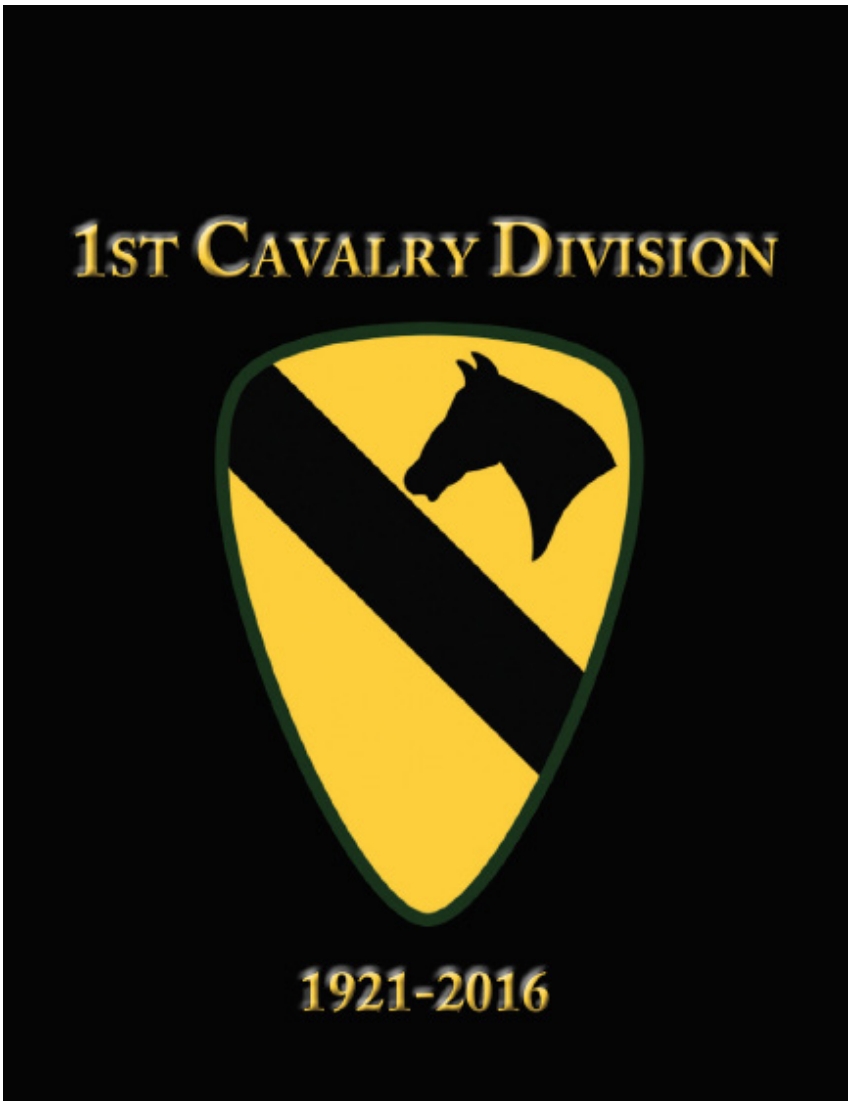
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Our final shipment has arrived. Limited-edition, commemorative 1st Cavalry Division history book. This is the same history book we offered in 2019.

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AIR CAV NEWS



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



As the echoes of rotor blades from Vietnam-era Hueys fade into memory, the spirit of Army aviation endures. On September 10, 2025, hundreds gathered at Fort Rucker's Veterans Memorial Park for the dedication of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA) Memorial Monument—a poignant tribute to the 27,000 pilots and 46,000 crew members trained there who flew into the heart of the Vietnam War.

Led by past VHPA President Art Jacobs, a member of the 1CDA (whose remarks were delivered by current President Jim Crigler), the ceremony featured a flyover by a vintage Huey and keynote address from retired GEN Doug Brown, founder of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. Brown hailed the pioneers who flew over 9 million Huey hours, lost 5,000 helicopters in combat, and birthed call signs like Dustoff and Sea Wolves—lineages still active today from Afghanistan to ongoing global operations.

"You were the pioneers. You set the bar," Brown said, urging visitors to the Army Aviation Museum's Vietnam memorial. This monument ensures future generations at Fort Rucker remember the trim, tanned warriors who answered their country's call.



Dedication of the Vietnam VHPA Memorial Monument, Sept 10, 2025

That legacy resonates in the 1st Cavalry Division's storied aviation history, exemplified by the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade's (1st ACB) daring actions during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) 11-12. In the harsh winter of northern Afghanistan's Regional Command North, 1st ACB's Task Force Lobos medevac crews exemplified Dustoff valor.

On a frigid December night in 2011, amid swirling snow and Taliban threats near Mazar-e Sharif, a UH-60 Black Hawk from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment responded to an urgent call for a wounded Afghan National Army Soldier pinned down in a remote valley. Pilots CPT John Ramirez and CW2 Sarah Ellis navigated whiteout conditions and enemy fire, hovering low to hoist the casualty aboard in under 90 seconds. The crew—including flight medic SGT Travis Brown—stabilized the patient in route to Camp Marmal, saving his life and enabling a critical partner-force operation.

