



SABER

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



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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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A brief history of my first three weeks in Viet Nam: Fifty years ago, I was home on leave with orders for Vietnam.

I arrived at Bien Hoa airbase on Jan 12, 1970. As an officer (2nd Lt. Artillery) I was given a “dream sheet” with different possible unit choices listed. I wanted to be with the best, so I checked the 1st Cavalry Division. I know now and have known for a many years that it was the right choice, although there were a few times during 1970 that I wasn’t so sure.

I was assigned to the 1st Cav and then to 2/19 Field Artillery in Tay Ninh. From there I was sent to B Battery then located on FB Jamie and in support of 2/7 Cav. After I graduated from Artillery OCS at Ft. Sill in March 1969 I was assigned as an instructor; I hadn’t been involved in anything related to the artillery in 10 months. Now I’m in the middle of a war zone assigned to a 105 Battery.

My first assignment was as acting Battalion LNO. I don’t remember why the LNO (a Major) assigned to 2/7 was away, but there I was. Thankfully, the LNO’s right hand man, an EM named Charlie Waters (aka India), was there and he kept me in line. As an interesting side note: during those few days, I read an article in *Stars and Stripes* where Jean Dixon, a famous psychic at the time, was predicting a defeat of the 7th Cavalry as bad as Custer’s. Thankfully she was frequently wrong.

For my next training session, I was sent out on patrol for 4 days or so as a forward observer (FO) with the CIDGs – mercenaries with a Special Forces SGT as an advisor. This SF SGT taught me a few basic FO procedures. We didn’t run into any NVA during these few days but that changed very quickly when I was assigned as the FO and spent the next 6-7 months with A 2/7.

The 1st Cavalry Division and the Association’s North Carolina Chapter lost a great friend and ardent supporter in October. Jane Fredrickson passed away October 12, 2019. Her story is inspiring. She was 17 and living in the Philippines with her family when they were captured by the Japanese in 1942.

Over the next 3 years they were in several POW camps, finally in Santo Thomas in Manila. It’s hard to imagine the horrors they had to endure. Japanese soldiers were often very cruel. Many of her fellow POW’s did not survive. However, in the 18 years I knew Jane, she never complained about the way they were treated. She only talked about how thankful she was that the Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division had liberated them. Their faith in God and in America gave them hope.

The whole time in captivity they had managed to live on meager rations. However, in the three months prior to February 1945, they were not given any food by the Japanese soldiers. They were barely surviving on grass and vines. They were close to starvation when on February 3, 1945 an American plane flew over Santo Thomas and dropped a message tied to a pair of goggles. The message said that American Soldiers would be there the next day – elements of the 1st Cavalry Division arrived that night.

During her captivity, Jane kept a journal. Her daughter related one entry that told how a woman with a young child went up to a Soldier and said to the child “This is an American Soldier, he will be kind to you.”

The next day, under the first American flag that these now exPOWs had seen in more than three years, close to four thousand gathered and sang “God Bless America” and then our National Anthem. Most of them were crying as they struggled to finish the last two lines “the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

Jane’s love of the 1st Cavalry Division was passed to her family. Those of us from the North Carolina chapter who attended her funeral/memorial service were asked to enter the service with the family and to sit with them. It was an honor to represent those men who rescued Jane and the other POWs 75 years ago. Jane Doner Fredrickson (1924 -2019)

Allen (TrailSpike 47)

HORSE DETACHMENT by CPT Jenny Nocella



The Horse Cavalry Detachment welcomed the New Year in Pasadena, California by representing the First Team in the 131st Tournament of Roses Parade (left photo) and conducted horsemanship skills training with the LAPD Metro Division Mounted! The six-mile parade route was lined with thousands of spectators and is a true spectacle to behold. The members of the Detachment, represented Fort Hood and Central Texas with class, whooping and hollering to the crowds and wishing everyone a Happy New Year. In addition to the parade itself, the HCD got to participate in Equestfest,

the equestrian portion of the Tournament of Roses. The Equestfest features the best equestrian performers from all across America; the Detachment performed a fast-paced mounted Drill & Ceremony demonstration, which was aired on the Cowboy Channel. It was an exhilarating performance in front of a sold-out crowd at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center.

Hitting the ground running after our trip to California, the HCD will host interviews, physical fitness test, and the HCD Agility Test at the beginning of February for any 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers interested in becoming members of the HCD. If selected, Soldiers will enter a 30 day Cavalry School where they are taught basic military horsemanship and equine anatomy, culminating in a final written and riding test. Those that pass will become members of the Detachment.



Demonstration Team presents Sabers at the completion of the Equestfest Demonstration

Look for the HCD at this year’s Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo at the end of February and at upcoming ceremonies at Cooper Field. We look forward to seeing you on the road at an event, or feel free to stop by the barn anytime for a tour or just to say hey. We conduct our demonstrations at the detachment every Thursday at 1000 hundred hours (depending on weather and mission requirements). We use this time to train new mounts and Troopers and invite the public to come out and enjoy the show. Feel free to call ahead to check our schedule at (254) 287-2229. You can also find us on Facebook at 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment. It is truly an honor to represent America’s First Team and I look forward to the year ahead.

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

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February 3rd, 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of the liberation of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp. We have a dear friend who calls the office often to thank the Division. Her name is Rosemary Hoyt Weber and she was 10 years

old when the tanks came rolling through the gates. Rosemary and her mother were both taken captive by the Japanese in 1942. If I remember correctly, Rosemary’s father was taken prisoner by the Japanese, put on a boat that was eventually sunk by American forces, never to return home.

Rosemary maintained contact with several of the Soldiers who were there that day: Chelly Mendoza, Jack Pike, Chetly Calvery, and John Yunker. As the years passed, she maintained those relationships with their Families. Rosemary always ends our conversations with this phrase: “Freedom isn’t free, and they risked their lives to free total strangers”.

Vietnam History Book: Here is the most recent email traffic with Randy and Acclaim Press, “Dara, I’m sorry for how long this is taking. Initially we were waiting to make sure there was enough interest, and in retrospect I wish we had started sooner. That said, we didn’t want this to appear as though we had just scanned the pages, so we took extra time with the text in particular to make sure it is just as crisp and beautiful as when the books rolled off the presses 50 years ago. All the elements are now in digital form and in our design department for compilation. I will send you a proof of the pages for a quick comparison before we go to press. We are still months away from release.”

A thought for 2020: “Life’s not about expecting, hoping and wishing, it’s about doing, being and becoming.”

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ADDRESS CHANGE

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To submit by e-mail, send to memberships@1CDA.org
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302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

Last 4 #'s of your SSN_____

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Rank and Name: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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If you have two addresses during the year, we need to know them. Please give us the dates and addresses for both households.
(Circle one) Winter Summer

Rank and Name: _____

LAST 4#s SSN: _____ DOB _____

1: Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____

2: Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____

1CDA EVENT CALENDAR	
Feb 21-23, 2020	Board of Governors Meeting, Killeen, TX
June 10-14, 2020	73rd Annual 1CDA Reunion, Louisville, KY
Nov 9-12, 2020	12th Annual Veterans Day in Washington D.C.
Feb 19-21, 2021	Board of Governors Meeting, Killeen, TX
Sept 22-26, 2021	74th Annual 1CDA Reunion, Killeen TX
(In Sept to honor Division's 100th Birthday!)	

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SABER

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ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Original, clear copies, typed or printed are accepted via
e-mail at Programs@1CDA.org.

Articles should be received at National Headquarters no later than the 1st of every odd month. Any article received after the 1st of the month will be put in on a space available basis.

Opinions expressed are the writers and not necessarily those of the *Saber* or the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR


To be considered for publication, letters should not exceed 300 words and should be of general interest and in good taste. Letters express the writer's opinion, not that of the *Saber* or the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

Political endorsement and poetry cannot be used. Form letters or third-party letters are not acceptable. Letters which contain libelous or obviously untrue statements will be automatically rejected.

All letters must be signed with addresses and telephone numbers included. Names will be used with the letters but addresses and phone numbers may be omitted. Letters also may be edited for length or clarification.

We reserve the right to reject for publication any letter received. Unused letters will not be acknowledged.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:



Dear Editor,
Growing up I always heard stories about my Grandpa and the sacrifices he made. I live and always have lived in California, and my grandparents lived in Kentucky, until my grandpa died of brain cancer due to exposure to agent orange. My grandma then moved to Arizona, where she resides now. It has not been until recently that I am beginning to understand the sacrifice my grandpa made. I am a bit heartbroken that I never truly got to know my Grandpa Fish (as our family called him). I truly want to understand the experience he had, and I am left to decipher his experience through secondhand stories from my father and movies like "*We Were Soldiers*." I feel that at the age of 19, I still do not understand the pain of war, and the sacrifices each Soldier takes for this country. Especially during the Vietnam War when the United States was so divided. What I do know is that I am proud of my grandfather for the service he so willingly gave to our country. I am extremely grateful that he survived the war and was able to live on to raise my father and his sister.
With gratitude and sincerity, I say thank you to the 1st Cavalry Division Association for their generous donation towards my education. The service my grandpa gave during the Battle of Ia Drang is invaluable, and to receive this scholarship for his service is a great honor. Sincerely, Dan Fisher

- TAPS
- We were notified of the death of the following:

BANKS, SGT Larry P., D Trp, 1-9 CAV, 1965. 24 December 2019.
BLUNT, SP-4 Jim F., B Co, 2-12 CAV & B Co, 2-7 CAV, 1970-71. 22 September 2019.
CALVANO, SP-4 Don L., C Co, 1-8 CAV, 1965. 4 January 2020.
CONNELLY, SMA (RET) William A., B Co, 1-9 CAV, 1969. 24 November 2019. (6th Sergeant Major of the Army)
CRESS, 1LT Gordon P., 61st FA, 1954. 27 October 2019.
DEROUEN, SP-4 Ron, HHC, 228AVN, 1965. 2 October 2019.
DuBOIS, SP-4 James E., C Co., 1-7th CAV, 1965-66. 22 December 2019.
DUNAVANT, Trooper William H., A Trp, 9 CAV, 1968. 31 October 2019.
GIBSON, SSG Robert E., B Btry, 71FA, 1948 & B Btry 77FA, 1949. November 2019.
GODFREY, SFC (Ret) James T., HHC, 1-7th CAV, 1965-66. 28 December 2019.
GOLDSBERRY, CW4 James O., HHT, 1-9CAV, 1966. 7 December 2019.
HALL, MSG Donald C., K Co, 3-5 CAV, 1950. 15 May 2019.
KIMBALL, SSG James w., 229AVN, 3 February 2019.
KINCAID, SGT Charles E. "Bob", C Co., 1-7th CAV, 1965-66. 25 December 2019.
KLOET, COL (RET) Ronald G., HHC, 191ST MI, 1969. 7 January 2019.
MALLERY, 1SG (RET) Lawrence, HHC & A Co, 27th MNT, 1970. 12 December 2019.
MCCOWEN, LTC (RET) William I., US Air Force, 1965. 28 September 2019.
MURPHY, LTC (RET) James, HHC, G\$, 1CD, 1975. 21 October 2019.
PEPPER, Trooper Tommy, C Trp, 9 CAV. 31 October 2019.
RIST, CW2 Frederick G., B Co, 2-20 ARA, 1968. 19 July 2019.
ROSEN, SPC Craig, B Co, 27th BSB, 2008. 16 November 2019.
TAYLOR, SP-4 James E., D Co, 2-8 CAV, 1966. 11 June 2019.

- ACTIVE DUTY TAPS
- We have been notified of the following non-combat Active Duty deaths.

FUCHIGAMI, CW2 Kirk T., 1-227 AVN, 1ACB, 2019. 20 November 2019. (OP Freedom's Sentinel)
KNADLE, CW2 David C., 1-227 AVN, 1ACB, 2019. 20 November 2019. (OP Freedom's Sentinel)



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

Vietnam, November 4, 1965 Company D, 2/8, 1st Cav, Recon Platoon by David Wilson

Doc Wilson is what they called me; my real name is David W. Wilson. I grew up in a small town just south of Gainesville, Florida, called, Williston. I'm still there. I was with the 82nd Airborne Div in the spring of 1965 down in the Dominican Republic when I volunteered for the 1st Cav Div. I was sent to Ft. Benning, Georgia, and was assigned to Co D, 2/8, Recon Platoon. I was a medic.

Somewhere in the autumn of that year we were transported to Savannah, Georgia, where we boarded the USNS Geiger. From there we spent about a month traveling across the Pacific to our destination, Vietnam. Those who were on that ship probably remember the famous "nugget," deposited in the head in the enlisted men's quarters! It was huge ... too large to be swept into the Pacific! We all marveled at the size of it and felt for whoever left it there!

We finally arrived in Vietnam, unloaded, and were flown by Chinooks to An Khe. We slept in Pup tents and ate C Rations when not patrolling the perimeter of our areas or doing Search and Destroy missions. Life there was a mixture of humor, misery, exploration, anxiety, hunger, and a thirst for a cold beer (of which I never got). In late October of '65, we were flown to an outpost near Pleimi that had been partially overrun by the 33rd Regiment of the NVA. Our mission was to find them. I can still remember the smell of death and rotting corpses when we landed there and the sights of body parts still in the wire! I had to hold my nose to drink water otherwise I would taste the acrid smell of decomposing flesh and the stench left behind of death. Lots of guys were vomiting! A Navy Sky Raider was still strafing areas around us!

My CO was CPT Linton, my squad leader was SGT Robert Wilson. (check this out: SGT Robert Wilson would recover from wounds he would receive and later become the DCSM of the 1st Cav Div and serve in the US Army for over 30 years!) Other players that day were SGT Coffee, PFC Hamill, CPL Eddie Hill, LT Ward, Synder, RTO Patterson, SSG Rose, SFC Marshall, PFC Paul Ortiz, and others I fail to remember. We all wound up in a battle on Nov. 4, 1965 when our Recon found a large amount of sick and wounded NVA that had been left behind to recover as the remainder of the 33rd Regiment headed deeper into the Ia Drang Valley. They had their own security Soldiers and I would guess maybe a company of Soldiers to guard the sick and wounded after their attack on the outpost of Pleimi. Note that this was 10 days prior to LTC Moore and his battle at LZ X-Ray. The reporter, Joseph Galloway had joined them there and because of his account of that battle, it turned into a movie with Mel Gibson and Sam Elliot. The book, *We Were Soldiers Once And Young*, was written by Galloway and LTC Moore years after that battle at X-Ray. Fresh men were then airlifted to LZ X-Ray after the battle and LTC Moore and company were returned to An Khe for rest and recovery. Then this new fresh group of 1st Cav Soldiers were assigned to clean up around LZ X-Ray and then marched to a place called LZ Albany.

Little has been mentioned about the catastrophic battle at LZ Albany where our Troops suffered well over 150 KIAs, not to mention the WIAs during that battle. Both battles took many American and NVA lives and changed the lives of countless others because of the experience they endured!

Our battle that day was horrific for our Recon Platoon. We lost Coffee, Hamill, and Hill all KIA, Ortiz was WIA with a hand injury, SGT Robert Wilson had a round in his upper hip, Patterson had a broken left femur from a round, and there were many other WIA and some other KIA from short 105 support rounds and enemy fire. I remember putting all the wounded I could find in a safe area behind a fallen tree. The 105s were so close that some hot shrapnel fell upon us after exploding and going through the trees! It was that close! I can still hear the rounds screaming through the tops of the trees! The smell of cordite, dust, blood, and dirt turned up everywhere. I eventually had over a dozen wounded collected throughout the day.

If I remember correctly, we were able to get MedEvacs in to evacuate the critically wounded. When other companies from the Battalion joined us in the fight to finally overcome the enemy that day, they also lost KIA and WIA Soldiers as well. CPT J.D. Coleman was the CO of one of those companies if my memory serves me right. He later wrote the book, *Pleiku: The Dawn of Helicopter Warfare in Vietnam*, where he describes much of this battle.

As we began to begin our journey back to LZ Cavalier, bringing along KIAs that we could find, and lots of walking wounded, we heard a couple of rounds coming in and I screamed, "Hit it!" The next thing I remember I was now leaning against a big rock and realized I had taken a round to my leg! That was the last round of the day. We were not exactly sure where it came from, but it destroyed the upper tibia of my left leg. Now it was too dark to bring in a Med Evac, so they made a stretcher and carried me back to LZ Cavalier where I was later evacuated to a hospital area and woke up the next day right next to Patterson who I had patched up during the battle! We both had "Million Dollar" wounds and would be shipped home! While there the doctors had placed a full-length cast on my left leg. I noted that my toes were turning black (a condition I knew was from a lack of oxygen). I repeatedly told the nurses and doctors that they needed to "vent" my cast or I was going to lose my foot! They were so busy that I was put on the back burner for attention! Later that same day, thankfully, GEN Westmoreland came through our tent and spoke to each of us individually whispering words of gratitude and encouragement. When he got to me, I told him of my condition with my cast. I also told him I was a medic and knew what I was talking about. He snapped his fingers and whispered something to one of his entourage and then told me I would be fine, and he thanked me for what I had done on the battlefield. (This a true story!) As he moved on to another cot

or bed where there was other wounded, suddenly here comes the doctors and nurses with a cast cutter and they vented my cast! Because of that moment with GEN Westmoreland, and the love of God, I still have this old leg!

After finally arriving back to the states, I began a 16-month stay at the Army Hospital at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Many operations later, therapy sessions, and learning how to walk again, I was finally discharged in February of 1967.

I was given an Article 15 when I was two days over my leave at home while in the hospital and that caused me to not get the Good Conduct Medal (even though I had called the CQ at the hospital and told him of my emergency at home that would keep me two days late). I am still pissed about that! I later returned home to an unthankful America and began learning how to adapt.

I experienced some challenging times before later graduating from the University of Florida. I became a teacher and retired after 30 years when my leg began to flare up once again. I have been retired now for many years and still live here in my hometown of Williston. I am extremely thankful to the VA Center and Hospital in Gainesville, FL, for their care and concern. They have given me and other young and old Soldiers great care and compassion throughout the years!

I have been blessed having two sons who each served honorably in the Army and the Marine Corps, and a brother who served 34 years in the Coast Guard. I love this country and highly support our military! I have also been blessed with a wife who has put up with me for many years when I am cranky, and when the PTSD jumps on my back. I can be reached at: <Pleiku1965@aol.com> when my pc works and 352-514-4164 most anytime and welcome any calls from those I served with. I still deer hunt and love the outdoors. If any of you guys out there have a place to hunt and need some company, call me. I am going on 75 but still love to hunt and search for the elusive Whitetail!

B DET, 27th MAINT BN REUNION



Lee (Gib) Gibelyou, Al (Mags) Magnani, Tom (Saws) Sawyer, Frank (Pop) Strangio, Jim (Shoes) Donahue

Five members of the 1st Cav's B Det, 27th Maint Bn held a mini reunion at the Foxwood Casino and Hotel in Connecticut last October. For most, it was our first time seeing each other in 50 years! We first met at LZ Jane in 1968, then on to LZ Nancy in Northern I Corps and eventually moving to Quan Loi with the Division. Foxwood

did an outstanding job with our accommodations, food, and beverage. We are already planning our 2020 reunion. Anyone from our Detachment who is interested in attending may contact me at <jdona649@aol.com> or 716-913-1722.



BATTERY E 82ND ARTILLERY 1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION

This photo is of Lance Hiltbrand, who was our Battery Commander at Camp Gorvad (Phuoc Vinh) Vietnam 1969.

Rick Fields commanded 5 Companies and one Battalion. We are all still living "Brothers" from Battery E (Aviation), 82nd Artillery, 1st Air Cavalry Division.

We had a Battery Reunion in San Antonio, TX over Veterans Day 2019.

Photo caption:
Lance Hiltbrand, Patrick McIntyre, & Rick Fields with our Dedication wreath in front of the Alamo.

OTHER REUNIONS:

15th Medical BN Association Reunion, 1-5 April 2020. Oxford Suites, Boise, ID, Reservations 208-322-8000 use Group Code 15th Med. POC: Mike Smith <mvandco@msn.com> or 208-459-9592. Info at <www.15thmedbnassociation.org>.

