



SABER

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



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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015

The President's Corner



Summer is almost over and I hope you had a good one! Labor Day is history, the kids are back in school, and the thought of winter is on the horizon. Hope I didn't make you feel too depressed. Leaving Pennsylvania to spend about seven months in Florida takes away a lot of the pain for me. I sure don't miss all that snow and to make it even worse, the last two winters have been brutal in the northeast.

In September I attended the 12th Cav mini-reunion in Branson, Missouri and my annual trip to Kokomo, Indiana for the Vietnam and all Veterans reunion that I have attended since 1999. As I have mentioned before, this is an outdoor Woodstock type reunion with thousands of Veterans from all branches of the service and now just not Vietnam Vets. Just like the Cav reunions, we have to have the younger Vets to keep things moving. This has been one of the primary objectives I wanted to accomplish during my term as your president. I hope I am successful in getting younger Veterans involved!

As most of you know by now, the next big event on the agenda is Veterans Day on the mall in Washington, DC. The Veterans Day dinner will be on the 14th, not the 11th as usual to accommodate the Ia Drang Veterans. Details are found elsewhere in this paper. This is the 50th Anniversary of the battle of the Ia Drang and heavy involvement of the Cav in Vietnam, and the 40th anniversary of the official end to the war. For me, it is 45 years since I came back and got out of the army in Oakland, California. Like a lot of us, it doesn't seem possible is has been that long. Many memories that seem just like yesterday.. That's the best thing about military reunions; you renew old friendships and hopefully make new ones. If you run into someone you actually served with, that's a bonus! When they leave the service, I hope today's troopers keep in touch with their buddies. I imagine for most soldiers doing "Army" things is the last thing they are thinking about. But, I guarantee you, down the road, it will mean something. As we all say, it only takes time.

As for next year, plans are well settled for our annual reunion in Las Vegas. The headquarters hotel is the Palace Station Hotel & Casino, just off the main strip. Room reservations can be made now. Registration information will be in the November/December *Saber*. Look for it then, and we will look for you there!

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James R. Stokely, 203 N Otter St., Mercer, PA 16137-1120,
<Gunport1.6India@gmail.com

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



Dennis E. Webster
302 N. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703
(254) 547-6537
FirstCav@1cda.org



Greetings from the Association Headquarters in Copperas Cove, Texas.

While it may seem

to you that things never change in the Association, the opposite is really the case. I have been the Executive Director for the last 13 years and for most of that time we had Lorinda Davison and Martha Fisher working here at the office. Lorinda retired a couple of years ago and was replaced by Angela Murphy. This year, Martha quit working for the Association and late in August, Angela left to become a teacher in the Copperas Cove Independent School District. Many of you met Karleen Maloney during the reunion. She started working with us part time and is now full time and is replacing Martha in most areas with a little of Angela's old tasks mixed in to fill up her day. She is a Veteran, but never served with the Division. She is doing well and learning the tasks necessary to keep us up to speed. Karleen handles our new members and updates to the database for those of you that move or need to renew your subscriptions to *Saber*. She will also handle the reunion database. She also is doing the Chapter Coordinator job and managing

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Horse Detachment by CPT Elizabeth Rascon



Troopers perform the Mounted Drill and Ceremony Demonstration at HCD Stables

As the summer season winds down and cooler weather begins rolling in, the Horse Cavalry Detachment Troopers enjoyed an opportunity leave period before climbing back in the saddle and getting right back to work. September is a busy month here at the HCD.

In addition to our

weekly public demonstrations we are traveling around the Central Texas area to perform our Mounted Demonstration for local communities. On the 12th of September HCD is headed to De Leon, Texas to kick off their Rodeo, and the following week on the 16th of September we are headed up to Waco as part of the annual Farm Fest Parade for Veterans. Later that week, we are going to be at the Roaring Ranger Fest in Ranger, Texas to present our Nations colors and perform our Mounted Demonstration. Another exciting event planned this month is the Army Equine Conference and the National Cavalry Competition. We are sending 19 Troopers to El Reno, Oklahoma from the 21st through the 27th of September to participate and compete at all riding experience levels. On the 4th of October we are on the road again, this time headed to Eastland, Texas to ride in the annual Rodeo Parade. The following weekend on the 10th of October you can catch up with us in Centerville, Texas or on the 31st of October at the HCD Stables for the Retiree Appreciation Demonstration. We are looking forward to a busy fall season here at the barn and in the local community!

As always, we conduct demonstrations at the detachment on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This is the time we showcase our Cavalry riding skills and invite the public to come out and enjoy the show. Feel free to call ahead and reserve some seats at (254) 287-2229. You can also find us on facebook (Horse Cavalry Detachment) where we post pictures from the barn and let you know about upcoming events and ceremonies.

DIVISION DOINGS

Ironhorse Brigade Rises To Challenge During Summer Training Event by SSG Keith Anderson, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs



Soldiers from 2-12 CAV fire a 120mm round from their M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tank.

FORT HOOD, Texas – During 16 of the hottest days of the summer, attack aviation crews, combat engineers, dismounted infantry, military police, explosive ordnance disposal teams, tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicle crews, heavy artillery, mortar sections and many other Soldiers took part in a massive exercise in the ranges and impact areas of North Fort Hood, here from August 10 to 25.

Soldiers from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and enablers from other Fort Hood units as well as from Fort Bragg, North Carolina participated in Ironhorse Challenge, a combined arms live-fire maneuver and coordination exercise.

"Ironhorse Challenge was a full-scale training exercise in preparation for our upcoming decisive action rotation at the National Training Center," said COL John DiGiambattista, 1st ABCT commander. "It gave us the great opportunity to prepare for our nation's call."

The exercise involved complex integration and maneuver planning and implementation from squads through company, battalion and brigade leadership, to not only certify and recertify company and battalion elements, but also to rehearse the military decision-making process, troop leading procedures, synchronizing maneuver with enablers and many other facets of modern warfare.

"Ironhorse Challenge was a tremendous opportunity for the BCT to get the balance of our team in the field training together prior to our October decisive

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ADDRESS CHANGE

Don't Keep it a SECRET, Let us Know About It.
 To submit by e-mail, send to membership@1cda.org.
 Clip and Mail to 1st Cavalry Division Association
 302 N. Main, Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703
 Last 4 #'s of your SSN _____ DOB _____
 Tel: (____) _____
 Rank and Name: _____
 New Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Unit: (1) _____ and (2) _____
 Date of Assign: (1) _____ and (2) _____
 E-Mail: _____

I served with the 1st Cav. Div. in (Circle one or more) Pre-WWII WWII JAPAN KOREAN WAR KOREA '57-'65 FT BENNING VIETNAM FT HOOD GULF BOSNIA AFGHANISTAN IRAQ FT BLISS
 I DO/DO NOT authorize release of my personal info to Assn. members.
 I served with another military unit during a war time period? YES NO

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: (____) _____

Calendar of 1st Cavalry Division Association

2015	
November 9-14	Veterans Day and Veterans Day Dinner, Washington, DC
2016	
February 26-27	Meeting of the Board of Governors, Killeen, TX
June 8-12	69th Annual Reunion, Las Vegas, NV

- TAPS**
- We have been notified of the death of the following:
- BROWN**, PFC James H., 61st FA, 1949-50. 15 August 2015.
BROWN, SGT Joseph G., C Btry., 2-19th FA, A Co., 2-8th CAV, 1965-66. 24 July 2015.
BUGGS, CW3 (Ret) Ronnie A., 15th ADM, 1965-66. 15 April 2015.
DASHER, SP4 Charles A., Jr., C Co., 1-7th CAV, 1965. 23 July 2015.
DAVIS, SFC (Ret) James, M., HHC, 2-7th CAV, 2004-06; A Trp., 6-9th CAV, 2006-07. 25 July 2015.
FREEL, SP5 Jack L., B Co., 15th TC, 1966-67. 3 June 2015.
GABRIEL, SP4 Robert, B Co., 2-12th CAV, 1967-68. 24 July 2015.
HARTWELL, SSG Wyeth D., A Btry., 99th FA, 1950-51. 26 August 2015.
IRWIN, SP5 Richard D., A Co., 1-7th CAV, 1969; HHC, 1CD, 1969-70. 16 April 2015.
KILCREASE, LTC (Ret) Jack L., B Trp., 1-9th CAV, 1965. 6 September 2015.
LAMONTE, LTC (Ret) Robert S., A Co., 227th AVN, 1965-66. 12 August 2015.
LAUGHLIN, CW2 Virgil M. Jr., A Trp., 1-9th CAV, 1968-69. 6 September 2015.
MAHANY, CW2 Patrick E., D Co., 229th AVN, 1971-72. 3 July 2015.
RHIDDLEHOOVER, BG (Ret) Loyd P., HHC, 1-12th CAV, 1967. 7 August 2015.
ROWELL, SGT James M., B Co., 2-8th CAV, 1968-69. 24 August 2014.
ROYAL, PFC John D., B Co., 1-8th CAV, 1968-69. 26 April 2015.
SANDERS, CPT Jalani, Sr., A Co., 615th ASB, 2005-08. 4 September 2015.
STEWART, SGT Charles E., C Co., 2-7th CAV, 1968-69. 1 August 2015.
STINSON, SFC John G., E Co., 2-8th CAV, 1949-50. 5 July 2015.
TAYLOR, SFC (Ret) Ronald R., B Trp., 1-9th CAV, 1978-79. 2 September 2015.
TOWNSLEY, COL (Ret) Edwin, S., HHC, 8th ENG, 1967-68. 5 June 2015.
WALLING, TRP Donald W., B Co., 2-7th CAV, 1968-69. 18 August 2015.
WOODYARD, SP4 John S., C Btry., 1-21st FA, 1969-70. 23 March 2015.

- ACTIVE DUTY TAPS**
- We have been notified of the death of the following Active Duty Troopers who died in the United States:
- WESTBROOK**, SPC Carlo G Co., (FSC) 2-12th CAV, 2015. 21 August 2015.

We honor the passing of our friends and comrades in arms.

- NEW MEMBERS**
- SPC ANDREWS JIMMY TX 2- 5C 1506
 LTC BELINSKY SUNSET TX HHC 1CDH 1506
 SSG BRADBERRY MICHAEL SCOT TX A 1- 8C 1011
 SFC CATIRO JIMMY TX A 1- 82FA 1508
 SSG CAVAZOS RANDY TX C 91ENG 1508
 SSG CAVINS JOSHUA P. TX 2- 12C 1507
 CPT COX JOHN L CT 215CSB 7109
 SGT DEISBECK ROBERT TX B 115BSB 1507
 SGT ELSING GLENN CA 31ENG 6807
 CPT ESTEP COREY D. TX HHC 1C 1508
 SGT HARTMAN SAMUEL E CO 1- 21FA 6707
 SPC HAYDEN GARY A OH 545MP 70
 MS HEINLE MARY IL 1351 ASSOC



SABER

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 Home Page: <http://www.1cda.org>
 EDITOR: Dara Wydler
 ASSISTANT EDITOR: Karleen Maloney
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Dennis E. Webster

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Manuscripts should be originals or clear copies, either typed or printed in near-letter quality printer mode. Word processor submissions are accepted via e-mail. Attach a self-adhesive label with photo information to the back of photos and cutlines for each photo. Include name and address if the photo is to be returned. Do not send panoramic photos wider than 8.5 in.

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, "thank you" notes 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

Dear Editor,

If the 1st Cavalry Division had not freed us on February 3, 1945, I would not be writing you this letter. There were many men in the Flying Column that came into Santo Tomas to rescue 3,700 internees from the Japanese. The four soldiers I keep in touch with are as follows: (1) I talk to John Yunker, three to four times a month. He lives in Milwaukee. My husband and I see him and his wife Gertrude on the south side of Milwaukee. (2) Chester Calvert from Farmers, Kentucky I have never met, but we speak often. (3) Jack Pike from Stockton, California and I speak often also. (4) In October of 2014, Chelly Mendoza from Baldwin, Louisiana died in his sleep. I met him and his family in 2006. We and Chelly's family still miss him. Each of these four men risked their lives to free total strangers and gave us our freedom back. Over and over I humbly thank God for each of these men. They know that freedom is not free, but in their goodness and courage, these men came into Manila, drove through enemy lines, and opened the gates of Santo Tomas freeing us who had been interred since the beginning of the war. God Bless you all, I love you all.

If anyone would like to call me or write me, I would deeply appreciate you doing this.

Sincerely,
 Rosemarie Webber, 10200 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226, 262-844-2141.

Dear Editor,

I'm trying to locate a cousin of mine who served in the 1st Cavalry Division late 1966 to early 1967 with the last name "Riekse". I don't know his full name or the specific unit he was in but he was airborne qualified and earned the CIB while in Vietnam. He would have been 19-21 years of age and was tall, thin, and had blond hair. I know that he looked like me because I've been mistaken for him twice in my Army career. He may have stayed in the military and possibly served in Germany.

I am writing a family history of military service. I was referred to you by one of your members and a good friend of mine, Glenn Sheathelm.

Sincerely,
 Max Riekse, LTC (Ret), PO Box 82, Fruitport, MI 49415, 231-865-3238

- OTHER REUNIONS**
- 2-7th Cavalry 1965-71, 15-18 October 2015.** Chattanooga Marriott Downtown, Chattanooga, TN. Contact Bud Alley, <alleybud@gmail.com>, (615) 587-2073.
- ACo., 1-12th CAV (1971-72), 16-18 October 2015.** Best Western, San Antonio, TX. Contact John Cates, 936-577-9449, <JCates628@Hotmail.Com>.
- 15th MED Association, 11-18 April 2016.** Red Lion Inn, Olympia, WA. Contact Larry Hatch, <campingout@comcast.net>.
- D Co. 2-8th Cavalry, 1965-1972, 18-21 May 2016.** Red Lion Hotel, Renton, WA. Information at <www.angryskipperassociation.org> or contact Robin Woo, <rwoo@surewest.net>.
- Aerial Rocket Artillery Association, 7-11 September 2016.** Embassy Suites Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO. Information will be available at <www.araasociation.com>.
- MR HOLLAND MARK MN 1352 1-ASSOC
 SGT INCHAUSTEGUI JHAMPIER TX E 91ENG 1506
 SSG JORDAN CHARLES TX 1- 7C 1508
 SP-5 KECK RICHARD OK HHC 15SS 6808
 SP-5 KNUTSON KENNETH A. CA A 2-12C 6904
 SFC LEARY LONNIE L. SR TX HHC 1BCT 1502
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CHAPTER NEWS

COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE CHAPTER



Canby Rodeo WWII Vets

Tony Hartley past President of the Chapter and President of "Honor Flight of Portland Oregon", Terry Low, our current President, and Jim Johnson Vice President of the Chapter joined a group of volunteers who were at the Canby Rodeo on Friday Night August 21, 2015 (Veterans Night). There was a tribute to 18 local World War II Veterans who have already made the trip to see their Memorial. They were in attendance to help recognize "Honor Flight of Portland Oregon" and their

efforts to send WW II veterans to Washington, D.C. to see their memorial. A two minute trailer of an Honor Flight trip was shown on the big screen. There was not a dry eye in the arena. The Canby Rodeo made a donation and the crowd was also very generous when buckets were passed. For some of the veterans this was their first rodeo. They truly had a great time.

Tony, Terry and I feel privileged as 1st Cavalry Division Association members to be involved with Honor Flight of Portland Oregon and the Greatest Generation that has ever lived. Jim Johnson, Vice President

JAMES J. MASON WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Our August meeting had to be cancelled because the majority of attendees were travelling. Bingo was again hosted by the Chapter on 30 August with another fun filled hour of interaction with the Veteran Community at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Our final Bingo event for 2015 is on 29 November.

Chapter members Mike McGregor, Bob Anderson and 9th ID supporter Mike Hale are busy with Honor Guard funerals. Through August this trio has participated in over 300 veteran funerals. It's a wonderful way to give something back to the families of those veterans who have transitioned into Fiddler's Green!

Chapter member Rex Greenawalt has published a book of his poems about Vietnam and his journey alongside PTSD. If you are interested please contact me for more information.

We would love to see some new Troopers join the Chapter. Contact Bob Anderson at 616.682.5446 or e-mail him at <rbj.anderson2243@comcast.net> for more information. We would welcome you to just stop in, if only to say hi. We now meet on even numbered months (next meetings are in October and December of this year and February of 2016) on the 3rd Thursday at 1900 hours. Bob Anderson, Secretary

LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER



of Cav Troopers.

At the Chapter meeting in August we were joined by Sergeant William "Bill" Galbraith, and his son Tom. SGT Galbraith (seated to the left in the photo) is a WWII veteran, former member of the 101st Airborne, and has the distinction of parachuting into Normandy on D-Day. SGT Galbraith is 91, funny, charming, cantankerous, and sharper than any tack. SGT Galbraith graciously shared some of his memorable Normandy invasion experiences with a spellbound audience

It was indeed an honor and privilege to have SGT Galbraith join us at our meeting. He was truly a member of that "Band of Brothers" at the tip of the spear. Thank you SGT Galbraith, you are quite a character - the Los Angeles/Orange County Chapter renders you a hand salute, one deservedly earned. John Guilory, President

NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY CHAPTER



Bob Arbasetti and Joey Delgado

On Saturday, September 12, 2015, the New York-New Jersey chapter celebrated the placing of the Chapter's paver within Huey Plaza at the New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. In honor of this event the chapter held a short ceremony followed by a Picnic/Lunch. Remarks were by Mick McCann, former combat helicopter pilot and past Chapter President.

On Saturday October 24, 2015 the Chapter will hold it fall meeting. The meeting begins at 11:00AM at the Elks Lodge in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey. Details will follow. Bob Arbasetti, President

President's Corner

Continued from pg. 1

As you probably noticed, our Executive Director, CSM Dennis Webster is planning on retiring next year. My, he is getting old! I want to say now, he has done a great job and will be hard to replace. It's been a pleasure to work with him. His wife Sandra, daughter Angela, and son John, have helped out a lot over the years as well. Details on finding a replacement are found elsewhere in the *Saber*. We appointed a committee to search for his replacement so the exact date he will actually leave is not set. Needless to say, the job of Executive Director is a lot

LIFE APPLICATION/SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL BUSINESS STYLE CARDS are available at 200 for \$15.00. No hassle with having to carry legal size sheets of paper (Life Membership Applications) or sub forms. Orders will be sent to printers for printing when 3-4 are accumulated. Please be patient with us. Sample below. (Actual size 3" x 2")



1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
302 N. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703
(254) 547-6537
firstcav@1cda.org



NAME
POSITION IN CHAPTER
UNIT
DATES OF ASSIGNMENT

STREET ADDRESS
CITY, ST, ZIP
E-MAIL:

PHONE:
(000) 000-0000
(000) 000-0000 Cell

Enroll me as a Life Member.....	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Renew my subscription.....	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
New or Renewal of Associate Membership.....	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
D-Trooper.....	\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business Cards	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

\$10 covers your subscription to *SABER* for one year.
\$25 makes you a D-Troop member plus a one year subscription.
\$50 makes you a D-Troop member plus a one year subscription and you receive a suitable poster or print.
\$100 makes you a D-Troop member plus a one year subscription and you receive a First Team print.
\$500 makes you a Silver Brigade member plus a 10 year subscription.
\$1,000 makes you a Gold Brigade member plus a 20 year subscription.
All D-Troopers receive certificates suitable for framing.
Brigade members receive handsome 1st Cavalry wall plaque.
All donors (\$25 or more) receive mention in the Honor Roll column and may dedicate gifts. D-Troop milestones can be achieved cumulatively. We will keep track of your contributions.
Associate Membership - for those with no service with the 1st Cav. Div.
\$15 one year Associate membership plus a one year subscription.
\$150 Life Associate plus a five year subscription and you receive a framed certificate.

LAST 4 NUMBERS OF SSN _____ DOB _____
Rank _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
Dates Assigned (1) _____ (2) _____
I served with 1st Team in Unit (1) _____ and (2) _____
E-mail _____

I Authorize release of information to: No one ___ Other Members only ___
Other Members and USAA Only ___
I served with the 1st Cavalry Division in (Circle one or more)
Pre-WWII WWII Japan Korean War Korea '57-'65 Fort Benning
Vietnam War Fort Hood Gulf War Bosnia Afghanistan Iraq Fort Bliss
Have you served with any other military unit during a war time period? YES NO

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Executive Director of the 1st Cavalry Division Association

The current Executive Director, CSM (Ret) Dennis Webster is retiring. The Association wishes to fill the position by April 2016.

Anyone interested in filling this position should submit a hardcopy resume to:

1st Cavalry Division Association
ATTN: Executive Director Selection Committee
302 N Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

Requirements for Applicants:

- Must have served with the 1st Cavalry Division and must be a Life Member of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.
- Must be able to provide proof of service with the 1st Cavalry Division.
- Must have an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army.
- Must work at the Association office located in Copperas Cove, Texas.
- The job description may be reviewed on the 1st Cavalry Division website at <<http://www.1cda.org/exec-director-position.html>> or may be obtained via email.

of work. I know it keeps him and the two ladies that work in the office busy to stay on top of everything that the Association has going on throughout the year. Many thanks Dennis!

By the time the next issue of the *Saber* comes out, thoughts of Christmas and the New Year will be on our minds. Should I say now think spring! Time will tell.

I'll wrap this up for now. Stay well and all the best. First Team!

61st FA News



Gordon Cress
6562 Windflower Dr.
Carlsbad, CA 92011-2508
(760) 918-0470



This issue of the *Saber* should be getting to you in mid-October, and I hope you are enjoying a nice autumn. Surprisingly

we actually had some rain out here in the San Diego area in July. I think it set records for the rainiest July ever. Our July rainfall is normally zero. We did appreciate it as we're in the midst of a four-year drought. On the other hand, the weather folks are forecasting an El Nino year and that means more winter rain than usual. Of course, with heavy rains they are now also forecasting floods, mud slides, etc. Oh well.

My wife entered four quilts in the San Diego County Fair held at the Del Mar Race Track grounds. She was surprised and delighted when she won two blue ribbons, a red and a yellow (that's two firsts, a second and a third place). Not only that, but the ribbons came with cash prizes totaling \$85. Can't beat that!

As some of you know, I spent a lot of time working on the Gemini and Apollo programs back in the '60s. I've been scanning a whole bunch of photos of the astronauts and space stuff from my records and then sending the originals to the United States Space Walk of Fame in Titusville, Florida. It's quite a place and I'd sure recommend stopping by their museum and the memorials if you ever get the chance. The memorials to the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and Space Shuttle programs are in a park near the museum and are pretty impressive to say the least.

In mid-August we received this from Richard Weakley... "Just a short note to inform you that last Monday morning Audrey was going into the Safeway store in Pueblo West and tripped and fell. Two bystanders helped her up. After getting back home she refused medical attention. She began hurting more during the night. I took her to the hospital and after a number of x-rays, the doctor came in and informed us that she'd broken two ribs on her left side, plus a number of bruises on her left arm and knee (the one that was replaced). After getting a shot to relieve the pain, she was doing much better. She had a small supper and went to bed. The doctor gave her instructions so that she would be able to begin feeling better faster. Would appreciate your prayers for Audrey. PS...forgot to tell you that she has a new pair of glasses and has had a lot of trouble with them. Seems like the new lens is not for her and she had the old lens put back in the frames. She's doing a lot better with her vision now." So sorry to hear this, Rich, and our best wishes to Audrey for a quick recovery.

Also received this from Don Harvey... "Many of us on the 1955 DivArty Red Raiders Football Team have often tried to learn more about "A-John", who was not on the football team but assigned and bunked in our quarters. To my knowledge, the list of teammates provided by Pete O'Brien are unable to completely identify A-John (given name, rank, assigned duty, military history, etc.). The A-John photo included below shows A-John sitting across from Don Harvey (myself lying in bunk). I didn't often have the opportunity to try and converse with A-John--as it was difficult to understand his attempted response--most of the time it was simply, repeatedly, "A-John, A-John." He appeared to have experienced some form of torture or excessive stress disorder (similar to PTSD), maybe during the Korean conflict. He was gone during the day to locations unknown while the team held practice and returned in the evening. He didn't seem to have other friends. On occasion, he delivered the mail--sometimes days late when it was relocated. A-John was a pleasant guy, but sad to say I don't know much about him. Can you help us identify him? Best, Don Harvey." Later we got a PS stating, "Ted Boyatzies always thought A-John was a former Army Captain who had been brainwashed as a captive in Korea and when released, the Army, having no better place to "hide" him, stuck him with us. Anyone have any other theories?" Thanks Don, and we'll certainly let you know if anyone contacts us with news regarding A-John.

We rented a house near the beach in Oxnard, California in mid-August and



A-John 1955 Red Raiders

took the daughter and granddaughter with us. It was on the Silver Strand area and we had a great time. The granddaughter spent a lot of time swimming in the ocean (a little too cold for us adults). We spent time reading, playing pool, air hockey, ping pong, shopping, sightseeing, relaxing and eating.

Bill Fancher called just to say hello and talk about Bruce Tafoya. Bill knew a fellow they called Smokey Tafoya in the 61st, but we determined that Bruce was in the 61st almost ten years after Bill was there. Bill is almost 96 now and, other than suffering with a hernia that he's having a problem getting the VA to fix, he's not doing too badly. He says his eyes and appetite are not good these days, but that's not a real serious problem. He tells me that he's still getting the *Saber* and reading this column to check on folks he might know.

From Bill Stewart... "Gordon, Pat and I are doing fine except for the really hot days - we can't take the high humidity. Mostly doing the usual fall routine,

get hay in for the winter, check winter pastures fences. Got e-mails that Jim Barth, James Brown and Louis Hentz has passed away. Barth in May, Hentz in July and Brown in August. Also received an email with a new address for - Jim Marks. It is 101 South Avenue Q, Apt D-42, Clifton, TX 76634. We have had a couple of fish fries here at the house. Our youngest son and his wife caught about 150 blue gills out of our lake and they shared them with us. Our retirement club from work had a picnic last week and it was about like our reunions, very low turnout, everyone is leaving this messed up world. We had one of cows have twins and she deserted them. We have been bottle feeding them for about a month now. This is about all of the news I have, Bill." Thanks for the update, Bill.

Received from Peter O'Brien... "Hi Gordon, I'm very happy to hear that Jim Miller, of the 99th FA Battalion, is planning to visit Fran Goedken, the sole GI survivor of the Toya Maru sinking on September 26, 1954. Jim says he plans to write up the visit. Another website has inquired about the disaster and I sent them the list of American military and civilian fatalities and the wording of the Soldier's Medal which was awarded posthumously to LT George Vaillancourt of Battery C, 99th FA, who bravely sought to calm the victims as the typhoon buffeted, and ultimately sank, the vessel. The website was developed as the Korean War Educator by Lynnita Brown at <www.thekwe.org/home.htm>. Stay well and keep that 61st column coming! Best, Pete." Thanks, Pete, always nice to hear from you.