This mission, one of dozens in the November-January window, logged over 1,000 flight hours in sub-zero temps, underscoring the brigade's role in saving 200+ lives during their deployment. As GEN Brown later reflected at the VHPA Memorial, "In the Air Cav, we don't just fly—we deliver hope under fire."

Today, the U.S. Army Aviation branch builds on these foundations with innovative aircrew equipment upgrades to enhance survivability, situational awareness, and lethality amid evolving threats. Program Executive Office (PEO) Aviation is prioritizing open systems architecture for UH-60M Black Hawks, integrating launched effects like drones for beyond-visual-range strikes and advanced sensors for degraded environments—fielding prototypes by summer 2026. These aircraft-level enhancements pair with personal gear overhauls under PEO Soldier.

By fiscal 2027, aircrew helmets will feature extended rails for seamless attachment of tactical headsets and hearing protection, alongside customizable padding for prolonged missions. The Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS), rebranded Soldier Borne Mission Command (SBMC), evolves into lightweight glasses form factors with augmented reality overlays, fusing night vision, mixed-reality targeting, and real-time data feeds. Anduril and Rivet Joint Ventures secured \$354 million in contracts for 140 prototypes by March 2026, enabling pilots and crew chiefs to "see" through fog, dust, or darkness with AI-assisted threat detection.

Looking further, the Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA)—Bell's V-280 Valor—promises tiltrotor speeds twice that of Black Hawks, with extra payload for special operations medevac kits and integrated crew survival vests upgraded for hypersonic-threat resistance, entering service by 2030.

These advancements honor the VHPA's trailblazers while equipping tomorrow's Air Cav warriors for contested skies. As GEN Brown reminded us, "Humans are more important than hardware." In the 1st Cavalry Division, we fly on their shoulders—Clear Right!

Shawn

BOOKS of INTEREST:

Volume 7, Issue 4: Medal of Honor: Emil Kapaun

<www.ausa.org/kapaun>

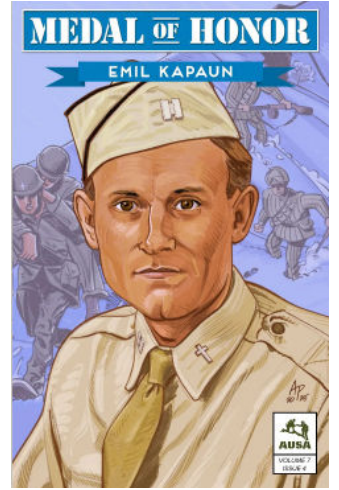
On September 23, the Association of the United States Army was proud to announce its latest entry in the Medal of Honor graphic novel series, which features a Kansas hero: *Medal of Honor: Emil Kapaun*.

Emil Kapaun is the most decorated chaplain in Army history. Known for his courage as much as his spiritual guidance, Kapaun stayed to treat the wounded when Chinese forces overwhelmed his unit during the Korean War. He was sent to a prisoner of war camp, where he gave his rations to fellow Soldiers and defied his captors to lead prayer meetings. Kapaun was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2013 and is under consideration for sainthood in the Catholic Church.

The Association of the United States Army celebrates their valor with the Medal of Honor graphic novel series. These full-color digital books are created by a talented team of professionals drawn from the comic book industry, and the details are vetted by professional historians. Each eight-page issue profiles a true American hero, bringing to life the daring deeds that distinguished themselves by gallantry in action "above and beyond the call of duty."

The series started in October 2018 with the release of *Medal of Honor: Alvin York* to commemorate the centennial of York's heroic actions in World War I. To date, 28 issues have been published, commemorating such heroes as Audie Murphy, Mary Walker, Daniel Inouye, Henry Johnson, and Roy Benavidez.

To read the Medal of Honors online or download a free copy, please visit.
<www.ausa.org/moh>



Cav Hat by Rex Gooch

Cav Hat is a compelling and in-depth exploration of the legendary U.S. Army Cavalry hat. This captivating book takes readers on a fascinating journey through the hat's evolution, tracing its history from the Cavalry's inception in 1855 to the contemporary Cavalry units we recognize today.

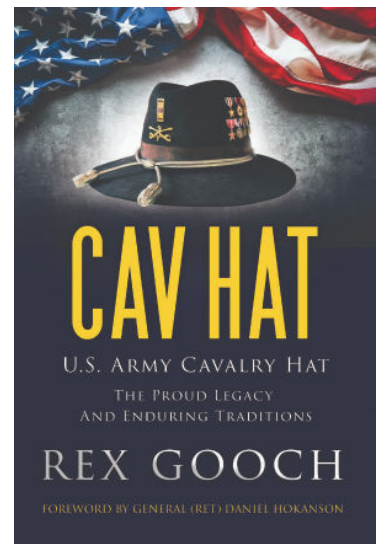
Through powerful personal accounts of cavalry hats worn in war zones and the rich traditions that accompany them, the book reveals the profound legacy and enduring allure of this iconic symbol. *Cav Hat* is a must-read for anyone passionate about the rich heritage and traditions of the U.S. Cavalry.