3rd Annual Past & Present Reunion of Veterans of the 1-7 Cavalry, 29-30 May 2020. Copperas Cove, TX VFW, Post 8577; POC David Clemons 254-630-3909 or <dwclemons57@yahoo.com>. Visit our website: GMFO.org

1st Cavalry Division Association 73rd Reunion, 10-14 June 2020. Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport, KY; Reservations can be made by calling 888-233-9527 or https://book.passkey.com/e/4991844; Reunion registrations went out with the 2020 Calendar and you can register online via the website <1CDA.org>.

20th & 79th ARA Reunion, 31 Aug – 4 Sept 2020. Holiday Inn Express 199 East Bay Street Savannah, GA; Hosts are Jerry and Ann Hipp.

15th Annual 12th Cavalry Reunion, 13-18 October 2020. Branson, MO Welk Resort, 1984 Hwy 165, Branson, MO 65616. \$89.00 per night includes breakfast for two. \$10.00/add'l guests/room. Make reservations 417-336-3165. Reference 12th Cavalry, GP # 604821.

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

LRRP/Ranger News



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Hello from the nation's capital. The 2019 Veterans Day Observance at The Wall on The National Mall marked the 35th anniversary of the dedication of The Three Servicemen Statue located at the western end of

Constitution Gardens overlooking The Wall. The statue was completed two years after The Wall was completed and was dedicated on Veterans Day 1984. It was intended to commemorate the Veterans of the Vietnam War while complementing The Wall by adding a more traditional component to it. You may remember that back in the 1980's the design of The Wall was very controversial, and that some members of Congress complained about it being too abstract, calling it a 'giant tombstone' and 'black gash of shame.' The Three Servicemen Statue was intended to appease the congressmen by providing a more traditional depiction of Vietnam Veterans.

The statue was designed by a stone carver who learned the art of carving while working at the Washington National Cathedral as a mail clerk. His name was Frederick E. Hart (1943-1999). He had moved to Washington, DC from Atlanta, Georgia as a young adult where he developed an interest in sculpture and completed an apprenticeship in stone carving. His design was of three Soldiers who were purposefully identifiable as Caucasian, African American, and Hispanic-American. Hart said of it: "You are supposed to see three Soldiers, but there are a lot of things I want you to feel as well. I want you to see that these are very young people, and I want you to feel that they bore an excruciating burden."



The Three Servicemen Statue is one of the three components that make up the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The other two are The Wall and the Women's Vietnam Memorial.

Interestingly, there was no American flag flying at The Wall when it was dedicated in 1982. It was only when The Three Servicemen Statue was added to the memorial that a flagpole that flies the American flag 24 hours a day was added. It stands about 25 yards west of the statue in the direction of the Lincoln Memorial.

I wanted to mention that the Motts Military Museum in Groveport, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus, dedicated a Vietnam War Dog Team Memorial, on September 30, 2019. The memorial commemorates the service of the 4,244 dogs - mostly German Shepherds - that served in the U.S. military during the Vietnam War. It consists of three black granite panels with the names of the dogs inscribed on them, along with their numbers, which were tattooed inside each of their ears. The memorial also includes the names of 297 dog handlers, one veterinarian, and two vet technicians, who died in Vietnam. Approximately, 10,000 Soldiers served as dog handlers in Vietnam.



1st Cav War Dogs - LZ Betty, Quang Tri City, 1968

When the U.S. military withdrew from Vietnam in 1972, most of the dogs that survived were either euthanized in Vietnam or given to the South Vietnamese Army, according to the U.S. War Dog Association, based in New Jersey. Only about 200 of them were returned to the United States. It is estimated by the association that 4,900 dogs served in

Vietnam, but incomplete records in the early years of the war make it impossible to come up with a more accurate number.

On a related note, the 11th Annual Veterans Day Dinner was hosted by the 1st Cav Association at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Crystal City on Veterans Day evening, and as expected, was a near sellout. Tracey Himes, a devoted wife, a happy hockey mom, a small-town activist, and an author, was the guest speaker. Her brother, Larry, served two tours in Vietnam with the 1st Air Cav as a door gunner

on a Huey. Tracey composed a book consisting of the letters he sent home to his mother and dad while he was in Vietnam. "The 99 letters to Mom and Dad are full of humor and horror, sharing his vivid and truthful fears of war, along with the fun times bonding with buddies. In several letters, he sent home pennies he collected for my piggy bank," Tracey said.

At the dinner, I had the opportunity to talk with several members of the William A. Richardson National Capitol Region Chapter and heard mention that a LRRP/Ranger Team from our unit was given the task of locating the crash site of MG George W. Casey, Sr., the commanding general of the 1st Cav at the time. MG Casey was killed in a helicopter crash when the helicopter he was co-piloting hit a mountain due to poor weather near Bao Luc, Lam Dong Province, II Corps. He was en route to a hospital in Cam Ranh Bay to visit wounded Troops there, before they were transported to Japan for medical treatment.

The following account of MG Casey's death is taken from the VVMF *Wall of Faces*: "On July 7, 1970, a U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H (tail number 69-15138) from the 11th Aviation Company (General Support), 1st Cavalry Division (Air-mobile), was on an administrative flight when it crashed in bad weather in the mountains approximately 25 miles northwest of Bao Loc in Tuyen Duc Province, RVN. Seven U.S. personnel were killed in the incident. They included aircraft commander 1LT William F. Michel, pilot MGN George W. Casey, crew chief SGT Ronald F. Fuller, and gunner SGT William L. Christenson; also lost were passengers MAJ John A. Hottell III, SGM Kenneth W. Cooper, and SGT Vernon K. Smolik Jr."

"The helicopter was in a flight of two aircraft headed to Cam Ranh Air Base. MG Casey, flight-qualified and at the controls of 138, intended to visit wounded members of his command convalescing at a medical facility there. After reporting their position 25 miles southwest of Dalat at 9:30 am, the two helicopters turned through a hole in the clouds from an altitude of approximately 6500 feet. The chase ship, Aircraft 502, saw the ground at about 3500 feet as both helicopters continued descending. The descent was made into a valley with steep ridge lines and a river at the bottom. Aircraft 502 lost visual contact with Aircraft 138, then regained visual contact, then lost it again. Both aircraft went IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) after entering clouds. Aircraft 138 radioed 502 that he was IFR and doing a 180 degree turn and recommended that 502 do the same. This was the last known contact made with Aircraft 138. Aircraft 502 began climbing in order to return to VFR (Visual Flight Rules). Aircraft 502 broke out at 7000 feet and running low on fuel proceeded the approximately 15 to 20 minutes to Dalat."

"The lost Aircraft 138 was located two days later, on a hillside near the Cambodian border, approximately 25 miles northwest of Bao Loc. The crew compartment had been demolished on impact and destroyed in the post-crash fire. Bad weather delayed the recovery of the remains for four days until which time they were recovered and positively identified."

With help from Gene Russell, president of the National Capital Region Chapter of the 1st Cav Association, I was able to contact LTC William (Steve) Carrier III (Ret), who as a captain commanded the LRRP/Ranger unit in Vietnam at the time of MG Casey's helicopter crash. He commanded the recovery process on the ground. Steve provided the below description:

"When I commanded H Company/75th Infantry (Ranger), it was my third tour. During this tour, I also commanded Delta Company, 2-5 Cavalry before taking command of the Rangers. My first tour was 1965-66 with the 5th Special Forces Group (ABN) where I was XO of the Special Forces Camp at Ba To, Detachment A-106, in southern Quang Ngai Province. I was also a Recon Leader in Project Sigma, a classified reconnaissance unit within the 5th Special Forces Group. My second tour was in 1967-68 in Thailand with the 46th Special Forces Company (ABN). At the time, this was also a highly classified activity working with the Thai Rangers with operations in Laos, among other places. I retired as an LTC in 1985. I retired again in 2005 after 20 years in private industry. I'm currently a resident of Florida and I also maintain a home in Northern Virginia."

"The recovery of MG Casey's remains and those of his staff members was obviously not a typical LRRP mission. It was a recovery operation and extremely complex because of where the crash site was located, and because of the high-profile nature of the casualties involved. Remember, not only was the Division Commander on-board that helicopter but the Division Sergeant Major and several other individuals were also onboard. Rather than a small Ranger team, typically 4-6 men, this involved 21 Rangers with the CO of the Ranger Company commanding. As you can see, this was close to a platoon size contingent - very untypical of LRRP operations."

"On July 7, 1970 around noontime, I received a call in my orderly room from COL Ed "Shy" Meyer, Chief of Staff of the 1st Cav. This was very unusual as COL Meyer never called me directly but always had one of his staff officers call. He asked me straight away "How many men and how long would it take me to get them combat ready to be airlifted to a location TBD?" I replied that 20-22 men and I would need 2 hours. He replied, "Have them at the Chinook ramp and make it an hour and hung up." We made it in 1 1/2 hours. Shortly after we arrived at the ramp, COL Meyer arrived. He was 30 minutes late. He told me that MG Casey's chopper was missing somewhere in II Corp. We were to be flown out to a Special Forces "A" camp called Bac Luc (??) and this would be used as my forward operating base."

"We arrived at the Special Forces camp late that afternoon and found out that there was still no sighting of the crash site. At last light that day, one of the search choppers thought they found the site, but it became dark and they would resume the search the next day. The next day at about mid-morning, the word came in that they were almost sure they had found the site. It was on the side of a mountain in very heavy jungle with no potential LZ's anywhere close. At this point, the powers-to-be gathered at the Special Forces camp and began to lay out a plan to recover the remains. It was obvious this was going to be a repelling operation. There were two things wrong with this plan. Of the 21 men I was lucky if half of them were repel qualified period, much less chopper repel qualified. And we needed at least three Huey's rigged for repel ops. The last one was taken care of quickly. We used a donut roll in those days that was anchored to the floor of the chopper which the ropes were snap linked into. The Special Forces guys were a great help with this. The first item was a bit dicey. I never told anyone we had a problem as we had no option. Between the Special Forces guys and me - I had been an instructor in Ranger school - and several of my NCO's, we were able to train up enough guys as to not kill someone going in. From here I reorganized

Continued to pg. 10



5th CAV News

Harold P. "Doc" Truitt
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I am Harold Truitt and was 3rd plt medic in B Co 2nd of the 5th through spring and summer of 1969. I had been assigned to A Co 1st Med for several months and finished my tour at 2-5th battalion aid station. During my tour in 2-5, I was Spec 5 Harold P. Truitt and very proud to be part of the 1st Cav family.

"For Young Warriors, Or Grumpy Old Ones That Haven't Figured It Out Yet"

Why was I so old by the time I even thought about the subject at all? Many of the people I've become acquainted with that have been personally involved in a heated military conflict don't discuss it for many years following. This is for a wide variety of reasons but primarily because we can't assume doing so will be profitable to both the speaker and whoever they are speaking to. Some of us lived in a time where you could become a social outcast quickly if overheard on the subject. The problem is that men and women that face extended periods of combat and danger are changed in doing so, sometimes to their severe detriment. I've been asked what it is that troubled me, and whether it was the terror, the explicit pictures carried forever in mind or something else. And what could be done to prepare our young warriors to return as healthy of mind as we would want our children and neighbors to be. It certainly wasn't guilt that made the load, except perhaps survivor's guilt. Having had a lot of help myself with these things; talking it over with hundreds of people who've been there, and seeing how differently they have emerged as well as time spent with some who gave more depth to my understanding, several things seem helpful to me. The most important single item to me is a good understanding of what the job is and why it is important. That means a good mind set going in and very thorough training. Coming from a military family can help. A knowledge of history and what happens to countries who are not strong enough to resist the armed aggression of some group or nation that has it in mind to impose their will or take things that don't belong to them. Without young people willing to be part of something like our 1st Cav, our country would be at the mercy of that sort. Secondly, in order to function one cannot be focused on anything but the job at hand. While being aware enough that you don't overlook obstacles to

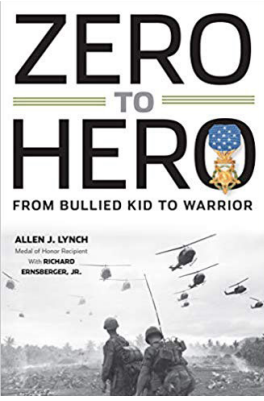
doing that job, a war fighter just can't let the noise and emotions slow them down. My guess is that everyone will have to find their own way around the obvious. The way I got my mind around it is likely not exactly what the next person needs, but I just said goodbye to myself and assumed at some point I'd be dead. That way I could focus on the job. We're all part of a team and don't want to let our team down or fail to be there when needed. If you're focused on the job you will not let your team down. The possibility of that scared me more than any of the rest. It won't be a problem. Each of you have the training and fitness or you wouldn't be there. Doing your job in the pinch gives both you and those around you the best chance of a positive outcome! I've noticed that the more training and the more time spent understanding why we're needed, the healthier the mind will be after the fact. Officers, Rangers, Spec ops, and those who got their training in the fire and came out with their minds intact will form a backbone for a unit and younger less experienced Troops can lean on them.

All things being said, we still need help to keep perspective. Most of us know there are things that can interfere at work or at home or even out with the public, and we don't always find a way to get them out. We get serious, very tightly focused. That can seem to others like anger or impatience when that is not what we want to convey. Try to remember we need a good laugh now and then. A smile on our face is always good for us as well as helping to let others know we're ok. If it gets so it's hard to do that, find someone that knows you and has shown wisdom in the past, and see if they can talk for a bit. In general terms these are things I've believed all my life. Why then didn't I do better at applying them? I was nearly 60 years old before I began my search for my old unit. That may have a bit to do with the way replacements were handled in my day but the fact remains that I failed to keep in touch with any of them. As it turns out many would not have been ready for me to be in touch. At any rate, when the time came to try, I went to a 1st Cav reunion and the 5th Cav Association became part of my life. It was a place to start and this association still tries to be of service to our Troops. All of us are a part of this unit's history! All of us want our country and our unit to be healthy and ready at all times and we want our men and women to know there are folks who understand the issues that face them. You are part of a unit that wants each of you to get whatever you need to be the best and the healthiest. Whether active service or separated we at the 5th Cav Association would like to hear from you if you are inclined to reach out to us. Be well.

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

WANTED:

I am looking for information on COL Ed Bradley (not the tv newsman). He flew dust off in Vietnam and he was my commander in Heidelberg, Germany in 1991. Thanks, Tony Dai (262) 893-3277 <tonyj dai@gmail.com> First Team, Scouts Out

12th CAV News



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Greetings all! On behalf of officers of 12th Cavalry Association, COL Jim Dingeman, Leon Hinton, James Stokely, Klaus Lachmann, welcome to 2020 and Happy New Year! In 1920, the 12th Cavalry was participating in the Regiment Mission Purpose of: "on order, deploy to a contingency area of operation, prepare for, and conduct a full spectrum operation. It would then, on order, redeploy and prepare future operations" (quote from 12th Cavalry Outpost website). At that time their mission was to monitor and patrol the southwestern borders of the U.S. and protect people on our side from perceived threats to the freedoms of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.

Today our 12th Cavalry Troopers remain "Always Ready" while 1-12th Charging Chargers emplaced in South Korea, work with Korean military and engage in community efforts to secure the continued freedoms of our allies while our 2-12th Cavalry Thunder Horses here at Fort Hood prepare for any future operations they may be called or ordered to. 1-12th is now preparing for their return to Fort Hood in March 2020. With all the Saber Rattling going on in Iran, Iraq, Kenya and North Korea, both battalions could be alerted for deployment to any of these hotspots to continue the SEMPER PARATUS tradition.

With this in mind, COL Dingeman asked that this poem from a dear friend of his and Sylvia's be published in tribute to some of the bravest Soldiers ever known, Troopers of the First Team - First Cavalry and our own distinguished 12th Cavalry Troopers. From a Pride and Patriotism Gathering 11 Nov 2019, titled:

"We Say Goodbye" by Lily Wellborn

In my heart, my baby you'll always be.
Tomorrow I'll watch my young man walk away from me
We say Goodbye to all brave men not knowing if they will return again
Goodbye my son, A child no more, you'll no longer be
Marching away to make sure the world stays free
We say goodbye to all brave men not knowing if they will return again
Goodbye my brother, Without you leaves a lot to me
I'll do my best to take care of the family
We say goodbye to all brave men not knowing if they will return again
Goodbye my husband, Second father to me you'll always be
I pray for you to return safely
We say goodbye to all brave men not knowing if they will return again
Goodbye my uncle, Alongside you I'll fight for our victory
In the hopes of defeating our enemy
We say goodbye to all brave men not knowing if they will return again
Goodbye my friend

This poem was sent to COL Jim Dingeman from Kelly Welborn, written by her daughter Lily Welborn. Kelly may be contacted by email to <kelly@welborn.com>. A fitting tribute to all who rise on order to the Mission Call. When our Troopers, be they man or woman, go to the front, the battle freedom and peace is fought by ALL, families and communities. To those soon to return and those who may soon go to an area of operation, know that we have your backs - SEMPER PARATUS!

**A Vietnam Trooper's story who marched to the cadence of "Always Ready" by Marian Jeter, D Co 2-12th (Stacked Deck) 1968-1969
"Thirteen Tons of Rice"**

Don't recall how it happened but on 1 Feb 1969, a good buddy of mine named Bligh and I had been in country five months. Sep through Nov 1968, I walked 'slack' (backup for Bligh who was our squad's point man and had remarkable vision. As 'slackman' carrying the M79, my responsibility was to watch the trees for snipers, survey the ground for anti-personnel mines and booby traps. All was quiet during these three months and we had escaped unscathed. Not once were any NVA encountered. As of December, Bligh and I were no longer FNGs (funny new guys). It was SOP that point responsibility fell to the newly arrived.

On above mentioned day, I was assigned the squad point man duties, not a happy camper since I felt that my dues had already been paid. I think the regular point men were either casualties or on R&R. So, one more time, I traded my M79 for an M16 and walked on, leading the company in single file, away from the overnight perimeter we had set up to clear and build LZ Grant.

Just after Nixon's inauguration 2-12th had been assigned and inserted into Tay Ninh to build LZ Grant. We named the Angels Wing because of the shape surrounded on three sides by Cambodia, on a dirt highway that was an NVA infiltration route. A short distance from the night perimeter, I spotted a major foot trail wider than most. Trees, branches, tree roots and logs had been chain sawed for bicycle passage loaded with 100s lbs of supplies and pushed this and other infiltration trails from Cambodia. Ordered to follow the trail, dangerous duty and not a good idea in my mind since we would be subject to surprise encounters and ambushes along this heavy treaded trail.

Covered with thick dust under the triple canopied forest, the trail could be seen from the air. In some spots where the sun shone through, we garnered some intelligence from the Ho Chi Minh sandal prints made from the same tire. All I had to do was count the number of sandal prints which were fresh and headed the same direction as we. No fresh bicycle tracks but rifle and RPG butt prints told me there were about 20-25 infantry, not supply troops which I reported to LT Howe.

Sweating heavily with mild shakes, I was a scared 'hombre,' as I looked behind me the Grenadier was hyperventilating into a paper bag and the M60 crew looked like it had seen a ghost. If cell phones were available then, I would have called in sick. I decided to move off to the side of the main trail without losing sight of it and plod along, grunt short style. Mid-afternoon a dilemma came up, the trail Y-ed right and left, faced with the choice of which way to go, LT Howe ordered me to go right while second platoon would go left. A short distance another oddity on the right side of the path taken...pile of underbrush and tree limbs. Our squad leader sent Troops left and right for security while I slowly began moving foliage, looking for mines and booby traps, knowing something was under all that greenery...there was! Plastic tarp covered pallets of burlap bags...pallets and

pallets...burlap bags and burlap bags! In the bags...rice... enough to feed an Army!

We informed 2-12th HQs of our discovery and plodded further down the right-hand trail and came upon a small meadow where 'Stacked Deck' would camp for the night. Relieved we had gotten through the day without NVA shootouts or any booby trap incidences, we staked out our perimeter, set claymores and trip flares while the FO adjusted redleg a 100 meters out on four compass points. Before dark the three-man LP and first platoon left perimeter to set their positions with 1st platoon setting up ambush at the rice cache. I dug a foxhole, easier than usual since the ground was damp and soft and downed a C-rat meal. I took the first three-hour watch, standing all the while, to not fall asleep from the day's exhaustion.