From Dick Weakley... "Korean War Veterans Association marks 20th anniversary of Korean War Veterans Memorial and 62nd anniversary of signing of the Military Armistice Agreement. The group of 500 veterans, family members and supporters solemnly convened in Washington, DC, over the period July 22-27, participating in the activities of the national convention of the Korean War Veterans Association.

Everyone was blessed by temperatures in the mid-80's, with a refreshing stiff breeze blowing from the East on every day during the convention. On July 28, however, the air turned typical DC sultry once more, with the thermometer pretty much stuck at 95F - and even sometimes climbing higher.

Dignitaries present at the official Korean War Veterans Memorial 20th anniversary commemoration service were many, from the United States, the Republic of Korea, Canada and other nations." Thanks for sending this along, Dick. I've been there and it's an impressive memorial.



Korean War Memorial

From Ed Jakubowski in late August... "Hi Gordon, please don't stop writing the articles about the 61st FA. Although we have only met personally one time, at the reunion in New Stanton, Iowa a few years ago, you make me feel as though we have had a much closer relationship. I look forward to reading the *Saber* and hope you continue to forward the information about those who are and were part of our 61st FA brotherhood. As my contribution, my most recent happenings have been somewhat less than pleasant. Last December I spent the month in a nursing home after a spell which resulted in my inability to walk. I was taken to UPMC Hamot Medical Center in Erie, where they diagnosed my problem to be with my back and legs. After two trips to the emergency department, I was admitted to a nursing home for rehab. During that time, including both Christmas and New Years, I received some pretty intense therapy. I was released and was coming along pretty well. After three weeks, I had some serious breathing problems, again another ambulance trip to the hospital where I was told I had a heart attack. I was released after a week during which I had angioplasty and a stent. Subsequent rehab consisted of rest and care by my loving wife, God bless her! Three days later, Toni slipped and fell on ice, and broke her left arm. That required surgery with a plate and seven screws in her arm. Guess who becomes the caregiver now! I have had a few breathing spells since then, one of which required a few days back in the hospital removing a water buildup in my gut. They are following my care through the heart failure clinic and I'm doing pretty well. Toni and I celebrated our 60th anniversary in June, and thankfully I was able to be there when my sister who lives in Dallas, TX hosted a celebration in Erie along with other family members. All of our episodes on top of the extreme weather we had made for a memorable winter. Thanks for listening. Ed J." Thanks so much for the update, Ed, glad to hear things have calmed down a bit and congratulations on the 60th!

In late August we received this from Liz Irvine of San Antonio, Texas ... "Dear Gordon Cress, my copy of the *Saber* arrived and the picture on page 4 of Bernard Herzog and tankers caught my eye! Yes, the picture is legit. It was an Air Force photo and was published along with a lengthy article in *Colliers Magazine* for February 5, 1949. I have the article, which is several pages long. Bernard Herzog is dressed the way most of the men in the Ste. Tomas Camp were. The "pail" he's carrying is a large can with a wire handle attached and was what most of us carried to go through the chow line. I was in the camp as a teenager, with my family, for over three years. We can all remember vividly the night the 1st Cavalry Division Flying Column broke in and liberated us! Hooray for the 1st Cav! Incidentally, we're close family friends with the first GI I met that night (Frank Mendez, of Tucson, Arizona, 8th Regiment) and we all keep in close touch." It was terrific to receive this great letter and thanks so much to Liz for sending it. Really glad we decided to publish the photo.

Take care, 'Sta Bueno and keep those cards, letters, phone calls and e-mails coming.

5th CAV News



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Dead Reckoning': an unpublished manuscript by Stephen Saunders that might become another chapter in

his book "Breaking Squelch" or maybe the beginning chapter in a new effort.

"This powerful memory has been on stage since 1967, rerunning behind my eyes in virtual reality, on and on, a horror show with no finale. I was 19 when I killed a man. All who fell were in the bloom of youth. A 17-year-old in our rifle company was killed in action. Once you see war it plays endlessly. A deadly crisis blindsided us quick as a bullet. We were up against skilled killers with automatic weapons, right on us, and more on the way. You can't think it out. You react and ride it out. They kicked off a dance with death, so I had to get up on my toes. The tempo was instinct; the tune—survive. Sitting it out was no option. I grabbed the lead in this lethal whirl, gave reign to my feral side, and quick-stepped to the kill. A North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldier was the first man who I killed for dead certain. In earlier firefights I couldn't be sure. There was no doubt here. I saw his living face three separate times. The first glance of him was whisper close—a breath-slurping startle. He should have killed me. Minutes later, when I next laid eyes on his face, he was my quarry and I was keen to kill him. The last look was eye-to-eye. It was for keeps.

"It was as ruthless as a gangland hit. There was no justice here. The law of the jungle reigned. My index finger squeezed. Automatic fire erupted. Beside me—silence. Why didn't my buddy Ski fire? Was he shot from the rear? Was the main force on us? Not yet. Ski's lone shotgun round was a dud—Murphy's Law in play. Too hurried to crack open the grenade launcher and reload, Ski swore, grabbed his .45 pistol and blazed away. The dud startled me for a blink. Four NVA feet churned water like piranha in feeding frenzy. My 19-round magazine emptied in three bursts. Before I could slap in another, both NVA reached the bank. Slack jawed, the lead man dropped his rifle at waters edge, stepped a few paces, and tumbled into a heap. The second man got across and went down, but scrambled into the bush. Ski fired grenades after him. If the runaway were not hit, those 40mm blasts skeddaddled him.

"Adrenaline gushed through vein and capillary. Those bastards have buddies on the way, I agonized, scurrying back to the radio. Within minutes of my anxious call for a pre-plotted fire mission, covering shellfire crashed close in around us, then I adjusted it to walk the bursts down the trail. The lead man lay upon his pack in the streamside grass; a jackknifed knee marked him like a tombstone. I plucked his rifle from the water without breaking stride as Ski and I scrambled to him. Screening artillery slammed in close about. Memory refuses to reveal where my bullets struck him. Stuck wide in terror, his unblinking eyes were black marbles. They fastened on mine. The mouth opened and closed repeatedly, gnawing at the uncaring world like a caught fish. Out pumped a bloody cud. His jaw stilled, gently closing for the last time. "Then I touched death. And death touched me. His warmth and sweat tagged my fingers as I scavenged the man's pockets. I remember the smell. In fresh death his floppy arms and limp neck muscles held no suggestion of their panic minutes before. Nervy tension and strain goaded Ski and I with feral desperation. Ski drew his knife and sliced the straps of the NVA's rucksack to pillage its meager booty. I grabbed stripper clips fat with SKS ammo and switched a camouflage parachute panel from his pocket to mine. It would shield my sleeping face from mosquitoes for months. His head had rolled aside when Ski cut the ruck and I snatched up the NVA bush hat beneath it.

"My eyes scanned his image like a sculptor and buried it deep inside, out of sight and out of my way. Time and tranquility would exhume the likeness and I would stumble over it. I would see that face forever and look upon it with attitudes that mellowed with life's seasons. He was a North Vietnamese Army regular, "hard-core" we called them. Wiry and fit, he looked fresher than our filthy, unshaven and wrung-out mien. His coal black hair, thick and straight, was well-trimmed high on the sides—a good military haircut. Like the rifle, his khaki uniform was clean and new. No whiskers sprouted on his amber chin. It was the tender look of youth—an *infantryman*.

"Trauma distorts time. Only minutes had passed since my first eyeful of him. It was an age now, again, it was our time to be killed, but not like this—shot down off guard, without a fight, to choke on our own blood. When the artillery fire lifted, we ran flat out up the valley like frantic fugitives then ducked into a large cane patch. The remaining daylight hours passed quietly, except for Hays' pneumonia cough. Whenever a hacking fit erupted, Ski and I smothered Hays' face into a wadded poncho liner. Time to break out the peaches. Hays sipped the juice—cough syrup. We were waterlogged and punch drunk with desperation, but the absurdity of it all tickled our funny bones. Gallows humor was all we had. In war boys act like men and men act like boys.

"That night seemed to endure for days as nocturnal NVA searched for us. Afraid of my voice, I communicated with headquarters by clicks of breaking squelch on the radio handset. Light beams along the trail sliced into the black night. A flashlight? Dogs barked. Hays hacked. Daylight broke open a sky clear and full of high hope. Out fell a swoop-in air cavalry rescue. For identification I popped a red smoke grenade as the pilot directed, then the Huey set into a nearby paddy. Two gunships circled and plunged like swallows, spewing suppressing firepower as we bolted to the chopper. After the flight, officers from 2nd battalion headquarters debriefed me in their cozy firebase sanctuary. One cast a larcenous glance at my trophy SKS rifle with folding bayonet. Later he stole it. I rejoined the platoon.

"This engagement was unremarkable, almost routine, in context—just one gust in a gale of war. The moment melted seamlessly into the next and the one after. There was no musing upon it or notation of its gravitas. Dire months, each filled with a lifetime of risk and excitement, preceded and followed that pony team. Regret never entered the scene. I was heedless of the dead son's mother whose heart would spoil with mordant grief over her missing boy. Mementos of the day repose in my den, a tribute of sorts to one dead at my hand, killed in rancor, but dead with honor—relics that certify my survival and highlight the harshness of reality. In a strange sense, he validates my living. His spirit walks nearby.

"A lifetime of dead reckoning has yet to navigate and exit combat's emotional maze. It all deadended; there is no undoing. The ghouls of war cast a shadow across my otherwise sunny path. Any joy or satisfaction of life must always buck against an aspect of otherness dealt out by killing, however justified. The survival karma turned on me, darkening with guilt. Why did I survive? It's hard to fit in. I ponder without remorse that other men would be living if I had been shot dead on that intersection of trail and stream, a crossroads of killing and an intercrossing in life. On all fours, I am still climbing out of that valley, head up tracking high hope. I keep watch lest ghosts bushwhack me.

"The war is ever-present. I inhabit two time zones. Harsh attitudes laid down in that bare-knuckle world of my last teenage year—a dog year—are in stone. Weight of time and silence ossified them. Someday I might crack the code of those old modes dialed in hard and rusted tight. I doubt it. The culture and ethic of Vietnam combat sticks like a birthmark. When suddenly I had to slam on the stateside brakes, I fishtailed and skidded, but kept on the road and left no marks. I sucked it up and it dragged from the other end—but I hit all green lights.

"The Vietnam War for those who *really* fought it was another dimension of being. Many, unafraid and dry shod in comfort and secure in self-righteous purity, snobbishly judged us over sips of Bordeaux and nibbles of Brie, noses aloft in their rarefied air. Shame on them. There are no regrets for what I did, only for what I did not do. The war's memory cache is the font of wettest tears, tugging relentless swells of anger, pride, guilt, and grief—from deep inside. And so that familiar face stares out from yesterday, no longer an enemy, but a gruesome reminder of a harsh world of consequence. There are no *what ifs*—only *what was* and *what is to be*."

J.T. Sobolak writes: "We were called, We Served, We performed, and we call on our Government to compensate us for PTSD; and what do we get? We get papers, 'We need more data Mr. Sobolak.' The V.A. in Pittsburgh did two bladder cancer operations on me, free of charge. But, they tell me 'it is not related to Viet-Nam.' I say, 'Remember those steel drums that we cut in half and punched holes in the bottom to get a shower? Did you ever check what was in them. To my recollection it read DIOXIDE, AGENT ORANGE.' The funny thing is that I never touched a cigarette while in Viet-Nam; must have been the Pittsburgh air. What about my wife and my two children? Are they walking around Pittsburgh carrying anything from that War Torn Country? On the subject of PTSD, lots of people get PTSD. Working women, bank tellers that were held up, people in car wrecks etc., etc., etc. What about a Viet-Nam Combat Vet? They say, 'no way, need more data.' I am tired of seeing Quacks that were not even born in my era, telling me that I am fine. But I still have to deal with fireworks, helicopters flying overhead with search lights on looking for a helicopter pad to land on at the hospital and people staring at me because I have a Viet-Nam shirt on, (and very few have come up to me and said 'thanks for your service'). And most of all, how about rage? Can you deal with family and friends without flying off the hammer? Oh well, just found out that my neighbor served with the Cav. Took him 8 and 1/2 years and now he is getting compensation from our government. Let's see, according to that statement I will be close to 80 years old, one foot on the ground and one foot in the casket. So keep fighting." SP/4 J.T. Sobolak 1965-1966. Remember, keep your head down and help is on the way!

Strength in Numbers: Dr. Therese Unumb wrote a great little article in the National Alliance on Mental Illness newsletter 'The Voice' on the importance of having an 'Advocate' working with those who have been hit hard by the trauma of mental illness and I would think 'combat trauma' and PTSD. I think her article is a great insight and it is very useful to those of us who are working through Shellshock, Battle Fatigue and Combat Trauma (PTSD).

Dr. Unumb Writes: "I know what it's like to feel as if you are free-falling through an expanse of glass, just as I know how long it can take to extricate the shards of trauma from the body of memory. Living with a loved one's mental illness is such a trauma. And if we are not careful, the shards will generate a chronic state of hopelessness.

"As a clinical psychologist since 1988, I have witnessed the pain, strength and resilience of individuals whose lives have been seriously affected by mental illness. I am intimately familiar with their confusion, fatigue, hopelessness and fury as they strive to find sustenance and healing. I am also a member of a large family, and extended family, where many have experienced the ravages of mental illness—including debilitating depression, crippling anxiety, and schizoaffective disorder. As a group, we have been hit hard.

"Always, in my work, I underscore the critical importance for having an advocate, a trusted person or persons who can help us navigate through needed health care systems. Advocates are charged with a multitude of responsibility, including accessing care for a family member, and each of us, even those of us who are also professionals in the field, are at high risk for emotional and physical depletion. During a crisis, advocates encounters with health care systems can seem like a tumble down the rabbit hole. we find ourselves in the curious world of HIPPA regulations, insurance nightmares, professional arrogance and lapses in coordination of care. We often feel lost, confused and unheard. Unsupported.

"Although I've advocated for family members on numerous occasions, no amount of professional experience could have spared me the helplessness, despair and numbing isolation I experienced when I witnessed a loved one's suicide attempt. I remember the horror, the slow spin into shock, the thud of emptiness. I remember the clap of hope crashing. I remember the lonely, disembodied walk through an emergency room corridor, and later of crawling silently into bed, filled with dread.

"The right professional care, broad and unfailing support—including that garnered through NAMI, which is a beacon of light for those with a mental illness and for those who care about them—all were instrumental for my family member's recovery. Many years later, that individuals renewed sense of purpose, productivity, and capacity for joy remain well in evidence.

"When we, as advocates, have adequate support, we become better equipped to provide support. Having been graced with resources, and the support of highly-skilled compassionate therapists, family trusted friends, and kindred spirits, no longer do I feel the jagged edge of trauma against my skin."

Hope is "the thing with feathers that perches in the soul." Hope is what advocates find in one another. Healing is what happens in hope's sweet embrace.

God Bless and Welcome Home.

12th CAV News



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President of the United States of America is not an easy task let me tell you, My Friend. So many posers have entered the race that I no longer know what direction I am headed or where anymore are the issues. (They all entered behind me I might add - just proves what those losers think of America - but you judge for yourself, My Friend.) Fleabag one-half star motels and zero Michelin star rubber chicken dinners are in no way comfort food or sleep easy destinations, but I knew from the get-go. I haven't yet decided if it is better than my normal fare of ramen and lukewarm water, but when I figure it out you will know first. I suffer in your stead so we may all have a brighter future in a Land of Equality and Justice. "A car in every garage and a chicken in every pot", those goons were pikers, My Friend. Three cars outside each home, be it hovel or mansion, and steak on every table unless you have beef anxiety! Don't believe the empty promises of my opponents - believe mine! Remember our motto: 'There are people like them; then there are folks like us.'

0147 General Loyd Perkins Rhiddlehoover Jr., 84, commander of 1-12 Cavalry Battalion in Vietnam from February to October of 1967, died on 7 August 2015 after a battle with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. He entered the United States Military Academy as a member of the Class of 1952. While at West Point, he discovered his prowess for lacrosse and became a starting defensive player. He earned a varsity letter with a gold star for beating the Naval Academy, was named to the College Lacrosse All American (second team), and was elected captain of the 1952 North All Star Team. Upon graduation, Loyd received his commission in the US Army as a Second Lieutenant. His 28-year career was distinguished by numerous accomplishments including the award of two Combat Infantry Badges as well as the Bronze and Silver Stars for service in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. In 1960, Loyd was posted to Tulane University where he graduated with a Master of Science in Nuclear Physics and was inducted to the national Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society. Loyd achieved promotion to Brigadier General in 1975 after 23 years of service. Loyd is survived by his wife Elizabeth, daughter Colonel Sarah Beth Cliatt, graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, and son Loyd P. Rhiddlehoover III, graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, among others. The family requests donations be made in Loyd's honor to the West Point Lacrosse Team, <westpointaog.org/supportclub>. Everyone to whom I have spoken told of his skill as a commander and spoke highly of him as a leader, friend, and man. Gerry Gudinas spoke of talking alone with him at reunions and the 'Colonel' (as he was known) remembering every individual wounded or KIA that Gerry recalled. <Gerry Gudinas; Legacy.com>



BG Loyd Perkins Rhiddlehoover, Jr.

0347 1-12 Cavalry. "Almost two years in the making, a multi-component partnership set out to execute a new idea. The 3rd ABCT, 1st Cav, worked with its partner unit, the 155th ABCT, Mississippi Army National Guard, in a large training exercise at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Next year they will do it all over again with new tasks as 155th ABCT travels to Fort Hood. As the units progressed through multiple levels of training during the Exportable Combat Training Capability exercise, the 1-12th Cavalry even operated as one of 155th ABCT's units. "The 1-12 Cav's mission here is to partner with the 155th ABCT in support of Army National Guard training objectives to complete the XCTC, which is their preparation for their Multi-echelon integrated Brigade Training Exercise at Fort Hood, with a follow on mission to the National Training Center in 2017," said CSM Ronald Graves. "We learned a few things and will establish better TTPs (tactics, techniques, and procedures)," Graves said. "It's about building the relationships and TTPs so that it's a reverse effect when the 155th is at Fort Hood." Graves said his Soldiers are taking on a number of different roles within the Mississippi training exercise, including setting up training lanes and role playing, which will mutually assist both units to refine their tactical operating procedures. "One of the challenges is the heat condition, but we piled on some of our own takes like small arms training and drivers training. We are improving our training simultaneously while supporting [training of] the 155th." There are observer controllers that evaluate both the 155th ABCT and 1-12 Cav as they conduct their missions and complete their training objectives. After the exercise is completed, the observers will perform multiple after-action reviews that will provide input about how the units went about accomplishing their tasks, and provide insight on how to improve." <FortHoodSentinel.Com>



A team of combat medics, with the 1-12 CAV carry a Soldier on a litter during a class at Camp Shelby, MS.

0547 2-12 Cavalry, 11 August 2015. "Nearly 4,000 soldiers from 1st Cavalry Division's 1st BCT began a nearly two-week-long training exercise August 11, as part of the unit's gear-up for a rotation at the Army's National Training Center this October. Last week, as part of the training event known as Ironhorse Challenge, Soldiers from the unit performed daily combined arms live fire exercises, incorporating Bradley Fighting Vehicles, Abrams tanks, Apache helicopters, combat engineers, field artillery and mortar support. Members of 2-12, along with elements from the 91st Engineer Battalion, 1- 82 Field Artillery, 1- 227 Aviation Regiment, participated in that day's exercise. 1-12 Commander LTC Mike Bajema said his Soldiers performed well during the day's task. "They're growing better in their readiness. We're ready to meet the enemy anywhere in the world, so I'm very proud of them," he said. While executing the Ironhorse

0001 Hey Sailor, new in town? LETTER from the Road: 'Another town, another town-hall meeting! The work of being elected

Challenge, Soldiers experienced some of the warmest temperatures so far this year, however, the heat only increased the quality of preparation. "That's just added to the challenge, and I think that gives our Soldiers an opportunity to meet the challenge, rise to the occasion and gives them some background, so if they face more challenging training, more and more challenging circumstances somewhere else in the world, they're better prepared. We really wouldn't want it any other way. You want to train in the hardest environment you can find." said brigade commander, COL John DiGiambattista <KDHNews.Com>



2-12 Cavalry Change of Command from LTC Rockefeller to LTC Bajema.

0947 On Tuesday 14 July 2015, Trooper 'Pointman' James Abram, C 1-12 Cavalry Vietnam, Deacon, Outpost Leader and State Coordinator of Pointman International Ministries, Founder and President of Pointman Soldiers Heart Ministry, was awarded with the prestigious 2015 Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown Service Award. The Jesse Brown award was in recognition for the work Trooper Abram has done for veterans both locally in the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania regions, and nationally. Jesse Brown was the first African American Secretary of Veterans Affairs from 1993-1997. Anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting and chatting for any length of time with Pointman will attest and concur with this recognition. I could wax at length about his character and mission but my fingers run short of words and too much praise would only belie his humble being. Congratulations! <Facebook.Com/PSHMinistry>

1147 At the annual reunion of the Association of 3d Armored Division Veterans 15-19 July 2015, in Kansas City, MO, Trooper Mark Williams, 3rd Squadron 12th Cavalry, was presented the Daniel Merritt award by association president Gale Messier. The presentation of the Daniel Merritt award was in recognition for Mark's outstanding work on the association's websites. The award, presented annually at the Association reunion by the president of the association, honors Colonel Daniel A. Merritt who was a distinguished member of the association and served 5 tours with the 3 AD, totaling nearly ten years. Congratulations! <3AD.Org; Facebook.Com>



Mark Williams 3-12 Cavalry Colonel Daniel A. Merritt President's Award

1347 During the 30th annual convention of VietNow National, 7-10 May 2015 at Pheasant Run Resort & Spa, St. Charles, IL, Trooper Sam Veer, A & E 1-12 Vietnam was honored as national 'Veteran of the Year'. "Sam was honored for his dedicated work helping veterans, providing many different outlets with information in the name of the Freeport Chapter. It was my privilege to present this to Sam on behalf of the entire VietNow organization. Sam spends many hours putting together reports on various subjects from PTSD to Gulf War Illness. Every month I receive Sam's reports from his sources. [Agent Orange, Gulf War Illness, POW, PTSD] Sam has been doing this for several years, and his work is highly thought of by everyone who receives it. Please join me in thanking Sam for all he does in the name of VietNow, and as our 2015 'Veteran of the Year'. " ~ VietNow national president Joe Lewis. Congratulations! <Facebook, VietNow.Com; Photo by Ken Nelson, VietNow Staff Photographer>. Looks like the 1-12 Cavalry is winning.



Sam Veer, 2015 VietNow Veteran of the Year.

1547 William T. Ripley. "Hello. My name is Wm. T. Ripley. I'm 43, married, and have 2 kids. I majored in history at Ball State University, and presently work as one of the Natural Science curators at a local museum. I am a military historian that has been working on contacting veterans of WWII. I began this project in 1986, but am still working hard on it. I became interested in WWII at age 4 (really) and started collecting uniforms, weapons, equipment, personal items, etc. At 16 I started contacting veterans like I mentioned above. I should point out this project has nothing to do with my museum...just me being a big history nerd. In early 2013 I began contacting veterans of the Vietnam War. I have a brief 6 page questionnaire I'd like to send you. The questions are designed to find out a bit about the 'day to day' life as it were. I ask everyone the same questions as I can then compare and contrast answers. It's kind of interesting seeing the differences between units, AO's, and year. There are some questions about combat in particular, but many of them deal more with the material culture of the time. Right now I'm doing this as a personal hobby, but would 'someday' like to make this available to other living historians, museum curators, model builders, teachers, that sort of thing. I'd also like to ask if you have a photo of yourself while overseas, if you'd be willing to share it. I'm not entirely sure yet, but I'm thinking about doing a compilation book with the replies I get, and would like to include your photo as well." If this is your will, and meets your needs, please give this gentleman an email reply and share all the thoughts you have been collecting all these years. It might also give you the nudge needed, and a guideline, to finally discuss and share your wartime experiences with your family. <SNAFU947@Yahoo.Com>, <Via email>

1747 Ivory Whitaker, C 1-12 Cavalry, continued: "Whitaker and his fellow Soldiers marched down the mountain and into the valley. But when they reached the base, they heard weapons fire coming off the landing zone. The enemy had surrounded their mortar platoon. The battalion commander ordered Whitaker

Continued on pg. 10

7th CAV News



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As this installment of OUR 7th Cavalry News begins to take shape, I

hearken back almost 50 years to the last days in August of 1965. The 1st Cav has finally arrived in Vietnam to the beginning of a long eight years of close quarters infantry and helicopter combat. The GarryOwen Sky Trooper fought hard in the Central Highlands and then 3 years later moved south to III Corps exposing and interdicting the infiltration routes leading toward Saigon. Quon Loi, Phuoc Vinh, Tay Ninh, LZ Buttons, LZ Wescott, An Loc, LZ Phyllis, LZ Vivian, the Song Be River, Bu Dop and QL-13 are familiar names where soldiers fought and bested both the NVA and VC in the red dirt and humid jungle of that Corps.

As you start to read this column the Cav will be gathering in Washington for our traditional Veterans Day observances with a wreath laying, memorial dinner and general camaraderie that only soldiers have. A Band of Brothers steeled forever in the crucible of fire and washed in the blood of our fallen. We will also never forget the sacrifice of those who fought in the Pacific during World War II, in the bitter cold of the Korean War, the aforementioned Vietnam and Cambodia, the Persian Gulf War and the ongoing War on Terror! GarryOwen!

In these days of high technological warfare it's good to look back and pay tribute to those that went before us – the GarryOwen Horse Cavalrymen. Because of this column I've had the distinct honor to rub shoulders with some of the finest cavalymen you will ever meet: Guys like Bob Andersen and the late Norm Osterby from Minnesota. Norm wrote our column for years. Ralph Braunstein and President Emeritus William A. Richardson. Having to take care of their mounts: brushing; checking hooves; cooling them down; watering and feeding. All these things had to be done prior to tending to their own needs. Bill, Ralph, Norm and Bob helped to set the stage for what was to become the 1st Cavalry Division Association. This wonderful Association has provided thousands of Troopers the joys of reconnecting over these past 70 years simply because of the foresight of these four and hundreds more who served in World War II. The Plank holders of the great 1st Cavalry Division Association – First Team! These guys were the forerunners of what our Association has evolved into. I humbly ask today that if you are so inclined to send up a prayer for Bill Richardson who is facing a daunting fight with cancer. Bill and his wife Eva have given more that can ever be repaid to both Associations. Thank you Bill and Eva with love.

The Korean War brought a new set of challenges to the 7th Cavalry. Gone were the Horse Soldiers but their spirit lived on in the bitter cold and high humid heat on the Korean Peninsula. Warriors like the late Bob Spiroff and Ray 'Old Soldier' Moran. My good friends Sherman Van Dyke and Gordon Severson. Gordon presided over the last meeting of the Korean War 7th Cavalry Chapter this past September. I was honored to receive a copy of Bob's book – *Korea – A Frozen Hell on Earth in 1997*.