The book has an entire chapter devoted to the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Detachment. In addition to the narrative, the book includes four pages of color photos.

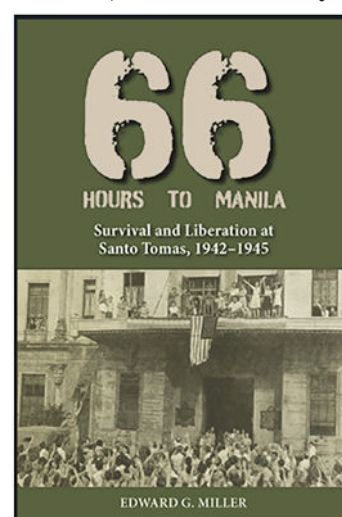
From Stetson:

"We tip our hats to Rex Gooch on the publication of *Cav Hat*, a book that's sure to go down as the definitive story of one of Stetson's most iconic hats, and a symbol of pride for Cavalry Troopers, who affectionately refer to the hat as the 'Stetson.'"

This book is available at Amazon.



Sixty-Six Hours to Manila-Survival and Liberation at Santo Tomas, 1942-1945 by Edward G. Miller



The book is set for release in February 2026 and is also available now for pre-order. Texas A&M University Press is the publisher.

At 85 years of age, reflecting on his experiences in the Pacific Theater in World War II, former US Army Cavalry Soldier, Warren E. Matha said, "The proudest moment of my life occurred when I went through the gate at Santo Tomas in Manila and I saw the faces of the prisoners-the men, women, and children- their smiles, their expressions of relief and gratitude. Suddenly I knew why we were on this mission. I thought to myself, all of it had been worthwhile in return for this one moment."

During World War II, the Japanese government held over 130,000 "enemy alien" civilians throughout the Pacific—including nearly 78,000 women and children. Most of the 7,800 civilians rounded up in the Philippines were American expatriates, and at any one time, about half of these were held

at the campus of the University of Santo Tomas in Manila.

By late 1944, Washington, DC, was concerned that any ground gained as the US Army approached Manila in the early days of the new year would result in execution of the prisoners. Out of other options, a risky behind-the-lines attack was launched with 20,000 Japanese soldiers and 100 miles standing between the captives and their liberators.

Until now, no book has effectively blended the story of the internees with the military operation to free them. Discussing uncomfortable topics such as racism, collaboration with the enemy, and illicit personal relationships, *Sixty-Six Hours to Manila: Survival and Liberation at Santo Tomas, 1942-1945* shines new light on what has largely been a neglected chapter in the story of World War II in the Pacific.

The units involved in the book are 1st Cavalry Division; 44th Tank Battalion, USMC MAGs 24 and 32.

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

545th MP Co News

Lawrence Gardner Ketron

232 New Beason Well Rd
Kingsport, TN 37660
(423) 967-8226
LGKetron@earthlink.net



The 545th MP Company of the 1st Cavalry Division (AIRMObILE) To the reader community: I have been asked to author a series of articles about the experiences of the men of the 545th MP

Company of the 1st Cavalry Division (AIRMObILE). I joined the company in July of 1964, shortly after its inception at Ft. Benning, GA, as the 11th MP Company of the 11th Air Assault Division (TEST). The men still alive in the original company of 1964-1966 are now in their late 70's and early 80's and wanted their

Apology: Please accept my apology for the brevity of the article in the last issue. Was recovering from surgery to remove a cancerous growth from my pancreas and had difficulty getting to the desktop computer.

SOMETIMES EVEN GOOD FRIENDS GET STRESSED AND GET UPSET WITH EACH OTHER.

The 545th MP was not authorized mess facilities, so depending on where we were, it was either C-rations or begging for a meal. When at the division the company ate at the headquarters facility. Upon the return to An Khe, your author was selected for KP duty. The head cook directed that your author would buss the officer tables. Your author explained that men from East Tennessee were free men, had been for over two hundred years, and expected all men to clean up after themselves, and therefore, declined to do that job. Said cook was not happy, and then said, 'pots and pans for you.' Your author replied that was OK, everyone would be treated the same.