I fell asleep about midnight, the first platoon sprung the ambush on NVA entering the kill zone in search of the rice. Claymores were set off, machine gunners unloaded a thousand rounds, riflemen fired three magazines and threw two frag grenades each while the grenadiers lobbed 10 rounds each. FO called in redleg as 1st platoon backed out to the company perimeter. A wounded NVA was screaming for help then one of our Troops cracked, exited the perimeter to rescue him but he did not get far, squad mates tackled him, and held him down as that was not a good idea. Soon the NVA ceased screaming. Next morning, 2 February, I was sent out 50 meters, alone on the right side of the trail, while first platoon swept the killzone. No bodies or weapons were found but beaucoups of blood trails and NVA gear. A squad of engineers and chinooks arrived to airlift the cache back to brigade and distribute it to Vietnamese orphanages. Rice cache weighed in at...13 tons!

2d platoon led the company down the left trail of the intersection patrolled on the 1st. Mortar platoon had three more rounds they could carry and decided to fire in front of 2d platoon right over my head. First round dropped down the tube, I heard the shell burst well down range, the second round dropped and burst much closer, again a dilemma...where would the 3d round fall...in the damp, soft ground had the base plate sunk? I then heard the third round drop in the tube and ran to my left...did not get far when it exploded right where I had stood. Then, the electric shock in right thigh...on be more step and fell on my face, scrambled to my feet and one more step...fell on my face gain...cursing, yelled "medic"...mortarmen heard me curse them, they quickly apologized as they brought me back to the perimeter. A light wound, my leg would not work...needed a medevac!

As I lay center perimeter, 2d platoon proceeded down the left trail suddenly stopped at the brook where something was different from yesterday...about 10 minutes it dawned on them what was different from the day before. A tree trunk bridging the brook, the point man started across the log then it dawned on the platoon leader what it was...as he called for the point man to retreat back it happened...A deafening explosion shook the ground I lay on! A brown mushroom cloud rising above the trees turned out to be giant Anti-personnel mine set off by a single NVA troop; 2-4 KIAs, numerous WIAs, the NVA had gotten their revenge. Medevac arrived and I was lifted on board with second platoon casualties including the platoon leader...KIAs piled on as well...there was blood everywhere!

A Puerto Rican Trooper came on board with his detached arm that had been blown off, screaming "Oh Mi Dios"... "Oh Mi Dios"...second platoon leader explained what happened...he had serious arm and shoulder wounds and his tour of duty was clearly over.

To the aid station we flew...and... I Lived to Fight Another Day!!!

Marian Jeter: Outstanding story! Had to condense it some to work it into the format but the crux and essence of your story is intact. Enjoyed doing this and would like to talk with you about it, contact me at <mmctlc3@aol.com> or 432-853-4851.

NOTE: To those considering submission stories for this column or our 12th Cavalry Association Crossed Sabers, if possible, submit photos of yourself from the time and now, and any photos of the events and surroundings in the AO where your story occurred. While doing Marian's story the idea of a collected works booklet or short book popped into my head. By doing something such as this, we would not have to edit some of the content of your original submissions. Thoughts about this, contact me at the above number or email. (TLC)

Closing out this time around, do not forget the 73d Annual Division Reunion, 10-14 June 2020, Louisville, KY. By the time you receive this issue in your mailbox, it will be about only 90 days until mustering for this gathering. As of now, 7 January 2020, all king rooms and suites are booked at Crowne Plaza. There are double queen standard rooms and suites open, but this no doubt will change soon. Costs for double \$124.00 per night double occupancy. The number for reservations 888-233-9527. See you all there.

15th Annual 12th Cavalry Reunion in Branson, MO 13-18 October 2020, Welk Resort, 1984 Hwy 165, Branson, MO 65616. \$89.00 per night includes breakfast for two. \$10.00 per additional guests per room. Make reservations 417-336-3165. Reference 12th Cavalry, GP # 604821.

See Ya'll Soon! SEMPER PARATUS Crabtree Out!

We want to hear from YOU!

Do you have a long lost story to tell, perhaps you want to share an old photo of you and your battle buddy?

Share your treasured thoughts with your 1st Cavalry Division Association Family.

Items for submission are due the 1st of every odd month; Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov

Email to Programs@1CDA.org

We THANK YOU for your service!

7th CAV News



Karl Swenson
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Greetings Troopers, and a Happy New Year, one and all! My hope for you is wellbeing, health, and prosperity are yours once again. I'm happy to be here for another year, somehow once upon a time I wondered if I would ever survive a tour in Vietnam. And 50 years later, I am very grateful for the brothers who had my back during those times and made sure I came home so that I could grow old gracefully.

The Standard-Journal, Milton, PA, ran a story about one of the heroes of the Ia Drang Valley. The story was written by Chris Brady and its managing editor at The Standard-Journal and author of three Vietnam-era books, "*Remembering Firebase Ripcord*," "*A War We Can't Forget*" and "*We Answered the Call*."

TURBOTVILLE — For those who have read LTC Hal Moore's book "*We Were Soldiers Once and Young*," and seen the movie it's based on starring Mel Gibson, there's no need to explain the horrific combat endured by Troops from the 1st Air Cavalry Division in the first major battle of the Vietnam War.

Ken Edwards, now 82, was one of those Troops. The Lewis Township resident was among the wave of choppers that flew men from Hal Moore's 1st Battalion/7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Division to the Ia Drang Valley in November 1965. Landing Zone X-Ray would be the ground from which the first large-scale battle pitting an American battalion versus North Vietnamese Army regulars in what would become a 10-year war in Vietnam.

Edwards, originally from Muncy, enlisted in the Army. He did so, he explained, in hopes of keeping his three brothers; Tom, Bob and Jack off the battlefield. He also had two sisters, Janet and Barb. "I served their time, too," said Edwards. "That was the deal I made when I enlisted."

Edwards and Troopers from the 1st Air Cavalry embarked on a new style of warfare for the United States at the time, "airmobile" or a helicopter war. It was a strategy planned by military brass and then-President John F. Kennedy. Artillery barrages preceded the insertion of Moore's men Nov. 14 at Ia Drang by scores of Huey helicopters, which barely touched down as they soared in and out of the valley.



Ken Edwards 1965

"We were full of guts and glory," said Edwards, noting he and his fellow Troops were prepared and not yet fearful. "It was very little time (before they saw combat). You just run into it. You never knew what it was like to be confronted by the enemy. It all happened so fast."

Casualties mounted quickly for the men of the 1st as fighting ensued almost immediately and continued through the night. On day two, a reinforcement company was flown in and air assaults aided the American Troops on the ground. Another landing zone (Albany) was cleared as the North Vietnamese continued dropping mortars in the ongoing assault of X-Ray.



Ken Edwards

More than 240 American Troops were killed in the days-long battle while more than 1,500 North Vietnamese troops were reportedly killed. Some of the American bombing runs resulted in "friendly fire" deaths to American Troops as well. Hand-to-hand combat was reported throughout the battle as the far outnumbered American Troops repulsed several ambush assaults by the NVA. That close combat prevented the Americans from relying more on air assets, which included the use of B-52s, and artillery fire from nearby firebases.

Three days in, Edwards was wounded in the shoulder. He later sustained a leg wound when he was stabbed by an enemy bayonet during hand-to-hand combat. "You have to survive," he said. "I pulled it out and kept going." Despite the wounds, he was just stitched up and sent back into battle, as was often the case in remote areas of Vietnam.

Edwards lost a close friend on the battlefield, and saw many others wounded. "I saw him get hit out of the corner of my eye," he said. "I'm lucky to be alive today. I played dead a lot. It's what kept me alive." Enemy troops walked over the dead and wounded at Ia Drang, checking for anyone that may still be breathing.

The North Vietnamese made no secret the tactic of killing all soldiers, refusing to take prisoners. "They kicked me," Edwards remembered. "They lifted my arm and I could feel it when they let go; it just fell limp to the ground. That's what saved me." Edwards, who went on to fight in the northern-most combat area of the war - I Corps - as well, earned four Purple Hearts before being shipped home.

Even today, more than 50 years after the Battle at Ia Drang Valley, and nearly two years after Moore passed away (Feb 17, 2017) at the age of 94, Edwards remembers the man he so admired. "He cared for his men," said Edwards. "He was the sunshine of my life. He's a man I'll never forget."

As for the war, Edwards and his fellow combat Veterans remember because it never leaves them. "You try to forget, but you never forget," he said. "Here today, gone tomorrow," he said, his voice cracking with emotion.

And this is from the president of the 7th US Cavalry Association, **John Guillory**. He wants to remind all members of the elections which will occur during the 2020 Annual Reunion to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, in June. The offices of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer are all up for grabs. If you have a desire to be a part of the leadership team of the association, then please submit your name to John before close of business April 30th. All submitted names will be placed on a ballot, which will be passed out at the annual meeting of the association on Saturday of the reunion. Only those names on the ballot will be considered for election, no nominations will be accepted from the floor. We

really would like to see Troopers from all eras be a part of this election! Come on, guys, join the party! Put your name in for nomination for one or more of these offices. Please send the nominations by email to John at <manhunter6869@yahoo.com>. If you plan to nominate someone other than yourself, please get permission from that person to submit the name. Don't want anyone having a heart attack in the middle of lunch, you know.....



Alfred Steiger

I heard again from **Alfred Steiger**, the Vet who served with the 7th Cavalry in occupied Japan. Alfred lives at the North Dakota Veterans Home. During his spare time there, Alfred makes poppies that are handed out by the VFW on Memorial Day. According to his count, Alfred has made some 40,000 for distribution. Do you remember the poppies that we all used to wear in our lapels? Did you ever wonder what they represent? I actually had to do some research because I thought I knew, but I was wrong. The symbolism of the poppy started with a poem written by a brigade surgeon of the first world war. As he stepped onto a battlefield littered with dead and wounded, he was struck by the red poppies growing up around all of the carnage that lay on that field, a place called Flanders Field. So, find something to do, just as Alfred has, to honor those who have gone before us, those whose lives made it so the rest of us could make it home to live the lives we have. I give thanks every day for the 17 members of my unit that did not

come home. And I volunteer my time to act as a mentor in a Veterans treatment court and for a VA program called VITAL – Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership. Look around you. You can find a place to give of your time. I do it to honor my lost brothers. What will you volunteer your time for??

You probably noticed that we're a bit thin on content this issue. But that is certainly not to take away from the content. I merely meant that I didn't have much to report. Now, all of you get off your cans and send your stories in so that two months from now, this column will be full.

PURPLE HEART FLAG

Buffalo, New York Purple Heart Recipients have been very fortunate to have Congressman Brian Higgins D. New York sponsor a new Purple Heart Flag Bill. Higgins announced H.R. # 5237 to amend Title 36, United State Code, to designate a flag as the Purple Heart Flag to be flown at many federal buildings and memorial locations nationwide. Congressman Brian Higgins is presenting a new way to honor those killed or wounded in combat with the introduction of the Purple Heart Flag Act. It would require the display of a Purple Heart Flag at federal facilities such as war memorials, VA hospitals, and national cemeteries.

Higgins says Americans need to be reminded of the sacrifices that were made as over one million Americans have been killed and millions more wounded in combat of all-American wars since the Revolutionary War.



Flag flown at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, NY

the Revolutionary War.

"Raising the Purple Heart Flag would provide a visual reminder of the wounds our warriors endure and the Soldiers who have laid down their lives to uphold the liberties this nation was founded on and continues to hold dear," Higgins added. Feel free to contact Russell D. Ward **716-587-1120** or < russbuis@aol.com >.

Photo below: 1st Cavalry Division member and Senior vice Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Recipient, Russell D. Ward at the podium with Congressman Higgins at right. 1st Cav Veteran and Chapter Adjutant Jim Schaller (left) with their Chapter Commander, Ken Speaker. These combat wounded Veterans have worked very hard to make the Purple Heart Medal made into a flag to be displayed nationwide as a way of honoring. SOME GAVE ALL- ALL GAVE SOME. See more Purple Heart Flags and Purple Heart Memorabilia at <www.russellpurpleheart.com>.



8th CAV News



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When I took over writing for the 8th Cav, one of my priorities was to write more about the Korean War and Korean War Veterans. If you've read one of my previous articles, you'll know that I've requested stories from this era, and I've been fortunate to receive a few, mostly by regular USPS mail. A few weeks ago, I got a phone call while driving, so I couldn't talk. I called the man back a couple of days later and through our mutual hearing problems made communication difficult, I knew I wanted to hear more of his story. I checked mileage on my computer and his home in Dexter, Missouri was only 130 miles away from mine in Murray, Kentucky so it was time for a road trip. I contacted him for a good time to visit and made my plans. I was very impressed with the large assisted living complex he lived in and the staff was very friendly and most helpful in finding my man. I knew as soon as I met him in person that I had found a buddy for life. The man I'm talking about is **Mr. William Wesley Eskew**, who likes to go by Wes, the short version of his middle name. I saw right away the staff there thought that Wes hung the moon. First, let me say that Wes has a memory that's out of this world. He should have been a writer, recording history.



Wes & I

We started off talking about our service, how things were done at the time we served, both good and bad. I asked about places he had traveled, and he's been all over the U.S. and half the world. Then we got into his personal history. Wes was born March 28, 1929 in Marmaduke, Arkansas. He enlisted on August 20, 1946 and considers signing up for Airborne one of the highlights of his life. Wes did his 6 weeks of physical training (a pre-requisite for jump school) at Ft. Bragg then went to Ft. Benning, where jump school was full. So off to the 11th Airborne Division Jump School in Japan. After his service in Japan he served 11

months fighting in Korea. Wes still felt the need to serve his country, so in 1955 he joined the 1221st National Guard and served until 1984, then again for several months in 1985 and 1986, and finally, going with the Guard to Honduras in 1987.

Wes wore many hats in his military service: mechanic, motor pool, machine gunner in Co F 8th Cav Regiment and parachutist with the 11th Airborne, to name a few. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, Occupation Medal Japan, Korean Service Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars, the CIB and numerous others. He has several awards, citations and letters of thank you from individuals who wanted to recognize his accomplishments over the years. For example, the President of the Republic of Korea sent a letter thanking him on the 50th anniversary of the start of the Korean War for his "Noble Contribution to the Safeguard of the Republic of Korea." He also has a letter from Bob Holden, Governor of Missouri, thanking him for his service.

There are too many stories to tell in this small space, but this one is why Wes contacted me in the first place. He wanted to see if I knew how he could go about getting a promotion he was promised. The following is what happened:

Wes' company was in the rear in Korea with a squad leader who was wounded due to a self-inflicted wound. Wes was bumped up to squad leader and did so for a couple of months without any official change in rank. He finally spoke to his platoon leader who put his hands-on Wes' shoulders and told him that he wanted him to be a platoon sergeant. The platoon leader told Wes that his new rank would be forthcoming the next morning, but that morning he told Wes that it wasn't going to happen for a while. Wes agreed to still be his sergeant and did so, but never saw any change of rank or increase in his pay. Although he knows it's a long shot, Wes is asking if anyone remembers this incident to please pass the information through me, to him.

In the meantime, let's all thank this true hero, who has spent his life being of service to his country. I'm sure he's not done yet!

Meeting Top Gun and Reunions by Larry Hempfling

I will never forget the 1st time I met James "Top Gun" Dotson. It was July 1968 and I was a Cherry that maybe had a week in the field with Wildcat, or 3rd platoon D 2-8 Cavalry. We had arrived at a place in I Corps where we were to receive hot chow, which was a very rare occasion. Top Gun had just returned from R&R in Sydney, Australia and he was dancing around with and swinging a red souvenir he had procured from a lovely lady in Sydney (use your imagination on that one). He came up to me and said, "Where you from man?" I said Saint Louis and will never forget the response from him. "Why you (expletives) stole Lou Brock from us?" You see he is a Cubs fan and the St. Louis Cardinals had traded their best pitcher (Ernie Broglio) for an outfielder that the Cubs thought they didn't need. Well Lou Brock went on to help lead the St. Louis Cardinals to several World Series Championships while Broglio hurt his arm and was never effective for the Cubs. I thought, what a way to introduce yourself, call it what you want but I immediately liked Top Gun.

So, let me tell you how I got involved in the reunions. I came home from work one afternoon in March 1996 and grabbed the mail from the mailbox. I sat down to go through it all. Bills and a paper that was 8 1/2 x 11 inches folded in half and stapled at the top. I thought, more junk mail and almost set it aside to toss it in the trash. I didn't recognize the name in the top left-hand corner but did notice it was 1st class mail. I pulled the staple and opened to start reading. After the 1st paragraph I was floored because it was about an incident D 2-8 Cav was involved in January 1969. Ed Regan then explained that I was one of many guys from 1968-69 that had been found via research from some of those already involved in reunions. After an emotional phone call to Ed, Jonny Mays and Karl Derums, I contemplated whether I wanted to go to the reunion in June. Then 2 days later I get a package from Mouse with a VCR tape that had photos of all the men in Nam from D 2/8 that sent him photos set to the music from our era

in Vietnam. Mouse and I had gone through AIT at FT. Polk, went over to Nam on the same plane, got assigned to the Cav, went to Camp Evans for in-country training, and then D 2-8 Cav. In the letter Mouse sent he said he was hosting the reunion in Las Vegas and would really like to see me again. I did go to that reunion and suggested that the group had had reunions on the East and West coasts in the past and they needed to consider the Midwest. Well Mouse was hosting and spoke at the banquet that Saturday evening. When the subject of where the next reunion was to be and asked me if I would host the reunion in Saint Louis in 1997. What could I say but "Yes?"



Larry & Top Gun LZ Rita 1968

Gun has said, he was now living in KY and had received a newsletter from Ed, only to finally get in contact with Duck. In June of 1997 at the reunion I hosted, I arranged and had set up a few tables outside in the back of the parking lot at the Holiday Inn with beverages, mostly adult ones. I remember seeing Top Gun walking towards us and how "Big George" Thaler was the first to greet Top Gun. As with most of us at our 1st reunion he was very emotional being with the men he had served with so many years ago but quickly joining in the fun being with so many of his Brothers. That Saturday evening as host, I spoke of how the previous year, I realized I had finally "Came Home" when I went to the reunion in Las Vegas the previous year. *Came Home* because I was finally with the men I served with. That completed the journey. Family is one thing but finally having the opportunity to be with those we went through both bad times and good in Vietnam completed that journey. I know personally that Top Gun had finally Come Home in 1997 here in Saint Louis, MO. Finally, with all those Brothers, some of which he had spent his entire year. One being Jonny "Duck" Mays and the other Bill "Henry" Laferriere. Like all of us, our new writer has many memories to share and I know Top Gun will do a great job of writing for the 8th Cavalry Regiment in the *Saber*. I personally look forward too many interesting articles from him. By the way, I vowed on that day in Vietnam I met Top Gun that I was going to do everything in my power to get to Australia for my R&R, and in April 1969 I did. Your Brother, Larry Hempfling

Meeting Reminder

The annual meeting of the 8th Cavalry Regiment Association will be held immediately following the 8th Cavalry Luncheon at the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion in June. The reunion will be held in Louisville, KY, June 10 -14, 2020. (See www.1CDA.org for reunion information or pages 12 & 13 of this edition of the *Saber*). The Unit Luncheon will be at the Crowne Plaza on Saturday, June 13 from 1200-1400. The room number will be identified in the Schedule of Events booklet you will receive at reunion registration. This is a great chance to see old friends and make new ones. Please try to attend if you can, hope to see you there!

Plea to Readers

The 8th Cavalry Regiment Association needs your support. As with most Veteran groups, our membership is getting smaller every year. We need new people to join and help us keep this great organization continuing. The history and traditions of the 8th Cav will eventually be lost if we don't all work together to keep this association going. It's only \$25 for a life membership so please sign up and add your name to our roster. You can go to: <www.8cavalry.org> and get an application or contact Jim Beck, 760-889-0530 <jpbbeck@gmail.com> or 6183 Paseo Camas, Carlsbad, CA 92009.

Welcome

We'd like to welcome our new members to our Association: Steve "Doc" Bird, B Co 2-8 Cav '67-'68; Gary C. Happel, B Co 2-8 Cav '67-'68; and Lloyd Wes Gratz, A Co 2-8 Cav '67-'68. We are happy to have you on board!

Board Members

The following is a list for the Board of Directors for the 8th Cavalry Regiment Association:

President - Tommy Harris
Vice-President/ Secretary - Tom DeYoung
Treasurer - Jim Beck
Quartermaster - Larry Hempfling
Sgt of Arms - John Pike
Editor 8th Cavalry News and the Saber - James Dotson
Bert Johnson
Al Rackley

GORDON CRESS

It is with a heavy heart we must announce the passing of Gordon Cress. Gordon was a column scribe for the 1st Cavalry Division Association *Saber* newspaper from 2002 - January 2019.