The Vietnam War brought the latest technology in the form of the UH-1 Huey Helicopter into the forefront. "...freed forever from the tyranny of Terrain" was borrowed from our 'yearbook.' Hal Moore; Joe Marm; the late Basil Plumley; late Jim Brigham; Bud Alley; Larry Guinn; Dennis Deal; Shortround Migut; Bob Arbasetti; Dale Harbitz; Enrique Gonzalez; Jim Hackbarth; Doug 'Sergeant Rock' Halls; Patrick J. Keane; the late Peter K. Boyev; late George B. Lovelace III; Phil Zook; Karl Haartz; David Smith; John J. Tinti; the late Emory L. Smith; John Talbott; Carl Montean; the late George 'Bull' Durham and the late William Furr. And the ultimate combat correspondent over the past 50+ years – Joe Galloway, who is still serving our soldiers! This is a smattering of honorable men that I served with and honorable warriors that I met through this column.

I could go on but space has its limits. Suffice it to say that without memberships in these organizations I would have been a much poorer individual.

From our President John Guillory comes the following reunion report: Troopers of C Company (Pony Teams), 2-7 held their 6th biannual reunion, on August 20-22. The festive gathering took place at Lake De Gray Resort, in friendly Arkadelphia, Arkansas. MSG (Ret) Jimmie Brown, his lovely wife Doris and the Brown families were our gracious hosts. My unofficial count says there were a total of 72 attendees, including troopers, wives, significant others, children, grandchildren and three cute little dogs. The three dogs weren't a part of my count. Three of "Pony Teams" former company commanders were in attendance: Lyman Duryea, Walt Brinker and Bob Jackson. Also in attendance were four families of the fallen: the Dickman's, Hitro's, Fontaine's and Kemp's. At this reunion, the service years in Vietnam of our attendees spanned 1965-1970. Day one of the reunion began with a flute solo, a rousing rendition of Garryowen, by lovely Baleigh Smith (Jimmie's granddaughter). Next, Bert Guarneri led the group in a moment of silence to recognize and honor all our fallen brothers. A special tribute was paid to those of C 2-7 who made the ultimate sacrifice on November 17, 1965, at LZ Albany. Also recognized were Joe Granger and Charles Stewart, who recently left us for Fiddler's Green. Next, all the first time attendees were asked to stand to be introduced and then were welcomed. Then it was on to catching up with each other on life events of the previous two years. Picture taking was the next order of business and then on to viewing various troopers' in-country photo albums. Later in the day there were tranquil pontoon boat rides along the lake's shoreline. Crowds gathered for a joke telling session, while others gathered to hear the telling of tall tales and of course there was the cigar smoking ritual. The first day came to a close in the afternoon with the saying of my Catholic version of grace and some delicious southern cooking, Arkadelphia Style Pizza and all the trimmings. Day two of the reunion began with the arrival and welcoming of the Stewart family from Port Allen, Louisiana. SGT Charles E. "Charlie" Stewart passed away this August 1. Charlie was a mortarman in Vietnam and quite the charming and larger than life character, both then and now, and he will be sorely missed. We all caravanned back to the lake resort to begin day two of the reunion. We were again serenaded by Baleigh, this time she got the audience on their feet with a beautifully done flute rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner". The body

of attendees then fragmented into groups to chat, share and take more photos. The afternoon meal truly was southern style: hush puppies, fried catfish, fried chicken and a countless number of beautiful and tasty side dishes and desserts – did I mention sweet tea. In the afternoon, Kelly Prejean Kemp, daughter of SP4 Kenneth Prejean (KIA 5/1/69) read a poem she wrote about her father, the father she never got to know. This was the second time in six years that Kelly recited the poem, and there was not a dry eye in the house either time. SGT Tom Schultz dedicated a heartfelt eulogy to the Stewart family, for his close friend Charlie Stewart. Again, not a dry eye in the house. The mood lightened as Emil "Lefty" Ercolano (Mr. Nice Guy) began to distribute a treasure trove of military memorabilia gifts to the group. Then, to close the day and the reunion, there was a laugh, squeal and screech filled raffle of a variety of prizes and curios. Bright and early Sunday morning, Jimmie and Doris Brown arrived at our hotel lobby to bid everyone a fond farewell and wish us all safe travels. No goodbyes, just a sweet see you next time. As Jim Brigham used to say and rightly so, "everyone should attend a reunion." In this old LT's opinion, they certainly help to lift and heal the spirit, guaranteed! Thanks Harpo for this great report and heart breaking tribute to our fallen! GarryOwen!

Karl Haartz reports that the 5th Squadron held a change of command ceremony on 6 August at Fort Stewart, Georgia. LTC Charles Jack has assumed command from LTC Christopher Mahaffey. During Veterans Day in Washington, the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Association Dinner on will be held on Tuesday evening, November 10, at the reunion hotel. The cost per head is \$50 including tax (Dinner is \$46 and the additional \$4 is to cover the cost of snacks and beverages in the hospitality room.) Please bring cash as they don't take credit cards.

Chuck Holtz reported that the annual gathering of Alpha 1-7 warriors began on 8 August. The bugle sounded at 0630 for the 3rd Platoon barracks but most slept in. All told, (9) A1-7 Troopers have assembled for this year's gathering. After chow we assembled in formation for the daily orientation and training schedule. Topics included citations for those who split, loaded hauled and stacked 2 cords of fire wood and chain saw operation with the bell repair citation going individually to Gary Garrett. Other citations were issued for those who got Fred's Ford dump truck running and troubleshooting the brake hydraulic system, which was diagnosed as needing a new master cylinder. After the men were dismissed they reported to Cav-Alley for primitive weapons efficiency training where they excelled in hatchet and knife throwing. Rifle range prowess however has yet to be proven. Another great time at the Welcharosa in Pine City, MN. Thanks Chuck.

Marc Levy, a decorated Medic with the 1-7 in Vietnam is seeking input for his website Medic in the Green Time, and a possible book. He is asking veterans to respond to the phrase "Thank you for your service." Guidelines: three to five pages. Include branch of service, unit and year, plus a photo. Marc also reports that in 1998 I located the daughter of 1-7 Medical Executive Officer LT Dennis Noble, who was KIA during a mortar/rocket attack on Phuoc Vinh, in July of 1970. We traded emails, then spoke by phone. She hardly knew her dad as she was only six months old when he died. I told her the qualities of his character, the interactions I could recall and put her in touch with Rich Bohnemann, a 1-7 91C who also knew Dennis well. Dennis' daughter has been estranged from her mom for many years. I located her mom six months ago and sent her a hard copy letter. No reply until last night. She left a message on my machine and I'm going to call her today. Your editor adds: those were what I believe to be direct fire weapons killed 4 other 1-7 personnel in addition to Dennis Noble. The Medical Platoon was between Alpha (my company) and Bravo Company. Dennis had gone outside the Medical Platoon to assist the wounded when a round hit very close by killing him. I can still hear those rounds passing over our building and detonating. Another hit up close to the Battalion HQ and killed the S2 NCOIC – SFC Clement Troianello. Several of us went to Graves Registration to identify the bodies but I couldn't make myself go in and do it. Rumor was the bad guys were targeting Bravo as pay back for a huge sum of money that was captured several days earlier in an ambush. As a result Alpha traded an SP Pack to the 8th Engineers for an hour or so of back hoe work, digging a trench that we were going to use as a refuge from any further attacks. A week or so later we moved to the other side of Phuoc Vinh.

Garland Schnack and Shortround Migut send us this news regarding Richard R.N. Grubb who served as a Platoon Leader with B 1-7 1966-67. This report was passed on by Richard's wife Pat. "I have been reviewing his mail and trying to weed out the jokes and stuff and I noticed he gets a lot of mail from you and thought that if you are in touch with a lot of other 7 Cav members that Richard might know, that maybe I could update you on his status and you would be willing to pass it along. He has had a rough past two years since his heart surgery and has spent much of the past few months in the hospital. Matter of fact he has only been home 6 days since April 13th. He has a variety of issues, probably mostly stemming from heart and diabetes, but it's been a struggle keeping all his internal systems balanced. He is in rehab again after spending the past 2 months in the hospital and struggling to get enough strength back to get home again. The reason I wanted to let you know is that maybe you can pass along the information to anyone who might know him and wish to send him a card. Our home address is 112 Leonard Lane, Harrisburg PA 17111. It brightens his long days when I take him cards so I thought I would reach out to you if you don't mind." If you served with LT Grubb please send him a note. We all remember how important Mail Call was.

I will be eagerly awaiting a report from Bud Alley on their October reunion of the 2nd Battalion to be held in October. Dennis Deal also reported that Bud's recently released book *The Ghosts of the Green Grass* is an excellent read!

Our Website Manager Jim Savage continues to work tirelessly behind the scenes. His current project involves Tee Shirts, Caps and Polo Shirts. There are a few details that he is still working out but you can go to the listed web site to view a sample of the upcoming offerings. Please view the site and send Jim (or me) any recommendations, additions or changes: <www.us7thcavalry.com/TEST/example.html>. Your Association is not involved with the buying or selling of these items. The company is located in West Palm Beach, and Jim personally knows the owner.

This brings to a close the 94th installment of your 7th Cavalry News from this reporter. As a reminder, my last column will be in the November 2016 *Saber*.

8th CAV News



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Hi again, I was rummaging through a few boxes of old Army stuff that I've been lugging around the country and the world for the last 49+ years. I found one that I hadn't gone through since my household goods were picked up as I departed for an assignment to the MFO in Sinai back in 1988. (Why do we keep all this old stuff? I even found a box full of old uniforms that I wore 65 pounds and so many years ago!) Anyway, I found an item that might bring back some memories for those of you who served with the CAV in 1967. I don't know who thought of issuing these 1st CAV water repellent wallets to us; you can see an early attempt at a Ziploc® type closure on the inside. The wallet is made from some kind of soft vinyl. It was a nice item to keep things relatively dry when the Monsoon season rolled around, but I think I still may have used the ubiquitous PRC-25/77 radio battery bags more often for that purpose.

I have mentioned previously our efforts to offer membership free of annual dues in our 8th Cavalry Association to all soldiers currently serving on active duty with one of our four battalions. So far, two of the battalions have accepted our offer and joined us in this effort, 1-8th (1st CAV) under

the command of LTC David M. Polizzotti, Jr. and 6-8th (3rd ID) LTC David Scott Sentell, Commanding. I wrote in the May-June issue of SABER about the 6-8th and their exhaustive 45 day training exercises in preparation for their deployment with the rest of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to the RAF (Regionally Aligned force) mission to Africa. Earlier in the year the unit had conducted the Spur Ride in which 93 of their soldiers earned their coveted Silver Spurs. What a dedicated and great bunch of soldiers!

I just receive an update from LTC Polizzotti on the 1-8th's recent deployment to Korea and reprint it here for your edification:

1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, "Mustangs! Commander's Update.

Greetings to all the members of the Association and our fellow Troopers within the Regiment from the Land of the Morning Calm! The Battalion is just now coming up on the 90 day mark here in theater, and as I look back over the past year in command of this tremendous Battalion. I am in awe of everything our Troopers have accomplished. As you are aware, the Mustangs re-deployed from Afghanistan in March 2014 and entered a very compressed phase of RESET for our Tank, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, weapons, and equipment. We also "reset" our training, focusing on individual basic skills and traditional combined arms maneuver tasks up through Company and Battalion level. We then deployed to the National training Center where the Battalion trained hard and got better every day as we tackled a variety of complex operations, both lethal and non-lethal. I was extremely proud of our Troopers performance. All this hard work, and time away from our families was in preparation for our deployment this June to the Republic of Korea, as a part of the first rotational brigade deployment to the peninsula.

Up until now our actions have mostly revolved around prepping our vehicles, equipment and ourselves for our missions here in Korea. As we introduced the Battalion into its new area of operations, we had the benefit of ripping with our sister battalion, 3-8 CAV. With the transition of authority behind us, we are now well on our way to making a difference here on the "pen". We deployed this last week to the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, also known as "Rod Range" too many veterans of Korea. The Battalion is training hard on all fronts. Our Tankers are charging hard through Tank Qualification, our mounted Riflemen have demonstrated excellence so far on Bradley Gunnery; our dismounted infantry are sharpening their edge during team and squad live fire exercises. All of this is occurring in the midst of our Task Force Scouts, Medics, and Mortars honing their craft. I could not be prouder of the work the team is doing!

One of our main enemies so far has been Mother Nature. The weather in Korea can be harsh, and we continue to endure a mix of sunny days with stifling humidity, mixed in with frequent rains as monsoon season is now upon us— not too dissimilar from some of our training at Fort Hood last fall! That will soon be replaced by more rain and flooding, which will eventually be replaced by a cooling temperatures as we transition into the fall and winter. I'm sure at some point this winter we will fondly look back on June and July!

While we are dispersed at two different Camps here on the pen, we are united in our determination to "ride hard", finish the job we were sent here to do and redeploy the Battalion home. I firmly believe that everything we have done over the past year has prepared us for this deployment, and I could not be more proud of our Soldiers for the work they continue to accomplish here.

Whether we are at home or deployed abroad, thank you for what you do each and every day on our behalf! We will continue to operate in a manner that brings credit and honor upon the legacy of service you have all established for us to follow. Until the next time! Honor & Courage, LTC David M. Polizzotti, Jr, "Mustang 6"

Thanks, Colonel Polizzotti for that great update. Two soldiers serving with the 1-8th were honored as "Hero of the Regiment" in this period. SSG Parker Bryan trained and mentored Havoc's Forward Logistical Element Soldiers on proper disassembly, assembly, clearing, loading, functions check and immediate action for the M2 .50 Cal machine gun. SSG Bryan ensured each Soldier had a clear



LTC David Polizzotti

and full understanding of each procedure to ensure they were well prepared for GST. He trained the Soldiers to the Army standard ensuring that the Soldier would properly and safely use the M2.

SSG Bryan has served in C Company since he arrived at Ft. Hood on 1 December 2014. He currently serves at Bravo Section Sergeant, for 2nd PLT, C, 1-8 CAV. He continually displays his abilities as an NCO and leads his Soldier by example. SSG Bryan resolves problems and never complains about adversity. He put the needs of his Soldiers in front of himself and is an honest and respectful broker to this leader. He is loyal and trustworthy. He can accomplish any mission and inspires Soldiers to follow him. SSG Bryan defines that an NCO should be.

Also honored was PFC "Mud Duck" Kim Do Hyun. His citation reads: PFC Kim has performed as an outstanding Cavalry trooper since his assignment to Alpha Company upon the battalion's arrival to the Korean peninsula. In his time serving as an Alpha Company trooper, PFC Kim has proven himself a valuable asset and a capable soldier. PFC Kim has dedicated himself to becoming an extremely capable member of his platoon. He trains himself extremely hard in order to master the tasks required to earn his Expert Infantryman Badge. PFC Kim executed the disassembly, reassembly, and functions check of multiple weapons systems well below the time standard for these tasks. PFC Kim's efforts have made him very proficient in these essential tasks for the M4, M249 SAW, and M240B in a very short amount of time. PFC Kim is a rifleman in 3rd PLT < A Co. He is also 3rd PGLT's KATUSA soldier. He was recently promoted from PV@ to PFC in recognition for his personal discipline and proficiency as a soldier. His fellow soldiers were proud of his accomplishments and he was recognized in front of his platoon mates. PFC Kim has earned the nickname "Mud Duck" (his platoon's call-sign) as a term of endearment from his fellow soldiers who have fully welcomed him as part of the team. PFC Kim has helped his fellow soldiers adapt to Korean culture and explore the Korean nation on many occasions. He often acts as a translator and liaison for soldiers taking trips to visit Seoul. PFC Kim is also active in the Good Neighbor Program in which soldiers visit local schools to mentor young children learning English. PFC Kim has been essential in building rapport between 1-8 CAV troopers and the local Korean nationals.

R.I.P. We mark the passage of a previous editor for the 8th CAV Column in SABER, James (Jim) Rowell. Jim was born and raised in NW Louisiana and moved with his family to the Atlanta, Georgia area while he was in elementary school. Jim served with Aztec Platoon, Bravo Company, 2-8 CAV in 1968-69. He was active in our Association and was a great help to many us over the years. He was a collaborator with B/2-8th in the development of the <www.eagerams.com> web site. After his military service ended, Jim became the first one of his family to graduate from college. He retired as a Police Captain with the DeKalb County Police near Atlanta with 30 years of honorable service and returned to the area



Jim Rowell in Vietnam

of his childhood home in Louisiana. Jim spent his final days at the VA nursing Home in Bossier City afflicted with dementia and many other serious health issues. Jim was the author of *Granny and the Eskimo – Angels in Vietnam*, a touching book dealing with his experiences in Vietnam and in life. Awarded the Purple Heart, Air Medal, and other decorations, he was throughout his careers a model of selfless service. Jim will be sorely missed by his devoted wife Louise, his Vietnam veteran buddies, and so many members of his extended family and friends. Jim was buried on August 28 at Houghton, Louisiana with full military honors. Rest in Peace, Jim!

Reunion News: Tommy Harris is very busy setting the stage for our 2017 8th Cavalry Association Reunion back in Columbus, Georgia. He has met with Ashley Woitena at the Convention center there. She has been extremely helpful in making the preparations. Our 2011 reunion was held there and was a great success with over 180 members and guests in attendance. With so much to see and do at Fort Benning and its environs, there is no time for boredom. Tentative planning is May 17-21, 2017.

A good report of that 2011 reunion can be read at our website <www.8Cavalry.org>. It was written by Carl Moreland, the editor of our currently unpublished newsletter, *The Trooper*. For those of you new to the Association, Carl was a major player in it. Carl graduated in 1950 from Carrollton High School, and devoted his 20 year military career to serving his country in both Korea and Viet Nam where he was the recipient of numerous awards including the Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal. CW4 Moreland was a member of G Co, 8th Cavalry Regiment (Infantry) from Nov 1950 to Nov 1951. Carl was the embodiment of the quintessential loyal 8th Cavalry Association member in doing whatever he could to build and promote it, tirelessly working as a Life Member of the Association holding key association officer positions. He was instrumental in the formation and approval of the association's current officially recognized and respected status. He was the first recipient of the Association's Davis Award for his outstanding service and support. Carl died peacefully on June 1, 2014 after a short battle with cancer. Rest in peace, Carl!

Speaking of reunions, have you made plans for next year's 8th Cavalry Regiment Association's reunion? We will be gathering with the 1st Cavalry Division Association's 69th Annual Reunion in Las Vegas. I've already made



my reservation at The Palace Station Hotel & Casino (picture left), the reunion hotel. This family friendly venue provides great attractions not only on the strip but all around the Las Vegas area for our Troopers, and their families and guests. With inexpensive hotel rooms and reasonable air fares from around the country and even direct flights from around the world, this

looks to be counted as one of our best reunions. June 8-12, 2016 are the dates and it's not too early to make plans. Go to <www.lcda.org/annual-reunion.html> for details. See you there? Until next time, "Honor and Courage!"

9th CAV News



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Greetings from beautiful Smith Mountain Lake, the Jewel of the Blue Ridge. While it is early September the smell and dry leaves swirling on our deck is

a harbinger of autumn. Warmer days and cooler nights are ahead. South West Virginia will be dressed in yellow, orange and red as the deciduous trees as the Appalachian Mountains burst in to color. People will come from all over the world to see the beautiful fall foliage. Just think, we're lucky enough to live here and watch the seasons change.

First up, the recent Apache Troop reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico in late August. I don't have a list of who all attended but I did get a report on the gathering.

While lots of fun activities were enjoyed, George Abernathy sent this report about his fishing trip with some buddies he served with in Vietnam:

Fly Fishing with My Brothers. Forty five years ago, while flying on a scouting mission in Nam with A Troop 1-9th Cav, we came upon a river, and being somewhat bored from the two previous hours of flight, my pilot and I opted to do some fishing. Without notifying our Cobra Gunship cover bird of our intentions, which was protocol, I toss out a fragmentation grenade with the anticipation of doing some aerial fishing. As soon as the water erupted from the explosion, several fish floated to the surface. Thinking we were receiving enemy gunfire and thus on the verge of rolling in with rockets and the mini-gun firing, the Cobra AC first contacted my pilot. Without hesitation my pilot immediately informed him that we had just killed 6 NVA dressed in silver fatigues and his aerial artillery support wasn't necessary. Needless to say, the perturbed Cobra A/C reminded my pilot that my hand grenades and other munitions were to be used for more meaningful purposes and to cut out the horse play.

This past August I attended a reunion with about 50 of my fellow brothers from Apache Troop in Albuquerque. A few days prior to the reunion, Dan Reinbauer, a SLFFC member drove in for the day to float the San Juan River with me from our personal watercraft. The following day five of my brothers from Apache Troop joined me for a two night stay at the Fish heads Motel and one day of floating the river with their guides. Fly fishing was some of the best I've ever experienced and reminiscing of our flying exploits over drinks with three pilots and two other door-gunners went on for two nights. Yes, there was conversation about us previously using grenades, but at this gathering, we all used fly rods and barbless size 24 & 26 flies to catch numerous sizeable trout, including one that weight about 5lbs. Catch and Release is the philosophy of most fly fishermen as it was on this trip. Even though it had been nearly half a century, the bond between us troopers was as strong as if we were still in Nam, preparing our helicopters for another sortie. We just all had bigger bellies, less hair for some and lots of grey. Very few events are better than bonding over drinks after a successful day of fly fishing, especially when you're with your brothers from an earlier era.

Earlier this year with the support from the Iron Oaks and Cottonwood/Palo Verde HOA's, the Sun Lakes Fly Fishing Club hosted disabled veterans from Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. The club members overwhelming volunteered to assist the disabled veterans at both events and enjoyed bonding with them over lunch. Hosting the veterans gives all of us a deep gratification of knowing that we support our veterans and we look forward to hosting them six times in the forthcoming months.

Fish On! Fish On! George Abernathy, Sun Lakes Fly Fishing Club, <apachescout@gmail.com>, 480-521-1060.

I received the following email from LTC (Ret) Sam Ault inquiring about an incident he was part of in June 1969: On the 2d of June 1969 during a fire fight north of Saigon on the Dong Nai River, A high low team came to our aide. LT Porter was piloting the LOH, do not know who was in the Cobra. The LOH was shot down over the river and LT Porter steered the LOH on top of NVA troops attempting to flank A Company 1-8th CAV. I have recommended LT Porter and other crew member for the Distinguished Flying Cross. It should be the MOH for Porter. Can you help get this done? Sam Ault, 69 and alive, FO 19th FA

After some research I found the following: Events of June 1st & 2nd, 1969, written by LTC Samuel W. Ault, III (Retired) Copyright © 2000

I was a 1st Lieutenant with A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 19th Field Artillery, attached to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry as a Forward Observer to A Company's commander, Captain Marm. If I am not mistaken, Captain Marm was the second commander for the company since I had joined them in January 1969. As of June 2, 1969, I had logged more time in the field with Alpha Company, than any of the other Officers. On June 1st 1969, A Company was working a search and destroy mission north of Xuan Loc, along the Dong Nai River in Long Khanh province. We discovered an NVA/VC supply area that contained tonnage of canned Mackerel from Japan, Rice from the USA, and Nestles canned milk. It seemed odd finding this material in the area.

We also discovered Sampans, which we attempted to destroy but found it almost impossible to blow a hole in them using C4. Subsequently the company floated the sampans downstream and placed C4 in their bottoms in an attempt to rupture the frame. Some sampans sank, while others did not. We crossed the islands and were located on the North bank of the Dong Nai River.

Captain Marm was notified by Battalion to proceed West along the bank to a bunker complex that had just been bombed. We were to destroy a 2000-pound bomb that had failed to explode upon impact. The bunkers were located, but not searched. We set up a night location 100 Meters from the complex. I called in artillery fire for defensive targets on three sides of our position. Our backs were to the river. Around 1500 hours, a Log bird arrived with supplies, in addition to two enlisted engineers with cases of C-4. The engineers were sent by the Brigade to destroy the bomb in place, so as to keep the explosives away from the enemy.

The two engineers, another man from Alpha Company, and myself, proceeded up the trail to the bunker complex without incident. The bomb had penetrated the hospital roof, punching a hole through an operating table. This was a well-stocked medical facility. I left the bunker and watched the area with the other soldier. When the engineers finished setting their charges with a 10-minute delay fuse, we cleared the area. We did not hear a large explosion. It was determined that

the bomb had failed to detonate. The engineers gathered their remaining sticks of C-4 and we once again returned to the bunkers. Twice would be the charm. While they again readied the bomb, I began a short survey of the other bunkers. I noticed a bunker very near the hospital which contained small arms ammo, recoilless rifle rounds, and RPGs with charges. I wanted to destroy the enemy supplies before we left, but the engineers had no spare C-4. A three-minute fuse was set, forcing us to run from the area. A tremendous explosion ripped through the jungle, knocking us off our feet. We could hear large pieces of shrapnel flying through the air, hitting trees. Upon our return to the CP, there was a debriefing before bedding down for a peaceful night.

The morning of June 2, 1969 began normally. The 1st Platoon Squad led by SSG Lyman Bach formed up next to me as they prepared to move out to destroy the bunker complex. The men were talking about their cars back home. One of the men asked me to come see his car when I got out. I was asked to join them (as I had done on previous occasions). At that moment, I received a call from the fire direction center, forcing me to decline the invitation to accompany them.

I was the last person to speak to the men before they proceeded up the trail. They were gone only a short time when a command detonated charge killed all 5 soldiers instantly. Almost immediately, automatic weapons began firing. A machine gun team, which was near my location, ran toward the firing. I immediately called for fire and had rounds landing behind the enemy within minutes. I began to walk the rounds 100 meters at a time towards our location. My greatest concern was the probable error of a gun target line round falling short. Tactically speaking, artillery is much safer when fired perpendicular to the line of sight.

The Command & Control helicopter arrived with the Battalion Commander, LTC Graham, and the Artillery Liaison Officer. They flew across the artillery round trajectory, forcing me to check fire until they were clear. I asked the LNO (Liaison Officer) to spot my rounds so I could get them close, but that request was overruled when LTC Graham came up on my radio frequency asking for a situation assessment. He was unable to contact Captain Marm. I told them to get out of my line of fire, and that we had been hit hard with possibly 50% wounded or killed. The Battalion Commander overruled artillery and recommended I call Blue Max for helicopter air support. The Battalion Commander told me that Company B would be sent in to assist. Time was lost while waiting on Blue Max and not being able to fire artillery due to the Command and Control bird.

Blue Max arrived with a "Hunter, Killer Team" consisting of a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH - pronounced "LOACH") and a Cobra (Attack helicopter armed with mini guns and rockets). The LOH began flying behind us, moving upstream on the river doing a quick recon. While flying at tree top level, the LOH was hit by enemy fire approximately 100 meters to our right flank, causing the LOH to crash with a tremendous JP4 fuel explosion. The main rotor broke free and whirled toward us, only being slowed by the trees in its path. The rotor landed within reach. There were no survivors from the LOH.

We observed NVA soldiers running toward the river after the crash. I opened up on them with my M-16. We later observed three NVA bodies floating down the river.

