1st Cavalry Division Association 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, Texas 76522-1703

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JULY/AUGUST 2018

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Allen Norris (704) 483-8778 4-Seven@att.net



Our 71st annual reunion is over and by most accounts a very good one. The reunion, and all the planned events were

well attended. The Vietnam War luncheon featured a visit from U.S. Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia who gave a brief talk welcoming the First Cavalry Division Association to Charleston. He told the attendees about the high percentage of the population of West Virginia who have served our country and the high level of patriotism of the people from his state.

At the Association Banquet on Saturday evening BG William Taylor, Division Deputy Commander – Maneuver, gave an update on the State of the Division. Elements of the Division are all over the globe including Poland and Korea. Some are saying that the presence of the 1st Cavalry Division' 2nd Brigade that was in South Korea is what truly brought North Korean to the table.

During the reunion there were several meetings where decisions as to the future direction of the Association are made. Among those are meetings of the Foundation Trustees, Board of Governors, and the General Membership.

One of the highlights of this reunion for me was the Gold Star Family Breakfast. That morning I met two ladies (sisters) and a gentleman (their brother) whose other brother was killed while serving with the First Cavalry Division in Vietnam. While they still mourn for their brother they are not bitter. And, despite their loss they were glad for those of us who survived and concerned about the lasting affect that the war had on us. There were other Gold Star Family members there as well and we thank them for attending and wish them all comfort and peace of mind. When I first decided to attend the Gold Star Family Breakfast I did so because I felt that as President it was part of my job description – no longer. After attending the past two I feel that it is my obligation as a Veteran and Life Member of this Association to show these Family members my support for them and my gratitude for the sacrifice of their loved ones. I hope that more of you will attend this breakfast at future reunions.

Thanks to all who made this a great reunion: The Almost Heaven Chapter, The First Cavalry Division Honor Guard, BG Taylor, the Association staff, the Association officers, the people of West Virginia, and of course, the many attendees.

Reunion number 72 will be in Killeen/Fort Hood, TX - June 5-9, 2019. You should make hotel reservations soon as the hotels will fill up quickly. The dates and location of the 2022 reunion will be voted on during the general membership meeting next year. Be a part of this important decision.

And, thanks for your service. Check it out: <www.1CDA.org> Allen (TrailSpike 47)

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

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



Pay close attention to what I am about to say.....the dates have changed for the 2019 Reunion. Due to a conflict with the Killeen Civic Center we are moving the date to <u>5-9 June 2019</u>. We have made the adjustment

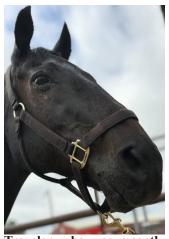
soon enough that only a handful of members will be inconvenienced. Members who have already made their reservations with the Shilo Inn, will receive a call or email for the Association notifying them of the change in dates. Those members will still have to call the hotel to make the date change. Again, reunion dates have changed to <u>5-9 June 2019</u>.

As we roll into the summer months the Horse Cavalry Detachment is busy as usual, welcoming a new Commander into the ranks at the end of June and supporting the 1st Cavalry Division with multiple events and appearances. As always without our hard-working Troopers, this unit could not accomplish everything that we do and the HCD Troopers continue to set the standard of what a U.S. Army Mounted Trooper should be, and their professionalism and class are unmatched.

HORSE DETACHMENT by CPT Jenny Nocella

The detachment has welcomed a few new mounts to our ranks in recent months: Zeus, A.C. Cotton, and Legend have begun the green phase of training here with us. The Troopers are working diligently to teach them their warrior tasks and drills, weapons routes, demonstration requirements, and as always how to be the best Cavalry Mount one can be! July has seen the HCD participate in many

along the parade route.