Gordon was a Korean War Veteran who served in the 61st FA from 1954-1955. Gordon passed away on October 27, 2019.



9th CAV News

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(3-17 Cav, redesignated 1-9 Cav for deployment to Vietnam), is given credit for establishing the tradition of wearing the Cavalry Stetson, “much to the chagrin of the Division command group.” Today, Cav Hats are worn by many more units, inside and outside the 1st Cavalry Division, so the time is right to tell the story of its origins.

Sources for what follows are an article written by **LTC (Ret) Bill Gillette** for the March 2011 newsletter of the now-sadly-defunct Bullwhip Squadron Association, and an account attributed to COL Stockton himself that was reprinted in a *Bullwhip Squadron Reunion Booklet* compiled in 2000 by the late Bert Chole.

Bill Gillette’s article, “From the Waterdee to the Pee Dee,” is quoted below, edited for length:

The title of this article was taken from the operations of the 3-17th Air Cavalry Squadron during Air Assault II conducted by the 11th Air Assault Division in South and North Carolina in the fall of 1964. This was the final peacetime test of the air assault and air cavalry concepts. The next test was at An Khe. During this momentous exercise, the Air Cavalry Squadron validated its operational techniques and expertly trained its Troops. Aside from the operational magnitude of the squadron’s Air Assault II experience, there occurred another significant event in the annals of the U.S. Cavalry. The cavalry hat was reborn.

In the ensuing years I have heard with amusement several tales concerning the genesis of the current Cav Hat; through this article, I hope to set the record straight. Principal players in the reincarnation were LTC John B. Stockton (Squadron Commander), MG Harry Kinnard (Division Commander), GEN Harold K. Johnson (Chief of Staff of the Army), and CPTs Walter Harman and myself (Cavalrymen). The stage was a goat pasture on the shores of Wateree Pond and the time was November 1964.

After a period of intensive simulated combat, members of the squadron were authorized several days rest and recreation (R&R) on a staggered schedule.



Since both Walt and I had wives at Fort Benning (our home station), we returned to the banks of the Chattahoochee for R&R. Walt went home a couple of days before me and must have rested quickly, for when I arrived, he was roaming around. His travels took him to the Fort Benning salvage store, where he found some olive drab, Montana-peak drill sergeant hats for sale.

Having purchased some of these hats, Walt posted over to my quarters where we convened a planning session. It didn’t take long for two dashing captains of Cavalry to decide that the motley specimens we held could be turned into the campaign hats of yesteryear. Initially there were three problems: the color of the hats, the shape of the hats, and the necessary hat cords to designate general officers, commissioned officers, warrant officers, and Troopers by branch. The color problem resolved itself when we convinced our wives that some black dye could easily turn our hats black. This was not as simple a task as it first appeared. It took several dyeings before our hats attained the proper color, and of course the dye pot had to boil over in the kitchen once or twice. Walt and I thought a deploying action was called for as we were about to become decisively engaged on the home front, so we withdrew smartly to solve our remaining two problems.

In Phenix City across the Chattahoochee, we found an establishment that consented to block our hats into the prescribed shape. Not knowing how to solve the problem of hat cords, we conducted an area reconnaissance of Columbus. Somewhere in the back alleys of the city, I located the owner of a second-hand shop who had a drawer full of hat cords and didn’t know what to do with them. A bargain was soon struck, and we were able to produce several specimens of what was to become the black cavalry hat.

Having reached the end of our R&R, Walt and I reported back to the squadron assembly area on the banks of Wateree Pond. Back in our Troop area, we decided the best way to propagate the black cavalry hats within the squadron would be to give our squadron commander one for his birthday, which would come to pass in the next couple of days.

The voice of the recipient now takes over the story. In “The Stuff of Which Legends are Born,” which appeared in Bert Chole’s *Reunion Booklet* in 2000, COL Stockton wrote:

Perhaps the most lasting achievement of our Jul 64-Dec 65 Bullwhip generation was the tradition which seems to have evolved during what started out to be an hour or two of fun and games the last afternoon of a three-day break for us on the Wateree Pond during the 1964 Carolina maneuvers.

As it happened, the last day of rest was also my 42nd birthday. Ever alert, CSM Kennedy got with his network of sources in the Squadron and came up with the idea of an impromptu surprise birthday celebration. Some of you may remember that Kennedy and a couple of his carpenter cohorts had built a shelter onto the bed of the command jeep’s quarter-ton trailer and painted it Army green. It looked like a camouflaged outhouse on wheels, but it served admirably the purpose of keeping rain off. Kennedy lured me into the trailer for some purpose and kept me there talking for about half an hour. When I poked my head outside, it seemed that maybe half the squadron had gathered in virtual silence around the CP trailer.

Looming out of the crowd was Bill Gillette, wearing the crudest World War I campaign hat known to man. It was kind of a slimy gray/green mottled color, the sweatband was virtually rotted out, and there was much evidence that moths had been hard at work on the felt for many years. With full ceremony, young Gillette presented me this monstrosity on behalf of his fellow Troopers.

Cav Hats

Football fans are likely aware that for the recent Army-Navy game, the West Point team was outfitted in uniforms that paid homage to our 1st Cavalry Division. A website that was set up to call attention to those uniforms included this picture to the left.

Accompanying text says the tradition of the ‘Cav Hat’ began before the Vietnam War, when cavalry scout pilots looking to distinguish themselves from other Troops adopted the Model 1876 campaign hat for wear. It further states that LTC John B. Stockton, commander of the division’s Air Cavalry Squadron

Strangely enough, for I have a long and narrow size 7 1/2 head, the old campaign hat fit me almost perfectly. I promptly put it on and suffered through the rest of my birthday surprise.

Just as we were breaking up to get back to duty there was a flurry out on the edge of the dispersing crowd, and who should heave into view but the Division CG himself, then-BG HWO Kinnard, in living color. I reported to him immediately, forgetful of my headgear. That was my first but far from my last run-in with military authorities about black hat-wearing.

We now switch back to Bill Gillette’s account:

Cavalry hat procurement went well until early spring of 1965, when we exhausted the supply of salvage hats at Fort Benning. That came as a welcome relief for our wives, who had to dye all the hats, but it was good training for them because it wasn’t long before they had to dye our underwear green prior to our deployment to Vietnam. Notwithstanding the procurement problems, the demand for cavalry hats increased drastically. The deteriorating situation necessitated another planning conference. Walt Harman and I surmised that since the John B. Stetson Company had produced some of the salvage hats we used, they might be able to supply cavalry hats. I took a picture of my hat and sent it to the Stetson Company with our request. The response was outstanding: the sales manager of the Stetson Company agreed to supply the prescribed hat with cord at a reasonable price. Thus, the machinery was set for the resurrection of the cavalry hat.

As Bill Gillette noted, “the story of the reinstitution of the black cavalry hat would be incomplete if some of the earlier wearing difficulties were not included,” so he concluded his account as follows.

As the Squadron’s hats became increasingly visible at Fort Benning, our Division Commander, GEN Kinnard, became more forceful in his objections to the wearing of cavalry hats. Not desiring to irritate our commander, we became very careful where we wore the hats. They were essentially relegated to wear in the field and the squadron area at Harmony Church (which was almost in the field). All went well until the squadron conducted a counter-insurgency exercise at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Being in the field, we wore our cavalry hats. Evidently, while there, a news photographer took a picture of members of the squadron wearing black cavalry hats. The aftermath of the Camp Shelby publicity took place at Fort Benning one Sunday morning several weeks later. That was the day COL Stockton picked up the telephone and heard the following from the Chief of Staff of the Army: “Colonel, this is General Johnson. Don’t you believe in the uniform I have prescribed for the Army?”

COL Stockton ended his account of the Cav Hat’s origin, believed written in 1994, with these words:

The original black hat presented to me by Bill Gillette has been in my proud possession ever since that 7 Nov 64 event. As a function of this one-time-only Bullwhip Squadron reunion, I herewith present it to the Squadron for disposition as you collectively see fit.

An “Editor’s Note” in the 2000 *Reunion Booklet* says, “This hat is on display in the First Cavalry Division Museum at Fort Hood, Texas.” The Cav Hat in the first photo above, taken from the Army-Navy game web site <<https://firstteam.football/>>, is believed to be that hat. (The campaign hat in the second photo was worn by the Scribe’s father-in-law, an Artilleryman before and during World War II.)



CSM Kennedy and then LTC Stockton at reenlistment, Camp Radcliff, Vietnam 1965



LTC (R) Bill Gillette at Bullwhip Sqn Reunion

9th Cav in Lithuania

The 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry has been hard at it ever since deploying to Pabrade, Lithuania, last September. As part of the 1st Cavalry Division’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team, the 1-9 Cav is gearing up for Exercise Combined Resolve XIII, the primary readiness training exercise for this deployment.

Deployed Troopers have demonstrated their proficiency and lethality in multiple training exercises. During live-fire exercises 8-9 December 2019, the battalion’s Bradley crews achieved a battalion average of 916, the highest in the brigade, and the top score in the brigade of 988. The tank crews followed suit 19-20 December, scoring a battalion average of 932, also the highest in the brigade, and the highest score in the brigade of 992, with 35 of 40 crews qualifying as “Distinguished.”

The battalion has also hosted numerous VIPs, including the Lithuanian Armed Forces Command Sergeant Major, who visited during a night fire exercise, and has been participating in community outreach activities, including support of a Lithuanian NATO Day, visiting a local orphanage, and taking part in a Polish Christmas market.

The battalion likes to sign off its Facebook posts with the familiar motto, “We Can, We Will.” They can, they do, and those of us who lived under that motto before them have every reason to be proud of today’s 9th Cavalry!

Losses Reported since the November/December 2019 Issue

After reading of the passing of Carl Reeves, Jr., in the last issue, Mrs. Linda Hill emailed that her husband Ed, a friend and colleague of Carl’s, had passed away a year before, on December 28, 2018. **CSM (Ret) John Williamson**, who was the A Troop First Sergeant at the time, reports that Ed Hill joined A Troop as an E-5 in 1969, and within a year he received a direct commission for sustained superior performance in a combat environment.

Jim Desmond and Loel Ewart reported the death of **William H. “Lurch” Dunavant**, who was in A Troop in 1967-68. Lurch, who passed away October 31, 2019 was the A Troop Scout Platoon Leader, call sign Apache White, in 1967-68.

Word came from Mark Hilton that **Tommy Pepper**, a C Troop Scout Pilot, suffered a heart attack and passed away, also on October 31, 2019.

Continued to pg. 18

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THE HICCUP - Health Care Information Committee Report

Commissary, Military Service Exchange, and MWR access extended to more Veterans beginning January

This is an update to the last HICCUP on access to Military Service Exchange, etc. effective 1 January 2020.

According to the Department of Defense, starting 1 January 2020, all service-connected Veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war (POW), and individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible Veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) can use commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

Who is eligible 1 January 2020?

- Veterans
 - Purple Heart recipients
 - Former Prisoners of War
 - Veterans with 0-90% service-connected disability ratings
- Medal of Honor recipients and Veterans with 100% service-connected disability ratings are already eligible under existing DOD policy.
- Caregivers
 - Individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregiver of an eligible Veteran under the PCAFC will be eligible for these privileges.
 - For information about primary family caregivers in the PCAFC, visit <<https://www.caregiver.va.gov/>>.

Required credentials

- Veterans
 - Veterans eligible solely under this act who are eligible to obtain a Veteran Health Identification Card must use this credential for in-person installation and privilege access. The card must display the Veteran's eligibility status under their picture (i.e., PURPLE HEART, FORMER POW, or SERVICE CONNECTED).
 - Veterans eligible solely under this act who are not enrolled in or are not eligible to enroll in VA health care, or who are enrolled in VA health care, but do not possess a Veteran Health Identification Card will not have access to DoD and Coast Guard installations for in-person commissary, exchange, and MWR retail privileges, but will have full access to online exchanges and American Forces Travel.
 - Medal of Honor recipients and Veterans with 100% service-connected disability ratings are eligible for DoD credentials under DoD policy.
- Caregivers
 - Eligible caregivers will receive an eligibility letter from VA's Office of Community Care.
 - If you are a primary family caregiver under the PCAFC and lose your eligibility letter, please call 1-877-733-7927 to request a replacement. Allow two weeks for processing.

REAL STORY -

- Access to Fort Hood: I contacted the Fort Hood Provost Marshall Office and they are aware of this. The process is the same as anyone, who does not have a military ID card, you will have to stop at the Visitor Center at the Main Gate and request a pass. This will require two forms of photo IDs, one of which is the VA ID Card and Texas Driver's License. NOTE: The State of Texas is part of the REAL ID - Gold or Black Star in top right of license. Some states have not complied with this yet, otherwise a passport or some other TSA approved ID will be needed. This should be the same for all installations.
- Access to the PX, MWR, and Commissary:
 - Getting in - anyone can walk into the stores and look around. The issue is trying to purchase an item.
 - Purchasing Items - After contacting AAFES HQ (800-527-2345), and being passed around (Magical Mystery Tour), I finally found the phone number of Chief Master Sergeant Luis Reyes, USAF, Senior Enlisted Advisor for AAFES and he had all the answers. The PXs have training online that all Associates are supposed to have done and guidance was sent down on 19 November to all Exchanges. Basically, you just show them your VA Disability Card and for the Care Givers their letter when you checkout. This will also work for purchasing weapons, but still have to go through the standard online background check. Per CMSgt Reyes the CEO of AAFES, Thomas Shull, said no one will be turned away.
 - Veteran Online Shopping Benefit Verification - <<https://www.shopmyexchange.com/veterans>> However, all have said that you will need to be verified by going to the AAFES Website. NOTE: if you have not gotten out recently and are not signed up in eBenefits, then you might have to upload a copy of your DD214. So, go ahead and get this done ASAP.

Fact Sheet Link: Gives more detail and better answers to questions
<<https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Factsheets/expanding-access-fact-sheet.pdf>>

LRRP RANGER NEWS
Continued from pg. 4

my rangers into tree teams of six men each to be put in three choppers. We would approach the site in trail and put out the six rangers one chopper at a time. I left a three man jump CP back at the Special Forces camp to man the com and be ready to resupply us as needed. It was decided we would go at first light on Tuesday, 7 July. I was in the lead chopper and we arrived at the site soon after first light and repelled into the crash area. The other two choppers followed. Amazingly there was not a single casualty and not a shot fired.

"After arriving at the site, I quickly established a perimeter about 10 meters out from the chopper. We almost immediately determined that there were no survivors as the chopper was badly burned. I radioed this info to the 1st Cav CP. They told me to stand by while someone decided what to do next. After about an hour, I was told that I needed to prepare an area that a jungle penetrator could be lowered into as two mortuary specialists would be sent in to recover the remains. We did this and soon a couple of medevac choppers arrived and lowered two guys into the crash site. They went about the gruesome job of sifting through all the ashes recovering what body parts they could. They handed me MG Casey's West Point ring, one dog tag, his general officer belt buckle and part of his belt and his pistol. They also lifted out 5-7 body bags of "stuff." After the mortuary specialist finished their work, we lifted them out via jungle penetrator. We were about to finish up and request transportation to lift us out when I got work that since the crash involved a general officer, another general officer had to verify the crash site and certify there were no survivors. I almost thought this was a joke but of course it was not. Therefore, they brought in MG Putnam via jungle penetrator to survey the site. He was on the ground for less than an hour and we lifted him back out again via jungle penetrator. It was determined that the only way to get us out was via Chinook and Trooper ladder which we did. I turned over the personal items mentioned to either MG Putnam or COL Meyer, I don't remember which one. I was later called to Ben Hoa to testify in front of a board of inquiry which I did. The main take-away from all of this is the incredible response that the Rangers were able to give the Division and that there were no casualties in the recovery process, not even a sprained ankle!"

"You ask why the Rangers were chosen to perform this mission? Well you've got to keep in mind that the headquarters of H Co/75th Infantry (Rangers) was co-located with the 1st Cav Division headquarters. That played a part as we were able to respond to what became a frag order very quickly. Also, COL Meyer is the one who decided the Rangers would be best suited to respond. I think this is because I had a good working relationship with him. We had incredible success in the 2-5 Cav during the Cambodian Incursion. Other than that, I don't know why we were really called upon. Also, I would like to remind you that this happened almost 50 years ago so excuse me if some dates, locations, and details are a little fuzzy; I'm also 77 years old, which carries with its certain mental lapses."

"One thing that has always bothered about MG Casey's recovery process is that every time you read about his death, it lists it as being 7 July 1970, which is a Tuesday. From all accounts and from my memory, he was on his way to visit Troops in the hospital in Cam Ranh Bay. He visited the Troops in the various hospitals on Sundays, not Tuesdays. As I remember it, we secured the crash site and recovered the bodies on Tuesday, 7 July 1970, two days after the actual crash occurred, which would put it as being Sunday, 5 July 1970. The only thing I can think of is that MG Casey was not actually declared KIA until the crash site was identified and certified by another general officer, and that was 7 July 1970."

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY.



Attention U.S. Army Infantry or Special Forces Veterans!!
Join the only organization
exclusively for

Combat Infantrymen

You earned the badge, proudly wear it and be part of the elite

Combat Infantrymen's Association

All applicants must have earned the Combat Infantry
Badge and provide documentation by submitting Form
DD-214, Official U.S. Army orders, or other official documents.

For more information visit our website @ www.cibassoc.com;
E-mail: ciamemberapps@gmail.com

Call or write:
Membership Officer
Combat Infantrymen's Association
825C Merrimon Ave Suite 354, Asheville, NC 28804
828-490-9303

THANK YOU

for those who donated to the General Fund, Scholarship Fund & Calendar Program
we couldn't do it without our dedicated membership!

We appreciate YOU!

OIF/OEF VETERAN

82nd FA News

Joseph Himpelmann
P.O. Box 341884
Bethesda, MD 20827
240-380-7419
joe@assaultfwd.com



This issue I wanted to share a bit of the lighter side of a yearlong combat deployment from the archives of B Battery, 2-82 Field Artillery. I’ve heard many stories from our Vietnam era Veterans and others about the small details of camp life that were often the most memorable parts of their tours. As many can relate, despite the moments of high intensity and exhilaration, life down range is often filled with long stretches of boredom and monotony. Here’s how our battery faced that challenge to keep our Troopers occupied and busy while at the same time making life a little better. I hope you enjoy this look at our life in Mosul, Iraq.

Outhouse Improvement Competition

“Position improvement never stops,” said CSM Thomas Boon, Command Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery. Taking these words to heart the “Bulls” of Battery B have been working furiously to clean up and advance Joint Security Station IMN, a small outpost located on the east side of Mosul, since taking over the base on June 30th of 2009. The small camp showed the wear and tear of over six years of occupation and heavy use. With unit after unit rotating through what was previously referred to as a Combat Outpost in the shadow of the Al Mosuli television and radio network antenna the JSS had fallen into a state of disrepair. Before work could begin on fixing up the place, the raw materials were needed. With the assistance of Forward Support Company G and the 2-82 battalion engineer stacks of plywood, HESCO bastions, and thousands of sandbags were delivered via combat logistic patrols. The platoons tackled different tasks during their time between pulling force protection and combat missions patrolling their vast area of operations north of Mosul in Ninevah province. Decking that was badly weathered and worn was torn out and replaced. Force protection towers and bunkers whose sandbags had long since faded and spilled their contents were removed and new ones were emplaced. Perhaps among the most interesting upgrades made to the JSS was the work completed on the burn out latrines.



Before Picture



After Picture

unoccupied signs were put in, toilet paper holders and magazine racks, hand sanitizer dispensers, hooks to hang ACU tops on, screened in windows, and built in ashtrays were among other welcomed additions. One platoon even installed a working sink with running water so that users can wash their hands when finished with their business.