I believe the LOH spoiled their flanking action, which would have brought the enemy to our weak flank that was being protected by my RTO and myself. As the firefight began, those troops on my flank moved toward the contact, making us vulnerable to an attack from upstream of the river. Nothing was between my location and the downed LOH but two M16s.

Max was unable to see anything, so I directed our most forward element to pop smoke to allow Max to identify their position. After identifying the smoke color, Max rolled in and let the rockets fly. We repeated Max and artillery during the day.

The company medics tried to get the wounded to the waiting downstream medevac, but the land route was cut off by small arms fire. I instructed our medic to inflate air mattresses and float the wounded downstream to the helicopter. This provided ample defilade and security, working without any difficulty.

Suddenly, we were receiving fire from the South bank of the Dong Nai River. I directed the tactical spotter in a fixed wing aircraft to the location of the 51 caliber machine guns and they were taken out by tactical air strikes using F-4's.

Five mortar rounds (82mm) were walked down from the downed LOH towards the medevac helicopter. One round nearly took SP4 Dennis Taylor, my RTO, and myself out when it caught a palm tree limb, slid down the tree center and exploded about 3 feet from us. I believe the enemy thought we were about to flank their position. That was the only volley of 82mm I knew about.

The firefight was still going strong, despite artillery and Rockets. I called in more Tactical Air Napalm and Bombs. The Forward Air Controller contacted me to direct his spotting rockets, so the F-4s could roll in and drop napalm and bombs on the bunker complex. The strikes were close enough for us to feel the heat from the Napalm.

The first encounter lasted 6 hours. Company B arrived in the early afternoon, and proceeded to attack, also taking significant casualties.

Somehow, as A Company pulled back, I wound up behind a downed tree. Sometime later the Forward Observer from Company B, who was wounded, arrived at the same location.

That night, sounds could be heard coming from the complex.

Soldiers reported being hit by rocks, thrown by the enemy. No one revealed his position until later in the night.

A C-130 gunship arrived after dark. About 2200 hours, our position was hit by Gatling gunfire as bullets rained down. It sounded like a heavy rain coming through the Jungle. The B Company Forward Observer and myself were leaning against a large tree while bullets fell around us, hitting the tree. Six soldiers were injured from that experience and were medevaced out in the middle of the night. The Medevac landing lights exposed many personnel. I heard that most injuries were leg wounds.

The next morning prior to the arrival of the Log bird, there was a mad minute of firing into the bunker complex.

No return fire was received. When the log bird landed that morning on June 3rd, I paid my respects to the Commander and left for R&R, returning back to Alpha Company on June 15th.

It must have been divine intervention that I was not in a body bag awaiting
Continued on pg. 23

30th FA News

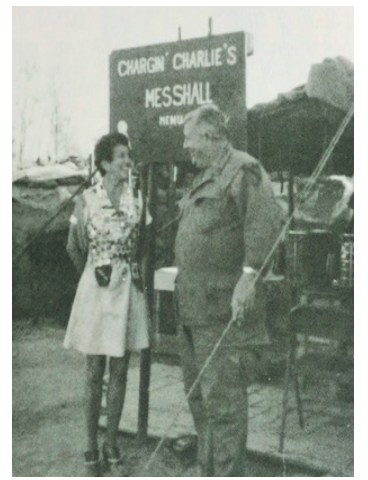


"HARD CHARGERS"
 Daniel P. Gillotti
 4204 Berkeley Dr.
 Sheffield Village, OH 44054
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 FirstCav68@Roadrunner.com
 www.HardChargers.Com



Hard Charger News: It's 20 August 2015, and we've had a crazy, wet, and wild summer so far. The weather

our very first reunion in Killeen, Texas in conjunction with the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion. My wife Theresa and I visited the 1st Cavalry Division Museum for the very first time. As we wound our way thru the displays we came upon a display case with a mint green dress on a mannequin. Over that dress was a sash with about 200 pins and unit crests, and an assortment of military ribbons. I remarked to Theresa that the dress and sash must be very heavy. A female voice behind us stated "it weighs over 22 pounds". We turned around and came face-to-face with Marilyn J. Genz who introduced herself and shook our hands. She told us a little bit about her experiences as an airline hostess, and he many trips she made all over Vietnam visiting the troops. She stated that the 1st Cavalry Division Airmobile was her absolute favorite major unit to visit.



Ms. Genz with Mess Daddy C-1-30th FA, 10-12-69.

goes from hot and sunny, to wet and windy, mostly hot and humid in Ohio. I still have yard work to do before the weather turns cold, and some gutters to repair. I hope all of you have had a decent summer!

Hard Charger Condolences: First I must report the loss of Mrs. Mary L. Love on 4 August 2015, wife of SGM Jack M. Love, and also the loss of Theresa Ann Marschhauser on 8 June 2015, eldest daughter of SGM Love. SGM Love served with the 5th Bn., 30th FA, (Italy 1963-1965). If that wasn't bad enough, SGM Love had to be transported to an assisted-living facility to be cared for because of his extreme dementia. We asked for your prayers for this close-knit family for their loss. Additionally, many of our Hard Chargers who have passed away over the years have never been acknowledged for their sacrifices in service to the 30th FA Regiment. Here are the names some of those loyal Hard Chargers who have passed away after returning from Vietnam and their unit identification: BG Carl R. Morin, HHB-1-30th FA, (Ft Sill, OK); LTC John R. Sayre, HHB-1-30th FA, [Vietnam 1966-67]; MAJ David A. Zacchetti, A-1-30th FA, (Vietnam 1969-70); 1LT Stanley J. Bascom, HHB-1-30th FA, (Vietnam 1967-68); 1LT Daniel J. McNamara, A-1-30th FA, (Vietnam 1967-68); 1SG Doyle L. Runnels, HHB-1-30th FA, (Vietnam 1967-68); SFC Gene T. Shipp, SVC-1-30th FA, (Vietnam 1968-69); SSG Thomas H. Landis, A-1-30th FA, (Vietnam 1969-70); SGT Cecil R. Love, A-1-30th FA, (Vietnam 1970-71); SGT Thomas A. Meyer, A-1-30th

FA, (Vietnam 1968-69); SGT Paul C. Medlin, A-1-30th FA, (Vietnam 1969-70); SP4 Michael J. McCreedy, SVC-1-30th FA, (Vietnam 1968-69); SP4 Cedric Rue, A-1-30th FA, (Vietnam 1970-71); PFC Stanley Standingbear, C-1-30th FA, (Vietnam 1969-70); PFC Dwight D. Thomas, B-1-30th FA, (Vietnam 1966-67); PFC Wayne Whittington, A-1-30th FA, (Vietnam 1970-71). I'll be identifying other deceased Hard Chargers in successive articles. Please offer a prayer for these loyal Hard Chargers.



Ms. Marilyn Genz FSB Vivian C-1-30 FA, 10-12-69.

The Sweetheart of the 1st Cav: In 1995, the Hard Chargers held



Ms. Marylin Genz at FSB Jamie 11-12-69.

Further, that she thought of the Sky Troopers of the 1st Cav as "her boys!" We traded contact information and we kept in touch with over the years. In 2002, she surprised us when a copy of her book 20,000 and Me came in the mail. After reading her book, I learned that she had visited C Battery, 1-30th FA at LZ Vivian on 10 December 1969. She specifically enjoyed the food prepared by SFC Clendenin Richmond, the famous Mess Daddy, whose cooking skills were known throughout Vietnam. She also put on a steel pot and helped a gun crew load and fire a 155mm Howitzer at the enemy. She then visited LZ Jamie and the Hard Chargers of A Battery, 1-30th FA. In 2009, I learned she was battling cancer, and she was of the opinion she may have gotten it from exposure to Agent Orange during her many trips to visit the servicemen in Vietnam. On 30 January 2010, the Sweetheart of the 1st Cav lost her battle and succumbed to the cancer at the age of 77. It was 20 years ago that Theresa and I first met her. And she is our hero because of her dedication to the time she spent with the Sky Troopers, and brought a little joy to their part of the chaos of war. May she Rest in Peace.

Until next issue of the SABER, stay safe, and "May the Good Lord Take a Liken' to ya!" This is Hard Charger 9G, End of Mission ~ Out!

caught up with my work, and did not see how I was going to be able to meet the calls made upon me for time. Then the pay was slightly increased and I managed to get a machine that would at least get me around. The War Department made me an appropriation last year but its use was restricted so that I could not use it as I knew was best. I was gradually reaching my row's end. The Chaplain of the 12th Cavalry came through to visit me and told me that his Church has given him his Ford. I prayed long for some kind of such good fortune. Once I came very near writing you for suggestions as to meeting this need. Your check came as an absolute surprise. I can take some of it and with what I have already done, I can be well equipped and have a big sum left to handle my needs throughout the coming year. Will you not express my gratitude to the Committee? And may some of my joy and praise at having my prayer answered so soon return to you. Am having a great work among the men, harder now, of course, with the excitement of war taken away." Had it not been for your Committee on French and Belgian Relief, with the few thousand dollars in its hands left over from War Work out of which to make the appropriation, it would not have been possible for our Church to meet this call. <Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, 4 May 1921.>

2147 Reunion Recap. The Grand 12th Cavalry Regiment Branson, Missouri, Reunion - Wait'll next year! Yer procrastination Complex has struck again, rewarded you, and denied your participation. Get those cards and letters in and do not miss us in the 20-ought-16. Email our friends and fellow Troopers at the following addresses for more intel! <mmctlc3@aol.com>; <ixxi@att.net>. Or, check the Regiment Association website. <12thCav.US>. All other reunions are in a state of flux, ongoing while I type and I along with you await updates to publish. The 69th Annual 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion is 8-12 June 2016 - Las Vegas, Nevada. The Nevada Chapter is hosting this reunion and they are setting up an excellent program. The reunion hotel is the Palace Station Hotel & Casino, 2411 West Sahara Avenue in Las Vegas. You must make your reservations prior to Monday, 9 May 2016 to receive the guaranteed rate.

2359 Journal closed. The spammers are getting more creative every day. Today I got a call on my mobile and the caller ID said the incoming name was 'YouCanAnswer!' Nice try there, Cletus, I don't even answer calls from people I know! I sent it to voicemail. You all be careful out there, hear? I love to hear from you, please keep in touch via the usual means - torch lit procession, semaphore, water telegraph, carrier pigeon, and Western Union. Prepaid only, no collects or CODs, I got burned too many times and I have learned. "Democracy means government by discussion, but it is only effective if you can stop people talking." ~ Clement Atlee. Semper Paratus! Write if you get work!

12th CAV News

Continued from pg. 6

and the others to return to the top of the hill. When they arrived at the landing zone, most of the 20 members of the mortar platoon were dead. "We couldn't tell whether the blood trails were from our Soldiers or the blood trails were from the enemy. But we went out in search of whoever caused the blood trails," Whitaker said. "And we were able to find quite a few Viet Cong that had been killed in the battle on the hill." The battalion commander directed them to stay on the hill until they were able to account for all of the mortar platoon's Soldiers. They were able to find everyone including the platoon sergeant and about three other Soldiers, all of whom were wounded, none seriously. Whitaker later learned that his cousin PFC Henry Benton had been among the mortar platoon members killed at LZ Hereford, also known as the Battle of the Saddle, on May 21, 1966. During that first tour, Whitaker was wounded by shrapnel from an enemy hand grenade. The December 1966 night after his unit did an air assault into Valley 506, his platoon sergeant called the four squad leaders into a huddle for a briefing. A Viet Cong fighter hiding in a nearby tree threw a concussion grenade into the Soldiers' circle. All five, including Whitaker, were wounded. Fortunately it was an older hand grenade so no one was killed. He was also involved in a major battle on Christmas Day 1966 on LZ Bird. His unit and an artillery battery were guarding the perimeter of the landing zone which had about 150 Soldiers. That night about 1,200 Viet Cong surrounded them and tried to overrun the landing zone. But the Soldiers were able to hold them off. "I really appreciate the way we receive them (Soldiers today from Afghanistan and Iraq) back into the fold as opposed to the way we were treated. It helps with the healing process," he said. Whitaker serves as vice president of the Redstone Arsenal Sergeants Major Association. He was inducted into the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame in 2014. <theredstonerocket.com; goordnance.army.mil>

1947 Department of Someone Always Has it Better (or Worse!) Than You. "The following letter from one of our Chaplains, explains better than any words from your Committee, the timeliness of this small recognition of the work of our brother ministers in the Chaplaincy: "I thank you most heartily for your letter of February 22nd, enclosing check for \$300." "There is a story back of this check. I have managed to accumulate excellent office equipment. For a while the Government furnished me a motorcycle, but that stopped a long time ago. To make a Chaplain, a man must be God-called and Spirit-filled, have the best training, old-fashioned religion, be able to run a typewriter fast and accurately, and he must have wheels under him or he cannot make the rounds by half in the hours of daylight. After I lost my motorcycle I was always fagged out, never

New Members

Continued from pg. 2

- LTC LETCHER KEN TX 1SB 1508
- SP-4 MANGUM GARY W. VA C 8ENG 7808
- SSG MC CLOUD COREY TX 1- 7C 1508
- SPC MEDECK KYLE AR A 2- 8C 0712
- COL MELE PAUL TX HHC 1CDH 1507
- SFC MILLETT LEE G. TX C 1- 91ENG 1507
- SGT MONTANO ALBERTO TX B 115BSB 1508
- SSG MOORE PAUL TX 2- 8C 1507

- SFC MORENO MARCOS CA 2- 8C 1508
- SPC NOLAND ANDREW OH E 91ENG 1412
- SFC PAYTON FRED L NC 13SIG 6507
- SSG POPE BILLIE G. OH D 2- 5C 6606
- SSG POWELL JASON TX 2- 8C
- CPT PROPES TRAVIS A TX 1SB 15
- MAJ REPASKY MICHAEL J TX HHC 1- 8C 1506
- SSG RODRIGUEZ DANIEL TX 2- 8C 1508
- SGT SCHWALLY FRED NY 2- 5C 67
- BG SCHWARTZ MARK C. TX HHC 1CDH 1506

- 1LT SMITH FRANK T. JR TX B 1- 81AR 7101
- SP-4 STAGG THOMAS NY 15MED 69
- SPC STROUSE KAMEREN P. TX B 115BSB 1508
- SGT SZELL LESLIE J PA 228AVN 6607
- SFC THIBODEAU JOHN TX E 91ENG 1506

Thank you for joining the 1st Cavalry Division Association.
 Send address changes to <firstcav@1cda.org>

27th ORD/MNT/MSB/BSB News



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(630) 554-9245
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Happy Anniversary to the 27th ORD/MNT/MSB/BSB. As I write my thought goes to September 1, 1921. On that day, at Fort Bliss,

Texas, the 27th Ordnance Company was organized and assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. That's ninety-four years of incredible people garnering incredible results for support to the First Team. We should all be proud.

As has been the case for some time now, I'm not getting a lot of feedback from members of the 27th. I've got a great group of comrades with whom I served from 8/68 - 7/70, and we communicate quite a bit, but I'm sure people would like to hear about others. With the colors currently cased, we have no active duty reports coming in. I would especially like to appeal to the veterans of Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan. We old timers would like to learn more of your trials and tribulations. Let this column help in reestablishing relationships with those whom you served.

I have recently heard from a couple of people from said era. COL (Ret) Terry Beynon (27th MSB Commander) and his wife Lisa recently retired from Virginia and have a beautiful home and piece of property at the foothills in Colorado. Lisa recently posted some pictures of one of their outdoors projects. They are

clearing some trees and brush. Terry is manhandling the chain saw while Lisa is dragging limbs and hauling them away with the "MULE". They love it out there.

I also talked to COL (Ret) Dave Whitaker (27th BSB Commander). Dave and Karen have recently moved into their new home in Huntsville, Alabama. They are enjoying life in that part of the country. Brandon is growing like a weed



Terry Beynon and his chainsaw clearing land.

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 1

action rotation at the National Training Center," said MAJ Ed Arntson, brigade operations officer. "It provided the venue to train distributed logistical support, distributed mission command and high quality training events for our companies and battalions."

As part of Ironhorse Challenge, companies from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st ABCT, conducted combined arms live fire exercises at the Crittenger Multi-Purpose Range Complex at Fort Hood from August 11 to 15, including firing a mine clearing line charge (MCLC) of more than 1,500 pounds of C4 explosive.

"It's always a good day when I get to do my job," said SGT Donald Francois, the combat engineer with Company A, 91st Engineer Battalion, the unit that fired the MCLC.

In total, nine companies were able to conduct the complex CALFEX training during the exercise, which provided a challenge for both Soldiers and leaders alike.

"It was a great opportunity for leaders to practice the integration of capabilities that are not often available in a training environment," said LTC Patrick Douglas, commander, 2-8 CAV. "Completing the exercise gave soldiers an increased confidence in their equipment, weapon systems and themselves."

Ironhorse Challenge also featured three fire coordination exercises that included a troop CALFEX alongside attack aviation and Shadow elements and a Table XVIII certification for the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment - training designed to help coordinate the efforts of the participating units.

"Our ability to integrate and synchronize multiple assets such as indirect fire, attack aviation and direct fire into this event has significantly enhanced our capabilities," said LTC Douglas Hayes, commander, 1-82 FA.

Participating in Ironhorse Challenge served as the final step for Ironhorse Soldiers before NTC, following a summer-long series of exercises and certifications.

"We had the opportunity to validate our platoon's proficiency during Ironhorse Challenge," said SFC Randall Copisky, platoon sergeant, Troop A, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment. "We made every day better than yesterday. In a short three-month span of time, we qualified all eight vehicle crews, three scout sections, and the entire platoon through stabilized and un-stabilized gunnery Tables 1-12, culminating in the troops fire coordination exercise."

1st Cavalry Division Trooper Possesses a Need for Speed by SGT John Healy, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

CAMP HOVEY, South Korea — SPC Solomon Weaver is a 21-year-old tanker from Patterson, California, serving with the Delta Company Desperados of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

He's not very tall, and not very big, but he's the fastest soldier in his battalion, possibly even the whole brigade. He can run 2 miles in 10 minutes and 47 seconds.

"For the 2-mile, I'm definitely the fastest," Weaver said. "I always get set aside for ability group runs and that kind of thing."

The other members of Weaver's company like to joke about how fast he is.

"He used to get beat up a lot, so he had to run fast," said one soldier, to which Weaver doesn't respond, he only smiles.

and he is fully engaged with Dad in sports and outdoors life.

I received a great call the other day. SGM (Ret) Pete Shakes checked in from his home in Winter Haven, Florida. Pete, now 93 years old, came over from Cuba and enlisted in the Army during World War II. Let's just say he was very young when that occurred. When General McArthur sent the 1st Cavalry Division into Japan after the surrender on 8 September

1945, Pete was among those who established the 27th Ordnance Company at Camp Drake. With the 1st Cavalry being among the first units into Korea, Pete was once again instrumental in establishing the support structure. Over the years, Pete and his good buddy, Cliff Baker (RIP) provided many interesting stories. Thanks for checking in.

Lee Claxton, 27th Maintenance Battalion, AIM Team, '68, and I connected via FaceBook. Lee is now retired, living in Rochester, New York. He is engaged to a beautiful lady who lives in Ho Chi Minh City. Lee has many friends in Vietnam and has visited several times. He is currently working with the Government and the Embassy in Vietnam to obtain an Immigration Visa and thus bring home his fiancé. We all wish you a speedy resolution to the red tape and hope your time together in New York will soon be a reality.

Lastly, we are looking for thoughts and prayers. Jim Donahue, B Detachment, '68 - '70, recently received a letter from Ray Hansen, B Detachment, '69. Ray lives in Colby, Kansas and he has recently been diagnosed with lung cancer. Ray has a strong will and he is prepared to take on the battle and to win. Let's do all we can to help.

In order for this column to continue, we need your input. Any suggestions you may have for stories/research you would like to see and/or be involved with please let me know. This is your column and you all paid a price and deserve to be acknowledged. Until the next time, have a great Fall season.



Lisa Benyon hauling off Terry's felled trees.

For two years, Weaver's demonic speed was the best-kept secret of the company. That is, until he decided to attend Air Assault School, a grueling course where soldiers learn how to transport equipment with a helicopter via sling load.



SPC Weaver receives Air Assault Badge.

"I wanted a challenge," said Weaver, who had been working as a clerk for the past nine months. "I wanted to go out and prove myself, to myself. Not just physically but mentally as well."

Weaver laid low for the first two weeks of class, focusing on memorizing information and practicing the different types of sling loads.

SGT Joseph Cabriales, a tank gunner in Weaver's company who also completed Air Assault School was there to motivate him.

"I kind of egged him on the whole class, like, 'Hey, you'd better win. You'd better beat all these infantry guys. It's bragging rights,'" said Cabriales.

Weaver was one of the first soldiers who Cabriales met upon reporting to Delta Company.

"Weaver is a soldier that I've taken interest in," said Cabriales. "It was nice having him there too, seeing him push himself in uncomfortable situations where he didn't think would be."

Weaver, who had never been to a special school before, was quickly realizing the amount of determination required to succeed.

"It was like drinking from the fire hose," said Weaver. "It was learning so much, so rapidly."

It didn't help that Weaver caught a cold halfway through the course, right before a 6-mile ruck march that would determine who would continue with the course.

"There was a bug going around and I just so happened to catch it that day," said Weaver. "I was hurting for that."

Weaver hunkered down and pushed forward. He made it through all the sling loads, the rappelling and the sudden-death elimination style testing. All that remained was the 12-mile ruck march, the culminating test of Air Assault School, meant to challenge the soldier's will to persevere by draining away whatever endurance remained after two weeks of intense physical exercise.

The ruck march began at 2:45 in the morning. The heat was unbearable.

"We started out in ACUs. We cuffed the sleeves once and rolled the pant legs

Continued on pg. 14

Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association Scholarship Recipients Fall 2014-Fall 2015

Children and Grandchildren of the Veterans of the Ia Drang Campaign

Sarah Paige Bamber, granddaughter of SGT Jerald Donald Zallen, B Co. 1-7 Cav 6/65; 2.42 Grant, Lake Sumter State College

Heather Nadine Bird, granddaughter of SGM (Ret) Henry DeMeritte, DIVARTY & A Btry. 1-77FA 7/65 - 7/66; 2.0 Grant, Virginia Tech

Andrew Allen Birdsong, grandson of COL (Ret) Jerry Eugene Whiteside, 1-21 FA 8/65; 2.0 Grant, Texas A&M University

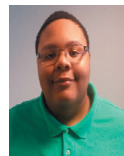


Alyssa Gabrielle Blankenship, granddaughter of E-4 Clyde Densol Blankenship, A Co. 1-5 Cav 7/65; 3.58 Grant, Wake Technical Community College



Dillon Clay Blyth, grandson of SGT Frank John Knowski, A Co. 1-5 Cav 7/65 - 12/65; 1.5 2.5

Amber Elizabeth Brunson, granddaughter of SGT Arthur Louis Brunson, Sr., C Co. 1-7 Cav 1965; 1.38 Grant, Jefferson State Community College



Arthur Louis Brunson III, grandson of SGT Arthur Louis Brunson, Sr., C Co. 1-7 Cav 1965; 1st Grant, Jefferson State Community College



Kyala Elizabeth Clegg, granddaughter of SP-4 Patrick Robert James Selleck, D Co. 1-7 Cav 7/65 - 11/65; 1.5 Grant, Plattsburgh State University of New York



Kerry Kathleen Devney, granddaughter of LTC Alan Edward Devney, B Co. 1-7 Cav 8/65 - 8/66; 3rd Grant, Indiana Wesleyan University

Gina Kathryn DiMattia, granddaughter of LTC (Ret) Robert Lee Barker, C Btry. 1-21FA 6/65 - 3/66; 4th Grant, Louisiana State University



Katherine Theresa Doyal, granddaughter of SSG Matthew Anthony Pepe, Jr., A Co. 228 AVN; 3rd Grant, Jacksonville State University

Christopher Thomas Duncan, grandson of LT Kenneth Eugene Duncan, HHC 1-7 Cav; 1.5 Grant, Reinhardt University



Madeline Christine Fajen, granddaughter of 1LT Richard Lawrence Fajen, D Co. 2-5 Cav; 4th Grant, The University of Iowa



Kenda Chastina Gabler, daughter of SGT Kenneth Charles Risley, D Co. 2-5 Cav 7/65 - 8/66; 3.42 Grant, Johnson County Community College



Aric Julian Gaumont, grandson of SP-4 Chester Edward Sey, C Co. 2-5 Cav 11/65; 1st Grant, Central Maine Community College

Rebecca Jane Gaumont, granddaughter of SP-4 Chester Edward Sey, C Co. 2-5 Cav 11-65; 1.0 Grant, Bay Path University

Skylar Paige Hanson, granddaughter of LTC Roger Jay Bartholomew, C Btry. 2-20 ARA; 2.5 Grant, The University of Georgia



Spencer Margaret Hanson, granddaughter of LTC Roger Jay Bartholomew, C Btry. 2-20 ARA; 3.0 Grant, The University of Georgia

Kerrie Allyson Harlow, granddaughter of COL (Ret) Edward Charles Robinson, B Co. 229 AVN 1965 - 1966; 3.5 Grant, Virginia Commonwealth University

Collin Jay Hockenbury, grandson of SGT Jay Wayne Hockenbury, A Troop 1-9 CAV, .5 Grant, Musicians Institute



John Robert Hogg, grandson of LTC (Ret) Robert Lee Barker, C Btry. 1-21 FA 6/65 - 3/66; 3rd Grant, Louisiana State University

Amanda Renee Humphrey, granddaughter of SGM Floyd Vernon Humphrey, C Co. 2-7 Cav 1965; 3.38 Grant, Columbus State University

Julia Rae Jacobs, granddaughter of LTG (Ret) Harold G. Moore, Jr., HHC 1-7 Cav 11/65; 1.08 Grant, Front Range Community College

Robert Eric Mitchell Klaebe, grandson of COL (Ret) Richard Douglas Gillem, 11 AVNGP; 11 PATH 8/65; 1st Grant, Portland Community College

Tyler Robert Konrardy, grandson of 1LT Robert Joseph Konrardy, A Co 1-5 Cav; 4th Grant, The University of Iowa

Tanner Joseph Konrardy, grandson of 1LT Robert Joseph Konrardy, A Co 1-5Cav; .5 Grant, Scott Community College

Katie Maria Clarice Kolar, granddaughter of CW4 Henry Eugene Ainsworth, HHC 3BDE; .5 Grant; University of West Alabama

Colleen Anne Lane, granddaughter of SP-4 Charles Frederick Lane, C Trp. 1-9 Cav 1965; 1.5 Grant, University of Delaware

Anna Mae Lombardo, granddaughter of CW3 Riccardo Joseph Lombardo, A Co. 228AVN 1/65 - 3/66; 1.5 Grant, University of South Alabama

James Thomas Lopez, grandson of CPT James Robert Spears, C Co. 2-20ARTY; 1.5 Grant, Fresno Pacific University