Upon completion of KP duty your author met some friends in one of the hex-shaped tents where the late mail clerk, Jim Tykoski, handed your author the expected package. It was a pint of Jack Daniels packed in an oatmeal container. Everyone got their canteen cup out and I shared the bottle. Clockwise, the late Roy Starkey, a Tennessee walking horse trainer from Maryville, TN, was sitting at 12:00. Andy Rasovich, a carpenter from Eastern Kentucky, was at 3:00. The late Jim Tykoski, plant nursery and landscaper owner, was at about 5:00. Your author was at about 7:00. The late Paul Dalton, logger and moonshine drinker from Tellico Plains, Tennessee, was next to Starkey at about 10:00. Roy was a muscular heavily built fellow and was one of the general's guards. He was also known to be sullen at times. Well, when Roy looked down into his canteen cup, he thought there were cigarette ashes in it. Made him mad. He started clockwise around the group asking each man if he was the person who was guilty of the offense of dumping ashes in his cup. Every denied it, but PD laughed when he denied it. Roy, not being satisfied with the responses, started around the group again. Everyone denied doing it, but PD laughed again while denying being the perpetrator. Roy then said, 'Paul, I think you are lying. I am going to whip your butt' upon which PD said, "Roy, if that is the way you feel, come on." Now you have to understand that PD liked to fight. They got up and went out to the perimeter, PD being in front. About the time PD turned around, Roy hit him up aside the head with one of those big fists. PD went down. Told your author later that for the first time in his life, he did not want to get back up.

As your author understands it, the issue of the alcohol shortage was solved by the arrival of a trailer load of the hard stuff. Arrangements were made to have a party in the headquarters mess tent. A bar was set up, some men from Johnson City, TN, were making music and everyone was having a good time. Your author was settled in with some other men from Kingsport, TN, whereby the conversation turned to the Kingsport girls. PD was included in this group. Your author got up

to get another drink. Upon his return someone pulled out the log upon which he was sitting causing him to fall back into the sawdust. When your author looked up, the whole place seemed to be in a brawl. About that time the big cook, L, came through the entrance carrying a mattock handle. He did not get far before PD jumped him from behind, took the handle away and was riding and spurring him. The group with which your author was associated made for the entrance where they were knocked down by PD who was hollering 'We need to get out of here!'

As your author understands it, the next couple of days Troops had to eat outside standing because the mess tent was off limits. Did not bother some of us because we were on the way to Qui Nhon.

It seems that COL Tim Brown, 3rd Brigade commander, was impressed by the job we did during the Ia Drang battle. He wrote a letter of commendation to our company commander who gave us a couple of days in Qui Nhon and a ¾ truck for transportation.

Your author was impressed by the way COL Brown treated us. You have a job to do, so do it. He did not micro-manage. Of course he was not dealing with boys straight out of high school, but with older men who were street wise, had worked several years, and maybe owned their own business. Your author, one of the younger ones, was about to turn twenty-three. The voting age at that time was twenty-one. Based on conversations with members from the first and second platoons, the other two brigade commanders did not operate like that.

THE POW CAGE

Upon our return from Qui Nhon the late Delmer Egan, Charles Adcock, Charles Allen, and your author were assigned to operate the POW holding facility. It consisted of an office hut built from scrap wood, a connex for a jail cell, a sleeping shelter built from scrap wood and a latrine. Most of the time the occupants consisted of children and adults picked up at the trash dump. When we had a ¾ truck load, they would be taken to An Khe and released. On occasion the prisoner would be someone that the infantry had picked up. Typically MI came after them before the end of day. There was one we named 'John' who was there several days. He was an ex-ARVN soldier and knew how to spit shine boots. We paid him for his work. Finally someone came and got him.

This job lasted through Christmas. When Tet started, Adcock and your author were put to work escorting supply convoys on Highway 19 from An Khe to Pleiku. The convoys ran unescorted from Qui Nhon to An Khe. We would escort them through the Mang Yang pass and on across the plains. Most of the bridges between An Khe and Pleiku were lying on the ground, so there was one way traffic at stream crossings. Traffic would be west bound for a while, then east bound would be released. Typically the MP's would follow the west bound traffic, spend the night at Pleiku, run the checkpoint on the east side of town and follow the last east bound convoy of the day back to An Khe.

Plans went awry on the first trip. Your author was in the lead M151. Never been down that highway before. Had no map, just a sheet of paper with hen scratching on it for a map. The engine of M151 bringing up the rear of the convoy started misfiring, so the MP's radioed that they were turning back. There was a mix of vehicle types and loads in the convoy, each one running at a different speed as the convoy crawled up to the Mang Yang pass. Your author needed to make sure the last vehicle cleared the pass OK. Had no way of knowing what lay ahead, so your author stopped the convoy until all vehicles cleared the pass. About this time a Huey landed, an officer jumped out and commenced chewing me out for stopping the convoy. I explained I was not sure about where I was. When shown what I had in the way of a map, he cursed and gave me his map. The rest of the trip was uneventful.

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

A SPECIAL DONATION



Robert W. Bob Dodson 8th ENG 1965-66

It is not everyday the Association HQ receives special visitors. This visitor traveled all the way from Phenix City, Alabama with his son at the wheel, bringing the Association a special gift.

Robert (Bob) Dodson, first reached out to me via the phone, said he was coming down for a visit and was bringing us a picture he'd had in his possession for over 20 years. During his time in the office, we heard all the stories from his past: how he met his wife, how he came to be in the 11th Air Assault and eventually the 1st Cavalry Division. His mind was still sharp as a tack.