After the competition was complete the Brigade Commander and Com-

mand Sergeant Major, COL Gary Volesky and CSM James Phippen, visited JSS IMN to inspect the latrines and visit with the Soldiers who had worked so hard on them. CSM Phippen was highly amused by the work, which included an unoccupied sign that reads, “Come on it and Inject the Venom.” “It’s impossible for me to pick a winner because I’d use all of them,” said a thoroughly impressed Volesky. Eventually after additional votes were received from the 2-82 battalion leadership 1st Platoon, led by 2LT Patrick Fullerton and SFC Roger West, was declared the winner. Their outhouse included laminated tile flooring, a skylight, and a front porch complete with a bug light. For their efforts, the platoon was treated to a pizza party thrown by the battery leadership upon return to their home station of Fort Hood, Texas in December.

“I’ll admit, at first I thought it was a little stupid. But now that I see the outcome of the competition and get to benefit from the results, it’s awesome,” said SGT Joseph Quattrocchi.

Since the JSS had four plywood shack outhouses and Battery B is made up of four platoons it was decided that a competition amongst the platoons would be held. Thus, was born the “JSS IMN Extreme Home Makeover – Outhouse Edition” competition. Over the course of two weeks the platoons worked furiously to make improvements both functional and entertaining to their latrines. Fans and lighting were installed, flooring was raised in order to provide a proper seat height for users, occupied/

unoccupied signs were put in, toilet paper holders and magazine racks, hand sanitizer dispensers, hooks to hang ACU tops on, screened in windows, and built in ashtrays were among other welcomed additions. One platoon even installed a working sink with running water so that users can wash their hands when finished with their business.

NEW MEMBERS

- E-4 ANGELL, GENE SC A 1- 5C 6907
- E-4 BENNETT, WILLIAM TX 1- 15SS 7004
- MG BROADWATER, JEFF TX 1CDH 1910
- PFC BURLAS, JOSEPH IV MD HHC 2- 12CAV 0709
- CPL CARTER, DAN NC HQ 2- 82FA 94
- SGT COATES, ROBERT G. CO C 2- 82FA 0011
- E-2 DE HOYOS, ENRIQUE TX C 1- 5C
- E-5 DUFFY, THOMAS L IA HQ 2- 19ARTY 6706
- SPC EASTMAN, MIRANDA TX 15BSB 10
- E-4 EMERICK, JOHN IN C 13SIG 8709
- MSG FLEURY, MICHAEL TX HHC 15BSB 0612
- MS. FOX, IEVA GB 1407 ASSOC
- MAJ FRANCIS, JOSHUA TX A 1- 8C 0310
- SFC GALDO, MARK AE C 115BSB 0708
- SP-4 HALL, STEVE AZ B 2- 8C 6901
- MAJ (RET) HARRIS, KEVIN L. OK D 1- 68ADA 8709
- PFC HELVEY, ROBERT WV C 1- 7C 6301
- E-4 JENNINGS, BENNIE R. OH B 1- 8C 7010
- MAJ JONES, C BRIAN TX HHC 1CDH 1706
- CPL KELLY, DORA TX HQ 4- 5C 90
- CPL KEYES, RONALD JR NV HHC 13SIG 1198
- SPC LOY, JESSE IA B 2- 12C 69
- MAJ MAROTTA, JOSEPH VA 1CDH 6712
- MSG MASTACHE, JAIME AE E 2- 8C 030
- CW5 MEADE, CLIFF AL HHC 1ACB 9708
- SPC OSMAN, ANJA TX 1CDH 0906
- SGM (RET) PARSONS, JAMES F AL E 1- 7C 9305
- SGT PITTS, ROBERT J. AL D 1- 7C 6708
- COL RUBRIGHT, STEPHEN VA B 4- 5ADA 98
- E-7 RUSSELL, JEFFREY PA B 1- 15FSB 9509
- E-2 WARBURTON, DENIS ON C 2- 5C 8802
- PFC WASHKO, CHARLES CO C 2- 20FA 6606
- LTC WEST, ERNEST (JAY) TX 1CHD 1906
- SFC WILLIS, PAUL AZ 15ADMIN 6512
- 1LT WOLFENBARGE, KYLE R. TX HHC 2- 227AVN 19
- SPC YARBROUGH, STANLEY L. SC C 4- 2C 6909
- E-4 YTUARTE, JOSE TX A 4- 12C 77
- SP-4 ZURRIN, KEVIN M. MA A 1- 5C 7510

WELCOME TO THE 1CDA TEAM!

ARMY TO HONOR 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION IN ARMY-NAVY FOOTBALL GAME

by J.D. Simkins, Army Times

Army’s uniforms for the 120th rendition of one of college football’s most storied rivalries have arrived. Just hours after Under Armour and Navy unveiled the Midshipmen’s uniforms for Dec 14’s Army-Navy game, the Black Knights, in partnership with Nike, released a set designed to honor the historic 1st Cavalry Division and pay homage to the birth of airmobility during the Vietnam War.

“We honor the past by re-telling the story of the ‘First Team!’ the official release read. “A story of valor, courage, and sacrifice. Inspired, humbled, and motivated by the Soldiers that came before us, we don their patches, adopt their mottos, and hold their deeds close to our hearts.”

This year’s matte green, or olive drab, depending on affiliation, helmet features the crossed sabers that adorn the famous Cavalry Stetson, or “Cav Hat.” The sabers first appeared on an Army uniform in 1851 when they were adopted by the U.S. Army Dragoons. On the chest, a “FIRST TEAM” name tape adorns each jersey opposite a second “ARMY” patch. In another noteworthy nod to the past, the words “UNITED STATES” form a pant stripe in the exact font that was painted on Huey helicopters during the Vietnam War. Additionally, the back of each helmet features unit insignia that honors one of the Division’s longstanding regiments — the 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 12th.

Last, but certainly not least, the iconic insignia of the 1st Cavalry Division is featured throughout. “The big yellow patch does something to an individual that makes him a better Soldier, a better team member, and a better American than he otherwise would have been,” GEN Creighton Abrams said while serving as the commander of U.S. Forces in Vietnam.

The shoulder patch is most prominent, but fans will also notice the insignia on players’ cleats and gloves. <<https://www.armytimes.com/off-duty/military-culture/2019/12/06/army-uniforms-honor-1st-cavalry-division-for-navy-rivalry-game/>>



1st Platoon's Winning Outhouse



Inside of another finished outhouse with many improvements

73RD ANNUAL REUNION OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 10-14 JUNE 2020, LOUISVILLE, KY

The Fort Knox Area Chapter invites you to join the rest of the First Team Family in Louisville, KY for the 73d Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association from 10-14 June 2020. All Life and Associate Members are welcome to attend this special event. Gold Star Families and Widows of our members are always welcome to attend.

Please register early to assist us in coordinating the best reunion possible. Some events have limited seating available due to the size of available rooms. All members of the Association must register and pay the \$20 Registration Fee except for our Active Duty Troopers who pay \$10 to register. Early registration starts 1 November 2019 through 17 May 2020 for all members. Those sending in registrations post-marked after 17 May 2020 must pay a late registration fee of \$40. Family members attending with an Association member, Widows of 1st Cavalry Division Troopers, and Gold Star Family members that attend do not have to pay a registration fee.

NOTE: Cancellations are non-refundable after the May 15, 2020 deadline.

This year the Association is offering an opportunity for members and their guests to purchase a Louisville Slugger souvenir (\$6.50) to remember their time spent in Louisville.

HOTEL INFORMATION

We will be utilizing the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport Expo Center for all our events. The Crowne Plaza has guaranteed a room rate of \$124 per night plus tax for up to rooms on peak nights and there is no charge for parking. Make sure that you identify yourself as attending the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion. The hotel does provide a free shuttle service from the Louisville Airport and rental cars are available at the airport.

Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport (888) 233-9527
https://book.passkey.com/e/49951844

I do not foresee the hotel running out of rooms, however if the need arises, I have provided additional hotels for our members to consider and in walking distance to the Crowne Plaza.

La Quinta Inn and Suites (502) 368-8100
Hampton Inn (502) 366-8100
Spring Hill Suites (502) 361-9009

RV PARK INFORMATION

For our members traveling with an RV, the closest park is Brooks Mobile and RV Park and it is approximately a 12 mile drive to the Crowne Plaza.

Brooks Mobile and RV Park (502) 276-6090
205 Sarver Ln
Brooks, KY 40109

REUNION EVENT OVERVIEW

This year's Ladies Tea will be a trip on the Belle of Louisville (lunch included). Steamboat travel and transportation revolutionized the river, Louisville, and our nation. To board the Belle of Louisville is to do more that to see Louisville and the Ohio River from a unique perspective – it's also a step onto a piece of American history.

Transportation arrangements for our members to visit Downtown Louisville have been made. Louisville is a city full of culture and compassion. For the "Foodie," Louisville is ranked among the top 10 best new food cities; if Bourbon gets your engine running try the world's only Urban Bourbon 'city-wide' experience; and for the kid in all of us, visit the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory or the Muhammad Ali Center. These are just a few things to do. Hop on the *LouLift*, free downtown transportation, and you can see everything else the downtown area has to offer.

The Welcome Mixer will be done differently in 2020. We will be taking you to Churchill Downs for a little night racing, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and maybe a little gambling at the slot machines. Don't forget to pack your derby hat!

A permanent replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall is in the Elizabethtown Nature Park. The project is an 80 percent scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. Our Fort Knox Chapter played an integral role in making this project happen and we are making it possible for our members to visit this memorial.

As usual, we will have all our planned events in the Crowne Plaza: War Era Lunches, Unit Lunches, Purple Heart Breakfast, Association Banquet, Group Breakfasts, and Memorial Service. We will have meetings of the Chapter Presidents, Foundation and Museum Foundation Trustees, the Board of Governors and our General Membership meeting. During our General Membership meeting on Saturday morning, we will hold elections for the Association and both Foundations.

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

Cavalry casual attire is appropriate for all reunion events. We are always questioned about attire for the banquet. Wear what you feel comfortable wearing; a coat and tie, your uniform (if it still fits), casual clothing with open collar, jeans, or shorts. We want you to attend and aren't overly concerned with what you wear, so long as it isn't indecent!

The Association will provide a Reunion Room in the Crowne Plaza for you to gather together and enjoy yourself. Drinks (beer and wine) in the Reunion Room are free but we ask that you generously donate to help us pay for this room. The Reunion Room will open daily at 0900 with the bar opening at 1200 hours.

The Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Shop will set up a store in the hotel to sell all kinds of Cav-tastic First Team merchandise including shirts, hats, Stetsons, pins, decals and other items too numerous to mention.

THE BEST PART OF THE REUNION

As always, the best part of any reunion is the people that attend. The 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion brings in Troopers from almost every era of the First Team's history. Troopers that rode horses, fought in the Pacific with MacArthur, occupied Japan, fought in Korea, or stood watch on the DMZ will

spend time with the Sky Troopers of Vietnam and the Troopers from Operation Desert Storm, Fort Hood, Bosnia, and the latest combat Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The equipment and terrain might be different, but the common bond of serving with America's First Team binds us together. Saddle up and ride on down to Louisville in 2020!

OFFICIAL NOTICE
ELECTION OF OFFICERS – REUNION 2020

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

The President has appointed a nominating committee to recommend Life Members of the Association for election or re-election to fill the terms of office for the following positions that become vacant as of 12 June 2020:

- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- 3rd Vice President
- One Foundation Trustee
- One Museum Foundation Trustee
- Ten Places on the Board of Governors

Any Life member of the Association, including an incumbent, who wishes to be considered by the nominating committee for one of these positions, should forward a letter to the Chairman, 2020 Nominating Committee, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703, requesting consideration for nomination to the specific office. The Nominating Committee must receive all requests no later than 15 April 2020 to assure sufficient time for processing and full consideration. Requests must be accompanied by appropriate documentation that includes proof of service with the 1st Cavalry Division (e.g., a DD214 or equivalent) and a biographical sketch. The biographical sketch needs to outline the applicant's full name and provide ranks, dates of service and units assigned to in the 1st Cavalry Division. Additionally, it needs to provide the dates and positions for any offices held at National or Chapter level in the Association and similar information for any other Veteran's organizations the applicant belongs to. Any instances of special support for Association programs should also be included if applicable.

The election will be held during the General Membership meeting at the 73rd Annual Reunion of the Association on Saturday 12 June 2020 in Louisville, KY. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. A Life Member making such nomination will be expected to provide the information outlined above on the nominee and in addition provide assurance that the nominee is either present at the General Membership meeting or has agreed to accept nomination to the specified office.

Cut off date to pre-order your shirt is 15 March 2020
73rd Annual 1st Cav Assn Reunion T-shirts

Adult Sizes Only

Pre-order
YOURS today!!

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> S | Please indicate quantities in boxes. | \$17.95 each S-XL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> M | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> L | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> XL | (2XL & 3XL Add \$2.00) | \$19.95 each +S/H= Total |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL | | |

Shipping Chart:
1 Shirt @ \$8.00
2-8 Shirts @ \$14.50
9+ @ \$20.00

*To have the merchandise shipped, please use the chart to determine rates. No shipping for merchandise picked up at the reunion.



Description: Shirt will be 50/50 grey
Logo on the left chest as well as full-color imprint on the back.

☐ Please check box if you plan to pick up shirt @ Reunion

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Reunion T-shirts will NOT ship prior to 01 May 2020.

Phone _____
E-mail _____

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Visa ☐ M/C ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card Number _____
CVD# _____ Exp Date MO/YR _____
Signature _____

Please mail order form to:
Crossed Sabers Souvenir Shop
PO Box 5774, Ft Hood, TX 76544

Please visit our website at @ shop.1CDA.org to order online or view clearer artwork.



below. You can order your 18" slugger replica on your order form for \$6.50 each.

However they will not be available until the **2020 reunion**. If you place an order, you will pick up your bat along with your tickets at registration. We're sorry, but unfortunately we will not be able to ship out any bats for any reason, to include unforeseen cancellations.

Night at the Races (Welcome Mixer) will be at Church Hill Downs on Millionaires Row! Don't miss out...Purchase YOUR tickets NOW!

This is the **L o u i s v i l l e Slugger Souvenir** that you see on your 2020 Reunion form

The **Downtown Louisville Trip (#1 & #3)** can be whatever you want it to be. There is a lot to see and do. There are museums, restaurants, distilleries, and shopping. It's a great opportunity to see the sites and what the area has to offer.

The **Elizabethtown Trip (#2)** is a trip the Fort Knox Chapter has organized. It's to visit the permanent 80% scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It's about a 40-minute drive.

<<https://www.touretown.com/listing/vietnam-veterans-memorial-wall/261/>>

For more information on Louisville, KY, visit the city's Convention and Visitors Bureau website. *See ya'll in Louisville!*

<<https://www.gotolouisville.com/visitor-center/>>

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 73rd REUNION, 10-14 June 2020
Louisville Kentucky

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10

0900-1800 Registration Desk Open
0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
1200-UTC Downtown Louisville

THURSDAY JUNE 11

0800-0900 Museum Fnd Mtg
0910-1010 Foundation Mtg
0900-1800 Registration Desk Open
0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
1100-1500 Trip to Elizabethtown, KY
2000-2200 "Night at the Races"
(Welcome Mixer)

FRIDAY JUNE 12

0900-1800 Registration Desk Open
0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
0900-1100 Board of Governor's Mtg
1100-1400 Ladies Tea (Belle of Louisville)
1100-1400 War Era Luncheons
1500-UTC Downtown Louisville

SATURDAY JUNE 13

0730-0845 Purple Heart Breakfast
0900-1100 General Membership Mtg
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
0900-1600 Registration Desk Open
0900-1600 Souvenir Shop Open

SATURDAY cont'd

1100-1130 Chapter Presidents Mtg
1200-1400 Unit Luncheons
1500-1600 Veterans Benefits Briefing
1745-1845 Cocktails (Cash Bar)
1900-2230 Association Banquet

SUNDAY JUNE 14

0700-0830 Group Breakfast
0700-0830 LRRP/Ranger Breakfast
0900-1000 Memorial Service (Long Roll Muster)

Mail to: 1st Cavalry Division Assn. Reunion, 302 N. Main, Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

Cancellations must be received by 5:00pm Friday, May 15, 2020 in our office (254-547-6537) for a refund. **No Refunds after May 15, 2020.** Seating at some functions is limited.

Are you a member of 1CDA	Yes	No	Registration Fee (Members):	1	\$20.00	\$_____
First Reunion?	Yes	No	Louisville Slugger Souvenir:	_____	\$6.50	\$_____
Name: _____			After May 18, 2020:	1	\$40.00	\$_____
Address: _____			Active Duty w/ID:	1	\$10.00	\$_____
City/State/Zip: _____						
Phone #: _____			<u>WEDNESDAY June 10</u>			
Email: _____			Trip #1 Downtown Louisville	_____	\$10.00	\$_____
Unit(s): #1 _____			<u>THURSDAY June 11</u>			
Year(s): #1 _____			Trip #2 Elizabethtown, KY	_____	\$20.00	\$_____
Unit(s): #2 _____			Welcome Mixer (Cash Bar)	_____	\$35.00	\$_____
Year(s): #2 _____						
			<u>FRIDAY June 12</u>			
Name of Gold Star Fam Mem: _____			War Lunch (Circle one)	_____	\$27.00	\$_____
Guest/Spouse/Other: _____			Kor V Cambodia GWOT			
#1: _____			Ladies Tea (includes lunch)	_____	\$40.00	\$_____
#2: _____			Trip #3 Downtown Louisville	_____	\$10.00	\$_____
#3: _____						
#4: _____			<u>SATURDAY June 13</u>			
#5: _____			Purple Heart Breakfast	_____	\$25.00	\$_____
#6: _____			Unit Lunch (Circle one)	_____	\$27.00	\$_____
			5C 7C 8C 9C 12C			
			W ARTY HQ LRRP ENG			
<u>Method of Payment:</u> (circle one)			Assoc Banquet (Circle one)	_____	\$48.00	\$_____
Credit Card	Check: # _____		5C 7C 8C 9C 12C			
			W ARTY HQ LRRP ENG			
			<u>SUNDAY June 14</u>			
CC#: _____			Group Breakfast	_____	\$25.00	\$_____
Exp Date: _____			LRRP Breakfast	_____	\$25.00	\$_____
CVV#: _____						
Signature: _____			Saber Renewal (\$10 per year)	_____		\$_____
			Donation			\$_____
			Grand Total			\$_____

CHAPTER NEWS UPDATES

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

Submission deadline to appear in the next *Saber* is **Monday, March 2, 2020**. Please send to Karleen at Memberships@1CDA.org or mail to 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522, Attn: Karleen. Your Chapter Thanks you for your submission!

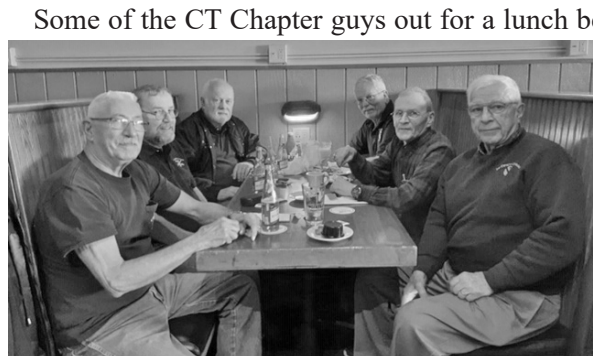
ATTENTION CHAPTER PRESIDENTS:

There will be a Chapter Presidents Meeting Sat, June 13, 11:00-11:30am at the 73rd Reunion in Louisville, KY.

We highly encourage all Presidents & VP's attend.

It is recommended that you start collecting your ideas to present them to the other Chapters. See you there!

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



Some of the CT Chapter guys out for a lunch between general chapter meetings. The next general chapter meeting will be in **April**, date & time is not yet determined. All members and prospective members are always invited to attend. Contact: President Keith Moyer: **860-537-1716** or [<kpmoyerco@hotmail.com>](mailto:kpmoyerco@hotmail.com).

CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER



Ch Pres does a promo for Army-Navy Game.

We had a couple of our members do promotions for the Army-Navy Game since the Army Team wore 1st Cavalry Division on their uniforms. Unfortunately, our efforts failed to motivate Army enough to win the game.

The Chapter has scheduled our Stable calls for 2020, the first one was conducted on 23 January at the Copperas Cove VFW and on **February 27th** we will be at the Temple VFW 1820; and on

March 26 we will be at the Killeen VFW 9191. Stable Call in **April** will be on the **23rd** at the Belton VFW 4008 and **May 28th** will be in Harker Heights VFW 3892. We won't have a Stable Call in June but hope many of our members will be heading to Louisville, KY for the Annual Reunion. Please come out and enjoy the comradery. Stetsons and Spurs are welcome!