Kyle Marie Lynch, granddaughter of SP-4 Dennis Lane Wilson, 2-7 Cav 4/65 - 7/66; 1.0 Grant, SUNY Jefferson

Gina Marie Martini, granddaughter of PFC Roger Michael Martin, B Co. 1-5 Cav 11/65; 2.5 Grant,



University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

Martha Olivia McClary, granddaughter of SP-4 Hardy Devon Brown, C Co. 1-7 Cav 7/65 - 3/66;

2.0 Grant, University of South Carolina - Columbia

Michela Sydney McGraw, granddaughter of SGT William Francis McGraw, Jr., B Co. 1-8 Cav; 65; 1.0 Grant, Arizona State University

Joshua Davis Meadows, grandson of SGM (Ret) Bobby Eugene Meadows, A Co. 1-8 Cav 7/65 - 11/65; 4th Grant, Northern Arizona University

Alyssa Nicole Murphree, granddaughter of SSG Matthew Anthony Pepe, Jr., A Co. 228 AVN; 1.5 Grant, University of North Alabama

Olivia Ann Otten, granddaughter of SP-4 Jerome Curiale, D Co. 2-5 CAV 7/65 - 2/66; 1 .5 Grant, College of Staten Island

Zane Nicholas Pierce, grandson of SGT Richard Albert Pierce, HHC 3RD BDE; 1st Grant, Washington State University

Hanna Nicole Self, granddaughter of SSG Edwin Mackerel Day, A Co. 1-7Cav 6/61; 1.0 Grant, Western Kentucky University

Sierra Alice Simmons, granddaughter of SP-4 Phillip Ray Simmons, A Co. 8 Cav 6/65; 1.0 Grant, Harford Community College

Rebecca Joan Small, granddaughter of CPT Robert Allan Carrara, HHC 1-7 Cav 1964-1965; 3rd Grant, Loyola University Chicago

Edisto Metolius Sterne, grandson of LTC (RET) Jack Kiedaisch Sterne, HHC 1-77FA 8/65; 1st Grant, Whitman College

Courtney Michelle Sugdinis, granddaughter of CPT Joel Edward Sugdinis, A Co. 2-7 Cav 10/65 - 3/66; 2.0 Grant, University of Central Florida

Jonathan Harris Swedberg, grandson of PSG John Allen Uselton, B Co. 2-7 Cav 8/65; 3.46 Grant, Columbus State University

Jessica Lyle Weber, daughter of SSG Earl Lyle Maines, D Co. 2-5 Cav 7/65 - 8/66; 4.0 Grant, Eastern Kentucky University

Michelle Yvette White, granddaughter of SSG Freddie James Owens, A Co. 1-5 Cav, 1965. 1 Grant, Hillsborough Community College

Children of Killed in Action or Totally and Permanently Disabled Troopers

Molly Grace Adams, daughter of John Wayne Adams, HHT 1-9 Cav 6/69 - 6/70; 1.63 Grant, Montgomery County Community College

Melody Heather Alexander, daughter of SSG (Ret) Terry Lee Alexander, B Co. 2-5 Cav 66-67; 2.25 Grant, Greenville Technical College

Corey John Bourdon, son of SSG Elvis Bourdon, C 1-9 Cav 10/02; 2.0 Grant, Central Texas College



Therese Marie Brown, daughter of CW2 Stephen Patrick Brown, 227 AVN 6/69 - 6/70; 2.0 Grant, University of California - Santa Barbara



Jessica Michelle Jones, daughter of CW2 Charles Stacey Jones, E Co. 1-7 Cav; 2.0 Grant, Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Dickson

Lorin Dayna Prushko Jones, daughter of SGT Ronald Francis Prushko, D Co. 2-12 Cav; .5 Grant, Drexel University



James Curtis Knapp, son of SGT Dennis James Knapp, D Co. 2-5 Cav 2/71 - 6/74; 2nd Grant, Emmaus Bible College

Claire Elliot Larsen, daughter of SP-4 William Stanley Larsen, D Co. 1-5Cav 06-69; 4th Grant, California Institute of the Arts

Samatha Mimi Metrando, daughter of SGT Andrew Joseph Metrando, A Co 2-7 Cav, 11-67; 2.5 Grant State University of New York Orange County

James Nilson Christopher Mixsooke, son of SGT Ruben Moses Mixsooke, C Co 1-8Cav, 07/67; 1.0 Grant, University of Alaska Anchorage

Brooke Nicole Nyren, daughter of SSG Nathaniel John Nyren, A Co 1-8 Cav, 10/03; 1.0 Grant, Radford University



Tiger Robinson Smith, son of CW2 (Ret) Thomas Leming Smith, HHC 1 BDE 6/69; 3.25 Grant, University of British Columbia

Victoria Ann Stiefel, son of SSG Karl Ellington Stiefel, A Btry. 2-17FA 10/66 - 3/67; 1st Grant, University of South Carolina

Heather Coral Patricia Thorp, daughter of SP-4 Alexander Aloysius Pucilowski, C Co. 229 AVN 1/69; 2.5 Grant, South University

Dorothy Elaine York, daughter of CPT George Malcolm York, B 1-12 Cav, D 1-7 Cav 69-70; 1.38 Grant, University of New Mexico - Valencia

Silvana Doriin Zoida, daughter of SP-4 Damian Zoida, HHC 1-12 Cav, 04/68; .5 Grant, Phoenix College

Active Duty 1st Cavalry Division Grant Recipients



Luis A. Figueroa, son of CW2 Luis A. Figueroa, 615 ASB Present; 3rd Grant, University of Texas Austin

Kacey L. Haycox, spouse of SSG Aaron E. Haycox, HHC 2-12 CAV, Present; 2nd Grant, University of Alabama - Distance Learning

Donations to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association are tax-deductible and are used to provide scholarship grants to eligible students.

Donations intended to support the Ia Drang Fund are deposited in an account used only for that program.

All donations are acknowledged in writing regardless of amount. Donors names are listed in the Honor Roll.



Finance Forum raised \$15,500 for scholarships at annual Charity Golf Tournament in April 2015.

FOUNDATION OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

The Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association was established for the purpose of providing financial assistance in the form of scholarship grants toward the pursuit of an advanced education.

These grants are reserved for children of those soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division who died, or were totally and permanently disabled as a result of wounds received or disease contracted while serving with the 1st Cavalry Division in any armed conflict. Additionally, children of members of the Association who die while serving with the 1st Cavalry Division in peacetime and active duty soldiers currently assigned or attached to the 1st Cavalry Division and their spouses and children are eligible to receive scholarship grants.

The Foundation also administers a separate program for descendants of soldiers who served in designated qualifying units that were involved in the battles of the Ia Drang valley during the period 3 through 19 November 1965.

The Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association is a tax-exempt charitable organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all donations are tax-deductible. The Foundation's tax identification number is 23-7016417.

Background

The scholarship program was initiated by the Association in 1967 during the Vietnam War in response to requests from the Sergeants Major of the Division who committed their support to perpetuation of the program.

A trust agreement was signed on 16 August 1968 establishing the Foundation. Since that time, no child of a Trooper that has been killed or disabled has been turned away for lack of funds. Between the generous donations of Association members and scholarship drives within the Division, the Cavalry has taken care of its own. In the 1970s, in response to a perceived downtrend in applications from the aging children of the Division's Troopers that were killed in action from the Vietnam war, eligibility was expanded to children of Association members killed or disabled while on active duty with the Division. This extension produced an unexpected response from Vietnam veterans who were still producing children. In 1988, again at the behest of the Division Sergeants Major, the program was expanded further to include soldiers and spouses of soldiers while assigned or attached to the Division and in 1996 children of active duty soldiers assigned to the Division were added to the list of those eligible. The Foundation assumed responsibility for the Ia Drang program in early 1994 and awarded the first grant from this program in 1997.

Since its inception, the Foundation has provided:

- Over \$797,000 to 492 children of Troopers that were killed in action or totally and permanently disabled.
- Over \$274,000 to 280 active duty Troopers and their family members.
- Over \$589,000 to 246 descendants of the Ia Drang battles.

Scholarships that began at \$200 per year currently provide \$1,200 per year with a maximum of \$4,800 for four years of schooling per student.

Funding for the program, less the Ia Drang element, derives primarily from the Foundation's primary investment portfolio, the annual Division fund drive and random donations from the membership and those interested in providing support for education. The Association annually provides \$12,000 to satisfy projected shortfalls up to a predetermined maximum. All eligible candidates for grants who are children of deceased members of the Division are funded. Active Duty soldiers and their spouses and children compete for grants and selection is made annually. If necessary, a board comprised of Command Sergeants Major of the Division acting in their private capacity as members of the Association will select recipients if the requests exceed the available funds on hand. All requests for grants in this category were satisfied through school year 1996/1997, however the large number of active duty applications for school year 1997/1998 necessitated that grants be awarded in order of priority.

Funding for the Ia Drang program comes from donations specifically earmarked for this category of grant. Ia Drang funds are separately invested in a fenced program to build up an investment corpus which will sustain additional

IA DRANG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Ia Drang Scholarship Fund which was founded in 1994 by LTG (Ret) Harold G. Moore and Joseph L. Galloway to provide scholarships to the descendants of those that fought in the Ia Drang Valley from 3-19 November 1965 is running out of money. In 2013, the Trustees informed Association members that without a large increase in donations that this was going to happen within a few years.

In early 2014, a letter from the Executive Trustee of the Foundation, Peter Tattersall, was sent to everyone who had registered with the Foundation for the Ia Drang Scholarship letting them know that the funds were rapidly depleting and that the program was in peril. During the Foundation Trustee meeting at the reunion in Chicago, the Trustees decided that they would likely cutoff adding new applicants sometime in 2015 so that all students that begin receiving scholarships will be able to complete their four years of schooling. The decision was made at the February 2015 meeting that the number of new recipients would be limited to six in 2015 unless the Ia Drang fund gets a large increase in donations that will extend the program. While this program was never designed to last forever, it is apparent that many of the descendants that are registered to receive scholarship grants will not receive anything since the funds will all be gone before they are eligible to attend college.

The Ia Drang Scholarship Fund was initially funded from the earnings from book *We Were Soldiers Once--And Young* that was written by LTG Moore and Joe Galloway. In early 1994 the Board of Governors of the 1st Cavalry Division Association agreed to expand the activities of the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association to include the Ia Drang Scholarship Program and manage their funds as a separate program. For years the Ia Drang Fund's investment portfolio grew and the fund was fully able to pay the scholarships requested without affecting the portfolio due to generous donations. We have been forced in the past several years to sell stocks and bonds and spend any earnings to write scholarship checks rather than reinvesting the earnings to build the fund.

Initially this program was only open to children but due to the age of most of the children of Ia Drang Veterans the program was expanded to provide scholarships to grandchildren. This is the only program run by the Foundation that provides scholarships to grandchildren.

grants from its proceeds.

Leadership of the Foundation

Six trustees elected by the membership of the Association manage the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. The trustees provide oversight and direction for the Foundation by meeting twice yearly to review operations and the fiscal ability of the investments to fuel the scholarship programs. While the day to day operations of the Foundation are run by the Foundation Secretary and the Association office staff, the trustees set clearly defined standards of eligibility and ensure that money is available to provide grants to those who meet the criteria. The Executive Director of the Association who is a non-voting member performs the Foundation Secretary duties.

The Trust Agreement, signed in 1968, requires that six Association members each be elected for three-year terms with one of the trustees being elected as the Executive Trustee. Each year the membership of the Association elects two trustees at the General Membership meeting of the Association conducted during the annual reunion. This provides the Foundation with continuity by ensuring a minimum of four trustees will continue service to assist the two newly elected members. The Executive Trustee of the Foundation submits a report to the Board of Governors at each of their meetings and a report to the Association at the General Membership meeting.

Current trustees and the year their current term expires are: Executive Trustee Peter Tattersall (2016), Charles R. "Ric" James (2015), Ronnie L. Killingsworth (2015), David A. Lutgen (2017), John L. Momeier (2016), and Eugene G. Wentworth (2017). Those trustees whose term ends in 2015 are currently on the ballot for reelection for another term.

Applications

For more information or an application to register for benefits send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703 or e-mail us at <firstcav@1cda.org>. You may also print the on-line Registration Form, fill it out completely, and mail it with all of the required supporting documentation to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

The application period for Association members who are active duty Troopers currently serving with the First Team and their families is no longer open. You can get the information about this program on our web page at <www.1cda.org/foundation--scholarships-.html>. Printed forms are available on line, at the National Headquarters in Copperas Cove, and at the Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Shop in the 1st Cavalry Division Museum at Fort Hood, Texas beginning on 1 March 2016.

Donations

Please mail your tax-deductible donations to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703. Donations in the amount of \$25 or more will be acknowledged in *SABER*. Donations of \$250 or more will receive a tax certificate as required by the IRS. Donations intended for the Ia Drang Fund should be made out to the Ia Drang Scholarship Fund.

Fund Raising Events

The Dallas Chapter of the Finance Forum conducted its Annual Charity Golf Tournament on Monday, 27 April 2015 to raise funds for the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. This year's tournament was held at the Dallas Cowboys Golf Club in Grapevine, Texas and raised \$15,500 to provide scholarships for the Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division and their families. We greatly appreciate the support of the Dallas Chapter of the Finance Forum which has donated a total of \$165,434 to the Foundation from its nine Annual Charity Golf Tournaments which began in 2006.

The Association normally conducts a dance or golf tournament in conjunction with the annual reunion and the proceeds from these events is donated to the Foundation.

Eligibility: Children (including legally adopted) and grandchildren of Ia Drang Valley battlefield combat veterans of designated qualifying units (ground and air) which were involved in the battles of the Ia Drang valley during the period 3 through 19 November, 1965. Children and grandchildren of men who were assigned to a unit that fought in the Ia Drang battles but were themselves at An Khe base camp, at Pleiku/Camp Holloway, at Catecka, in a hospital, etc. and not in the Ia Drang battles are not eligible for award of scholarship grants.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to determine whether his/her father/grandfather served in battle in at least one of the qualifying units in at least one of the specific battle locations and provide proof thereof. Proof must include at least birth certificate(s) or legal adoption certificate(s) showing father or grandfather's chain of relationship to the applicant, a copy of the Ia Drang Battle survivor's DD Form 214 and positive evidence of the battle participant's assignment to a qualifying unit during a specified battle. Such evidence may include citations for awards earned in the battles, signed statements from battlefield leader(s), extracts of official personnel records, copies of morning reports, copies of articles about the specific battles naming sponsor, extracts from books which name sponsor as a battle participant and/or copies of letters to family/friends about the specific battles. Male recipients must provide proof of registration with the Selective Service System if 18 years of age.

A listing of eligible units and battles is available from the Association Headquarters in Copperas Cove or from the Foundation's web page at <www.1cda.org/foundation--scholarships-.html>.

Donations to the Ia Drang Scholarship Fund are gratefully accepted and are support this program. Please mail your tax-deductible donations to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703. Donations in the amount of \$25 or more will be acknowledged in *SABER*. Donations of \$250 or more will receive a tax certificate as required by the IRS. Donations intended for the Ia Drang Fund should be made out to the Ia Drang Scholarship Fund.

For additional information call (254) 547-6537 or send an e-mail message to <firstcav@1cda.org>.

99th FA News



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On the 25th of July I took part in a very impressive and moving ceremony at a cemetery near German town,



Jim at Richard Bell's Memorial.

Wisconsin. Sixty-five years and a day earlier I was also present when a force of North Koreans over-ran the position of Headquarters Battery, 99th FA Battalion causing several casualties including CPL Richard A. Bell who was killed by shrapnel from an incoming enemy mortar round.

Unlike that fateful July day in 1950, July 25, 2015 was very peaceful. The three surviving brothers and one sister of Richard Bell, along with other relatives, friends, and members of the Richard A. Bell Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association gathered at the grave site of CPL Bell for a memorial ceremony on the 65th anniversary of his tragic death.

I attended the ceremony this year along with my girlfriend, Monica, and was impressed by the true meaningful words, and prayers offered by the family and the members of the KWVA post who also gave a rifle salute and Taps at the ceremony. Monica and I were welcomed by the family and friends with true friendliness during our visit to Richard's home territory. Following the cemetery service, we were invited to a lunch, get-together at the West Bend, VFW Post and met with the members of the KWVA,

family, and friends. It was a good weekend and I hope to do it again. If anyone else would like to attend next year, I will let you know when and where.

I am writing a summary of what occurred in our unit 65 years ago. Since the *Saber* comes out every two months, I can't make it time coordinated, but I'm doing it sort of like a chapter an issue.

On July 15th we were loading on ships to take us to Korea. The 99th FA Battalion loaded on an LST with the howitzers being placed in the beds of Ducks for the amphibious landing. All of the other trucks and equipment were loaded for a quick landing and off-loading.

Me? I was ordered to go with the 8th Cav Regiment (Inf) to provide instant wire communications for artillery support by supplying the 8th Cav advance party with a telephone which I would connect to the 99th Hqs by wire with me running through withering enemy fire with a reel of combat wire. This meant I would be one of the first off the AKA troop carrier ship



Debarking at Pohang Dong,

landing with the first troops of the 8th Cav. I learned a fact about amphibious operations: "First off, last on." When I went up the gang plank, most everyone and everything was already aboard.

The ship was completely loaded with all the men and equipment of an infantry regiment. So it was then that the last of us to board made our travel arrangements out in the open on the top deck. Our bunks were the softest piece of metal we could find. I was so excited, it didn't really matter. Our trip to Korea consisted mostly of standing in line for chow. To feed over a thousand men was a big job and one meal led to another.

All of this ended on the morning of July 18, 1950 when we were awakened very early, given a simple C-Ration type breakfast, and told to get ready to debark, which meant for me to climb over the side of the ship, down the ropes into the

landing craft, and do my job. Although it wasn't a very rough sea, the landing boat was bouncing around a lot more than the fake one did on dry land. I made it into the boat along with other members of the party and one jeep. I was pretty unstable with the extra Commo stuff on my back, but some good soul behind me braced me for the ride in to shore. The front ramp dropped and we took off ready at any moment to open fire on the enemy. I was pretty happy; I didn't fall in and drown which would have been possible with all the extra weight and I wasn't shot between the eyes which was what I expected when the ramp dropped. So began our fight against the Communist North Koreans. (To be continued.)

It was a perfect Minnesota August day when Monica and I met Francis Goedkin and his wife Ester for lunch certainly unlike the night of the Typhoon in 1954 when Fran survived the sinking of the Japanese ferry, *Toya Maru*. Fran and I are virtually neighbors living only about 150 miles apart. His home near Dubuque, Iowa is a ways down the Mississippi River from me, but when I consider where many of my 99th FA Bn friends live, he's pretty close. I'd been considering running down and visiting him, but he beat me to it.



Jim with Fran and Ester Goedkin.

It was a very interesting story that Fran told us about that fateful night; interesting and tragic. When we talk about ferries, I think of something crossing a river with a load of tourists and a couple cars, but the ferry we're talking about here was a large ocean going ship carrying a complete loaded passenger train in the hull. Fran was one of the Troops of an advance party moving the 99th FA Bn along with the rest of the 1st Cav Division from the northern most island of Hokkaido to the main island of Honshu, Japan.

When the *Toya Maru* left port the Typhoon was brewing and the captain sought shelter in a port, however he mistook the calm weather of the eye of the storm for good weather and returned to the voyage. It was then the back edge of the Typhoon hit the ferry with high winds and 20 foot waves sinking the *Toya Maru* and drowning some 1,500 passengers.

Francis sent me a laminated copy of the Dubuque Telegraph Herald with the headlines, "Dubuque Youth Only Survivor of Disaster." The paper goes on to tell of Francis' early recollection of his escape from the sinking *Toya Maru*. Fran says he remembered very little than being tossed violently around in the 20 foot waves, landing on shore where he was found by Japanese authorities.

I certainly enjoyed visiting with Francis and his wife, Ester; we had a very enjoyable visit, and I'm looking forward to our next get together.

This Typhoon, Marie, also sank as many as six other large ocean going ships and hundreds of smaller vessels including an LST also carrying 1st Cavalry Division Troopers all of whom were saved. The loss of life on the *Toya Maru* ranked up with that of the *Titanic*. All of this shows why our troops are in danger whether in combat or so called peacetime.

Thanks to Peter O'Brien for his research into the *Toya Maru* sinking.

I was saddened to hear that Wyeth Hartwell, A Btry, 99th FA Bn, passed away August 26 at his home in Nashville. His daughter, Jan, told me the details. He was buried with full military honors with USMC and American Legion Honor Guard participating at the burial.

I'm not sure how long I'm going to be able to continue writing the 99th FA Bn column, so if anyone out there would like to continue, please let me know. No, I'm not expecting to expire soon; it's just getting harder for me to operate.

As we offer our thoughts and prayers for our departed comrades, let us throw in some for those who lost their lives in the service of our country on that dark stormy night on the *Toya Maru*. Keep all those who are serving now safe from the multiple threats that face them. And always remember, we are all in this together. CSMO

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 11

three times. They had us downgrade our blouses because it was so humid that morning. We ended up in just our fighting load carriers, tan T-shirt, pants, and the ruck," Weaver said.

He began at a leisurely pace.

"When I started, some people passed me," said Weaver "I was thinking in my head, I could probably go that fast."

Weaver began to pick up steam, bounding past the other soldiers on the ruck march.

"There was a captain there that was ranger qualified, he was the forerunner," said Weaver. "I kind of put him as my goal, and I caught up to him at about the 4-mile mark." "As soon as I caught up to him, I passed off my weapon to him; he passed off the guidon to me. The entire rest of the time, I was just trying to stay ahead of everybody else," he said.

At one point Weaver thought that another soldier was trying to catch up to him and take the guidon, so he picked up the pace. It turns out that the soldier chasing him was one of the air assault instructors, tasked with keeping track of the formation.

"I kept pushing pretty much as hard as I thought I could," Weaver said.

Weaver's final time for the ruck march was 2 hours and 2 minutes. He was presented with an award for his achievement at the air assault graduation ceremony later that day.

CPT Robert Mathis, Weaver's company commander, was present to congratulate his soldier, both for completing the course and having the fastest ruck march time.

"Anytime we can do something for our junior enlisted soldiers, we do it," Mathis said. "It's definitely great that they get to wear the badge."

As for Weaver, "He's Desperado material," said Mathis. "He can stick

around."

Military Intelligence Soldiers Awarded for Helping Deployed Comrades by SGT Garrett Hernandez. 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs



MI Troopers receive awards.

FORT HOOD, Texas – Standing on Cooper Field here, 20 Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division military intelligence section received awards September 3 for their actions that helped their fellow Soldiers deployed in Afghanistan.

"Most of us that are getting the award today were deployed down range," said SSG Matthew Trotta, an intelligence analyst with the 1st Cavalry Division. "So we came directly from being deployed to going into helping the people who are still out there deployed."

The Soldiers within the First Team's military intelligence section, or "G2", returned from Afghanistan to their Families in October, but their mission didn't stop when they got back stateside.

"Every day we prepared briefs and other pieces of intelligence to support the war fighters down range," said Trotta, a native of Livingston Manor, New York.

The program allows units deployed to Afghanistan to reach back to the intelligence community in the U.S.

"So for every one deployed Soldier, there are 14 Soldiers back in garrison

Continued on pg. 17

CHAPTER INDEX

ALMOST HEAVEN WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

POC: William D. Carpenter
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Email: vetvet1@comcast.net

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Pres: John Rangel, Jr.
POC: Gary Quinn
395 Harlem Grovetown Rd.
Harlem, GA 30814-4525
(706) 513-5858
Meets on 2nd Sat. of mo., 1400 at Ryans Steak House on Peach Orchard Rd., Augusta, GA (Mar., June, Sept. and Dec.)

COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE CHAPTER

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E-mail: tangolima2505@comcast.net
Website: www.Hood2Hood1stCav.webs.com
Meets 1830 3rd Wed of ea. mos. at the Village Inn, 1621 NE 10th Ave., Portland, OR 97232. No meeting in Dec.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Pres: Keith Moyer
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Colchester, CT 06415-1009
(860) 537-1716
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Meeting info in newsletter and on web page.

CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER

Pres: Jerry Eller
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(915) 755-7944

FLORIDA CHAPTER

Pres: Woodrow N. Hines Sr.
2465 Bronco Dr.
Saint Cloud, FL 34771-7955
(407) 957-6917
Facebook: Florida Chapter 1st Cavalry Division Association
Meets quarterly at different locations around the state.

FOLLOW ME CHAPTER

Pres: Robert Dodson
Meets 1900 4th Tues. ea. mo. Veterans Ctr., 1000 Victory Dr., Columbus, GA. No meeting in December.

FORT KNOX AREA CHAPTER

Pres.: Thomas Ken O'Barr
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(502) 228-8032
E-mail: ko42@bellsouth.net
POC: Larry A. Whelan
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(502) 485-1270
E-mail: lawhelan@att.net
Website: www.1cda.org/fort_knox.html
Meets 3rd Sat. of mo. at 1100 at the Barker Masonic Lodge, 705 Main St., West Point, KY.

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1-8 Cav
Pres: Maurice Waters
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KETTLE MORAINÉ CHAPTER

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(262) 637-3835
POC: Harold Bourne
6415 Carolann Dr.
Brown Deer, WI 53223-1519
(414) 255-7829
Meetings held at 3 month intervals with a banquet dinner in Dec. when elections are held.

GERALD F. KINSMAN CHAPTER

Pres: Owen Levine
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E-mail: sonny01453@comcast.net
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JAMES J. MASON WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Pres.: Ron Kloet
POC: Bob Anderson
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Website: jjmwmc1cd.com
Meets on 3rd Thurs. of Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., and Dec., at 7pm, at the Grand Valley Armory in Wyoming, MI.

LAST FRONTIER CHAPTER

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LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

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Vice Pres: John Burgner
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Anaheim, CA 92804-2569
(714) 535-0737
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Meets 0900 on 3rd Sat. of mo. at Brea Veterans Club, 735 S. Brea Blvd., Brea, CA

LRRP/RANGER of the 1st Cav Division during the Vietnam War.

Pres.: John LeBrun
932 3rd St.
Blaine, WA 98230
(360) 393-6645
E-mail: caabnranger@yahoo.com
Website: www.lrrprangers.com
Full chapter meeting during Reunions

WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION CHAPTER

Pres: Gene Russell
7923 Jansen Dr.
Springfield, VA 22152-2413
(703) 220-5322
E-mail: enrussell@msn.com
Website: 1cda.org/national_capitol.htm
Meets 3d Sat. of the month Jan.-Apr and Sep.-Oct. 0900 at the American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield, VA. Breakfast available prior to start of mtg. Jun meeting is at WRAMC and Nov. meeting at the Assn. Vets Day gathering.

NEVADA CHAPTER

Pres: John Lyles
POC: Milton S. Clark, III
7789 Buckwood Ct.
Las Vegas, NV 89149-6661
(702) 522-7313
Meets the first Saturday of the month at 10am at American Legion Post 8, downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. Call for directions.