The gift he brought was a picture drawn by a young lady, Elizabeth Burgess (ne., Jenners), with no previous art experience. He remains in touch with her today.

Some of our members may recognize this print, as Bob used to display this picture at reunions, always promising to give the picture to the Association when the time was right, hence the reason for his visit.

As you can see from the photo, the picture depicts the different phases the 1st Cavalry Division has gone through along with the different uniforms worn by our Soldiers. It truly depicts the history of this great Division.

We thank you Bob for framed artwork and sharing your stories with us!

OTHER REUNIONS:

1st Cavalry Division Association 78th 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

TAPS:

We were notified of the following deaths:
ALVERSON, LTC (RET) Frank L., Jr., A Co, 1-9 CAV & HHT, 1-9 CAV, 1968-69. 9 September 2025. (Board of Governors 2002-2016)
DOWLING, SSG David W., C Co, 8th ENG, 1965-66. 30 September 2025.
FOUSEK, COL (RET) Richard J., HHC, DISCOM, 1990 & 2000. 19 September 2025.
HOWORTH, PFC William F., C Co, 1-7 CAV, 1964-66. 8 October 2025.
MULLANY, SGT Thomas J., D Co, 227 AVN, 1966-67. 1 September 2025.
PAISECKI, Trooper Mark A., C Co, 8th ENG, 1969. 16 October 2025.
ROBINSON, SGT George, B Co, 8 ENG, 1954. 15 September 2025.
SKIPPER, 1SG Terrance, D Co, 2-5 CAV, 1965. 17 October 2025.
STEER, SP4 Terrence C., A Btry, 2-19 FA, 1968-69. 20 August 2025.

ACTIVE-DUTY TAPS:

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

TROOPER'S TALE

Continued from pg. 5

It felt like a hellish eternity of chaos. And then suddenly, complete silence, deafening. I lay there in the silence that followed, certain I wouldn't survive the night. My thoughts turned to home, my mother, my father, my sisters. I imagined them a world away, sleeping soundly, unaware their son and brother was about to die in a jungle drenched in blood.

Then I remembered something that froze my soul. One of our instructors back at Fort Eustis had told us a story, a brutal warning wrapped in gallows humor. A helicopter crew was shot down in Vietnam. The pilots were captured for bounty. The door gunner and crew chief? Worthless to the enemy. They hung them in the trees with safety wire threaded through their eyes. That memory came crashing back, and I knew I was staring into the gates of hell. And I was next.

I was beyond terrified. Words like "fear" and "panic" felt meaningless. I was drowning in it. Then, something happened, call it a miracle, a divine mercy. But in that moment, I turned to God; desperate, broken, and wide open and He was there. We had one hell of a conversation, me and Almighty. I made promises that night, vows born from the raw edges of fear and faith and I've spent every day since trying to keep them. This story is one of them. From that night on, I was never alone again. That night, in the belly of darkness, I found God or maybe He found me. And I've spoken to Him every day since.

TERRY

When the gunfire ceased and the jungle fell into a haunted silence, a voice rose, raw and ragged cutting through the stillness like a blade. "GARY... GARY!" Over and over, desperate and loud. My blood ran cold. The enemy would love nothing more than a beacon, a sound to lead them straight to us. I knew I had to stop it. I began crawling toward the sound, every inch a prayer, every rustle of the underbrush sounded like a loud betrayal giving our position away. The voice didn't let up. When I reached Terry, I froze. His face was half torn away, barely recognizable, but that didn't stop him from crying out his fallen friend's name with the strength of a man who refused to die quietly. I have no idea how he managed to even speak, let alone yell. Among all the wounded, Terry was by far the worst. And yet there he was, summoning a voice from the pit of hell itself.

I grabbed his arm, tried to whisper to plead for silence. But he kept calling out. Louder. Panic gripped me. I crawled up, chest to chest, hovering over him. I locked eyes with his eyes filled with pain and confusion and squeezed his arm hard. "SHUT THE HELL UP!" I hissed, my voice cutting and sharp. "YOU'LL GIVE AWAY OUR POSITION!"

The words felt like acid in my mouth. It was one of the hardest things I've ever done in my life. He was my friend, my brother, my medic. And here I was, screaming at him in his most broken moment. Terry just stared at me stunned. His eyes searched mine for something, maybe understanding, maybe comfort. Then, slowly, the cries turned to quiet whimpers. The jungle swallowing the sound. He didn't say Gary's name again.

I stayed with Terry after that, holding what little strength I had together to comfort him, to let him know he wasn't alone. Except for one desperate trip to try and find water, I never left his side again. Not then, not in my memory, not ever.

PHILHOWER OR CLASON

It was somewhere around midnight when either Clason or Philhower appeared out of the shadows. Both were MACV Team 162 advisors, embedded with the South Vietnamese Airborne Companies. Exhaustion had blurred the lines of time and faces. I couldn't tell them apart anymore. He knelt beside me, eyes sunken but steady, and asked how I was holding up. Before I could answer, he reached into his pocket and pulled out a small, crumpled packet Bugs Bunny pre-sweetened Kool-Aid. "Rip the corner," he said softly. "Dip your finger in then lick it. Helps with the thirst."