Our **March** Stable Call (**26th** at Killeen VFW 9191) will include a Chapter business meeting and we will conduct elections for all officer positions. If you are interested in a position, please submit your name to the association Chapter president by **1 March 2020**. Take care, and God Bless! First Team! Chapter President, Tim Hodge. **254-718-4533** or [<tim@allaboutinsurance.com>](mailto:tim@allaboutinsurance.com).

JAMES J. MASON WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Our final Bingo for 2019 was held at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans on 29 Dec. This marked the 4th time that we hosted Bingo this past year and we are looking forward to having more fun with the residents in 2020. With all the construction going on, it is sometimes a challenge to properly execute the calling because we are now in the dining room with poor acoustics and sight lines to the numbers called board. Even with all of this going on the residents really enjoy their Bingo and keep us on our toes with calling and verification for a winning card.

The declining health of the once vibrant residents gives us pause to reflect and to give thanks for what we still have. Our next Bingo will be on **29 Mar 20**. Currently we are not holding meetings because of declining membership, however for more information on our chapter please Contact Bob Anderson at **616-890-9891** or e-mail him at [<rj.anderson2243@comcast.net>](mailto:rj.anderson2243@comcast.net). First Team!

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY CHAPTER



On November 7, New York-New Jersey Chapter President Bob Arbasetti and Chapter member Joseph Holloway attended a White House ceremony, where President Donald Trump awarded the late Rick Rescorla the Presidential Citizen's Medal.

Holloway, presidential aide, Arbasetti helped save the lives of nearly 2700 people at World Trade Center on the morning of September 11, 2001. During the attack on the Twin Towers, Rick Rescorla ignored the advice to shelter people in place and instead aided in their efforts to escape to safety. He did not however, join in the evacuation, he continued working to save lives until the tower collapsed, killing him.

In attendance were Rick's wife Susan Rescorla, children, family, friends, former Vietnam Veterans, comrades, Rick's platoon mates, including Joseph Holloway, who served as a medic in Rick's Recon platoon. Also, in attendance were members of the NYC Fire Department, Medal of Honor recipients and some local NJ politicians, in all about 200 people.

The day's events were coordinated by the National Foundation of Patriotism who provided buses from the Crowne Plaza hotel in Arlington to the White House. After the ceremony, all guests returned to the Crowne Plaza where there were guest speakers and dinner was served. A gift packet, which included a commemorative challenge coin, was given to mark the special occasion.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

In the true Cav spirit, four members of the Northwest Chapter stepped forward at the Christmas meeting to take board positions that were being vacated with no identified replacements. Without the minimum number of board members, the Northwest Chapter would have ceased to exist. But now, thanks to these Troopers, the 1CD Northwest Chapter lives on!

Our board members for 2020 - 2022 are: President – Gail Porter; Vice President – Clayton Waldron; Secretary – Vacant (William Jackson performing duties until filled) ; Treasurer – William Jackson Chaplain – Doug Coles

William would certainly appreciate someone stepping up for Secretary, as he is already the Treasurer and could use some help.

Meetings will continue **1st Saturday on even months, noon** at Carr's Restaurant. It's in Tacoma at 11006 Bridgeport Way. The meeting starts at noon, but the camaraderie begins soon as you get there! Hope to see you at our next meeting on **April 4, 2020**. For current information regarding our events and or to contact us, please visit us on Facebook ([fb.com/1cdanw](https://www.facebook.com/1cdanw)). Contact Gail Porter **(360) 265-6216** [<blueplate545@gmail.com>](mailto:blueplate545@gmail.com) for more information.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER



Rocky Mountain Chapter in Colorado Springs, Colorado, recognizes members with the "Hard Charger Award" and presentation of an engraved saber and certificate signed by Robert Stauffacher, President, and Paul Lemieux, Vice President.

The latest member to receive the award is MSG Tom Norris. He served as a Tank Platoon Sergeant at Fort Hood, TX where three of the platoons in his company were the first to qualify for Tank Table 8 and Tank Table 12 recognition. MSG Norris served as a Master

Gunner at Fort Knox, KY and also in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. MSG Norris retired in 1992.

Rocky Mountain Chapter holds its meetings on the **2nd Saturday of each month, 9:00am** at Valley Hi Golf Club, 610 South Chelton Road, Colorado Springs, CO, and always welcomes new members. For more information, please call Paul Lemieux, Vice President, at 719-687-1169.

At the November breakfast, President Robert Stauffacher announced that as the last surviving founding member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter and eleven years as president, he had decided to step down. He placed into nomination CPT Brian Michaud. The nomination was brought to a Chapter vote and approved. CPT Michaud assumed the presidency at the January 2020 breakfast.

SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY CHAPTER

Distinguished Chapter Member (and Chicago radio personality) Paul Brian acted as master of ceremonies at our annual Christmas Party well attended by 75+ members and guests.

2020 Meeting dates: February 8 / May 16 / Picnic August 8 / October 10 / Christmas Party December 5. Meeting events are typically held at the Roselle American Legion Post #1084, 322 East Maple Ave, Roselle, IL 60172. Our Sheridan Chapter cordially invites anyone who served or was attached at any year with the 1st Cav to join our group.

Contact Terry Hodous POC at **773-445-1213** or [<us67-hodo@outlook.com>](mailto:us67-hodo@outlook.com) for additional information regarding membership or attending our future events.

NEW FORMING CHAPTER FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST



Steve Verrigni, Robert Adkins, Ray Skipper, Michael Johnny, Sam Berninger and the wives

Florida's First Coast Chapter met informally in December for lean meat bison burgers and Christmas fellowship. We are hopeful to receive our formal board recognition after the Board of Governors meeting that takes place at the end of February. We have members with service eras from WWII to GWOT and one Silver Star among us. By vote, we will continue meeting at the American Legion

Post on San Juan Avenue as being hospitable and with a full-service menu. Our outreach area includes Ormond Beach, St. Augustine, Palatka, and other often missed towns like Waldo, Starke, Sanderson, and Yulee. Local contact phone is **904-534-8899**. Watch the Monday Florida Times Union newspaper, Veterans section, for meeting updates.

When there are changes in your Chapter Leadership, it is pertinent you let your Chapter Coordinator, Karleen Maloney aware. Her email is Memberships@1CDA.org

CHAPTER INDEX

**ALMOST HEAVEN
WEST VIRGINIA**
POC: Jim Hays
713 Diamond St.
P.O. Box 97
French Creek, WV 26218-0097
(304) 924-6380
Email: purplehays_05@yahoo.com
Facebook: Almost Heaven Chapter
1st Cavalry Division Association-
West Virginia

**CALIFORNIA
CENTRAL COAST**
Pres: Barney B. Jones
P.O. Box 444
Pebble Beach, CA 93953
(831) 917-5952
Email: firstcav-cc-chapter@outlook.com

COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE
Pres: Terry Low
16560 S Harding Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045-9679
(503) 210-5558
Email: tangolima2505@comcast.net
Website: www.Hood2Hood1stCav.
webs.com
Meets 1200 2nd Thurs of ea mos at
the Bomber Restaurant, 13515 SE
McLoughlin Blvd, Portland, OR.
No meeting in Dec.

CONNECTICUT
Pres: Keith Moyer
48 Boretz Rd.
Colchester, CT 06415-1009
(860) 537-1716
Email: kpmoyerco@hotmail.com
Website: www.ConnCav.com
Facebook: CTCav
Meeting info in newsletter and on
webpage.

CROSSED SABERS
Pres: Tim Hodge
(254) 718-4533
Email: allabout_insurance@sbcglob-
al.com
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division
Association Crossed Saber Chapter
Stable Calls: 4th Thurs of ea mos,
6pm, various local VFW's.
General Membership meeting is 3rd
Thurs of Mar & Sept at 6pm, place
TBD.

FLORIDA
Pres: Ferd Gardiner Jr.
2290 W Tall Oaks Dr.
Beverly Hills, FL 34465
(407)-473-8407
Email: fgardiner@cfl.rr.com
VP: Gill Harris
(585) 704-2758
Facebook: Florida Chapter 1st
Cavalry Division Association
Meets 1300 2nd Tues of ea mos at
VFW Post 2093, 4444 Edgewater
Dr, Orlando

**FLORIDA TROOP E
“BLACK HAT”**
Pres: Juan Kellog
607 SE 47th St., Apt. 7
Cape Coral, FL 33904-5506
Email: juankellog@embarqmail.com
POC: Johnnie Robertson
2641 Ashwood St.
Fort Myers, FL 33901-0910
(239) 265-1509
Website: www.seahog.org/cav/
index.html
Meets 4th Sat ea mos from Sept.-
May 1:00 pm at Biggys Place, 3701
Fowler St., Fort Myers, FL 33901

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

FORT KNOX AREA
Pres: Thomas Ken O’Barr
12210 Valley Dr.
Goshen, KY 40026-9501
(502) 228-8032
Email: ko42@bellsouth.net
POC: Larry A. Whelan
2103 Winston Ave.
Louisville, KY 40205-2535
(502) 439-6454
Email: whelan1@outlook.com
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Div Fort
Knox Area Chapter
Meets 3rd Sat of mos at 1100 at the
Barker Masonic Lodge, 705 Main
St., West Point, KY.

**JAMES H. UNRUH
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**
Pres: Michael T. Mazzaro
2600 Willow St. Pike North
PMB 231
Willow Street, PA 17584
(717) 389-1000
Email: cenpenn1cda@gmail.com
Meets on 1st Tuesday of odd number
months at 6pm, at the Lititz VFW
Post 1463, 14 N. Spruce St., Lititz,
PA 17543

**JAMES J. MASON
WEST MICHIGAN**
POC: Bob Anderson
9030 Conservancy Dr. NE
Ada, MI 49301-8822
(616) 682-5446
Email: rj.anderson2243@comcast.net
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 .

JUMPING MUSTANGS 1-8 Cav
Pres: Harvey Auger
4825 King Arthur Dr
Charlotte, NC 28277-0052
(704) 321-2011
E-mail: ltauger@aol.com
POC: James C. Knafel
5510E - 500 South
Columbia City, IN 46725-7621
(260) 244-3864
Email: jjknafel@gmail.com
Website: www.JumpingMustangs.com

KETTLE MORaine
Pres: Gordon Weidner
1219 Cleveland Ave.
Racine, WI 53405-2929
(262) 637-3835
POC: Robert Richter
W204 N11945 Goldendale Rd.
Germantown, WI 53022-2321
(262) 628-8056
Meetings held at 3-month intervals
with a banquet dinner in Dec when
elections are held.

**LOS ANGELES/
ORANGE COUNTY**
Pres: John Guillory
780 Mandevilla Way
Corona, CA 92879-8251
(951) 278-3740
Email: fisheye1@sbcglobal.net
Vice Pres: John Burgner
228 South Hacienda St.
Anaheim, CA 92804-2569
(714) 535-0737
Email: jburgner@sbcglobal.net
Meets 0900 on 3rd Sat. of mo. at
American Legion Post 132, 143 S
Lemon St., Orange CA 92866



**LRRP/RANGER of the 1st Cav
Division during the Vietnam War**
Pres: Robert J. Raab Sr.
725 Tuttle
Mason, MI 48854
(517) 525-0747
Email: RJBarsr@yahoo.com
Website: www.lrrprangers.com
Full chapter meeting during Re-
unions.

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY
Pres: Bob Arbasetti
973A Thornbury Ln.
Manchester, NJ 08759-5296
(732) 657-4284
Email: b.arbasetti@gmail.com
Facebook: New York New Jersey
Cavalry
Instagram: NYNJcavalry
Meets at Elk Lodge at Cedar and
Spruce, Ridgefield Park, NJ.

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

NORTHWEST
Pres: Gail Porter
6791 Jasper PL SE
Port Orchard, WA 98367-9038
(360) 265-6216
Email: Blueplate545@gmail.com
POC: William Al Jackson
9703 Vantage Terrace CT SE
Olympia, WA 98513
(360) 539-8110
Email: williamaljackson@comcast.net
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division
Association-Northwest Chapter
Meets 1st Sat of even months, 12pm
at Carr's Restaurant, 11006 Bridge-
port Way SW, Lakewood, WA

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Pres: Brian Michaud
6798 Sandyford Land
Colorado Springs, CO 80923-7660
(270) 392-9987
POC: Paul Lemieux
PO Box 6548
Woodland Park, CO 80866-6548
(719) 687-1169
Email: lemieuxpe@live.com
Meets 9am 2nd Sat of mos at Valley
Hi Country Club, 610 South Chel-
ton Road, Colorado Springs, CO.

**SHERIDAN’S CAVALRY
(Greater Chicago Area)**
Pres: Don Smolinski 630-841-1452
POC: Terry Hodous
3718 W 114th Place
Chicago, IL 60655-3414
(773) 445-1213
Email: us67-hodo@outlook.com
Website: www.sheridansfirstcav.com
Facebook: Sheridan’s Chapter 1st
Cavalry Division
Meets at the American Legion Post
#1084, 322 E. Maple Ave, Roselle,
IL 61072.
2019 Meeting Dates: Feb 9, April
13, June 15, Aug 10 Picnic, Oct 12,
Dec 7 Xmas party

**WALTER H. WESTMAN
NORTHLAND**
Pres: Donald A. Delsing
3697 Gresham Ave. N.
Oakdale, MN 55128-3212
(651) 770-5422
Email: dandmdelsing@aol.com
POC: James D. Wright
12781 Able St. NE
Blaine, MN 55434-3261
(763) 757-7140
Email: 1stCav-MN@comcast.net
Facebook: Walter H West-
man-Northland Chapter 1st Cavalry
Division Association
Meets quarterly at different loca-
tions. Call or write for information.

**WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON
NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION**
Pres: Gene Russell
7923 Jansen Dr.
Springfield, VA 22152-2413
(703) 220-5322
Email: enrussell@msn.com
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division
Nat’l Capitol Region
Meets 3rd Sat of the mos Jan-Apr
and Sep-Oct 9am 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
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Plan now to attend the 73rd Annual Reunion of the
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Don't miss the Welcome Mixer at Church Hill Downs!

Details and registration form are on
pages 12 and 13 of this issue of *Saber*,

or for your convenience register online at www.1CDA.org!

From the
Director's Desk

Office of 1CDA

WE SUPPORT

UNITED STATES ARMY

SOLDIER FOR LIFE

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

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

Why is this important to the Association?

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

The next *Saber* newspaper is the
March/April 2020 edition.

Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is
Monday, March 2, 2020

Please email to Programs@1CDA.org

**Want to see your name in the *Saber* under
the Honor Roll?**

Honor Roll privileges are given to members who make a \$25 or more D Trooper donation, donation to the Association, or scholarship donations to the IaDrang or the Foundation.
Please Consider!

2020 CALENDAR DONATIONS

Thank you to our following members who have donated \$100 or more towards our 2020 calendar:
Contributions made between Nov 1, 2019 - Jan 9, 2020

MS. ALBERTS, Davida	\$100
SP-4 ARENA, Salvatore	\$100
SP-4 BENSON, Richard	\$200
MAJ DANZEISER, David	\$100
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COL (RET) VOSSEN, Francis	\$100

Hope you are enjoying your 2020 calendar!
Calendar donations keep this program operational.
Without your donations we are unable to continue this program.
Thank you to all our members that support this program!

Since 1CDA is a non-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of our members like **YOU**, we ask you to consider a donation to our scholarships.
The Association can only achieve its goals with the assistance of generous donations. Without these donations, serving our Soldiers, their Families and Veterans would not be possible.

Thank you to our committed & steadfast membership!

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

A donation to the FOUNDATION of the 1st Cavalry Division Association helps a student achieve their educational goals and is an investment in the future of America.

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When I had gotten no information from anyone, I had asked about who invited D 1-5 Cav Platoon Leader Joel Chase to the 15th MED Assn Reunion, I just asked Joel himself. Joel said it was Tom Atgarnella,

whom Joel had been an instructor for at Ft. Benning Infantry OCS. I wondered what Tom, as an infantry officer was doing in the 15th Medical Battalion, so I researched his email and contacted him.

Tom Atgarnella got back to me and said, "Yes, I certainly and proudly know Joel. He is one of the five most important men in my life. Do you know the Ft. Benning and FSB Buttons story for the two of us?"

"I was already to be commissioned as a 2nd LT, Infantry but when that day came, I was commissioned as a 2nd LT Medical Service Corps. When I went to Nam, I was assigned to the 15th Med Bn, Company B, First Air Cav, Jan 70 to Jan 71. Became a 1LT. First six months at FSB Buttons and then remainder of time at HHC, Phouc Vinh. I was a 3506 which was sort of an administrative/logistics type of guy. Worked alongside such fine men as: CPT Jon Lundquist, Richard Schroder, Rich Leonard, and CPT Dean Stoller. It was Stoller who helped me 'find' Joel after 45 years or so."

I emailed Tom a lot of questions. He replied, "It's been fifty years, just call me."

So, I called Tom and we spoke at length. He said at the time when he graduated from OCS the Army wanted infantry minded officers to be MSC (Medical Service Corps) Officers. Tom said he had the qualifications the Army was looking for, both mentally and physically, so he got that commission.

Tom said he had grown up in the San Fernando Valley in Southern California. I remarked that I too lived there about the same time, we both in Van Nuys, and I later in Granada Hills. I was there from ages four to seven, and Tom was much older. My father worked for the VA at Wadsworth and Sepulveda, then took a Chief Physical Therapist opening at Leeds, MA, and I was there until I joined the Army in 1968. Tom said something about moving to Montana with his mother. After the Army Tom said that he taught school in Beverly Hills, CA. This could be the reason he is a good communicator and listener.

I had mentioned in past columns SGT Howard Anderson from my platoon in C 2-7 Cav. Mainly, because he was my influence to extend for six months after I had DEROSed to fly on MEDEVAC, because he was so impressed with the way they had come in for us to pick up our wounded. Howard had a unique way of looking at things and he always kept us spirited in the platoon.

Howard told us that when he was in Infantry AIT at Ft. Lewis, WA, being sent to Vietnam with that MOS concerned him so he asked his sergeant how it would be. Howard said his sergeant told him he should be OK unless he got in the 1st Cav. To probably allay him some, his sergeant told him, "They could make you a clerk." So, here's Howard with some optimism about his future. He gets to Nam at the Replacement Center and his orders say "15th Admin," so he thinks, "Yeah, they're going to make me a clerk!"

Well, all who were in the 1st Cav know that the 15th Admin was the 1st Cav's replacement center. With a critical 11B MOS Howard found his dream of being a clerk went up with the smoke of the battlefield.

So, here's Howard as a lowly infantryman wanting to survive as a clerk. And here's Tom, who was destined to be an infantry officer with a very questionable survival rate but ends up as a clerk.

Tom said that he was in the emergency room at 15th MED on FSB Buttons in Song Be when the casualties came in from FSB David in June 1970. Tom said he saw Joel come in very badly wounded and was so affected that he had to tell the doctor that he had to leave. It was very emotional for him.

I got a telephone call on the morning of December 5th from **Ronnie Mays** who was ecstatic because he had read my column. Ronnie said that he was at FSB David throughout that fight. He was in C 2-19 Artillery, which were 105 mm howitzers. We talked for a good hour. I asked a lot of questions, and he answered them all, and told me a lot.



FSB David ammo resupply 1970

in the tactical center when the trip flare went off and he went to the berm with a couple of guys. He says he was hit with several pieces of shrapnel and took a bullet through his upper thigh. He crawled over to the mortar pit and applied pressure to his wrist area where the main artery was cut. Larry says it seemed like forever before the firing stopped and he was carried to the triage area. Larry says he was originally with C 2-19 Artillery, but a month earlier took an assignment carrying the radio for the infantry. Ronnie says that would have been for the artillery FO in the infantry unit.

Ronnie said that he saw everything. He said that the aid station area was littered with the wounded who had been treated by the doctor and were wrapped in the plastic like Dr. Walker said. Ronnie told me, "I don't know how they did it because the place was soaked in with fog but a MEDEVAC came in and hovered over the aid station but was taking so much fire it had to leave." No one else said anything like this. I asked Ronnie if that wasn't the MEDEVAC



Ammo drop FSB David



Mays with resupplied ammo FSB David

driving down to the 1st Cav Reunion in Louisville will not be far and plans to go.