Traveler, who was recently placed up for adoption and is looking for his forever home!

to obtain the next higher riding rank and we will simultaneously be working toward improving our team for the National Cavalry Competition that is on the horizon. Cav Week is a yearly event hosted here at Fort Hood and we will be front and center providing a demonstration and a charge in support of the Divisions mission! We hope to see you out at one or several of these

Welcome Home Ceremonies and Changes of

Command/Changes of Responsibility on Cooper Field. On the 5th of July the HCD provided the Color Guard for the Belton PRCA Rodeo, followed

by the Annual 4th of July parade in Brady, Texas on

the 7th. We are excited to be welcomed back to the Spring Ho Parade in Lampasas, Texas on the 14th

of July and look forward to seeing our supporters

August will be a busy month of preparations; our

riders will be taking their A & B group riding exams

events and please let us know if you read about it in the *Saber*, saw it on our official HCD Facebook page or just happened to be in the right place at the right time! As always, we conduct public demonstrations at the detachment on Thursdays at 1000hrs this is the time we use to train new mounts and Troopers and invite the public to come out and enjoy the show. Feel free to call ahead and reserve some seats at (254) 287-2229. You can also find us on Facebook (Horse Cavalry Detachment) where we post pictures from the barn

DIVISION DOINGS —

Greywolf Participates in Inaugural Commemoration Story by CPT Scott Kuhn, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st

and let you know about upcoming events and ceremonies.

Cavalry Division COLLEGE STATION. Texas – MG Paul Calvert, 1st Cavalry Division Con

COLLEGE STATION, Texas – MG Paul Calvert, 1st Cavalry Division Commanding General, along with Soldiers from 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team "Greywolf," participated in the inaugural "Texas Weekend of Remembrance," in College Station May 26-27. The city coordinated the event to honor those servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice. It included an opening ceremony; military equipment displays provided by the Greywolf brigade as well as concerts and sporting events.

Now back to business. I appreciate all the support from the Almost Heaven Chapter, our members, and my staff on a 'Job Well Done' during our 2018 Reunion in Charleston, WV. The Association had 436 of its members attend the reunion. When you add Family and friends into the mix we ended up with 734 in attendance. We saw old friends, made new friends, laughed until we cried, and when it was **Continued on pg. 2**

INDEX PAG	GE	INDEX	PAGE	INDEX	PAGE
1CDA OFFICE NEWS	16	CAV T-SHIRT FORM	11	MEETING MINUTES	13
5TH CAV	5	CHAPTER INDEX	15	MEMORIAL DAY	19
7TH CAV	7	CHAPTER NEWS	3	NEW MEMBERS	4
8TH CAV	8	CHANGE ADDRESS	2	OTHER REUNIONS	2
9TH CAV	9	ENGINEERS	20	REUNIONATTENDE	ES 12
12TH CAV	6	HICCUP	23	SOUVENIR SHOP	15
15TH MED	17	HISTORY BOOK	5	SUB RENEWAL	3
20TH ARA	18	HONOR ROLL	24	TAPS	2
30TH FA	10	HQ AND SPEC TRPS	22	VETERANS DAY	9
61ST FA	4	LTRS TO EDITOR	2	VIETNAM T-SHIRTS	10
CALENDAR	2	LIFE MEMBERSHIP	3	WANTED	5
CAV CREDIT CARD	20	LRRP	14		

Calvert spoke during the opening ceremony for the weekend-long event. He reflected on the stories of Soldiers who have died in service to the country, including Army LT Jeremy Ray with whom Calvert had served in 2007 while with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

"We must remember, it is our responsibility to remember. Beginning with the eight members of the Lexington militia losing their lives in the first battle of the American Revolution and nearly 1.2 million service members; Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who made the ultimate sacrifice since then," he said. "Their lives depict American courage, defend American's freedoms and create American legacy."

The opening ceremony included a parachute jump, a 21-gun salute by members of the Texas A&M University Ross Volunteers, and the placing of wreaths at the veteran's memorial. Throughout the weekend, kids and adults alike had the chance to meet with Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, and 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment. They got to learn a little more about the combat vehicles they operate, and the daily life of a Soldier.