We were on day two with no water tongues thick, throats like sandpaper. Even the OV-2s had tried to help, strapping water bags to their rocket pods and dropping them to us, but the bags burst on impact, liquid salvation spilled uselessly into the dirt. Then came the question I wasn't expecting. "Where's the beer on the aircraft?" I froze for a second. He'd spoken to the pilots; I was sure of it. What they didn't know was that I had offloaded the beer to lighten the aircraft for Richard's sake. Every ounce had mattered. I told him I left it at Katum. His face dropped hope crushed in a blink. But I quickly added, "There's still a crash kit onboard and Terry always carried extra IV bottles in his aid bag."

That sliver of hope reignited something in both of us. Right then and there, we hatched a desperate plan: we'd sneak through the jungle to reach the downed Huey. Artillery would be adjusted for one precious hour, giving us a fragile window to find what was left.

I hadn't seen the bird since I'd been shot. My heart raced as we crept through the jungle's oppressive silence, every branch of a potential betrayer, every shadow a threat. When the wreckage came into view, my stomach twisted. What was left of our aircraft was barely even metal. It wasn't a Huey anymore. It was a pile of ash. We approached slowly, cautiously. Philhower or Clason crawled onto what remained, guided by my outstretched hand as I pointed to where the crash kit would've been. But there was nothing, just scorched remnants. Same with Terry's aid bag. Nothing but brittle black flakes. The IV bottles, melted, obliterated by the heat. Our mission was over before it began.

Richard Rocco, Steve Modica, and Lee Caubarreaux

Richard lay semi-conscious, isolated and alone, in a patch of jungle that swallowed sound and light. Steve and Lee were in another shadowed pocket, separated by design not accident. I believe it was a tactical move, a desperate measure to make it harder for the enemy to find us. Lee, sharp under pressure, had to wrestle the radio from Steve, who was slipping into shock and had already barked a string of raw, improper words at our battalion commander circling above. Despite the chaos, Lee steadied himself, took control, and directed the incoming rescue aircraft like a battlefield conductor. His calm cut through the panic.

The Last Rescue Attempt

The final attempt was sheer fury and precision. The plan? Obliterate the west tree line with a curtain of artillery. General Shoemaker didn't just call the shots, he flew straight through the kill zone, navigating hell as he coordinated with the guns below, adjusting their fire with surgical grit. For that act of audacity, he earned the Silver Star. Deservedly.

Then the three Medevacs came, flying low, fast, and fierce. The first ship, piloted by xxxxxxxx, roared in and scooped up Richard, Terry, Steve, and Lee.

Jim Mitchell, the medic, fought through the smoke and carnage to pull them in. I was directed to the second chopper, flown by CPT Rodes, with Bill Walsh at my side as medic. The third bird, piloted by Ray Zepp, surged in behind us. He took heavy fire, multiple hits but somehow, by sheer will and defiance, pulled pitch and got us all the hell out of there.

FIFTY-FIVE YEARS LATER

It never left me, not for a day, not for a breath. For decades, I kept it locked away silent, until recently, when I realized my family deserved to know. Richard Rocco was awarded the Medal of Honor. Steve Modica was awarded an impacted Silver Star, Lee Caubarreaux was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross after his Silver Star was downgraded to a DFC. Gary Taylor and I were awarded DFCs and Terry Burdette an ARCOM with a Bronze Star. We were all awarded a Purple Heart. I learned something that shook me: Terry never received the Distinguished Flying Cross I always believed he had. And then, another blow, Lee's Silver Star recommendation had been quietly downgraded to a DFC because Steve Modica had already been impacted a Silver Star. What kind of twisted logic is that? What, only one hero allowed?

That day, in that crucible of fire and blood, it was Richard and Lee who stood out, not just as Soldiers, but as legends. Heroes in every sense of the word. The fact that Lee and Terry weren't recognized as such is not just an oversight, it's an injustice.

In September of 2024 President Joe Biden signed into law "The Vietnam Crewmembers ACT." Which means all Vietnam Dustoff/Medevac Crewmembers received a Congressional Gold Medal. Our Governor of Kansas Laura Kelley proclaimed April 10th as Vietnam Dustoff Day.

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SALUTE TO OUR
VETERANS

Across our great Nation and throughout the world, Americans will pause on Veterans Day to honor our brave men and women who have underwritten our freedoms through their duty, honor, and selfless service. On November 11th,

we recognize that all our Veterans and their Families have given something of themselves to this Nation.

All Veterans, regardless of their service and the era in which they served, have paid the price time and time again; defending America through both the best and worst of times and have performed their duties tirelessly, with little recognition or fanfare. Thomas Paine said, "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigue of supporting it." Our members have shouldered that burden and experienced the fatigue of waging war to bring about peace.