I asked Ronnie what he did after he got out of the Army and he said that he was a machinist. Because I had been a machinist, I knew of the Cincinnati CNC mills with which he said he worked. Ronnie said that he had gotten Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma due to Agent Orange which he beat with chemotherapy, but the side effects of the chemo still bother him. Not everyone who were treated for that with chemotherapy survived.

Ronnie said that he got in country in Vietnam in December of 1969. He said he was originally on LZ-FSB Ike but went to many other places after that. He said he lost count. He said that when the Cambodian Incursion happened, they were sent up to Loc Ninh and attached to the 11th ACR. When they went across the border C 2-19 Artillery was flown up to where they were at FSB North. Ronnie said, "I never saw so many tracks!"

Ronnie said that they eventually went up to FSB David. He agreed with me and said the rolling green hills there were beautiful. He said it reminded him of Oklahoma, which he should know well, going through Ft. Sill in Artillery AIT.



Montagnard village: Lower left kneeling with children FSG Curtis Prescott. Standing behind with Montagnards, R. Mays.

Ronnie said that before the attack at FSB David his battery went out on a MEDCAP and met some Montagnards, who were nice people. He said they hated the NVA and said that on another visit their elders said that some drunken NVA had come, took from them what the Americans had given to them, and were bragging about how they were ordered to kill everyone on that firebase.

I had put Joel Chase in touch with Ronnie. I never heard from Joel about him but when I had to talk to Ronnie again, he said Joel had contacted him. He said that Joel asked him how they were able to shoot out and not hit any of them. Ronnie told me they set up quadrants and would, believe it or not, yell

"Look out!" like down in front.

Ronnie told me that after the battle at FSB David they were told to pack up, that they were leaving. Ronnie said that just before they left his first sergeant told them to unpack, that they had to stay overnight. This was not good news, as you can imagine.

Ronnie said that there was another company of grunts from 1-5 Cav that stayed with part of his battery on the then abandoned FSB. Ronnie said that there were also NVA beyond them who all night fired recoilless rounds (RPG-B40s) at them. They managed to kill one grunt whom Ronnie said was in a hammock. Ronnie said that it was thanks to Puff the Magic Dragon, a gunship that kept the NVA off them until they finally left the next morning.

Ever since I was first contacted by **Joel Chase**, we have been trying to find out who had MEDEVACed him-how he went out. Joel at one point said that he and the E 1-5 Cav CO concurred that he went out on the hook. Then, Joel more recently one day told me that it was MEDEVAC pilot Henry Tuell, and Medic Dan Brady who brought him in. When I asked where he got that information, Joel said he was told that by Terry McCarl in the 15th MED Assn. Terry gave Joel Henry Tuell's email address and Joel made contact. Okie said, "Joel, fairly certain I flew this mission. Remember a hook coming in after one of our runs to take out some walking wounded. With a thousand hours of combat flight time in a year the missions blur. Am impressed with some of the crew guys that remember many of the flights. Am going to try to make the reunion in Idaho in April. We spend February and March in Arizona riding horses so will depend on getting back to Montana in time. Keep smiling, **Hank**."

Still, that was nothing conclusive to Joel. I asked him if he contacted Dan Brady, and as Medic would have hands on, if Joel was on board. Joel said "Yes, I have been in contact with Dan Brady, and he says he doesn't recall 'walking wounded' on his lift-Okie probably meant the walking wounded went out on the hook when he saw them come in. However, he does recall one severely wounded Troop who could have been me as I was in serious condition on a stretcher. That was the first bird out of David and then the hook landed as I understand it. Dr. Walker could probably clear this up if he would return my calls left on his phone."

Then, right after he sent that to me Joel emailed, "Mike, you aren't going to believe this, but I just got off the phone with Jon Walker! He remembers my situation and indicated I was in bad condition. We had a half hour conversation which brought tears to my eyes because it's kind of filled a void in my life and answered some questions about why I am still alive today. It simply wasn't my time to die and Dr. Walker had a significant role in enabling me to turn 75 this year in relatively good health. Dr. Walker confirmed that I went out on the Huey piloted by Hank Tuell and medic Dan Brady. Case solved."

Always remembering our 1st Cav Troops on duty around the world; over and out.

FIRST TEAM! Garryowen, Mike Bodnar C 2/7 Cav 1969

MEDEVAC 1-7/1970

SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE

20th and 79th Artillery Regiment News



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IT'S A NEW DAY: Happy New Year! This is our New Year! Here is a question asked of many confirmation students in Liturgical Churches, "Where is tennis mentioned in The Bible?" Some of the students get it right. The answer is "And he served in the King's Court!" It gets better. "Where is baseball mentioned in The Bible? Well, a play on words leads us to Genesis 1:1, where it says, "In the beginning!" Stretched a bit we can say it and get, "In the Big Inning!" If read today with the entrance of the year 2020, we do have a new beginning. A new decade has arrived, and one with some themes that can help us benefit from its new start.

When looking in hindsight, we find that we all have 20/20 vision. We can see our past mistakes and shortcomings. So, we take on 2020 with a New Vision for our Association.

A CHALLENGE: We could set a goal of 20 new members by December 31, 2020. Let's make it attainable and every member submit the names of at least two (2) non-member persons with whom you served in ARA to our Secretary Rodger McAlister. We then can consolidate the list to avoid duplication and send a letter or email invitation from our President Clovis Jones. I'm thinking out loud to you now. If anyone wants to contact non-members, that would be appreciated immensely! If you can help me with this 2020 vision, I'll be one happy camper! This is our chance at having a New Beginning!

UPDATE: I am sending portions of the President's Corner from our quarterly Straphanger for Jan-Mar 2020, for your information.

Dear Members, Family Members, Readers, and Guests, I trust all of you had a joyful and blessed Christmas; and here's wishing all of you a happy, healthy, blessed and prosperous 2020!!! Our 23rd annual Aerial Rocket Artillery Association Reunion is at the Holiday Inn Express, 199 East Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia; Aug 31 - Sept 4, 2020. Ann and Jerry Hipp, our hosts, are working to make this reunion a relaxing, enjoyable and memorable experience for us all. A special issue of the Straphanger will be issued with detailed reunion information and the 2020 registration form. NOTE: Our website will be down in January updating and refreshing the site. Please reach out to everyone you know that served in our history making units, and their family members to join us in Savannah. Billy Wood is performing the painstaking and diligent task of assembling an ARA Association directory so we can better reach out to, and stay connected with, those we know. I highly encourage you to respond to Billy's request for input regarding the directory. This directory is strictly in house and for membership use only. We never know when we may be in a city or county and need the expertise or knowledge of one of our members. Vice President Jim Castillo is using all means available to him and reach those who served in ARA units to invite them to join us in Savannah; and to become members. We will have ARA presence at the VHPA Reunion with a TOC, May 21 - 24, 2020 at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, CO, as a part of this outreach effort. The ARA Cobra that served in A Battery, 4/77th is being restored for exhibit in the Field Artillery Museum at Fort Sill. This restoration is near completion with wings, rocket pods, and nose turret attached. Museum Director Gordon Blaker is seeking ARA Vets in the Fort Sill Area to help with final restoration projects. Those willing to assist; please contact Gordon at the Field Artillery Museum, Phone 1-580-442-1819. Speaking of Fort Sill; there is the ongoing project to capture ARA history at the Morris Sweet Library. Please send copies of any ARA history in your possession; written or audio, to Morris Sweet Library, 730 Schimmelpfennig Road, Fort Sill, OK 73503

Again, wishing all of you a happy, healthy, blessed and prosperous New Year!!! Looking forward to seeing you in scenic, historic and relaxing Savannah!!! All the Best, **Clovis Jones, Jr.**

Clovis, thank you for your informative information. I am pleased to be a part of the ARA Association and to share in this outreach program to reach out to the hundreds of non-members. Here's hoping that the 2020 vision will see more participation. We have so much to share with all our comrades and to provide support where needed as we closed out the fifth decade and entered the sixth decade since the end of the war in Vietnam.

REUNION 2020: Get ready for some live oaks and southern hospitality! I have more news on the 2020 Reunion in Savannah, GA, Aug 31 through Sept 3. Join us in Georgia's oldest city and first capital for a truly unique experience that Ann and Jerry Hipp, our hosts, have planned. I encourage you to make your hotel reservations early by calling 1-912-231-9000 or 1-888-978-6498 and using the code "2020 ARA Reunion" to secure our \$119.00 plus tax and fees rate. Savannah is one of the most beautiful and



enjoyable cities in lower 48 and consequently a huge tourist attraction. Jerry and Ann have wisely adjusted the usual dates to avoid the high hotel rates inherent in the weekend. We will set up station at the Holiday Inn Express, Savannah Historic District, 199 East Bay Street (intersection of Bay and Abercorn) which is virtually the center north of old Savannah. Final details on reservations are still being worked out but rooms will be \$119 Sunday 8/30 through Thursday 9/3 (as opposed to \$155 on Friday 8/29 and \$195 on the following weekend 9/4 & 9/5). Savannah is worth a few extra dollars to see at leisure. The rates DO NOT include 13% taxes and a \$6 city occupancy fee. Parking is available at two nearby city garages at about \$10/night and valet parking only at the hotel for a reduced



rate of \$25. Breakfast is included and a hospitality room on the lower level have already been contracted by Herb Hirst, as well as the site of the Farewell Banquet 9/3 ("Vic's on the River" - across the street from the hotel). The Welcome Banquet will be at world renowned Mrs. Wilkes Boarding House. Mrs. Wilkes is normally open for lunch only, 5 days a week, and serves old fashioned southern food for a fixed price and in a family style (that means large dishes of food

for self-service with refills coming, as needed). This reporter has eaten there and can vouch for its quality and quantity as well as its ambiance. We have a special booking there Monday evening at 6 pm. The menu includes a dozen southern veggies, plus beef stew, pulled pork and fried chicken - ALL YOU WANT! Arrangements will be made for bus/trolley transportation to/from Mrs. Wilkes'. NOTE: Only 82 can be accommodated so it is first come/first served on the sign up. Hotel amenities include a rooftop pool overlooking the city and the Savannah River (which is right across the street from the hotel), a full service bar open every evening, use of the Hospitality Room for our annual meeting and the bar area for the Ladies meeting. Some free transportation about the city is available and the hotel is a scheduled stop for all tour companies. Dozens of restaurants are within walking distance. Reservation phone numbers, attendee codes and other information will be forthcoming expeditiously when it becomes available.

REUNION RECREATION: We are arranging for a guided trolley tour of the entire Old Historic District for those interested on Tuesday, mid-morning 9/1. The goal is to maximize the time and opportunities for sightseeing as you desire. Tuesday and Wednesday dinners are the attendee's choice and the final official meal is right across the street. Savannah is a great place to visit and wander about. River cruises are available (lunch and/or dinner buffets included) with the dock within easy walking distance. Also, the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum with tours and food is available (near Savannah Airport); several historic forts of earlier wars and Tybee Island National Seashore with lighthouse and beach, etc. There is a big nightlife, many great restaurants and ghost tours are a part of the scene. Plans for a visit to Hunter Army Airfield (in Savannah) with tour and dining hall lunch are being developed. Hunter AAF is where many of us received our Cobra certification. It is home to the Combat Aviation Brigade of the U.S. Army Third Infantry Division (currently deployed to the Middle East but with a rear detachment in place). They have an Apache Attack Helicopter Battalion (as close as anything in the modern Army to what we were), the 160th Special Operation Aviation Regiment (SOAR) and a battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment. More information will be forthcoming in future issues.

FINAL FLIGHT: I have received word from Asa Talbot, our editor of the Straphanger, of the death of CW2 Ted Rist, B/2/20 ARA, 1st Cav Div 1968. CW2 Frederick G. "Ted" Rist III was born in 1944 and grew up in Broadview Heights, Ohio. He died July 19, 2019, in Idaho. Ted graduated from North Royalton High School in 1962 and served as an Army Aviator in Vietnam, where he received the Silver Star for bravery. After his military service, he started his flying career, which included being the pilot for Nelson Rockefeller when he was vice president. He flew all over the world for Time Magazine and Sports Illustrated for many years, and the last 10 years before retiring he flew for the Boston Red Sox. Ted and his brother had the opportunity to fly fish in many parts of the world with some great friends. His three favorite things were fly fishing, upland bird hunting and playing polo. Ted was also an avid reader and in 2012, Ted published a book titled, "Mystic Dancer," which is available on Amazon, about a pilot in Southeast Asia during the war in Vietnam. The book is based on real events and the main theme is about the secret war the U.S. fought in Laos. Some of the characters are based on real people who were there at that time but have been changed to fit the story. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Be at rest in God's peace!

UNTIL NEXT TIME: The old mail bag has been very quiet around here, except for junk mail. I have very little to talk about from USPS or email correspondence. So, start those emails and letters coming this way so I can pass information along to your friends. Remember to mark your calendars for the reunion in Savannah the first week in September. I hope to see you there. Let's put **2020 Vision** to work and bring a friend for our New Beginnings.

Until next time, "This is Armed Falcon 28 Delta, breaking right!"

9th CAV NEWS Cont. from pg. 9

Bob Monette and Joe Bowen passed along news that **CW4 (Ret) Jim Goldsberry**, who flew as the squadron commander's regular pilot in 1966, passed away November 27, 2019 and was laid to rest on December 7.

Patrick Bieneman reports that **Larry Banks**, a former Delta Trooper who with his wife Millie ran the merchandise counter at multiple reunions of the old Bullwhip Squadron Association, died of a massive heart attack on Christmas Eve.

Rest in Peace, Brothers

Sick Call

Ken Brown, A Troop and Gordon Jones, C Troop

Jim Kurtz Apache 03, 1970-71

ENGINEER News



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To Start the Year: From the unlikely source of a magazine, *Progressive Farmer*, Nov 2019, p.12 comes this paraphrased advice worthy for all. "Use a telescope and microscope to create and implement a positive vision of what you want for yourself and your (farming or any) business. The telescope represents the long view of what you want to achieve. The microscope looks at the details needed to change the big picture into reality. Confront, transform and remove negativity. Get rid of energy vampires who suck life out of you or your business. Model in yourself the types of behaviors you want to see in others. Great leaders do not complain. They accomplish. Choose faith over fear. Potential negative events have not happened yet. Have faith in positive outcomes. Lead with faith and optimism that good will happen. Take a gratitude walk. Clear your mind of everything that's stressing. Choose one thing to focus on to be grateful for. You can not be stressed and blessed at the same time." Does this sound like a good way to start your personal 2020? Does this sound like a good way for our Association to operate? Does this sound like a good reason to join or start a local Chapter of our Association? Get moving!

Guys Not Forgotten: In case you are or have been looking for Guy "metal magnet" Patterson from California and Wayne Radcliffe from North Carolina, here they are. Lynn Titus kept this picture all these years. Guy and Wayne might want to call him?



Patterson and Radcliffe

2013 Honor Roll: The following persons contributed words and thoughts to this column in 2013. Steve Richey, Scott Smith, Bob Drenth, Ted Cadwallader, David Ciosek, Richard Estes, Phil Kastner, Leo Miller, Bob Carroll, Claude Parker, Bill Arasz, bobdonna2?, Gary Pinney, Roy Wood, Louie Warren, Jack Garmong, Harold Givens, Mike Miller, Lynn Titus, Frank Chaffee, Sergeant Rock>Ace High 6 India, Bob Close, Charles Baxter, Sammy Sparger, John David, Terry McCarl, Fred Collins, Phillip Blevins. Yes, you guys still reside in my saved emails. So, consider presenting yourselves in person at the 2020 Reunion. I may even have saved any pictures you sent. However, to see them again, you must contact me with a current sitrep.



Melvin Blackford

In Case You Wondered: Who the heck is Melvin Blackford who sent in those Engineer pictures last issue, here is his picture to the left. Full color does better on the internet version of *Saber*.

Hey! I'm Still Here: William Sillery read the last issue's honor roll of column contributors and said,



"I can still email and here is a picture of me and others." The others are, left to right, unknown, Savage, Sillery, Larry Strickland, unknown, Edwin "Buddy" Henry. If you are one of the unknowns, call the number at the top of this page. Sillery is looking for you.

The Value of Associations: There you are fuming over something that sticks in your craw. You wish you could do something, anything, to have your voice heard separately from the clamor of other voices. After all, you are wanting to be heard as an experienced voice, one who knows because you have seen this before. Yet you are seemingly alone. Enter an Association. And these are not just birds flocking together. You and others share values, experience, knowledge. Together the group of you have a collective, forceful voice. Where can you find such a flocking of minds? The answer is obvious. You are holding the answer in your hands as you read this. Make the effort to go to the next reunion.

Are You The Sender: Just so you know if you are the sender, all letters received at my house this time of year marked Urgent or Open Immediately in red ink are immediately and urgently contributed to the recycle bin.

Lunchtime: You have all heard about bison burgers being healthier, less fat and all that, than beef burgers. But here is a secret revealed by Les White who happened to be on the scene (see picture to the right). Seems that water buffalos, especially those found wandering around inside base camps and shot, can be an excellent source of protein. Les says the buffalo was given to the locals but I wouldn't be surprised if rib or two wound up on the mess hall grill. Rumor has it that buffalo steaks went well with some of those Korean beers that the PX had. (Call Steve Richey about his love of Kim Che beer. 714-931-3123) For the answer to that, perhaps one of you can fill in the blanks from your own knowledge. For that matter, the picture has some interesting details that may show up better on the digital *Saber*. (Third guy from the right in cook uniform? Fourth guy from right holding back a hungry dog? Fourth guy from left has a yellow Cav patch not subdued? Who is the fifth guy from the left taking another picture? What kind of vehicle is being used for the hoist? Note the fresh water supply in bottom center, how many 55-gallon drums can you count in the background? How many guys wear watches? How many are having a smoke?) And there will be a special prize sent directly to you if you were the vehicle operator and respond to this column—see address above. In fact, this may get the picture of the year award, a Pulitzer prize in its own way.

Field Trip: Engineers get around. In this case the 204th Eng. Co from Nevada

and Romanian Engineers worked to clear debris and build a gym at the Cincu Training Area as part of Resolute Castle 19, an annual engineer exercise that bolsters military training facilities in Eastern Europe.

Something to Mull Over: Now that the last turkey scraps have been boiled into soup, you might wonder, are we alone? Greg Easterbrook did just that in the August 1988 issue of *Atlantic* magazine that I found again, its having been stuck in a bookshelf for 31 years, paper brownish now. (I confess I have matured, dropped *Atlantic* and study *National Review*.) Greg asks that question that we all have asked especially if we look at the night sky while living outside the nocturnal glare of Manhattan or LA. Are we alone? All positions concerning the origin of our existence considered, five options remain. 1. We have company. We have not found each other yet due to the constraints of unimaginable distances and the slowness of the speed of light in communicating over those distances. 2. We had company. Incredible civilizations may have arisen, flourished and worn out or perhaps in a burst of self-infliction, destroyed themselves. 3. We are alone in our galaxy. We are just now able to detect humanly habitable planets at those incredible distances, but none have been observed locally. But there are as many galaxies as there are stars in our own Milky Way. Surely, somewhere. 4. We are alone, period. It is possible and serves to remind us how precious is our self-aware existence and the need to be mindful of that very fact. 5. We are the first. We are the ones waiting, searching and hoping either in faith or fear, but nonetheless the first and expectant.

The Cave Killer Picture: Paul Harvey the well-known radio newsmen always said in his broadcast "And now the rest of the story." None other than **John (Jack) Sobol** called in to fill in some blanks about the Cave Killer picture shown a couple of issues back. Jack states that the picture was created by Bill Blackburn who was last known to be in Pompano Beach Florida. Bill always had the artist touch and used a fellow Soldier, Bookbank, as his model to include the belly button. Neil Travis was the squad leader and approved the project. The artist, Bill, and the historian, Jack, last saw each other at a welcome home parade in Chicago in the 1980's. Hopefully this column can put the two in touch again. Sobol can be called at 847-707-2117.

Another One Checks In: **David Ciosek**, who had been missing since a Reunion at Ft. Hood some years ago is looking to get his long overdue Air Medal. I sent him what feeble advice I could. Perhaps you can augment and help our fellow 12B. Contact David at <dasaint49@outlook.com>

And Another: From the midlands of New Jersey, **Bob Siemer** was visiting on the Sky Beaver page on Facebook and was wondering what ever happened to my Purple Heart? Like a lot of guys who have notified this column, Bob didn't pursue the matter at the time but now as a document for his family the pursuit has become important. Bob can be reached at 732-495-4822. Bob says hello to his fellow Trooper Ralph Webb in Columbia, SC and anyone else who went to OCS at Belvoir.