"We're proud to be a part of this," said MAJ Noble Wonsetler, operations of **Continued on pg. 21**

RE E	Don't Keep it a SECRET, Let us Know About It. To submit by e-mail, send to memberships@1CDA.org Clip and Mail to 1st Cavalry Division Association 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703 Last 4 #'s of your SSN Tel: () Rank and Name: New Address: City:State:Zip:
	E-Mail:
	SNOWBIRDS
If you hav	re two addresses during the year, we need to know them. Please give us the
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1st Cavalry Division Association Event Calendar

Nov 9-12, 2018	Veterans Day, Washington D.C.
Feb 22-24, 2019	Board of Governor's Mtg, Shilo Inn, Killeen, TX
June 5-9, 2019	72nd Annual 1CDA Reunion Fort Hood, TX
June 10-14, 2020	73rd Annual 1CDA Reunion, Louisville, KY



TAPS

We were notified of the death of the following:

ANTONELLIS, SP-4 Pasquale "Pat", HHP, 1-77th FA & HHT, 5-82nd FA, 1963. 6 July 2018.

BYARS, PFC Clifford R., 13th SIG, 1951. 28 May 2018.

CANTU, SP-4 Vincent F., B Co, 1-7th CAV, 1965. 6 July 2018.

DIAFERIO, SGT Michael F., HHC, 228th AVN, 1969. May 2018. HASTINGS, SFC William K., HSC, 15th MED BN, 1967-68. 13 April 2018. (reprint from May/June 2018)

HARRELL II, SGT Phillip A., HHC 2-12th CAV, 2009. 1 May 2018. HAWLK, BG (RET) Robert C., HHC 27th MNT, 1969. 12 May 2018.

HUEN, 1SG (RET) Ralph G., 1CD. 22 April 2018.

KING, 1SG (RET) Clyde R., B Co 2-5 CAV, 1971 & 1978; 28 June 2018.

LaPORTE, SP-5 (RET) Joseph J., 6-14 FA, 1-7 CAV, 1-21 FA, 1965-66. 30 May 2018.

NELSON, SGT Ronald W., 5-7 CAV, 1966-1967. 6 May 2018.

SHORT, CPL Ted W., B Co, 1-7 CAV, 1950. 1 May 2018.

SOLTIS, PFC Edward F., A Co & B Co 1-5 CAV, 1965. 31 March 2018. **TECKENBROCK**, Trooper Arthur R., 7th CAV. 14 June 2018.

ACTIVE DUTY TAPS

We have no Active Duty deaths to report.

The Director's Chair **Continued from pg. 1**

all over hugged each other, waved goodbye, and promised to meet again in 2019. As we finish up the reunion paperwork backlog, getting this edition of the Saber off to the printer, and finalizing our 2019 Calendar; we have already begun the task of planning for Veterans Day 2018 (9-12 November) and our next reunion in Texas. The Veterans Day registration can be found on our webpage or on page 9 of Saber. And the reunion registration will be mailed out with calendars and put on the web page/Saber in September. Now for my July/August tidbit for this edition. When you sit and think about the 4th of July, most Americans see it as a paid day off from work that may or may not give us all a long weekend. If asked why we celebrate Independence Day on July 4th the predominant answer will be "because that is when we beat the British in battle and won our independence".....wrong! Even us Texans know that 4 July 1776 is when the Declaration of Independence was officially adopted by the 13 colonies. The American Revolutionary War began in 1775 at the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Battles fought, and blood shed over the very freedoms the Declaration of Independence promised us 242 years ago; the same freedoms we still fight for today. Again, we appreciate the support during the reunion and are looking forward to June 2019. Y'all take care and stay safe.

SABER

The newspaper of the 1st Cavalry Division Association published during each even numbered month at 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703. Phone: (254) 547-6537 / 547-7019 E-mail: firstcav@1CDA.org website: http://www.1CDA.org www.facebook.com/AlumnioftheFirstTeam Program Director / Editor: Tina Wilgeroth Scholarship / Membership Director: Karleen Maloney Executive Director: Dara C. Wydler

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,

Thank you for awarding me a scholarship from the First Cavalry Division Association. This award will allow me to pursue my Social Sciences Degree with an emphasis in History and my teaching license at the University of Minnesota Morris. I am unable to express how much this award means to me. This has offered me many great opportunities that I otherwise would not have had access to.