As American citizens we owe an eternal debt to the untold number of Veterans, who chose to set aside their personal ambitions for the well being of our great Nation. We are indeed the beneficiaries of those sacrifices. May we always be humbly grateful... to those brave patriots...who suffered and sacrificed for the glory of God and for the freedom of all Americans.

Our Nation is fortunate to have had millions of its brave men and women stand and fight for freedom. We owe it to them and their Families to ensure that their service and sacrifices are always remembered.

We have a simple yet heartfelt message -- Thank You. Thank you for your unwavering service in peacetime and war, for our country... and throughout the world.

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:

SP-5 ADAMS, W. Howard	\$100	CSM (RET) GRAHAM, Charles S.	\$25	CPT LAND, Henry W.	\$50
SGT ARNOLD, James F.	\$100	IMO All Who Gave All		IMO Med EVAC Pilots and Crews	
IMO PFC David J. Latoria A Co 1/7		CPT HALL, Sanci	\$75	SP-4 MINDT, Garvin T.	\$80
SGT BALL, Kenneth W.	\$50	CPT HOUSE, John C.	\$100	IMO The Fallen of The Ia Drang	
IHO POW's & MIA's		IMO SSG Donald O. Callahan HHB Divarty		SGT MORAN, Thomas	\$75
MS. BECHTOLD	\$100	1968-1969		SP-4 PETERSEN, Alan	\$20
IHO Donald O. Callahan		SGT JENNE, James A.	\$25	IMO TECH SGT Ralph Petersen WWII	\$20
1LT BRITTAIN, Darrell	\$30			E-5 RABKIN, Ted	\$50
LTG (RET) BYRNES, Kevin & Paula Payton	\$1,500			SP-4 ROSENCRANS, Larry	\$25
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SP5 CHANEY, Victor	\$25			SSG WERNER, Steven Kirk	\$100
				IMO ALL 1-12 TROOPERS	
				1LT WEEKS, Robert A. II	\$75



As of November 2, 2025

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.

VETERANS AFFAIRS NEWS:

VETERANS GO WITHOUT CRITICAL VA SERVICES, 37,000 VA EMPLOYEES MISSING PAY DUE TO DEMOCRATS' GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

October 30, 2025

WASHINGTON — The Democrats' decision to shut down the federal government has forced nearly 37,000 Department of Veterans Affairs employees to be furloughed or continue working without pay.

Because VA receives some advance appropriations from Congress, the department's medical centers, outpatient clinics and Vet Centers remain open and operating normally during the shutdown. Additionally, VA benefits will continue to be processed and delivered, including compensation, pension, education, and housing benefits. Burials will also continue at VA national cemeteries.

Some important VA services, however, have been stopped because of the Democrats' government shutdown. For example:

- More than 900,000 Veterans are unable to get assistance from the GI Bill Hotline, which has been shut down.
- More than 100,000 enrolled Veterans cannot get Veteran Readiness and Employment program counseling or case management services, as those employees have been furloughed.
 - The backlog of new applicants for the VR&E program is 61,988 and growing by the day.
- 56 VA regional benefits offices are closed to the public.
- VA's Manila regional office is in the process of permanently closing, as its legal authority to operate expired Sept 30.
- More than 16,000 service members who are preparing to leave the military cannot receive VA transition briefings, as the contract that provides for this service is not operational during the lapse in appropriations. During this time, transitioning service members will continue to have online access to the full content of the TAP briefing.
- 157 VA national cemeteries across the country are no longer performing grounds maintenance or placing permanent headstones.

"The Democrats' government shutdown is limiting services for Veterans and making life miserable for VA employees, and things are only going to get worse as time goes on," said VA Secretary Doug Collins. "It's time for Democrats to stop using the suffering of Americans as political leverage to give free health care to illegal immigrants. I call on them to open the government and enable VA to provide the complete and comprehensive services America's Veterans, families, caregivers and survivors have earned."

VA LAUNCHES OFFLINE MOBILE APP TO SUPPORT HBPC TEAMS IN REMOTE AREAS

October 24, 2025 / Alan Greilsamer, VA EHRM Communications

Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) teams now have a faster and more secure way to support Veterans in remote areas, even those without internet access, thanks to the recent implementation of the [Oracle Health Community Care app](#), formerly known as [Mobile Care](#).

The app allows HBPC staff to view critical patient information, including documentation, orders, medications, labs and histories, in an offline, read-only capacity, enabling providers to deliver consistent, high-quality care in rural or low-connectivity areas. The app also has additional features, such as essential risk assessments and offline free-text documents.

SAVING TIME AND REDUCING DISRUPTIONS

This marks a major improvement over previous workflows, which required staff to log in to laptops, connect to hotspots, access virtual private networks and launch Citrix to reach patient records. Now, staff can open a patient chart directly at the point of care, saving time and reducing disruptions. The app is in use across all six facilities that are live with the Federal Electronic Health Record, and performance so far has been strong.