And Another: From way out California way, **Lorenzo Chavez** and I traded answer machine hello's. So, whose turn is it to try again?

And Another: From frozen Michigan **Tom Hoover**, who was with the 1/7th, called to say he knows Robert Wellmaker who was featured in the Nov/Dec issue of *Saber*. Robert was assigned to 1/7 and was called Pops by the Troops because he was an older cuss and didn't take no (body excretion) from nobody. Tom gets down to Florida ever so often to escape Michigan and see his buddies over in Naples. At any rate, Tom would be glad to talk to you. Call him at 586-549-6745.

Active Duty News: (From Ft. Hood Sentential) Fort Hood's 60-foot Christmas tree lit up the night Dec. 5 during the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in front of III Corps Headquarters. More than 300 Fort Hood Soldiers and families received a free Christmas tree Saturday during the 15th annual Trees for Troops, which provides free live trees to Soldiers worldwide. "We are giving out 327 trees today," Derrick Perry, sports director of Fort Hood's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said. "We always try to get between 300-500 trees for our Soldiers here at Fort Hood." Created by the Christmas Spirit Foundation, Trees for Troops has delivered more than 225,000 live Christmas trees to servicemen and women throughout the world. All the trees are grown on tree farms and donated by more than 800 different tree farmers. Gold Star Families from the greater Fort Hood area joined others from across the country as they boarded a flight to the "Happiest Place on Earth" for the 14th annual Snowball Express.

The Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport transformed into a winter wonderland Saturday as they partnered with the Gary Sinise Foundation and American Airlines to send Gold Star Families – immediate family members of a fallen service member who died while serving in a time of conflict – on an all-expenses paid vacation to Walt Disney World resort in Orlando. (Scribes emphasis: Note Gary Sinise)

What You Gotta Do: Ok guys, if you sit out there silently, no one will know your story. And, strange as you may think it, there are people who want to read or hear your story. So, here is what you do. Call or write me. Join or start a 1st Cav Chapter in your area. Become active in the VFW or American Legion. Do something. Don't sit on your memories. Get off your behind and go to at least one reunion.



75 YEAR

ANNIVERSARY



LIBERATION OF SANTO TOMAS

An Unprecedented Rescue written by **Angus Lorenzen**, prisoner in Santo Tomas <bacepow@earthlink.net> photos by U.S. Army Signal Corps

In a dramatic and unprecedented rescue during WWII, the 1st Cavalry raced 100 miles through enemy territory after landing on the island of Luzon in the Philippines to enter the city of Manila and rescue almost 3,800 allied civilians held prisoner by the Japanese in the infamous Santo Tomas Internment Camp on February 3, 1945. Surviving prisoners vividly remember the day that tanks crashed through the gates and engaged the guards in a fierce firefight almost 75 years ago. These survivors will be celebrating the Diamond Jubilees of liberation in February 2020.

In early 1944, the Japanese Military Police took control of the internment camp from the Japanese civilian prisoner administration, imposing stricter security, reducing quality and quantity of food, and increasing harsh treatment. The internees adapted as they grew thinner and unhealthier, frustrating the Japanese by staying upbeat and failing to break down.

In September of 1944, internee morale got a huge boost when U.S. Navy dive bombers started attacking Manila. Another boost came in October when they learned of the American landings on Leyte, another of the Philippine islands. Then in December the large Army Air Corps B-24 bombers started raiding the city, indicating American forces were moving closer, and in January 1945 Army P-51 fighters started harassing the Japanese with bombing and strafing runs in the City, sometimes just outside the walls of Santo Tomas.

By the end of January 1945, starvation was rampant with 2 or 3 people dying every day, and the Japanese executed four of the camp leaders for lack of cooperation. Conditions were grim, but news of nearby American landings gave hope that rescue would come before death.

General MacArthur's 6th Army landed on January 9, 1945 at Lingayen Gulf on the island of Luzon and started the 130-mile advance to Manila. Japanese commanding general Yamashita had assembled 250,000 troops to resist, but his strategy was to delay American Troops, dragging the battle out to provide the Japanese Home Islands more time to prepare for the inevitable Allied invasion.

The Army moved rapidly south led by the 37th Infantry Division, advancing almost halfway to Manila, where it was delayed after encountering a concentration of Japanese troops. General MacArthur was anxious to reach the POW and civilian internment camps further south because an intercepted message from Tokyo ordered local commanders to kill all prisoners before they could be liberated. He first assigned the 6th Ranger Battalion to join with guerillas to liberate the POW camp at Cabanatuan not far from the front line.

The 1st Cavalry had just arrived in Luzon on January 27 after 72 days of fighting on Leyte, and was due for R&R; but on January 30 MacArthur ordered its commander, General Mudge, "Go to Manila, go around the Nips, bounce off the Nips, but go to Manila. Rescue the prisoners at Santo Tomas and liberate the Malacañang Palace."



1st Cavalry Troopers in the Flying column frequently were met by Japanese and had to fight their way resistance through strong points.

Mudge organized an 800-man Flying Column to move as rapidly as possible to Manila without trying to hold any territory along the way, with the rest of the division following. The Flying Column was divided into three serials that would leapfrog each other. As the leading serial captured a strategic point, the other two serials would pass through, then it would break off to follow. Each serial was spearheaded by

a platoon of Sherman tanks from the 44th Tank Battalion.

At one minute after midnight on February 1, the Flying Column launched its race from Guimba, passing through the returning Rangers and the rescued POWs from the highly successful raid at Cabanatuan where more than 500 POWs had been liberated.

That first day was spent in heavy fighting south of Cabanatuan, but the column was finally able to break through the Japanese resistance and the second day moved rapidly south, sometimes going 50mph on the national highway. It did not stop to fight an entrenched enemy position but went around it and kept moving. At all times, at least 9 Marine Corps dive-bombers were overhead to provide reconnaissance and to attack enemy positions. That day, the column moved so rapidly that it ran out of fuel, and by evening had to bivouac and drain the fuel from other vehicles to provide fuel for the tanks in the perimeter guard.

Early on the third day, the fuel convoy caught up, and the column moved out again, reaching Novaliches near the outskirts of Manila in the afternoon. Here they were faced with crossing a river gorge, but the Japanese had set demolition charges on the bridge and had lit the fuses. Under intense sniper fire, a Navy demolition expert raced onto the bridge, cut the fuses, and threw the charges into the river. The bridge was theirs' and the way was open to Manila.

It was Saturday, February 3, and for the internees in Santo Tomas, another miserable day of hunger and torpor; but the routine was broken late in the morning when a single Marine dive-bomber approached the camp from the north at tree-top level and flew directly over the main building. It wasn't long before the



Battlin' Basic plays host to curious internees after liberation.

But it was by no means routine as the thunder of demolition had been heard all day and smoke was rising from points around the city. There was a feeling of tension acerbated by an unusual low-pitched rumble that could be felt rather than heard. As it became dark, flares started to light the sky when the excited internees returned to their dormitories at curfew.

The first serial of the Flying Column entered Manila at 6:35pm and headed straight for the Malacañang Palace, the seat of the peacetime Philippine government. Encountering only sniper fire, they secured it with the help of Filipino guerillas. The second serial entered Manila later and was met by a band of guerillas who led it through back streets to the main gate of Santo Tomas, arriving about 8:30. A brief firefight with guards resulted in the Colonel commanding the serial being wounded and the guerilla leader being mortally wounded. While they were being tended, the tank Battlin' Basic crashed through the iron gate of the camp. The other tanks and vehicles, accompanied by the Troopers on foot, followed into the camp. The first internees to notice the intrusion were in the upper floors of the main building. When they saw the bright search lights on the tanks and the Troopers accompanying them, they started screaming, racing down the stairways and out into the plaza to greet their liberators. But all was not secure as about 70 Japanese guards had retreated to the education building with 228 internee hostages. When they started firing at the celebrating mob, the Troopers quickly herded the people back into the main building. A firefight broke out between the Japanese and the tanks and Troopers, but soon tapered off as the Japanese dispersed among the hostages.

The third serial arrived at Santo Tomas after midnight, bolstering the defenses within the 65-acre walled compound, and the situation became more secure as additional units of 1st Cavalry started to arrive the next day. Soon the campus became a huge military encampment. The euphoria continued as Troopers shared candy bars and K-rations with people who hadn't had anything sweet or solid for a long time.

The morning after liberation, negotiations were initiated to allow the Japanese holding hostages to leave, and on the morning of February 5, they marched out of the camp between rows of Troopers to a sector designated as their desired release point. A guerilla band operating in that sector soon engaged them, killing all except a small handful. Almost 3,800 prisoners were now finally free, but not yet out of danger as the military situation was tenuous at best.

General Yamashita had ordered his 10,000 army troops in the city to destroy strategic installations when the Americans arrived, then to exit the city. Admiral Iwabushi, with 16,000 naval troops, was under Yamashita's command; but ignoring his orders, commandeered the army Troops, and prepared to defend Manila to the death, resulting in the horrific Battle of Manila, the biggest urban battle of the war, which resulted in many American casualties.

General MacArthur visited Santo Tomas on February 7. Shortly after he left, the Japanese started an artillery attack on the camp, and in the course of 3 days, killed 23 civilians and wounded 100 more. The cavalry departed, removing Santo Tomas as a legitimate military target, and moved to attack the Japanese defenses in Manila from the east, while the 37th Infantry crossed the Pasig River and attacked from the west, and the 11th Airborne Division attacked from the south. From February 3 to March 3 the Battle of Manila raged, taking the lives of 100,000 civilians, most of whom were deliberately murdered by the Japanese.

Peace finally came to Santo Tomas and the internees started to be repatriated to America, but they will never forget those Troopers who not only saved their lives but sat with them and related what was happening at "home" while plying them with treats. It was the start of reintroduction into a more normal life.

Ex-internees now meet frequently in reunions where they remember and talk about those heady days when the tanks rolled into camp and these giants dismounted and shared hugs, kisses and remembrances with the long-deprived men, women, and children.

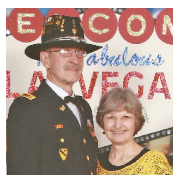
February 6, 2020 was the Diamond Jubilee of Liberation Reunion in Sacramento, California. We are always eager to share our respect for those who are

the successors of those brave Troopers who rescued us.



Photo caption:
Liz Irvine and Frank Mendez reenact their event from 70 years earlier when a young 1st Cavalry Trooper gave a little girl internee a candy bar on the staircase in the lobby of the Main Building, Santo Tomas.

HQ and Special Troops News



Ron Killingsworth
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Mooringsport, LA 71060-9057
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Greetings Troopers and spouses from NW Louisiana. Caddo Lake is especially beautiful this time of the year and I can hear the fish calling for me to try my hand at catching a few. "Google" Caddo Lake in NW Louisiana to see some pictures of this beautiful lake that is shared by LA and TX. This area, in fact, is called the ARLATEX because it is the location -- LA, AR and TX come together.

Sue and I send our best wishes and hope to see you at the reunion in KY. Be sure to get your hotel reservations in and your reunion registration sent to the association office. It is going to be a hum dinger of a reunion and we will miss you if you are not there!

This column is the voice of those in the association who served with a unit or type of organization that does not otherwise have a column in the *Saber*. Most of these - those attending the HQ and Special Troops luncheon at each reunion - tend to be combat support related units or assignment to various headquarters elements, regardless of the MOS. I am sure that most of you found yourself in a job, at least once, while on active duty, that was outside your actual MOS! This column will be dedicated to those who serve in the many and varied support type jobs, without which, life would be miserable for the infantry Soldier.

Every Soldier in the U.S. Army is trained to be an infantry Soldier. That is why all enlisted Soldiers go through the same basic training. Of course, infantry Soldiers continue to more advanced training as infantry while other Soldiers selected for other fields head to schools for their specific MOS. The infantry Soldier is the backbone of the Army. The other fields: artillery, armor, aircraft, supply, maintenance, intelligence and other combat support specialist support the infantry Soldier. The infantry depends on the support elements. Where would the infantry Soldier be without meals, ammo, clothing, maintenance of equipment, medical care and many other items?

In the past several issues of the *Saber* I have written about various combat support elements and personnel. Last month was about the Ordnance Corps, which covers a lot of various military specialists. I recently searched the internet with the question, "What is the best job in the US Army?" According to one site, the Army Nurse (MOS 68C) is the top rated job followed in order by Air Traffic Control Operator (MOS 15Q), Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic (MOS 91B), Infantry (MOS 11B), Technical Engineer (MOS 12T), Counterintelligence Agent (MOS 35L) and Criminal Investigations Special Agent (MOS 31D). I found their list to be interesting, but of course I have no way of knowing how they arrived at this list in this order. I always thought the company clerk (MOS unknown, probably clerk typist) had the best job. After all, the company clerk prepares the duty roster and I doubt you will find his name on the guard roster or KP roster. (Do they still have KP outside of basic, or even in basic training?)

While "surfing" the net looking for various MOS's within the Army, I found some rather interesting MOS's. For example, MOS 92S is a shower/laundry and clothing repair specialist. Clothing, laundry and showers can make a Soldier very happy. Lack of these will make anyone very unhappy. Listed under the 10 most 'badass jobs' in the Army were Forward Observer, Cavalry Scout/Reconnaissance, Combat Medic/Corpsman, Driver, Pararescue/Winchman, Combat Engineer, Pilot, and last but certainly not least, Special Forces Soldier. I find that list very interesting - in that infantry is not listed. I also found a definition of "combat support" which stated: "In the U.S. Army, the term combat support refers to units that provide fire support and operational assistance to combat elements. Combat support units provide specialized support functions to combat units in the areas of chemical warfare, combat engineering, intelligence, security and communications." Well, that's one definition but it fails to cover a lot of other jobs in combat support. Another interesting MOS I found was MOS 15T, UH-60 Helicopter Repairer. I bet those chopper pilots think that MOS is VERY important.

My purpose in stirring your memory is this: What crazy job did you have in the Army? What job in the Army do you think is the best, the worst, the most challenging? Maybe such questions will finally generate some feedback! I know at least a few of you out there read this column each time it is published in the *Saber*. I know that something crazy happened to you at least once while in the U.S. Army.

After I finished basic training at Fort Polk, LA, in Nov 1963, I was placed into a "holding company" while waiting for my security clearance. We pulled "KP" every day at the local NCO Academy or "policed the area" from the main entrance to Fort Polk all the way to Leesville! I quickly learned that "pots and pans man" was the best job. One day the first sergeant asked me if I knew how to type. I did and I became the company clerk. Now I was typing the duty roster and never pulled KP or guard duty for the rest of my month in the unit. Finally received my orders and went off to military school. So, what is your interesting story?

When I paused to think about what element of the U.S. Army our Troopers would miss the most, I decided the Quartermaster Corps would fit the bill. No food, no supplies and no clothing would make me very uncomfortable. So, here is great appreciation to the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps and to all those who serve, or who have served, in this very important part of the Army.



The Quartermaster Corps (QC) began on 16 June 1775. Just two days after Congress authorized the Continental Army, someone realized they were going to need stuff. MG Thomas Mifflin was the first Quartermaster General of the Army, but he had little money to spend. The third Quartermaster General, MG Nathanael Greene, established the first depot system to support the Army. From 1818 to 1860, BG Thomas Sidney Jessup served as the Quartermaster

General. He instituted property accountability, new modes of transportation of supply, including canal boats in the east, camel caravans in the desert southwest, and early railroads. He is referred to as the "Father of the Quartermaster Corps." During the Civil War the QC was greatly expanded to support an Army over 900,000 strong. The Quartermasters purchased clothing, equipment, animals,

and services need by the mobile Army. In 1862 the QC became responsible for burial of war dead and care of national cemeteries. Throughout the 19th century, the QC function differently than today. It did not have specialized military units. The QC instead relied upon contracted workers or "detailed" Soldiers. (Ron's comments: There is that term "detailed Soldier" again. That means you were given a job that had nothing to do with your military training! The Army also had "additional duties." That could mean just about anything and often those additional duties took up most of your time and efforts!) The QC did not purchase any subsistence but did store and transport the provisions. In 1912 the Army consolidated the former Subsistence, Pay and Quartermaster departments in order to create the QC we know today. It now has assigned Soldiers, equipment and transportation. When the Army began purchasing motor vehicles, the QC assumed the responsibility for all petroleum supply missions. During WWII, the QC operated on a massive scale with theaters of operation in the Mediterranean, northern Europe, the Pacific, and even the China-Burma-India Theater. Thousands of Soldiers were trained for specialized roles. At the height of the war, QC personnel were providing over 70,000 different supply items and more than 24 million meals each day. When the war was over, they had recovered and buried nearly a quarter of a million Soldiers in temporary cemeteries around the world. In 1950 the QC moved swiftly to support the U.S. and the UN allies sent to South Korea. That same year the QC assumed a new mission - supply by air. In the 1960's the war in Vietnam led to a massive logistics buildup. QC personnel could be found operating in every area of Vietnam, furnishing vital supplies and services, often under the most adverse and dangerous conditions. The QC personnel were the first deployed in operations Urgent Fury (Grenada) and Just Cause (Panama). The role of QC personnel in supporting the rapidly moving strike against Iraqi forces during Operation Desert Storm resulted in many challenges to be overcome. QC personnel have also been involved in many operations to provide humanitarian relief to victims here at home and in many locations abroad. In Iraq and Afghanistan, the rugged terrain often proves difficult for QC personnel to transport needed supplies to units deployed in so many different locations. Over the years, 33 QC Soldiers have received the Medal of Honor - 15 during the Civil War, 16 during the Indian Wars, and 2 during WWII. (Obtained mostly from <<https://quartermaster.army.mil/history/>> and <<https://en.wikipedia.org/>>) For more information on the QC, see <<https://qmmuseum.lee.army.mil/main.html?n=1>> and <www.quartermasterfoundation.org>.



15th S&S Bn 2nd Fwd Spt Plt Jan 70

Since June 2015, the 1st Sustainment Brigade has provided the divisional logistics and combat support for the 1st Cavalry Division. They are the "Wagonmasters."

Richard Wadleigh, who served in the 15th S&S Btn at Fire Support Base Buttons in 69-70 and in the Division Ammo Office at Phuoc Vinh, sent me a picture of the 15th S&S Btn 2nd Forward Support Platoon from his time at FSB Buttons. Thank you, Richard, for the information and the picture.

Sue and I wish all of you the very best in the New Year. Remember our active duty Troopers in your prayers. Hope to see you in KY in June. Meantime may God

bless you and your family, the great 1st Cav Div, the U.S. Army and the USofA. Feedback always welcomed. Hope to hear from you.

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Correction for March/April 2019 issue

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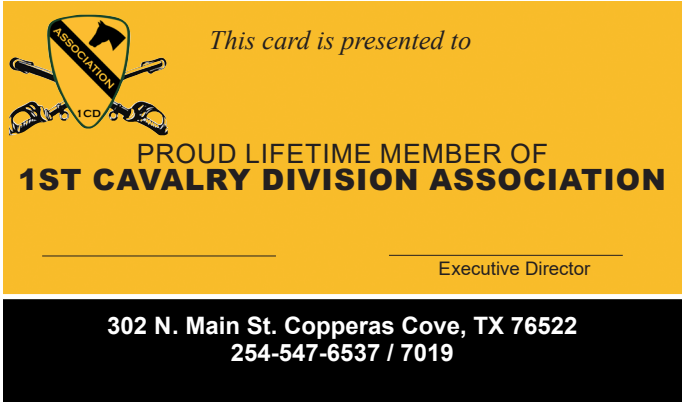
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**Birthday Wishes
to the Roaring 20's Birthday Babies!!**

BG (RET) JOSEPH L. ECOPPI turned 91 on 1/5/1920	MSG CHARLES W. CHATTERTON turned 94 on 2/2/2020
SFC RUSSELL S. HAYE turned 91 on 1/6/2020	SGT RUSSELL C. VROMAN turned 90 on 2/3/2020
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MS. LIZ IRVINE turned 93 on 2/2/2020	

**Happy Birthday to these
young Troopers!**

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