NEWYORK/NEWJERSEY CHAPTER

Pres: Bob Arbasetti
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NORTH CAROLINA - TARHEEL CHAPTER

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Meets 1200 1st Sat. of even months, contact William Koepp or Roberto Maanao for meeting location.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

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LRRP/Ranger News



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Hello from the nation's capital. *The Washington Post* and the TV news programs here in the Washington, DC area recently carried

the story of the two female Soldiers who completed the Army's grueling 62-day Ranger course and graduated from Ranger School at Fort Benning, Georgia, on August 21, 2015. The two women were among a group of 19 women who initially began the two month long course as part of the Army's ongoing assessment of whether women should be integrated into all of the Army's combat units. Newly promoted CPT Kristen Griest, a 2011 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a military police officer, and 1LT Shaye Haver, a 2013 graduate of West Point and an Apache helicopter pilot, successfully completed the course and are the first women in history to have done so.

The following statement was issued by the families of the two women: "CPT Griest and LT Haver are just like all the Soldiers in Class 8-15 - happy, relieved, and ready for some good food and sleep. Like everyone who will pin the Ranger tab on Friday, they are exceptional Soldiers and strong teammates. This is a monumental and joyous occasion for all 96 Soldiers who will be graduating on Friday. The journey of Class 8-15 has been exciting and exhausting and just as they trained as a team, they wish to celebrate as a team."

The news reports went on to say that although the women have earned the Ranger Tab for having completed the course, they will not be eligible to try out to serve in the 75th Ranger Regiment as women are not yet allowed to serve in special operations combat units. However, that could change early next year when Defense Secretary Ash Carter decides whether to allow women to be eligible to serve in all combat units. Of course, a military police officer and an Apache helicopter pilot may not be interested in changing their MOS' in order to serve in an infantry unit, Ranger or otherwise.

The present day Ranger course is intended to push Soldiers to their mental and physical limits by forcing them to operate on minimal food and sleep. Approximately 34 percent of the Soldiers who start the course recycle one or more phases of it, adding to their physical and mental fatigue.

Recently, I received a call from John Crowden, Woodstock, Illinois, about the story of LTC Anthony B. Herbert that appeared in the May-June issue of *Saber*. He would like to see LTC Herbert nominated for the Ranger Hall of Fame. As described in the story, LTC Herbert was one of the most highly decorated enlisted men in the Korean War.

LTC Herbert died in June 2014 at the age of 84 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery in February 2015. John knew him from his time in Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division and from Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade where Herbert commanded the 2nd Bn., 503rd Airborne. Herbert was nicknamed the "Gray Ghost" because of his ability to move around the battlefield without

being detected by the enemy. John would like to see Herbert inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. Maybe LTC Bill Anton (1971-72), Las Vegas, Nevada, who is the current president of the 75th Ranger Association, could offer us his thoughts on the process for doing this.

John served with the 7th Cav in Korea in 1951, the 5th Cav in Okinawa in 1955, the 1st Battalion, 187th Airborne at Fort Benning, which became the 1st Bn., (Airborne), 12th Cav in the 11th Air Assault Division in 1963-1965, and with the 11th Pathfinders and 2nd Bn., 503rd Airborne, 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam. He participated in three jumps in Vietnam and is a former unit president of the Kinnard Chapter of the 11th Airborne Division Association.

On a different note, I received the following email from Bill Carpenter (1967), Fairmont, West Virginia. "I just learned that Barbara Paccereilli died on June 26. The Paccereillis were very involved in the LRRP/Ranger chapter in recent years, and LTC Paccereilli was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame some time ago."

I also received the following from Bill: "Bob Ankony (1967-68) has a number of LRRP / military stories posted on his website that you might be interested in reading. Below are links to a few of them. Bill"

<www.robertankony.com/blog/one-name-on-the-wall-robert-eugene-whitten>, <www.robertankony.com/blog/team-leader>, <www.robertankony.com/blog/they-saw-us-first-1>, and <www.robertankony.com/blog/in-memory-of-machine-guns-part-i-covert-acquisitions>.

Bob has authored numerous articles on military history, in addition to a book: *LURPS, A Ranger's Diary of TET, Khe Sanh, A Shau, and Quang Tri*. He joined the army at the age of seventeen, and after serving as a parachute rigger with the 8th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Company D, 17th Infantry (LRP) in Europe, he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam where he was promoted



Bob Ankony (right), Doug Parkinson (center), and Montagnard Scouts (left), LZ Betty, Quang Tri City, February 1968.

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Hello once again fellow Sky Troopers. What the heck, another summer has come and gone in the blink of an eye. Seems as one is just getting to enjoy the roads without school bus traffic, poof!, they are back. I'm not looking forward to the winter months here in the northeast.

The Association's web site is back up and running in a new format. I find it easier to navigate and the SABER is available for your perusal in both current and past issues. Check it out at <<http://www.lcda.org>>.

Ok, let's pull pitch and get this month's column flying with a note from John Brennan, former SP5, 114 AHC, 1970-71, Vinh Long AAF, Mekong Delta, <johnmailman@yahoo.com>. He sent in the following request. "Did you name your helicopter in Vietnam? Searching for individualized "names" (e.g. Iron Butterfly, Cheap Thrills, etc) that were painted on in country Army copters, 1962-73. Help me document this often-overlooked chapter of our aviation history. Search your in-country photo/slide collections for personalized copter nose art & names. Search your memory & memoirs or query a buddy for his. Thank you gentlemen. Respectfully yours, John." John is the author of "U.S. Army Helicopter Names In Vietnam" from Hellgate Press and "Vietnam War Helicopter Art: U.S. Army Rotor Aircraft", an 8.5 x 11 inch, 208 page book, containing 300 color nose art photos from Stackpole Books and containing 61 photos of 1st Cav birds. If you can help, contact John. Some of you troopers have contributed photos previously.



Patrick Mahany

I received word of the passing of CW2 Patrick Mahany who served with D Company, 229th AHB, "Smiling Tigers", Vietnam, 1971-72. He died of injuries when his French-manufactured Airbus AS350 B3E helicopter crashed in Colorado this past July. I remember reading of the Air Medical crash, but at that time had no idea the pilot was one of our former Sky Troopers. No patients were on the helicopter at the time of the fiery crash. Patrick joined the Army in 1969 and graduated flight school in 1970. He served one tour in Vietnam from April 1970 to April 1971 where he flew 1200 combat hours. Patrick earned

a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart during his tour with the 1st Cav. Returning from Vietnam, he was stationed at Fort Knox until getting out of the military in 1974, and then rejoined again in 1975 for three years.

During his lifetime of flying he used his skills in a variety of flying jobs. To name a few, offshore oil rigs in Gulf of Mexico, fought fires in California and Arizona, the Forest Service in Utah, Life Flight for Rocky Mountain Helicopters in Florida. He joined Flight for Life in June 1987 until September 1998, took a short break and returned December 1999, flying until the time of his death.

Pat enjoyed reading the SABER and was also an active member of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. Following in the footsteps of his father, Ryan Mahany, was honored with an Army Air Medal of Valor in 2009 for rescuing the crew of a downed helicopter during his service in Afghanistan. A "Silver Wings of the Cav" salute to Patrick and Ryan for their outstanding service and our condolences to his wife, Karen, and family. Pat will be missed by many, including those he served with. Any troopers reading this who remember or flew with Pat, I'd like to hear from you.

In May of last year an inquiry came into our HQ from Stolen Valor (Valour) Canada. They were asking for help in verification of a "pilot" claiming to have served with the 229th AHB, Vietnam. HQ had no record of him. Seems the publication of a book and newspaper articles about his claimed heroics sparked questions from the Canadian public. Stolen Valor Canada (SVC) investigator, Gordon Swaitkewich, a retired Canadian Army officer who happened to serve and work with US forces in Vietnam and further on in his career, supplied me with the necessary tour date/s and units to do some checking. What peeked my interest was one of the units happened to be my company, although a little earlier than my tour. Normally I would not have tackled this detail. But I thought this will be a piece of cake since I have rosters, award lists, names and email address in my database for the period claimed. Well what I thought would be a piece of cake turned into a project lasting a year. And despite all the work by everyone involved the end result was less than satisfying for those on both sides of the border.

Let me start with an education of the term "Stolen Valor" which I learned shortly after the inquiry. The Stolen Valor Act of 2013 is a United States federal law that was passed by Congress. The law amends the federal criminal code to make it a crime for a person to fraudulently claim having received any of a series of particular military decorations and awards (a Medal of Honor - Army, Navy, Air Force, a Distinguished Service Cross, a Navy Cross, an Air Force Cross, a Silver Star, a Purple Heart, a Combat Infantryman's Badge, a Combat Action Badge, a Combat Medical Badge, a Combat Action Ribbon, a Combat Action Medal) with the intention of obtaining money, property, or other tangible benefit from convincing someone that he or she rightfully did receive that award. However wearing a military uniform in public with no prior service isn't illegal; it only becomes illegal when someone takes credit for serving in the military when no service has been done.

This law is a revised version of a previous one that was struck down by the Supreme Court in the case United States v. Alvarez for being an infringement of the constitutional right to freedom of speech. The Criminal Code of Canada (CCC) - Unlawful Use of Military Uniforms or Certificates Section 419 is different across the border. When someone is formally charged by the Crown with stolen valor, the burden of proof of service lies on him, not the accuser/s. Canadian SV law is designed for the following.

(a) wears a uniform of the Canadian Forces or any other naval, army or air force or a uniform that is so similar to the uniform of any of those forces that it is likely to be mistaken therefore,

(b) wears a distinctive mark relating to wounds received or service performed in war, or a military medal, ribbon, badge, chevron or any decoration or order

that is awarded for war services, or any imitation thereof, or any mark or device or thing that is likely to be mistaken for any such mark, medal, ribbon, badge, chevron, decoration or order,

(c) has in his possession a certificate of discharge, certificate of release, statement of service or identity card from the Canadian Forces or any other naval, army or air force that has not been issued to and does not belong to him, or

(d) has in his possession a commission or warrant or a certificate of discharge, certificate of release, statement of service or identity card, issued to an officer or a person in or who has been in the Canadian Forces or any other naval, army or air force, that contains any alteration that is not verified by the initials of the officer who issued it, or by the initials of an officer thereto lawfully authorized, is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

The difference here is they have a Canadian citizen claiming heroic service with US forces.

My initial inquiries were all negative with regard to the name which I thought to be odd. There goes my piece of cake theory. So I asked for more detailed information concerning the nature of the investigation. SVC replied with some surprising claims, including a newspaper article by Sheena Read of the Nanton News that set off red BS flags in my mind. I mean it was laughable as I read on and on. But it also was burning my ass as to the actions and claims of this individual. So let's go there. I'm not typing his full name, not that I can't, as this is now a matter of public record. I'll just refer to Baron Von Huey as Dennis S. This is just some of the BS. Got your seat belt on? In his book, "Set Me Free" he claimed to have been drafted by the CIA into the US Army to be trained to fly helicopters (can't draft non-US citizens). In a period of 9 months to have been awarded several Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star and a Silver Star (flying in the Ia Drang Valley) none of which could be verified in the Nominal Roles for these awards - A/229th CO, COL Bruce Crandall, never heard of the guy. He also states he was flying Cobras in-country in 1966, really? The first AH-1 Cobra didn't arrive in country until June of '67. Most after September of that year.

My thought was SVC shouldn't need verification. This is so much BS, just confront the guy. But SVC informed me, "We are proceeding to conduct this investigation, with the intent of prosecution. We have to build a strong case due to a myriad of mitigating factors (his high level of business and political ties). We do not want any reason for the courts to allow him a way to weasel out and continue to profit from his deceit. We want to expose him to stop the desecration of those that served, and the ones that made the ultimate sacrifice. Our intent is three fold: 1. Shut down his fiction; 2. Set legal precedent to strengthen our laws in regards to stolen valour; 3. Seize the proceeds from his book and distribute the proceeds to Veteran's groups, on both sides of the border.

Ok, I can't back away now. But I'll need to recruit some help to go any further acquiring the documentation and statements. Nailing a wannabe is new to me. Well I didn't have to go any further than my computer. You guys certainly surpassed my expectations. Within days, requests for a DD-214 under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and information from U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker were in the mail. I heard from Gary Roush from the VHPA stating their database has no record of this "pilot". My contacting an A-1/30th Arty friend out in Taos, New Mexico resulted in a few vociferous hound dogs of wannabes coming to my aid. Gerry Flowers, a former Marine was assigned by Larry Bailey to rattle some branches. He is a Canadian living in Vancouver, British Columbia.

I heard from B.G. Burkett Co-author *Stolen Valor*. "Pass on to your guy that I checked with the National Archives and the VA and they both have no record of Dennis S.... ever being in the U S military. As a matter of fact, they have no record of anyone with the last name Dennis S.... ever having served in the U S military. Even if he was involved with the CIA in combat missions which didn't show in his military record, there would still be a military record of training and other duty assignments within the military. Not to mention, the CIA never had the authority to "draft into the military".

By now several months have passed and I'm still awaiting documents under the FOIA to confirm/prove my suspicions. Somehow Dennis S got wind of an investigation and went into a defense posture. One thing I did not do was to read this guys book, "Set Me Free". I didn't want to waste my time or money on it. But word got back to Patience Mason, the wife of Robert Mason (229th), author of *Chickenhawk*, that someone had plagiarized his book. Our boy, Dennis S.! In one of her emails, she confirmed this. Stating, "Dennis S.... is not only a fake vet, but he plagiarized almost his whole book from my husband's memoir, *Chickenhawk*. He didn't make any mistakes like Bob and he also did every brave thing mentioned in *Chickenhawk* that others did and added a section of being Hal Moore's pal at LZ X-Ray and doing stuff he probably lifted from *We Were Soldiers Once and Young*... Most of the book is word for word *Chickenhawk*, including letters Bob wrote me that Dennis S says he wrote his Mom."

Philip Robinson questioned Dennis S... via email about the similarities between the two books. To which Philip received several replies with a total BS defense. I'll share a small part of it. Mind you, Bob Mason never met nor heard of this guy. "Both Bob and myself had early on decided to keep notes and to someday write about our experiences in Vietnam. Bob, being an American, had a personal interest in flying from an early age and obtained a pilot's license while still in high school. Bob volunteered for service and wanted to be a helicopter pilot. I had no previous interest in flying before I was drafted. Bob was older than me and so when I arrived in Vietnam he was well into his first year of service. At any rate being pilots our association was cordial and both of us expressed interest in writing of our experiences in Vietnam once we survived the experience. Bob and I would take our own notes and also discuss missions that we both participated in. My writing skills were pretty good at the time so with respect to missions where we both participated, I wrote notes which I shared with Bob and vice versa.

"To make a long story shorter, Bob's time in Vietnam was complete when I still had over a year of service to complete. I served two years in Vietnam and Bob served a year. Although we both had some similar experiences in specific missions, we also had experiences that were unique to ourselves. As you will gather from my book, I had much different experiences than Bob over my two years in Vietnam. I especially had experience with the Cobra assault helicopter and I also had experience with the CIA. The implications of my experiences had a significant effect on me and also how I documented those experiences. As

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15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB



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On right: Lawrence E. "Ed" Chance, CPT, Medical Service Corps, Vietnam '68-'69. On left: Unknown

also sent: "Many of us who served with 15th Med Battalion in Vietnam between August '68 and August '69 remember Lawrence E. 'Ed' Chance, CPT, Medical Service Corps. Ed was the Division Social Worker, helping soldiers of the 1st Cav with all types of personal problems in their lives, both in Vietnam and at home. Ed worked closely with MAJ James H. Rumbaugh, Division Psychiatrist.

"Ed volunteered for duty in Vietnam because of the great need which he perceived for Social Work Services. He received a direct commission as a CPT.

"After his three years of military service, Ed went to work for the VA. He retired in the mid '80's with the rank of COL. Ed spent his entire career helping soldiers.

"The first photo (April '69) is Ed at the right-hand side, and possibly one of his Social Work Techs at the left. In the second photo (August '69), Ed is second from the left hand side. It is believed that the other guys in the photo are Social Work Techs.



"Ed" Chance, second from the left hand side. Possibly others in the photo are 15th MED Social Work Techs.

If you are in, or can identify anyone in these photos, please let me know <terryamccarl@gmail.com>. Also, if you were a Social Work Tech, or know someone who was between 8/68-8/69, please contact me.

"Ed is afflicted with Alzheimer's disease, but his long-term memory is still quite good. He enjoys reminiscing about his time in Vietnam. He and his wife Dorothy live in an assisted living facility in Tampa, Florida. If anyone remembers Ed, he would love to visit with them by phone. If anyone would like to contact him, please e-mail me and I can put you in contact with him."

Also from Terry, "When in the TSA security line at the Boise Airport on Sunday morning, April 19, 2015, to fly home from the 15th MED Reunion, a TSA worker saw my 1st Cav Vietnam Veteran cap and proclaimed, 'If you ain't Cav, you ain't s!!!!' I told him that I had not heard that expression in years, and it was very refreshing. He went on to explain that he had served in the 1st Cav

A correction to this last *Saber* column for the 15th MED Association Reunion group photo is: Sitting, L to R: Robert McKinley, Bill Haistings, Rich Leonard, Randy Burkhart, Leo Williams, Larry Norris, Art Martin, Larry Hatch, and Norm Roberge. Standing, L to R: Jim Calibro, Tom Grove, Jim Victor, Terry McCarl, William Keller, Dave Parks, Corky Walsh, Floyd Jackson, Mike Smith, Dennis Guthrie, Dan Korty, Jon Lundquist, Dave Huser, Ken Colby, John Sampson, Richard Medlock, and Fred McKellar. Not pictured: Eric Traub, Murray Gibbs, Clyde Moore, and Don Hayes.

That correction came from Terry McCarl who

in Iraq. I flashed back to late November of 1968 when I arrived in An Khe for 1st Cav Orientation before being shipped down to Phuoc Vinh.

"I remember a major lecturing our group of fresh troopers on the history and traditions of the 1st Cavalry Division. He closed his talk with this: 'Many of you will become familiar with the well-known expression of disrespect, 'If you ain't Cav., you ain't s!!!!' I personally prefer the more refined and grammatically-correct version which is: 'If you are not, nor ever have been a member of the 1st Cavalry Division, from the standpoint of military proficiency and excellence, you rank somewhere below human excrement!' I related the major's comment to the TSA worker, who liked it, but thought that he would stick with the more popular version."

Terry also mentions that if anyone would like to know about the annual Huey 369 get-together in Peru, Indiana. Corky Walsh had gone and would respond to questions. Corky recently had a stroke, but is reported to be fine, he went salmon fishing the other day. If you like, you can e-mail Corky at: <medevac454@aol.com>.

From <dilboy.post@comcast.net> "Hello Mike, My name is Bob Hardy and I served in A Company, 15th MED Battalion (Medic) from December 13, 1967 through December 13, 1968 at LZ Baldy (II Corp), Camp Evens (Tet), LZ Stud (A Shau), LZ Stallion (A Shau), LZ Sharon (Quang Tri) and Tay Ninh City (also 25th ID base). I served with six men from basic to Vietnam (eighteen months), their names/nicknames are Bob Hardy (myself) (Heartless), Bob Ottaviano (Otto), Mike MacGrane (Face), William Owens (Rack), Charles Frydel (Fry) and another, I can't remember his name.

"Out of the six of us, three are still alive and from the Boston area; myself, Face and Otto. I was CPT Barrows' driver from January '68 to May '68. I attended two of the Reunions, one in Ohio and the other in Mississippi. I am hoping to make more of these Reunions in the future.

"Is it possible to learn about a MEDEVAC that was damaged? This bird came in the heliport smoking and shot up. Maybe someone can remember something from Camp Evans in February. I would also like a little information about A Co. 15h MED from December '67 to December '68.

"Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you. Regards, Bob Hardy, Commander Dilboy Post VFW 529 Somerville, MA 02144. Phone (617)666-8794."

Remember the 2016 15th MED Reunion will be hosted by Larry Hatch <campingout@comcast.net>.

From the last *Saber* if you did not receive that: "The dates for the Olympia, Washington Reunion at the Red Lion are April 11-18, 2016. It's going to be a country western theme being this is the Pacific Northwest and our dinner banquet is going to feature a catered pulled pork shoulder and slow cooked chicken BBQ with all the trimmings, the 'Oly Mountain Boys' bluegrass band in performance and locally brewed beer kegs. Tours are set at the Olympic Flight Museum and NW Helicopters at the Olympia Airport, Museum of Flight at Boeing Field just south of Seattle and the LeMay Family Auto Collection at Marymount, WA featuring over 2,5000 cars, trucks, and other vehicles."

Always remembering our 1st Cav troops on duty around the world; over and out. FIRST TEAM! Garryowen, SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE



L-R 2015 15th MED Assn. Reunion host, '69-'70 MEDEVAC gunner Mike Smit and Ella Turner, widow of LTC Guthrie L. Turner (BG Ret), 1st Cav Div Surgeon and 15th MED BC July 1968 to June 1969. All photos from Terry McCarl.

Division Doings

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helping," said LTC Matt Gill, officer in charge of the 1st Cav MI section.

Since their return, the Soldiers have been working nights and weekends to provide their services to their comrades. The Soldiers work with their deployed counterparts in the intelligence community, providing help from afar by taking some of the work load.

"The 1st Cavalry reach back actually produced hundreds of finished intelligence products over the span of the year," said Gill, a native of Fort Worth, Texas. "Now that number may not seem significant, but you are talking about the quality of the product and the in-depth nature of the product; these aren't products you turn out on an everyday basis."

The award ceremony signified the end of the reach back mission for the division's G2 and the return to garrison life.

"There's relief, but I miss the mission since I enjoy what I do, and I know we still have Soldiers down range," said CPL Taylor Caver, an intelligence analyst with division and native of Corona, California. "Granted, they are not 1st Cavalry, but they are still our brothers and sisters, so a part of me misses doing the job with them."

SMA Dailey Visits Greywolf Troopers by SGT Brandon Banzhaf, 3rd ABCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

FORT HOOD, Texas – Around the 1st Cavalry Division, it isn't uncommon to have senior leaders from the battalion, brigade or even division level stop by to observe training on Thursday mornings.

However on August 27, Troopers from 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division had a special guest visit their training – all the way from the Pentagon.

Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel Dailey visited the Greywolf Brigade during their First Team Training to meet with Soldiers, ask them about their wellbeing and leadership and answer any questions might have about the future of the Army.

"For the Sergeant Major of the Army to visit the Greywolf Brigade today was an honor and speaks to the professionalism and character of the Soldiers in our



2-7 Cav Troopers visit with SMA Dailey.

formations," said CSM Trevor Walker, command sergeant major of the 3rd ABCT. "It's important for our senior leaders to visit the Soldiers to keep a finger on the pulse of those who make our fighting force what it is."

Walker accompanied Dailey through the 2-7 Cavalry motor pool, where the unit had set up a series of training lanes.

During this week's training, the Troopers were focused on various weapon systems including the M4 Carbine and the M2 .50 caliber machine gun.

"It's important to do these things," said Dailey. "When you practice calling for fire or do weapons proficiency training, sometimes it seems repetitive but those are the things that fight and win wars."

Dailey was able to observe some of the training, meet Soldiers and test their noncommissioned officers.

"When was the last time [your leader] checked your room?" Dailey asked. "A day ago, sergeant major - he came yesterday," said PVT Jose Pleitesmejia, a Sugarland, Texas native, and wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 2-7 Cav.

In addition, he had the opportunity to see Soldiers with the 2-82nd Field Artillery train scouts from the 6-9th Cavalry Regiment and the 2-7 Cav.

"Even when you're downsizing the military, there is opportunity," said Dailey. "The opportunity is that we have time to train and ready those Soldiers in the individual critical tasks that are necessary for them to fight and win on the battlefield."

His visit with the units left Dailey with a good impression.

"I am impressed," he said. "It's about noncommissioned officers providing great leadership to their Soldiers every day. When you have leaders doing just that, leading through competence, character and commitment, you know they are a part of a great organization."

20th and 79th Artillery Regiment News



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The long hot muggy days of the summer of 2015 seemed to be waning, so I took a couple of weeks of in country R&R to get away from the telephone and other distractions to work on my book. Well, here I am and it is still 88 degrees, muggy, and 50 percent chance of thunderstorms everyday for the next two weeks! I sure picked the right time to stay indoors and pound the key board of my lap top! Other than a break in the early morning and late evening walking my 15 lbs. attack Shi Tzu, Maggie, I will stay in the air conditioning and finish this column for the *Saber* and then tackle the Epistle! I hope we all have had a meaningful Labor Day and will usher in the welcomed autumnal changes. Time to enjoy the fall foliage, harvests and football games!

While summer is winding down your Board of Directors is busy planning our 20th Annual Reunion, which will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado on September 7-11, 2016, instead of August in Bozeman, Montana, as planned, due to scheduling problems and increased hotel rates for the Sweet Pea Festival. Our hosts, Gary and Licia Bishop, were not able to find another time period to fit their schedule. We were looking forward to another great time with them in the Big Sky Country! Thank you, Gary and Licia, for all your planning and coordination. We remember the reunion in 2010 and the trips you planned for us to Yellow Stone National Park, Little Big Horn Battlefield, and the "Welcome Home" celebration by the Montana Chapter of the Patriots' Guard. The weather was outstanding and the mountains spellbinding. One could get lost just sitting beside a brook, hiking a trail, photographing the spectacular mountains and the vistas provided by their excellent locations, just vegging out with a good book under a shade tree, or enjoying the company of an old friend (or a new friend) while catching up on current family activities and travels. Take it from one who was there in 2010; it was worth the trip!

With the change in locations and the shortness of time in finding new hosts, your Board of Directors is taking the lead on this reunion. Our President Larry Mobley has volunteered to host this reunion and is in contact with the visitors' bureau and hotel. All is not lost – get ready to experience a **Rocky Mountain High!** Colorado Springs offers an abundance of things to see and do. Some of these are: the Air Force Academy which is a great place to visit, Olympic Training Center, Pikes Peak is awesome, Garden of the Gods, Manitou Cliff Dwellings, Royal Gorge Bridge and Park, Historic Cripple Creek, Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, the National Museum of World War II Aviation, the Broadmoor Hotel, and much, much more. The area around Colorado Springs provides beautiful mountains and adventure as did Bozeman. I've often wanted to visit Estes Park, Red Rock Canyon, and Helen Hunt Falls, just to name a few. Also, if not flying, one may consider a pre-reunion or post-reunion vacation and plan a trip to the many of the beautiful sites we have in the northwest, southwest and central United States. In 2010, a group of us convoyed in RVs from the east and visited the Amish Country, the Famous Corn Palace in Mitchell, South Dakota, the Badlands, the Towns of Deadwood and Sturgis, Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse, and Devils Tower in the Black Hills region of Wyoming. Some members left the reunion and traveled north to Canada to visit Banff, Calgary, and Lake Louise. Some went south to Jackson Hole and Salt Lake City. Others journeyed west to Washington and traveled along the coast south to Oregon, California, swinging back east along the southern route through Arizona and New Mexico. Whatever one's choice, there are numerous ways to take advantage of the adventures and sites going and coming. With a bit of planning, this could be a great time for the family, including bringing the grand and great-grands. I went online and found under "The Top 10 Things to Do in Colorado Springs," and a total of 110 attractions were listed under <www.tripadvisor.com>. There is something for every member of the family; so why not start your planning early and let's make this another exceptional ARA reunion. Most of us are aware that the 101st Airborne Division employed their own ARA in Vietnam, and many of us served in both Divisions. I encourage each of you to contact everyone you know in the other ARA units and spur them on to Colorado in 2016!