Thank you again, Justin Šagerhorn

OTHER REUNIONS Reunion of 8th Cavalry Regiment, 7-9 September 2018. Reunion of 8th Cavalry Regiment/10th Infantry Division Basic Trainees at The Drury Inn, 913-236-9200, Shawnee Mission, KS, September 7-9, 2018. Specifically Fort Riley Basic Training Companies HHC 1 Bn 85th Inf and Item Company 87th Inf Rgt Dec '53-Jan '54. Also, George Company 86th Inf Rgt Feb-Apr '54. Also 8th Cav Rgt May '54-Nov '56 of Camp Crawford, Hokkaido and Camp Whittington, Honshu, Japan. Contact person is Steve Bosma 7109 Via Portada, San Jose, CA 95135, 408-270-1319 and Jack Hackley, P.O. Box 40 Oak Grove, MO, 64075-8198, 816-690-3443, <jackremembers@aol.com>.

77th FA Regiment, 11-16 September 2018. Hampton Inn, Fernadina Beach, Amelia Island, Florida. POC Juan Garcia, <juanito_65@yahoo.com>, 713-870-4776. All battalions, all eras welcome.

ARA 50th Anniversary Celebration, 12-16 September 2018. Homewood Suites at 4155 East Interstate, Lawton, OK 73501, Phone: (580) 357-9800.

E Battery 82nd Artillery 1st Can. Div Vietnam, 20-21 September 2018. All past unit members who served with the unit while in Vietnam and their significant others; Chattanooga Tn.; Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel; POC. Gordon Eatley, <geatley@cox.net> Please put E Battery in the subject line. Website: <http://ebtry.myfreesites.net>

Charlie Troop 1-9 CAV + Reunion, 22-24 September 2018. Pigeon Forge, TN at the Holiday Inn. We invite all Charlie Troopers, HHT Troopers and Delta Troopers to attend. We have also opened our doors to any Trooper who cannot find another reunion for them. For information call: Pat Bieneman at 859-771-6342 or email me at cbnamin@verizon.net>.

1/8 CAV 'Jumping Mustangs' Reunion, October 2018. Colorado Springs, CO. Stay tuned for more information.

1/9 A Troop Punta Gorda Reunion, October 25-28, 2018. More information will be in the upcoming column of the Saber. Currently contact Michael Bond <mbluvsrj@msn.com>.

15th Medical Battalion Association Reunion, 3-7 April 2019. Holiday Inn Downtown (Market Square), San Antonio, TX, <www.15thmedbnassociation.org>, POC Ron Huether, <medevac2@15thmedbnassociation.org> or 830-997-9686. **CHANGE**

1ST Cavalry Division Association 72nd Reunion, <u>5-9 June 2019</u>. Shilo Inn, Killeen, TX; Reservations can be made by calling (254) 699-0999; Reunion registrations will go out with the 2019 Calendar and you can register online via the website, <www.1cda.org>.

Have your upcoming reunions posted here.

ے لیے	RENEW your SABER today!		ركور	A donation to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association	ı T
	Have you checked your expiration date on your Saber label lately?	f6		helps a student acheive their educational goals and is an investment in the future of America.	



CHAPTER NEWS

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 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 Thursday, 6 September 2018. Please send to Karleen at Memberships@1CDA.org or mail to 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522, Attn: Karleen.

COLUMBIA WILLAMETTE CHAPTER

The 1st Cavalry Division Columbia Willamette Chapter of Portland Oregon participated on Memorial Day at the Portland Vietnam Wall where we remembered our fallen Vietnam Soldiers. Ten members along with wives and family members were in attendance. All 803 names on the wall were read aloud. The Oregon Vietnam Veteran's Living Memorial is dedicated to the memory

of the sacrifices made by the 57,000 Oregonians who served and the 803 who died fulfilling their duty to their country. Each year over 25,000 people visit the memorial. They come to pay their respects, honor the dead and try to reconcile their feelings over one of the most controversial and decisive chapters in American history.