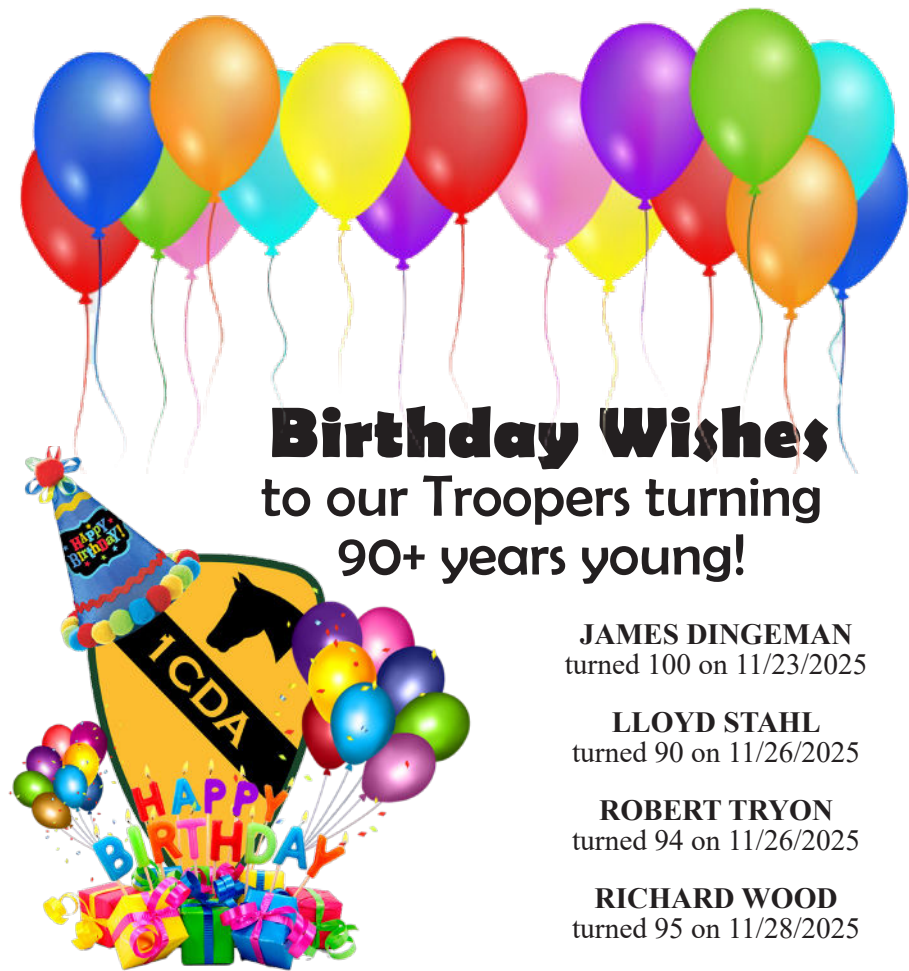
From Aug 22 through mid-September, 97% of the nearly 1,400 transactions conducted in the app — such as opening a patient chart, submitting a lab order, or saving a note — were completed in under two seconds. "I had a patient move and used the app to find their new home while in the field," said Jessica Berger, a dietician at Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in Spokane, Washington. "I have used some advanced filters on my documents to pull up notes by author or note type for ease of access. It makes finding some of the notes very easy, and I can view them in AdHoc Notes. I also bring my laptop into the home for visits, so I will use it to document in AdHoc while I reference other information on the phone app. This helps me save time."

The app, available on government-furnished iOS devices such as iPhones and iPads, also improves data safety and security. By giving HBPC staff access to records directly on their devices instead of printing outpatient charts or taking handwritten notes, it reduces the risk of sensitive patient data being lost or mis-handled.

Beyond added convenience, the app also supports stronger engagement with Veterans. Staff can use the app during visits to show Veterans trends in their health information, helping them better understand the importance of their treatment plans.

By equipping HBPC teams with mobile access to patient records without needing internet access, the Oracle Health Community Care app helps staff deliver care more efficiently, securely and effectively.

The 1st Cavalry Division Association & Crossed Sabers Gift Shop
would like to wish
all of our members a very
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Birthday Wishes
to our Troopers turning
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turned 100 on 11/23/2025
- LLOYD STAHL
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- ROBERT TRYON
turned 94 on 11/26/2025
- RICHARD WOOD
turned 95 on 11/28/2025
- LLOYD GRABLE
turned 98 on 11/29/2025
- RALPH DAVID
turned 90 on 12/03/2025
- RAYMOND MORAGA
turned 95 on 12/05/2025
- ROBERT HOLLAND
turned 94 on 12/08/2025
- WILLIAM MOUL
turned 94 on 12/22/2025

- JOHN MOMEIER
turned 93 on 11/02/2025
- HERBERT YOUNG JR.
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- STEPHEN BOSMA
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- BILLY TIPPINS
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- H. THOMAS FINCHER JR.
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Replacement Membership Cards



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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.

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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/>>

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