Reunion 2016 Information - Rendezvous In Colorado Springs: With the Board of Directors concurrence, we have selected 7-11 September 2016 as the dates for the reunion. Our rendezvous point will be: Embassy Suites Hotel, 7290 Commerce Center Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919. Room rates are \$117.00 per night, plus 9.63 percent tax. Rates are good two days pre/post 7-11 September 2016. Reservations may be made by calling: 1-800-362-2779 or 1-719-599-9100. When making reservations, use the code "ARAA" to insure you receive \$117.00 rate. Thirty-five (35) rooms have been set aside for our reunion. You are encouraged to make your reservations early as more rooms can be set aside as needed. The hotel has requested that all reservations be made by 6 August 2016. Embassy Suites provides a complimentary cooked to order breakfast each morning, plus free drinks during the evening reception each day. For those who are flying, flights can be made into Colorado Springs airport (COS).

A site for the 2017 reunion has not been selected. Several places have indicated that they would like to have us. If you have recommendations, or if you are willing to host a reunion, please advise your Board of directors.

I received a phone call from Jesse Hobby the other day concerning the challenge at our reunion at Fort Benning to write our history, or it will be lost in time. Jesse referred to conversations he had heard at different reunions that

Director's Chair

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the scholarship database for our Foundation. She has other tasks, but those are her main jobs.

We also hired MSG (Ret) Dara Wydler, who was the Division Headquarters Commandant, to fill the Program Director spot which has been vacant for 14 years. As the Commandant, she controlled the Division Headquarters, the Division Honor Guard, and assisted with all of the Division ceremonies. Dara was also a First Sergeant in the 615th ASB and the Air Cavalry Brigade before becoming the Commandant. She served as the Air Cavalry Brigade's Rear Sergeant Major as well. She will be handling *Saber*, the calendar, balancing our checkbooks,

association members were telling about how they encountered old unit friends in later assignments and how far reaching those stories were going. Jesse and I have accepted a mission to write "The History of ARA." He thought these individual stories would be a formative method to start gathering the necessary information and let them become the basis for the final archival book. I agreed and here is the first installment Jesse emailed last week. The installment title may be appropriate for a name of a section of the book.

Stories Must Be Told - "Even if they are by someone else": All Veteran's organizations encourage their members to write the story of their military experience, especially during wartime, so that others will know what they did. I have friends who have interesting stories that they tell but have never taken pen and put them on paper so I am going to do it for them. To do this I will have to digress and tell a bit of my own story as a lead in.

After graduating from flight school in 1963 I was assigned to "A" Battery, 3rd Battalion, 77th Artillery (ARA)/11th Air Assault Division (Test) at Fort Benning, Georgia. On June 30, 1965 we stood down and on July 1 were re-flagged as "A" Battery, 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery (ARA)/1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and shortly thereafter told that we were deploying to Vietnam. Everyone who had already served a tour in Vietnam was transferred out and new replacements started showing up to bring us back up to strength. One of those was CPT Bruce Wilder (who would become a lifelong friend). Another was WO1 Ray W. Hatfield, a recent graduate from flight school. Ray was assigned to our platoon and we had a short time to get to know each other before shipping out. In Vietnam we got to know each other better, living in the same tent, flying together, going on R&R together, etc. In April of 1966 Ray was transferred to the 161st AHC at Quin Nhon as part of the infusion program to break up the rotation cycle of the 1st Cav Division. Our paths crossed once in '67 or '68 at Fort Rucker, Alabama and then we did not meet again until April of 2008 at the annual ARA Reunion at Fort Rucker, Alabama. At that time, I learned that Ray had served his second tour in Vietnam ('68 - '69) with "B" Btry/2nd Bn/20th Arty (ARA).

Telling war stories is a time honored tradition at military reunions and many were told here, especially after a few drinks. I recall Ray telling of one experience at Phuc Vinh during a rocket/mortar attack. The Cobras scrambled as counter battery but soon expended their ordinance had to return to a field that was still taking incoming to rearm and refuel. He stated that there were "two crazy NCO's" out on the flight line rearming the Cobras and passing them a canteen. An "equally crazy" POL driver was out there refueling. All of this was done while they were under fire. He recalled that one of the NCO's was named Huey O'Dell and the other had a funny name - "Titch" or something like that. One of the members present spoke up and said "that would be me Mr. Hatfield, I'm Wallace Titchenell." So, about forty years later the paths of these two crossed again but as it turns out it was not the first and would also not be the last.

Fast forward to the ARA Reunion of 2011 at Charleston, South Carolina. Ray Hatfield, Wallace Titchenell, and several others including Bruce Wilder and myself were in the hotel bar telling war stories. Imagine that! "Titch", who had served his first tour with 1/9th Cav, was telling of a really bad incident that occurred on the beach at Tuy Hoa (South) on June 25, 1966. "Titch" was a maintenance NCO and was supposed to go back to An Khe on a log bird to pick up parts and other supplies. As he was getting on, Eugene "Pappy" Walton pulled him aside, telling him that he had his orders to go home and that he was taking his seat. The Troop Commander, Billy Joe Nave, tapped the pilot on the shoulder and told him that he also had his orders for home and that he was taking his place. The log bird pulled pitch and circled to make a low pass to wave to the troops on the beach, then did a cyclic climb and collided with another Huey. Both aircraft crashed killing all on board. At that time Ray spoke up and told him that it was his trail ship that was wiped out. Ray was in the lead ship of a team of gunships on a mission farther south and was passing through the Cav area. Bruce and I both remembered standing on the beach that morning. Seeing the columns of black smoke, we knew that something bad had happened. For Bruce this was also a revelation as Billy Knave was a close friend. So, inadvertently the paths of a number of people sitting in the bar had crossed once again without any of us knowing it until that moment. In a subsequent conversation with "Titch," Bruce revealed that he was stationed in Pleiku in 1968-69 with the 7/17 Air Cav Squadron with two pilots of the '65-'66 era from 1/9 Cav, MAJ Dick Marshall and CPT Bob Young. And the stories go on! The bottom line of this narrative is that our paths have crossed many times in the past without our knowing it until someone starts telling a "war story" and you find that you were part of it or were present and had knowledge of it. Our paths will undoubtedly continue to cross in the future. So tell your story while you can and tell the stories of your comrades, for the time is coming when we will all be gone and there will be nothing but memories of our passing. What we did will be lost.

Thank you, Jesse, for submitting this interesting and meaningful story. This is another reason Jesse and I decided to write the history of ARA and archive this valuable information while most of the participant are still around to get it right the first time!

The RV is hooked and ready to leave early tomorrow morning for Tennessee! It has been a rainy and muggy two weeks. We missed Hurricane Erika, or should I say that Hurricane Erika missed us! I did some work on my book, never missed a meal, watched a lot of the weather channel, and was able to clear a few cobwebs. In closing, I wish for you safe travels, good health, and God's peace and blessings.

Armed Falcon 28 Delta, breaking right!

doing finances, and becoming much more involved in the planning of reunions and events that the Association conducts throughout the year which has been totally in my area for the entire time that I've been here. That job is so big and important that we need to have at least two people working together on those operations.

We hope to have three workers in the office that are cross trained and able to cover each other when one of us is sick, on vacation, or away from the office on business. As you know, I am planning on retiring but I don't expect to be gone real soon. The committee that is looking for my replacement will identify some applicants to interview and then the Board of Governors will have to approve

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82nd FA News



"Can and Will"
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"Eyes in the Sky": The 82nd FA Regiment is one of the Field Artillery outfits that ARE designated, as indicated in their history, to be activated

and redesigned for specific missions as needed at the time. There has been questions arise and indications that the 82nd Field Artillery is one of those outfits that are used for various functions as needed during a crisis or war period of time. The bulk of the 82nd Field Artillery is just that, artillery, and when needed the Regiment is activated and their mission announced. In the case of Echo Battery (Aviation), 82nd Field Artillery, I like the designation Echo Battery (Aviation), 82nd FA or Artillery Regiment. During the Vietnam War, because of the Air Mobility concept, the 1st Cav Division needed "eyes in the sky" for all of its



OH-6A, LOH in action.



O-1 Birddog doing its job.

artillery functions so they added another Battery, Echo Btry, (Aviation), 82nd FA Regiment to fulfill the requirements. Yes, just one small battery with a humongous mission. Command and Control, forward observers, spotters, Nighthawk, etc, and using both F/W and R/W aircraft to fulfill the requirements and accomplish these missions. Just look into the history of the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam and all major battles, Echo Battery, 82nd FA was there providing the eyes in the sky to give our troop advantages over our enemies. When the Vietnam War ended, it was very simple, cut an order and the unit is mothballed until a new need arises. Since Vietnam, the Regiment was reactivated to fulfill our latest needs. But one thing we want to remember, when we hear Echo Battery, 82nd Artillery, we know we are talking about a little Artillery Battery, loaded with helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, in Vietnam, and we know that we are "Eyes in the Sky Aviation".

Clarence Rogers: The following story by SP4 Clarence Rogers who was a Crew Chief on OH-13-S Model Helicopter at Camp Evans, Vietnam, LZ Nancy, during his tour in 1967-68. SP4 Rogers was working on the Gimbal Ring on the rotor head of the OH-13-S. This maintenance procedure requires the rotor blades to be untied and free to rotate as needed. During his maintenance procedures a UH-1 MEDEVAC helicopter came in for a landing very close to where SP4 Rogers was working. The intense rotor wash from the incoming Huey caused the rotor blades of the OH-13-S to flex and react violently and quickly, catching SP4 Rogers hand between two metal surfaces and thus severing one of his fingers. He was evacuated immediately from their base. SP4 Rogers was returned to duty after a few days in the hospital. Upon his return he was placed on limited duty.

Echo Btry (Avn), 82nd FA Mascot History: It is interesting to see and talk



UH-1B 1965-66, photo by Ed Lemp webpage.

about the various mascots, patches and photos of this little Artillery Battery. It was a small unit in a huge organization of combat units of the 1st Cavalry Division; but its contribution and service provided was very important. The unit arrived in Vietnam in July/August 1965. The battery is organic to Division Artillery



OH-13S used 1965-68, photo provided by WO1 Gordon F. Eatley, pilot.

(DIVARTY). CPT Richard C. Brazeale and CPT Forrest Hearn were two of the first pilots to arrive in E Battery, 82nd Artillery at An Khe. At that time the battery's main aircraft was the OH-13 observation helicopter. The unit also had four Huey UH-1B helicopters and shortly thereafter in early 1966 they received O-1 Bird Dogs that gave the battery new capabilities as high flying observers which provided adjustment from the strikes of distant artillery guns. Now that you have seen a little history, let's find some Mascots.

The term Mascot can mean an animal, bird, or object that would put some kind of recognition on Echo Btry aircraft. For Echo Btry, initially, our UH-1 aircraft were UH-1B identified by red tips on the front of the skids and a Cav Patch outlined in red on the nose. The first known emblems placed on the aircraft

were provided by photos on a website set up by SP5 Ed Lemp (deceased). Ed was in the unit in 1965-66. WO-1 Mike Henry designed and began painting the Woodpecker on the OH-13's. See photo above. Later in 1967 Specialists Jackie West and Steve Hancock, crew chiefs, painted the Woody Woodpecker on the nose of their Huey. They were in Vietnam from July '67 to July '68. The OH-13's



UH-1 Huey, photo with SP5 Tony Romero (note the door art).

were replaced by the OH-6A (LOH) with a big bubble nose just perfect for nose art. Next came the UH-1 D & H Models. One of the most recognized of the Huey's was the Command and Control chopper. The C & C chopper was the DIVARTY Commanders bird. There is a photo that shows the Huey with nose and door Mascots. In October 1970 Jerry Zynda took over command of Echo Btry and was the Battery Commander thru March '71. During his reign as commander the Battery Mascot became "Red Falcon." His call sign was Red Falcon 6.

Other News: Mike Lazares is writing a new book and this one is intended to add some humor to that period of time we were serving in Vietnam. So if you have a funny story, it does not necessarily have to be all true, just funny, we need it. Contact Michael Lazares at <lazaresmichael@gmail.com> or Bill Thomason <bthomason12400@aol.com>.

Got an e-mail from WO Tony Humphreys who was a helicopter pilot in Echo Btry and he had visited the Fargo Air Museum in Fargo, North Dakota and was admiring the nose and cockpit section of a UH-1H helicopter and noticed the tail number was 67-17406. The aircraft was assigned to Echo Btry for several months. Tony is looking for any crew members, either pilots or gunners or crew chiefs that flew on the bird. If you have any info regarding this bird please send to <wdpckr27@aol.com> or <bthomason12400@aol.com>. He would like to see the Woodpecker nose art be placed on the nose of the chopper. Received an e-mail from Jack Vaughn who was a pilot and he states that he and Tony Humphreys flew to FSB Grant on a night mission.

Mayberry Reunion. I (Bill Thomason) recently attended a family reunion in Bluefield, Virginia. The highlight of the reunion was a birthday celebration for my Aunt Lilly Richards, 100th birthday. She was driven to the reunion by her daughter, Joyce Ann who just happens to be 80 years old. It was a wonderful experience. During our discussions at the reunion one of the main topics was great DNA from the Mayberry Family. There are still 2 more sisters remaining one 87 and the other will be 90 shortly. Grandfather Mayberry was 95 when he died. So good DNA just might be the key to my continuing ability to write the 82nd Arty column. My Brother James Thomason served in the Army and his first tour in Vietnam was up North with the 1st Air Cav. He was in the signal company at An Khe.

Communications from fellow Woodpeckers: Received e-mail and phone call update news from CPT Carl Buick indicating the fires in Washington State are just getting worse. Carl stated they are involved in disaster relief. Our town is not directly involved at this time. Carl was a Bird Dog Pilot in Vietnam and now lives in Wenatchee, Washington. He was right in the middle of the massive and deadly fire that happened during the month of June. He is a member of the local fire department and was/still is very busy. "Being retired from the Fire Dep't, I don't do firefighting per se. I still keep up some quails so that I can help out on the sidelines." That being said...earlier, at the end of June, when that fire came into my town...I saw fire behavior like I never saw before. These new fires are to the north of us and about 40 miles away. I'm hearing that fire managers who have worked in this field for 30 years have not seen fire behavior like this. The fires have created massive smoke that is now spreading East and to the Great Lakes area.

Other communications: Receive regular e-mails from Patrick McIntyre, David McClimans, Paul Gassner, Forrest Hearn, Gary Melton, Julian DeLaRosa, Gordon Eatley, Lance Hiltbrand, Bob Holland, Don Holmes, Mike Lazares, Phil Marcucci, Reb Pierce, Wren Thomas, Terry Weinrich and Jerry Zynda, Ray Parker, Carl Buick, Patrick McIntyre. I know I missed someone.

From Ray Parker: "Good pictures in the Saber. Thank you guys for being there for the rest of us. Keep up the good work. I enjoyed the "Rat Story". Wish I had gotten my Two Cents worth in re. Camp Evans in Early '68. It was a Marine Camp w/ an 'Open Dump' on the edge of the camp. They had 'Big Rats lying in wait for any CAT dumb enough to wander by'. We had a Free Fire practice from one side of the dump several times. Once the Seabees built the Airstrip on top of it the problem went away. Anyone have a picture of 'KiKi' Furtado and his Big Shotgun? I thought I had one of him on the Flight-line... looked like a flag pole at sling arms."

"Folks - this is BG Viet Luong. He is going to promote/pin my stepson on September 3rd to Colonel/O6. Incredible and I will be there for the event." Harry Peters. Forty years ago, Viet Luong was a 9-year-old Vietnamese boy fleeing Saigon with his family. Today he's the first Vietnamese-American general in the U.S. Army and is helping train the Afghan military.

BG Viet Luong served as the Deputy Commanding General of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood and in Afghanistan. He was the guest speaker at the 2013 reunion in Chicago and told all in attendance his story.

One Last Tidbit of Advice: If you are suffering from or have illnesses that were caused by Agent Orange and are not using the VA, you need to jump on board. Now would be a good time to check into getting help. I went through hell and was literally told to leave, that the VA could not help me because I retired from the Army and I was supposed to get my medical help from an Army base. You earned the VA care, now go get it. If you make an attempt and get any static from a VA representative or employee, do not be afraid to call or write a letter to one of your best allies will be your local Senator or Representative. They carry a big stick.



OH-6A LOH, photo with CPT Lance Hiltbrand.



BG Viet Luong, note Cav patch on each shoulder, "Cav Sandwich".

ENGINEER News



Jesse Crimm
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Just For The Record: When this paper hits your hand, it will have been 800 years and 4 months since Magna Carta was signed. Hummm? So what you ask? Read the U.S.

Constitution recently? It didn't just pop up out of nowhere.

Listen Guys: You were wise or foolish enough to elect me to your Board of Governors for our fraternal Association. It's time for you to grab me by the wrist and say come over here a second. If you don't then here is what I plan to say you want. 1. An actively financed and implemented plan to recruit Gulf War and Iraq/Afghanistan members now. Yes, I know the standard response is "they will come in time just as the Vietnam vets came in time." However, consider that we gotta get recruiting now or we will wither away. 2. We have a well managed and stable investment program. But what purpose does it serve? Of course we're going to save a portion for unknown contingencies. But let's invest some of it on member services. Where? What about scholarships for the children of those mentioned in item one? 3. What about employing a larger staff to manage all the new members we're going to get from item 1? 4. I could go on but I'm leaving #4 for your input.

The Stars And Bars: Okay. I grew up in South Carolina and know all about lines painted on the back of the bus, separate water fountains and bathrooms. I lived it but I now agree. It's time for that flag to come down from public places. I know all about the heritage and history and it has its place. If you want to plant a Stars and Bars in the cemetery on an ancestor's grave on Decoration Day or loft it from the back of your truck go ahead. But in the end, at the last bell, the Stars and Bars underneath and fundamentally represent subjugation. What finally tipped this ole boy over? I'll tell you. It was the response of the members of the AME church in Charleston. They responded with love and forgiveness to murder as scripture would have us do; not in hate or spitting venom or calling for revenge or more laws or burning the neighborhood stores but in love forgiving and leaving final judgment to the final Judge. There's a lesson there.

A Hero In Our Midst: Down in Bartow Florida they don't brag too much. So I'll do the talking for Melvin Blackford (Actually I'll just copy parts of the Cavalier Magazine from August 12, 1970, entitled "Engineers Break NVA Ambush") "They'd just left Loc Ninh headed north in a duce-and-a-half full of engineers to meet another detachment headed south from Bo Duc. Suddenly the duce exploded in flames. At first we thought we'd hit a mine said Melvin. Later we found it was a B-40 that hit the gas tank. Luckily everyone was blown off the truck. Robert Johnson saw the truck, still moving, coming towards him but was too stunned to move. The truck actually rolled over his legs but nothing was broken as Johnson's legs were sunk in the mud. He got up and grabbed the spare gas tank figuring it was hot enough to blow as well if not moved. At the same time more B-40s and NVA small arms fires stitched the convoy. Blackford and Johnson quickly organized a perimeter on either side of the road and began returning fire. The rest of the convoy was trapped behind a Duck that had taken direct B-40 hits including two dud rounds found later. Thankfully a LOH with a mini gun was escorting the convoy and went to work on the spotted positions from above. As darkness approached it became obvious that contact had to be broken and for the convoy to move on. In order to make headway, undamaged vehicles had to be abandoned and operative one snake their way around the damaged ones. Jets arrived and worked over the tree line." For organizing resistance and saving the remainder of the convoy, Blackford was awarded the MSM with V. {Article submitted by Jack Garmong}

"Please Hold": "We are experiencing unusually high call volume." What they really mean is we don't employ enough people to take your call in a reasonable time.

USAA: Okay guys here's the deal. I am going to keep plugging USAA memberships in this column till every one of you jake legs signs up for a credit card at a minimum. Reason? Our Association earns a commission for the card usage. Think about it. We could engage Led Zeppelin or Hootie and the Blowfish or some you name it band from the fees earned at our next convention in Texas. Las Vegas will take care of itself.



91st Engineer DUI

And Here It Is: The 91st Engineer Battalion Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI). Salute if you will.

In Memorium: We regret to report the passing of Doug Chase, Edwin Townsley and Wally Morken. From Colonel to private they all made their contributions to the Engineers. All gave some and these have now given all. Wally is survived by his brother David also an engineer. Townsley was a West Point graduate from 1949, commanded Engineers during Korea and commanded the 8th Engineers during '67 to '68. We are lacking further information on Chase but will be honored to post more upon receipt.

The New Web Site: Go and visit. It's 21st century quality. And on there with just a little bit of clicking we find Gary Diers, A/8th Eng, 67-68 now living in Oregon, Jack Zook B/8th Eng, 67-68 now in New Jersey, and Steve Richey HHC/ 8th Eng, 68-69 now in California. By the way, you can find Steve on Amazon and Kindle Books where he has posted at least two of the books he has written. Hey, for a \$2.99 download you can't go too wrong. Your web site also leads you Face Book were you can find Carlos Estremera, Mike Schwing, Mike Gibbons, Thomas Hodge, Mike Jones, Tommy Picarella, Guadalupe Joe Navejar, Phil Kaster, Paul Kosmas, Bob Speakman, Albert Harris and Triston Mumford. All of these guys are reachable by return email or posting a message on FB so if any of the names are ones you have been searching for, now you know how to find them.

Well Dog My Cats! As we say down here in Dixie. Two female soldiers earned the Ranger Tab without lowering any standards. CPT Karisten Griest and LT. Shaye Haver are both West Point graduates. And Haver is from Copperas Cove and you know what that means. The Cav! Perhaps she could be persuaded to speak at our next Reunion. Hint. Hint.

It's Here: The political season is upon us early or not, like it or not. For those of you in the early primary states, you can tilt the process out of proportion to

any final candidate nomination or general voter selection. Therefore vote wisely and rationally. Ask yourselves who is the modulated voice of reason? Who has a vision? And, given your military experience, ask not who can pull the nuclear trigger but who could lead troops by voice or example? The soldier statue outside Ft. Benning is labeled "Follow Me." Ask the same question? Who fits the model? Then vote.

Air Conditioned? Rumor has it that the Engineer TOC at Phouc Vinh was air conditioned. Some say ice water was available 24/7. Whatever your memory, here is a picture to reflect upon.



TOC at Phouc Vinh

It Wasn't All Bad: For proof, here is a story featuring our own Mike Lapansky and submitted by our poet, note taker, cultural commentator and author in residence, Steve Richey. "Mike Lapsansky and I were given the job to go to Song Be and do the survey

work for elevations so water could be pumped up to a Montagnard village east of the town. Song Be was also LZ Buttons. Company B was there right next to the refueling point for helicopters. The pilots used to run into the B Company's mess tent for coffee while their birds were being refueled. Captain Estes was the CO of B Company at the time. Mike and I usually worked alone. This time was no different. We were dropped off at the East side of town, out past the perimeter, and within two minutes, had about twenty little kids following us around like puppies. We soon were sitting down and making friends. We handed out all



Mike Lapansky

our C rations and sat there and showed them how to open them and waited while they devoured them. A few mothers came by and were all smiles. After an hour of community relations and enjoying having the little kids around us, we decided we needed to get the work done. Someone who knew where the water line was to be set up showed us the tentative alignment and we began to draw a map of where it would go and the elevations along the way. When we got to the Song Be River, we needed to measure how wide it was. Mike set up the theodolite transit and I swam the river with an elevation rod. We'd done this before to measure a bridge that had the center blown out. I left my gear on Mike's side of the river and swam in my tee shirt and fatigues with my boots around my neck. The river was moving fairly fast, but I managed to get across then stand there dripping wet, behind the elevation rod so Mike could read the numbers. The theodolite had three cross hairs. By reading the elevation on the top and bottom hair, you could tell how far away the rod was. After reading the distance

across the river at the water's edge, I then needed to walk up the hill and have him read the distance and elevation at intervals up the hill.

The Montagnards had a bathing hole half way up the hill. It was full of women and young girls. I was pretty nervous about getting near it, the women all had long knives, machetes, and some had cross bows, which they all knew how to use. These were natives not Hollywood housewives. As I got near, I waved as friendly as I knew how, made a small bow, and continued to take elevation shots. They looked at me, waved, and smiled, and didn't really seem to care. I was very glad. I made it to the top of the hill and Mike gave me the wave telling me he had the elevation shots recorded and for me to come back. I came back by the gals taking a bath, and I admit I was looking for a cutie. I then saw a better place to get into the water to swim back. I eased into the river and was actually enjoying the swim, until the river began to take me down stream rapidly. Hell, I had done a dumb thing. I didn't check downstream before I got in. I should have. There was a waterfall about 10' high and I was being driven towards it. I swam as hard as I could and Mike saw I was going down stream too fast. He ran to help if he could. As I got near the waterfall, Mike was there. I handed him one end of the elevation rod. He grabbed it and pulled me over to the rock he was standing on. I crawled up out of the water and we both laughed. It was a close call. The waterfall wasn't that high, but I was glad I didn't go over it. Later on that day we were up on top of a hill, near the edge of the perimeter of Song Be, completing the lay out of the water line. The hill was steep and one of our dozer operators was there. The hill had heavy vegetation on it. I told the operator to travel down the hill, but before he got to the steep part, to get as much dirt on his blade as he could, to help brake his descent. Have you ever tried to tell a Georgia Cracker equipment operator how to go about doing something? He told me in no uncertain words, he knew how to run the dozer and I didn't. The guy pushed a little grass in front of him, just skimming the surface and started down the hill. In less than a minute he was starting down the steep part. The blade of the dozer rode up and over the small wad of grass he had in front of his blade and the dozer rushed forward, gaining speed as it started down the hill. The operator couldn't get the blade down through the thick grass, and within seconds, the dozer was doing about thirty miles an hour toward the bottom of the hill. The operator jumped off and we watched him roll down the hill as the dozer turned and bounced ahead of him. Luckily the guy had kicked the dozer out of gear before he jumped... and when the dozer got to the bottom, it stopped and hadn't turned over on its way



Theodolite

Continued on pg. 21

LRRP/Ranger News**Continued from pg. 15**

in sociology from Wayne State University. He also did graduate research in the former Soviet Union.

The following email was also received from Bill. "Jim Ross, LRRP Detachment, spring - summer 1967 died Wednesday morning, July 15, 2015 of a massive stroke. COL. Jim James had flown to Florida to be with him before he died. Sorry, that is all I know right now. Bill" Jim Ross was listed in the Taps section of *Saber* in the last issue.