Several were able to go to lunch after the event. Cracker Barrel Restaurant staff and customers were very appreciative of our service. The Stetsons were a big hit.

Photo L to R Jim Johnson HHB 2nd/19th Arty Communications (Charlene), Gary Crapser Co. C

8th Engineer BN (Janis), Gary Thayer Co. A 227th AHB Door gunner (Kathy) and Jim Jordan Co. B 2/12 Infantry (Nancy). Submitted by Jim Johnson

A long-standing member of the Columbia Willamette Chapter, Jerry Peal has moved to Arizona. Jerry has been a member since the Chapter started. Jerry and his wife Delores moved June 1st.

At our last Chapter meeting Jerry was honored and lightly roasted. He was presented with a dozen roses for his wife and a farewell card signed by all who were present. After the Chapter meeting, Chapter officers took Jerry to lunch and presented Jerry with a 12th Cav Regiment Regulation Crest and a 12th Cav Regiment Pin from the Columbia Willamette Chapter. Jerry has been an inspiration to us all and will be greatly missed. Jerry entered the military in 1960. From 1960-1963 Jerry was with the 7th infantry in Korea. In 1963 he was with the 11th Air Assault at Ft. Benning. Then in 1964 he was with 1st Cavalry



12th Cavalry Regiment in Korea. In November of 1965 he was with 25th Infantry the Division in Hawaii. In December 1965 Jerry's 25th Division was sent to Vietnam. Most of his time was spent in 3 Core. Jerry left Vietnam November 1966. Jerry, Thank you for your service and Welcome home.

Pictured Left to Right: Jim Johnson, Steve Kernek, Jerry Peal and Mike Carter

NEW YORK / NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

On October 27, the New York and New Jersey Chapter will hold their fall meeting at the Ridgefield Park Elks Lodge. Chapter T-shirts will be available.

At the meeting there will be news and Veteran updates. As always, the Chapter provides lunch as well as coffee and doughnuts for the early birds. If you would like to know more about our organization, please visit our website <www.lcda.org>,or for our Chapter News information at <https://lcda.org/ chapters/new-yorknewjersey/>. Also check us out on Facebook (available to everyone) as "New York New Jersey Cavalry."



LIFE MEMBERSHIP / SABER RENEWAL

Enroll me as a Life Member (gives you one year subscription to Saber)....\$10.00

Renew my Saber subscription (\$10/year)	\$10.00
New or Renewal of Associate Membership	\$15.00

D-Trooper.....\$25.00

Donations received:

\$25 makes you a D-Troop member including a one year subscription.\$50 makes you a D-Troop member including a one year subscription and you receive a suitable poster or print.

\$100 makes you a D-Troop member including a one year subscription.
\$500 makes you a Silver Brigade member including a 10 year subscription.
\$1,000 makes you a Gold Brigade member including a 20 year subscription.

- All D-Troopers receive a certificate suitable for framing, upon your first donation.
- Brigade members receive a handsome 1st Cavalry wall plaque.

Associate Membership - for those with no service with the 1st Cav Division

\$15 one year Associate Membership including a one year subscription.

\$150 Life Associate including a five year subscription and you receive a framed certificate.

Honor Roll Mentions:

All donors of \$25 or more receive acknowledgment in the Honor Roll column and may dedicate gifts, *In Honor Of*.

D-Troop milestones can be achieved cumulatively. We will keep track of your contributions.

<u>\$10 covers your subscription to Saber newspaper for one year.</u>

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I Authorize release of information to: No one____ Other Members only___ Other Members and USAA Only___.