The following email was received from Jim Bracewell. "I just returned from Jim's memorial service in Orlando. I was honored to represent 'The James Gang'. A pamphlet was given to all attendees. It was a tribute to Jim, written by COL. Jim James, and it is a masterpiece. Even though we all had a copy of the tribute, the pastor read it to us with such feeling, that there wasn't a dry eye in the church."

"The church was standing room only, and that in itself was testimony to the high esteem in which our brother was held. In addition to a fine message by the pastor, Jim's grandsons each spoke lovingly about Jim and Ellen. Towards the end of the service, everyone went outside to observe a brief ceremony conducted by the local VFW. The ceremony was complete with Taps, firing squad, and presentation of the flag to Ellen."

"When we reassembled back in the church, the pastor asked if anyone else among the friends and relatives would like to say a few words. Three or four folks spoke of their childhood experiences with Jim, as well as with his career as a banker. Since no one in the congregation spoke of his military service, I felt compelled to add my two cents worth. In a nutshell, I simply said that he more than measured up to the high standards required by the 1st Cav LRRPS. I made sure they understood that I was not one of those extraordinary men, but that my crew and I had the privilege of supporting them."

"There was a reception following the service. I didn't stay very long, because I had a long drive in the rain ahead of me. Incidentally, the rain stopped and the sun came out for the outdoor ceremony. I wouldn't be surprised if Jim had something to do with that. Jim Bracewell"

Jim Bracewell was a helicopter pilot with the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion in 1967 and was involved in many of the LRRP insertions/extractions

Silver Wings**Continued from pg. 16**

you will see from my book, my experiences with the CIA had a huge impact on me and my family that lasted for over forty years after coming back from Vietnam. Because I was under secrecy agreements with the CIA I was prevented from speaking about any Vietnam experiences until after 2008. The secrecy agreements were imposed on me by the CIA because of my understanding of the technology used in the Cobra which, for the most part, is the same technology used in the most contemporary assault helicopters. WOW! Where's my hip boots?

Dec. 23, 2014, Sheena Read, the editor of the paper who penned the local hero story emailed me after learning of the investigation saying, "To be honest, my knowledge of the US military and Vietnam are sketchy, and I have no idea how this works. I'd like to help." And she did, mailing two photos of awards certificates that were on display at one of his book signings. One was supposedly from Gen Westmoreland recognizing him for his actions in LZ Xray. It read, word for word, from Bruce Crandall's Medal of Honor Citation with his name in place of COL Crandall. The other was very similar but from "General Hal Moore".

Stealing the valor of the brave men of the 1st Air Cav, who gave so much to earn it, is upsetting enough. But to claim the heroism of one of our countries living Metal of Honor recipients, as his own, for fame or fortune, is beyond reprehensible. I forwarded both photocopies to SVC.

SVC, February, 2015. "We have prepared the Affidavit to the Crown. I will appear before a justice of the peace on Saturday, 21 February, 2015, to swear the affidavit. I would expect by the following Friday, the RCMP (national police force), will have charged him. This is a summary conviction offence, no jury. This offence is a rare instance of reverse onus ie he has to prove he served. He will have 2 choices, plead guilty and accept conviction or plead not guilty and go to trial. We have amassed mountains of evidence to refute his claims. However the only stumbling block we have is an inexperienced Crown prosecutor. Larry Bell has been attempting to counsel Ms. Ling as he is a former Crown prosecutor. So while we are playing our cards with her, we are releasing a brief to the press on a national level. This is to draw attention to the Crown's dawdling."

April, 2015. So now I'm getting a gut feeling that the brakes are being applied somewhere. Evidence to date: DOD, never served in the US military. Fort Rucker, no record. Statements from commanders of his "units" that he "never served". Statement from Robert Mason that his book was blatantly plagiarized. Statement from a relative concerning his lack of military service, Photocopies of phony award citations, and more.

I soon learn that all his books have been pulled from store shelves and is no longer available for sale. Then comes some sort of a deal if he's willing to place a large ad in the local newspaper. No apology to those who served honorably, no precedent set to strengthen the laws in regard to SV, no seizure of proceeds from the book sale, no apology to Bob Mason.

Sheena Read resigned as editor. But the Nanton News did publish the following editorial:

"What a story. A local man fights in the Vietnam War, is forced by the CIA to withhold his story for 40 years, and now finally gets to tell the world about what he encountered during that controversial war. Except that's what Dennis C. Surrendi's "*Set Me Free*" book turned out to be - a story and nothing more. In the May 27 edition of the Nanton News, Surrendi has been forced to place

Engineer News**Continued from pg. 20**

down. The Cracker wasn't bothered one bit. That's the thing about Crackers. They won't admit they are wrong under any circumstances, but he did have to explain to the Major who was there and witnessed the whole show. The dozer had actually done a good enough job of mashing down the vegetation. Mike and I took elevations and alignment shots with our instrument down the hill. We got to the bottom, called for a jeep to pick us up and take us back to B Company, caught a Huey back to Phouc Vinh, and called it a day."

of that time, including the one in April 1967 when LRRP Team One was attacked at dawn in the upper Vanh Thanh Valley in Binh Dinh Province by a company of North Vietnamese regulars. The team suffered serious casualties and had to be extracted under heavy enemy fire.

The following email was received from James Weidlich (1968-69), Fort Myers, Florida. "My wife and I made it up to the memorial for Jim Ross today. He had quite a large turnout. Jim Bracewell was there also. I had a chance to meet Ellen Ross and she was so happy that someone from the unit was able to attend. They had an honor guard from the VFW and did a 21 gun salute along with a bugler playing Taps. There was a reception in the hall of the church after the ceremony. Jim Weidlich"

The following was received from Stephania Ryan, Gold Star Daughter of Dwight M. Durham (KIA) by way of the fundraising website *GoFundMe* to raise money for "A Child's Journey to Viet Nam 2015." Stephanie can be reached at Stephania13@gmail.com.

"My father SGT Dwight M. Durham is one of the 58,299 men and 8 women who are memorialized on The Wall in Washington DC. He was killed April 10, 1969 in Tay Ninh Province when I was just shy of five months old."

"This past Father's Day, I visited The Wall. It took me 46 years to be able to go to Washington but it has changed my life. I was able to spend time with my "brothers and sisters" in Sons and Daughters In Touch (SDIT). All of the SDIT members are children of men whose names are inscribed on The Wall." "I am reaching out to you for a donation to help pay for a trip to Vietnam that is being organized for December 2015. It will help me get to the place in Tay Ninh Province that was my father's last mission and battle, the place where he died. The trip is being organized by the Vietnam-USA Society and Margot Carlson Delogne, also a Gold Star Daughter. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Asking for your financial help is not something that I am very good at. Anything you can donate will help to lessen my burden. Thank you. Stephania."

In closing, just a reminder that Veterans Day 2015 will mark the 50th anniversary of the battles of the Ia Drang Valley involving the 1st Cavalry Division. There should be a good turnout here in the nation's capital to commemorate the occasion. Hope to see you there.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

an ad in which he admits that he was never in Vietnam and that he actually took material for his book from the author of *Chickenhawk*, Robert Mason, an actual Vietnam helicopter pilot.

"He deceived a lot of people, including Nanton News staff, and we're angry and sickened that we printed such horrendous lies. To the Vietnam veterans, and to their family and friends, we sincerely apologize for spreading this deceit.

"Veterans in this country and our great allies, including our neighbors across our border, have earned our complete and utter respect for the causes that they have fought for so valiantly. And they've certainly earned the right to retell their stories. It's part of our shared history, and we commend those veterans who have taken the time and bared reliving those experiences so that we might have even a small glimpse into the horrors they faced.

"So it makes especially abhorrent to us that someone would take a veteran's story as his own, giving all that that person has already endured in defense of values that veteran holds dear to his heart. "The consequences go further than just printing an apology in our newspaper, of course. The Nanton RCMP have told the News they are investigating, as a criminal matter, under section 419 of the Criminal Code. That section deals with unlawful use of military uniforms or certificates. The investigation is ongoing, said John Rotheisler, Nanton's acting detachment commander.

"We don't know why Surrendi decided to plagiarize Mason's work. His motivations are beyond us. He claimed last year that he was getting the word out for the many silent voices of veterans he knows. Well, Mr. Surrendi, you have actually done a massive disservice to veterans by representing yourself as something you now fully admit you are not.

"What boggles the mind is how, in this technology-driven world, Surrendi thought he could get away with it. *Chickenhawk* is a popular book, having sold, according to Amazon, more than half a million times since it was first published in 1983, and the original News article was published online last April for anybody to see.

"On top of the fictional account he gave to our small weekly publication, Surrendi also presented the book to the Nanton library - which is part of a library system that spans across southern Alberta - and sold the books at stores in town and in High River, so that others might be misled about his exploits. Library staff has told the News the book has been pulled.

"We hope that customers who bought *Set Me Free* are given back their money, so that they can spend it on actual factual accounts of the Vietnam War. Perhaps a free copy of *Chickenhawk* should also be provided to them, since they were already reading a chunk of Mason's book anyway."

SVC commented to Silver Wings in an email, "This is not quite the way we wanted to finish this investigation but has to suffice. As for SV Canada, we are obligated to close the file.

"That said, with the Calgary Herald and Global TV doing their own stories, Larry and I are still available for background and interviews.

"On behalf of my team and Stolen Valour Canada, I would like to thank COL Crandall, yourself and all others that have participated. I could not have gone as far as I did without the courtesy and help."

Some piece of cake, hey! With that I'll bring this month's Wings sortie to an end. If you have any comments or something to share with the "Silver Wings" readers, please contact me.

Until next time, "Clear right!" Hank

WANTED

If you served with, know, knew, or have any information about any of the following, please communicate with the contact listed.

HOLLAND, Merrill W. "Dutch", HQ Battery, 271st FA S2/S3 Section, September 1945-September 1946. Contact his son, Mark Holland, 8133 Hearthside Rd. S, Cottage Grove, MN 55016, <Holland.Mark58@yahoo.com>.

Make plans to attend the 68th Annual Reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada from 8-12 June 2016.

HQ and Special Troops News



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Sue and I send greetings and best wishes to all 1st Cav troopers reading this column. The heat wave has finally broken

dium Tactical Vehicle) that held 25+ band members. We took it in stride and completed the First TeamBand's first mission 'gig' in Iraq. On the way back to Camp North Victory we had to spend the night in the basement of a bombed out building at FOB Black Jack due to high threat conditions that existed. We didn't make it back from that first mission 'gig' until the next day."



1st Cav Band members play for troops in Iraq.

Justin sent a picture of part of the 1st Cav Band playing in Iraq for a group of troopers who had just returned from patrol in Sadr City. The saxophone player on the left is SGT Derrick Stephen and the guitar player on the right is SGT John Simon.

My cousin, James Rowell, who served with Co. B, 2-8th Cavalry, from '68 to '69, passed away on the 24th of August. He lived nearby and always attended the reunions when physically able. We discovered, in early 2000, that we had both served in the Cav in Nam. Jamie will be missed by all who knew him and our heart goes out to his wife, Louise.

While stationed in Okinawa in '64-'65, my sister sent me a cake by USPS slow boat to China and it arrived one month after she mailed it. It made a great door stop. It's the thought that matters most! Richard Rooker, famous watercolorist, who served with the G3 and 3rd Brigade from '70 to '71, sent the following remembrances of "mail call" from his tour in Vietnam.

"While in Vietnam, as we all know mail call was one of the events you lived for! Mail didn't get delivered everyday; when it came, it came. And there were those who almost never got mail. I don't know how they did it. Didn't they have someone back home missing them? Well, we had one guy in our unit (can't remember his name but sure remember his face) who was from Chicago who got a very special package in the mail once a month from his mother. It was a fresh homemade baked loaf of Italian bread. Hardly fresh by the time it got to Vietnam, but that didn't matter. Because you see, it wasn't the bread that counted. The loaf had been cut in half lengthwise and carefully hallowed out just enough to neatly hold a fifth of Cutty Sark scotch. The arrival of that package became a ritual. It was shared, and between all of us, it would not last very long, everyone getting maybe one swallow. It became symbolic somehow of the life and people half a world away, reaching out to say 'we are still here'."



Troopers enjoy a bottle of Cutty Sark sent from home.

Richard could not identify his friends in the picture. He took the picture – didn't have "selfies" in those days. If you can identify either of these troopers, let me know. Thanks for the memories, Richard!

in Northwest Louisiana and we have had several days of rain. While we have been hot and dry for months, it is nothing compared to the terrible conditions in California and Washington.



CW5 Jeanne Pace and my wife Sue at the Army Birthday cake cutting ceremony.

Last month my column reported on the retirement of CW5 Pace, the long time band leader of 1st Cavalry Division Band and longest serving warrant on active duty with over 40 years of service. For some reason this picture was not printed although I submitted it.

WO1 Jason Huvar, with D Company, 8th Engineer, 2nd BCT, promised to keep me informed of the company's activities in Korea during the 2nd BCT's deployment. Jason sent this report:

"It has been a busy two weeks since Delta Company fully deployed to Korea. Since arriving, we have settled into our quarters and after adjusting from the jetlag, getting phone plans set up,

and getting a chance to sample some Kimchee, we have started normal day to day operations on the Korean Peninsula.

I'm sure you can imagine the long days in the motor pool as we take responsibility of the equipment from the Company we are replacing. Soldiers have been working hard laying out equipment for inventories and ensuring all equipment is well maintained and fully operational. When the troops have time away from the motor pool, they've had a chance to learn some basic Korean from our KATUSAs (Korean Augmentees to the US Army) who will be an integral part of the Company for the entirety of our stay here. As we look forward to the coming months, we will have many training opportunities. Soon we should be able to get down to business and start doing our intel jobs for Blackjack Brigade."

Gail Porter, former Chaplain with the 1st Cav, interviewed Justin Eller, a former Sergeant with the 1st Cav Band, who deployed to Iraq in April 2004 and reported the following information:

"Justin Eller was a Corporal (E-4) when he was deployed to Iraq in April of 2004 as the Drum Major for the 1st Cavalry Division Band. Being a Drum Major is in some ways like being a Platoon Sergeant and is usually held by an E-6 or E-7. He was promoted to Sergeant (E-5) while in Iraq. It had not even been one year since the end of the Invasion of Iraq in 2003. The division deployed in its entirety beginning in January 2004. Jason was a part of that initial deployment. When Justin arrived, division operations were at their starting level. As the drum major for the band, he was asked about what he thought the role the 1st Cavalry Division Band should have been while they were in country. Justin knew that the traditional role of the band in combat operations was manning the access point at division headquarters, POW watch, working with body counts (baggin' & taggin' as he called it), and occasionally playing music for ceremonial situations. "He also knew that he and his unit had unparalleled skills that no one else in country possessed. He knew that they were in a unique position to really make a difference to those who faced making the ultimate sacrifice for their country on a daily basis. When asked by MG Chiarelli what his opinion was about the band's role for the division's current mission in Iraq, Justin replied, 'You've got 40,000 soldiers here who can take down the enemy that we face. You've only got 40 who can make those 40,000 forget about it for a little while'. "Justin recalled, 'On one of our first days going out of North Victory (the camp the band was at), we took our non-up armored vehicles and proceeded to Black Horse to play for an Iraqi National Guard Officers' graduation ceremony. On the way there, an RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade) went between our LMTV's (Light Me-



Headquarters and Special Troops Lunch attendees from the 2015 Reunion

The 1st Cavalry Division Association reunion will be in Las Vegas in 2016. It's time to start planning now. It should be a great reunion and there is certainly plenty to do in Vegas.

Dennis Webster, the Executive Director of the Association, is planning to retire and the Association Board of Governors is looking for a replacement. If you are interested in the position, information is published in this issue of *Saber*. You can also contact the Association office for more details.

MSG (Ret) Dara Wydler has been hired to work in the association office to replace Angela who has taken a position as a teacher. Welcome Dara! Dara is working with the various columnists for the "Saber" in addition to "other duties as assigned."

Well, troopers, that about wraps it up for this issue. Still looking for more input for the column from readers out there. Sue and I wish you the best. Keep your powder dry and watch your back. May God bless you, your family and the USofA.

21st FA News



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C Battery Guidon

Where has the summer gone? As I write this article, I was thinking about the Reunion at Fort Hood this past June. It spurred me to remember everyone that I met at the Reunion. If you care to look at

the July/August 2015 issue of *Saber*, you will find the group picture and it was my pleasure to be sitting in with a distinguished group of Brothers. Again the 1-21 FA had the largest showing at the Artillery Luncheon. I hope we can keep growing our group at every Reunion. There just something about being able to shake the hand and looking into the eyes of a fellow trooper. No words can describe feelings but a smile and a nod will give

a silent acknowledgement. Most of you know that I'm deeply interested in the performance of the batteries during the battles of LZ XRay and LZ Columbus. Bob Barker was kind enough to bring the battery pennant of C Battery 1-21 FA which he had with him during all the firing support during the Ia Drang Valley action. Another picture in the same issue of the *Saber* of Bob Barker and Ron Forest with the guidon. What follows is a story by Ron Forest and I'm passing it on to the 1-21FA readers just as he gave it to me.

Ron Forest Remembers Ia Drang 1965 - AUSA North Texas Chapter, Winter 2013.

"A November that I will not ever forget was back in 1965 in the Highlands of South Vietnam. Most of my Army Brothers have read the book "We Were Soldiers Once... and Young" by LTG Hal Moore USA, Ret. And Joseph L. Galloway, UPI War Correspondent, and perhaps have also seen the movie, "We Were Soldiers". On October 19th after the North Vietnam (NVA) hit the Special Forces camp at Plei Me, just south of Pleiku, the 1st Air Cav went into action to seek out and destroy the enemy as its units moved toward the Chu Pong Mountain near the Cambodia border and were successful in killing a good number of enemy and destroying weapons caches and a field hospital. One month later on Sunday morning, 14 November, LTC Hal Moore led his 1-7 Cav and a few attached troops flying by Huey choppers to the base of the Chu Pong at Landing Zone Xray. The assault was supported by A & C Batteries of 1-21 FA which were located several kilometers away at LZ Falcon. At the time I was camped out with 1-21 FA HQ co-located with 3rd Brigade at Catecka Tea Plantation which was about mid-way between Pleiku and Plei Me SF Camp.

"The night before the operation at LZ Xray, the Brigade HQ area and the troops supporting the airstrip including my Artillery HQ, was hit by Viet Cong using automatic fire and mortars. Seven soldiers were KIA and dozens WIA. Mortar rounds landed on both sides of me but I was unharmed and went out to the perimeter to offer assistance to the LT in charge. The night of 14 November

Director's Chair

Continued from pg. 1

the hire. Very similar to the process that I went through when I replaced Art Junot in 2002. Once identified, I hope to have a period of time, length not yet determined, to work with my replacement to make sure that he/she is up to speed on the tasks and ready to take over before I mount up and ride off into the sunset. Even after I've ridden off I'll be living in town and only a phone call away to assist the new Executive Director just like Art did with me.

Veterans Day is coming up and we expect a larger than normal group at the Dinner on 14 November and a normal to slightly larger group for Veterans Day.

Calendars for 2016 and 68th Annual Reunion planning are on schedule and calendars will be mailed out to arrive in your mailbox in the November/December time frame. Calendars will include the Reunion Registration form which will also be published in the November/December issue of *Saber*. Information about the reunion is already on our web page and will be updated as needed.

The Division web page, <www.1cda.org>, is getting almost all positive comments from our membership. I did have one member that lodged a fairly strongly

I worked in the 1-21 FA Fire Direction Center and listened to the horrendous radio traffic taking place at the battle site and the artillery firing battery positions.



Joe Galloway and Johnny Parker
Memorial Day 2015.

All of us at the HQ had such helpless and terrible feelings about the action at LZ Xray. On the morning of the 15th, I was told to report to Brigade HQ with my PRC-25 and plan to fly with the USAF FAC in an O-1E (L-19) to the battle area to help bring in air strikes and coordinate artillery. I knew that LT Herrick's Platoon was lost and running low on ammo so I had the bright idea to take along 2 pouches of M-79 ammo to drop to the survivors. After bringing in dozens of air strikes, my brave air force pilot told me to open both windows in back and we went right down to about 200 feet above the trees to where I told the pilot that I thought Herrick's men were located. This was after talking to a number of infantry on the ground by switching to platoon radio frequencies. Upon my pilot's command, I dropped the two bags to the spot I thought was our troop's location. I never knew if our

men got the ammo we dropped. Later that day, Herrick's remaining soldiers, with SGT Savage in charge, were rescued by company elements.

"For the remainder of the Ia Drang battle I continued to serve as an FA Air Observer supporting our troops at LZ Xray and later LZ Albany. Shortly after our return to our Base Camp at An Khe, I was assigned to be the Artillery LNO with 2-7 Cav, first working for LTC McDade and then LTC Litle. My duty in Vietnam in 1965-66 was challenging but very rewarding. When I read about the book coming out, I called LTG Moore. I had no idea about the book before then. LTG Moore and I talked for close to an hour when he said, Ron, I have to go, my bird (Quail) hunting buddies are here. Moore's first words to me when we meet at a 1st Cav Reunion at Fort Hood in the 1990's were, "Ron, welcome back into the perimeter". What a leader, what a man!" – Ron Forest, COL., USA-RET, former Wild Bronco 11A (1-21 FA Air Obs) and Muletrain17 (2-7 CAV Artillery LNO)."

A great story from Ron Forest, and a big thanks for sharing it with us. It has been my desire to seek the stories behind the story. If any of the 1-21 FA readers have stories you wish to share with others, please contact me.

On Memorial Day, my home town of Kings Mountain and the North Carolina Chapter of the 1st Cavalry Division Association partnered to commemorate Memorial Day with a special guest speaker, Joe Galloway.

I'm always looking for troopers other than Vietnam to share stories of the 1st Cavalry. I received an email from Dewey Herman. He served with A Brty. 1-21 FA in Desert Storm. He wanted to know if I ever had any contact with any other troopers from that time. The 25th anniversary of Desert Storm will be here next year. Dewey Herman thought the Reunion next year would be a great chance all those guys to reconnect. Looking forward to hearing from some of you guys. That's about all I have at this time, Tube Troopers. Remember to double check your azimuth & elevation. Keep your powder dry. Garryowen.

worded complaint and accused me of letting the "Village Idiots" take control. I replied that the same "Idiot" was still in control of the web page. Yes, I'm the "Village Idiot". We still have a way to go to get the web page complete but if you have some "constructive criticism" or even some that's not to constructive send the feedback to me.

The Association has an agreement with USAA to provide credit cards and other insurance and banking services to our members. When you participate the Association earns money. Please consider getting a Cav Credit Card from USAA. Info is on this page and on our web page. First Team!

9th CAV News

Continued from pg. 9

transport home, with a wife enroute to Hawaii at the same time we were in contact.

After doing more research, LT Donald Porter was part of Charlie Troop, 1-9 CAV as part of a pink team with an AH1G Cobra as the high bird. If anyone in Charlie Troop recalls this incident, referred to as the Battle of Banana Island, please get in touch with me. He was awarded the Silver Star, posthumously, for his actions.

Last, a quick plug for Matthew Brennan's latest book *Flashing Sabers* which details his service with Charlie and Bravo Troops. It's a great read and is available at Amazon.com with a Kindle version.

Until next time, we can and we will, we could and we did!

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\$501 - \$1,000

CPT BELDING, Chuck

The First Team Family Cares!
 We are grateful for your support of the Association's D Troop Program and for supporting the Foundation and Museum Foundation.

MEDAL OF HONOR - BILLY L. LAUFFER



Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S. Army, Company C, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division.
Place and date: Near Bon Son in Binh Dinh province, Republic of Vietnam, 21 September 1966.
Entered service at: Phoenix, Arizona
Born: 20 October 1945, Murray, Kentucky



Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. PFC Lauffer's squad, a part of Company C, was suddenly struck at close range by an intense machine gun crossfire from 2 concealed bunkers astride the squad's route. PFC Lauffer, the second man in the column, saw the lead man fall and noted that the remainder of the squad was unable to move. Two comrades, previously wounded and being carried on litters, were lying helpless in the beaten zone of the enemy fire. Reacting instinctively, PFC Lauffer quickly engaged both bunkers with fire from his rifle, but when the

other squad members attempted to maneuver under his covering fire, the enemy fusillade increased in volume and thwarted every attempt to move. Seeing this and his wounded comrades helpless in the open, PFC Lauffer rose to his feet and charged the enemy machine gun positions, firing his weapon and drawing the enemy's attention. Keeping the enemy confused and off balance, his 1-man assault provided the crucial moments for the wounded point man to crawl to a covered position, the squad to move the exposed litter patients to safety, and his comrades to gain more advantageous positions. PFC Lauffer was fatally wounded during his selfless act of courage and devotion to his fellow soldiers. His gallantry at the cost of his life served as an inspiration to his comrades and saved the lives of an untold number of his companions. His actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

PFC Lauffer's mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Lauffer, accepted his Medal of Honor posthumously from the Secretary of the Army, Stanley R. Resor in a Pentagon Ceremony conducted on 14 August 1968. SGT Billy L. Lauffer was posthumously promoted and is buried in Murray, Kentucky.

VETERANS DAY AND 7th ANNUAL VETERANS DAY DINNER IN WASHINGTON, DC

The National Capitol Region Chapter in conjunction with the 1st Cavalry Division Association will sponsor a Hospitality Suite and Gift Shop from 9-14 November 2015 and host the 7th Annual First Team Veterans Day Dinner which will be held on the 50th Anniversary of the battle at LZ X-Ray on Saturday evening 14 November 2015. Both events will be held at the Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport Hotel located at 1480 Crystal Drive in Arlington, Virginia. Reserve your rooms at the rate of \$132 per night plus tax, with free parking, prior to 9 October. Call (703) 416-1600 and tell them you are with the 1st Cavalry Division.

Wreath's will be placed at the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Memorials on Veterans Day. There are many additional sites to visit during your time in the DC area including Arlington National Cemetery, the many Smithsonian museums, and the various memorials on the Mall.

The speaker at this year's dinner will be a Veteran of the Ia Drang battle and while the focus will be on that event all periods of service will be honored. For dinner reservations please send \$55 per ticket to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703. In order to ensure that you have tickets, full payment must be received by us no later than 31 October. We can only accept VISA or MASTERCARD if you pay by credit card. Ensure that your card number and expiration dates are written correctly. Please provide your name, address, unit you served with and the name(s) of your guests with your payment to aid in seating for the dinner. Seating is limited due to the size of the room. We must make final coordination with the hotel providing the numbers of people attending before the event and we may not be able to accommodate late registrations.

Tickets will be available for pickup in the 1st Cavalry Division Association Hospitality Suite or at the door to the banquet room. We will attempt to seat you with your unit or friends and table numbers will be assigned when you pick up your tickets.

The members of the NCR Chapter and their spouses do an excellent job of setting this event up and making dinner special.

7th ANNUAL 1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION VETERANS DAY DINNER
NOVEMBER 14, 2015 \$55 PER TICKET
 (Please print clearly)

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail: _____

Guests ____ Name(s): _____

Unit(s) _____

Tickets ____ Amount \$ _____ Check ____ VISA or MC ____

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