I served with the 1st Cavalry Division in (Circle one or more) Pre-WWII WWII Japan Korean War Korea '57-'65 Fort Benning Vietnam War Fort Hood Gulf War Bosnia Afghanistan Iraq Fort Bliss Have you served with any other military unit during a war time period? YES NO

BUSINESS CARDS DISCONTINUED

Unfortunately, due to the lack of interest, we have discontinued the service of providing business cards to our members. Our printing company recommended a mininum order and that was difficult to uphold with the few orders we would receive. We apologize for any inconvenience.

NO CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA?

Consider forming a new 1st Cavalry Division Association Chapter in your local area.

Contact the Chapter Coordinator, Karleen at <memberships@1CDA.org> or (254) 547-6537



Joe Viggiano & Bob Arbasetti

CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER

The next Stable Call will be Aug 23 at the Kempner VFW at 1600 hrs. See photo to the right.

and get started!



Crossed Sabers Chapter at the Veterans Day Ceremony at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery

JULY/AUGUST 2018

61st FA News

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



This issue of the *Saber* should be getting to you in mid-August, right around my 85th birthday. Hard to believe I'm that old, but I guess I'm lucky to still be playing softball (celebrating 45 years in Senior Softball), riding the motorcycle, doing meals on wheels, etc. Hard to complain when I hear and see the problems others are dealing with. Anyway, we do hope all of you are enjoying life this summer.

Received requests from both Joe Coleman and Peter O'Brien for one of those 61st FA Bn hats pictured in the last issue. Sent them off and here's the note I got from Joe... "Hi Gordon, received the cap, it's really nice. I live in a retirement community and the Vets meet once a month or so, along with a rep from the VA. The guys wear various caps. Next meeting I'll be wearing my 61st FA." He also noted... "One of my sons lives in Seattle, hence I get there annually. It may be worth a trip to Ft. Lewis, much of the old Fort, burned down and was rebuilt. While in Canada, I would highly recommend, the Ferry trip to Vancouver Island. I have a feeling you visited there before. As always, I enjoyed your column in the May/June issue. Stay well. 'Sta Bueno. Joe Coleman." I had noted that we were going to Seattle, Canada and Leavenworth, WA on a vacation trip. More on that later.

Norm Prasatik was kind enough to send along a patriotic video that was really touching. With the national anthem in the background, a painter was featured quickly dabbing color here and there on a large painting. As the last notes sounded he spun the picture around 180 degrees and it was the famous shot of the flag raising on Surabachi. Excellent video. Thanks for sending it, Norm.

Not sure if you all noticed that there are no longer columns about the 77th and 99th FA Bns. The last column on the 99th was in Mar/June of 2016 and I can't even find when the 77th scribe quit. I'm pretty sure it was a lack of input from their comrades that had a lot to do with their dropping out. I'm doing my best to keep this column alive and kicking in the *Saber*, but I certainly need your help in doing so. Please just take a few minutes and send something to me that I can publish. Believe me when I say that your friends, buddies and comrades care about what you're doing and planning. I did manage to contact the 99th scribe, Jim Miller, and his story was... "The 99th was deactivated at the same time in '57. Yes I, too, had a hard time getting material. Finally I had to give it up and no one wanted to take over. I turned 88 in March so I am lucky to be around! I am doing OK, but I am 88 years old and when people ask me if I thought I'd live this long, I say, "I didn't think I'd make it past 23 because those were tough years!" Jim Miller." Thanks, Jim, for the note and glad to hear that you're doing okay. Most of our 61st alumni are in that same age bracket.

As I had noted in the last Saber, my wife and I flew into Seattle to start our twoweek vacation. I was going to take a side jaunt down to Ft. Lewis, but just didn't have the time to work it in. We spent five days in downtown Seattle and had a very nice time. Would have liked to have had dinner in the rotating restaurant atop the Seattle Space Needle, but it was closed for renovations. Such is life. From Seattle we rented a car and drove to Kelowna, Canada where we had a very nice condo right on the shore of Lake Okanagan. It was a four level affair with the garage and entry on the ground, the living room on the second floor, the kitchen and dining area on the third and the bedrooms on the fourth. No elevators, so we got plenty of exercise. From there we drove south to Leavenworth, WA to stay for a few days at a B&B run by folks who used to be our neighbors here in Carlsbad. It was a great place called Run of the River, right on the Wenatchee River, and we spent some relaxing time out on the porch enjoying the view (not to mention the awesome breakfasts). Leavenworth is a Bavarian themed town and fun to wander around in. Thankfully the weather cooperated beautifully the whole time we were in the Great Northwest. In fact, for several days it was in the mid-80s and warmer than SoCal.

From Jimmy Marks... "Gordon, I think the 61st left the Army roll in 1957 and we seem to be a last man club; not as many of us around anymore therefore I was very pleased to see in the last *Saber* that Speedy Speedman was still taking care

of his horses. He is a fellow about my age, so I know how remarkable that is. Speedy has always been very active in the Sheriff's Posse and other civic activities. I remember when LT Speedman came into the 61st in 1951 and he was sent directly to "the hill." They did not give him time to hardly put his bags down, let alone meet the Bn CO, LTC Breedlove. Speedy served with great distinction during Korea and Vietnam and was called back to active duty for the first Gulf War. I saw him at Fort Hood during his final tour on active duty and I have to say I never saw a finer Soldier or met a man more dedicated to God and Country, a true man of mark and medals! Yours faithfully Jimmy Marks." Thanks, Jimmy. Speedy usually calls me around once a year or so and I really enjoy chatting with him and hearing what he's doing. I had visited him at his place up in Big Bear, CA way back in July or August of 2002 when I volunteered to take over the 61st scribe duties from him. He was great in filling me in on what had happened over the years, why we had two different reunion groups, etc.

From Peter O'Brien... "Hi Gordon, thanks for sending the 61st FA Bn hat. At my annual eye test at the VA the other day, I was sitting in the area for patients who already had eye drops and were waiting for them to work. Across from me, a sprightly little guy and his daughter sat chatting. I tried to guess his age and thought about 80. During a lull I asked what branch and he said Army. Then I asked 'where' and nearly fell off the chair when he said he was in the Philippines as a Tanker in 1944 and that he was 93! He said he served in a Sherman M4 Medium Tank and had rotated through all four of the non-commanding seats. He escaped the war unscathed and his daughter said he worked in a local (Brockton, Mass.) manufacturing plant after the war. She said he enjoyed wonderful health and great VA care and he seconded that. She said it was his attitude that kept him healthy. It was easy to see this upbeat guy who said only good things about everything we chatted about had a great attitude. I and the three other guys in the waiting area thanked him for his service. I regretted not having more time to hear his story about taking back Manila. Later, I Googled the Sherman M4 and found that 49,234 were built for a crew of five. They travelled at 22 - 30 mph but because they were powered by 400 hp gasoline engines they were known as "Ronsons," and "Death Traps." It held its own in the Pacific but was outgunned in Europe by the German Tiger Tank with its 88 mm gun. We owe everything to those guys who did their jobs back then and quietly came home to move on with life. It was really nice to meet and talk with this modest WWII Soldier. All the best, Pete." Thanks so much for sending this in, Pete. Lots to be said for a positive attitude.

From Bill Stewart.... "Gordon, Pat and I are doing OK for our age. I know some people in worse shape, so I guess I we'll make it. I will be 88 on June 24th and remembering 1950. We were making landings at Camp McGill in Yokosuka, Japan. North Korea invited us to come visit them, so we did.

Pat and some other lady bowlers left for Green Bay, Wisconsin for a bowling tournament. So I guess I get to be lonely for a few days. After she gets back, a bunch of us bowlers are headed to Pigeon Forge, TN for some play time. Then in early August, Pat & I are going to Michigan for our grandson's wedding. It kind of tells your age when your grandkids are getting married. Everything else is the usual, get everything ready for winter. Seems like we just did that only yesterday. What happened to all the nice weather we used to have? Hope everyone that reads this is fine and they stay that way. They can drop us a line anytime. "Sta Bueno, Bill." Always nice to hear from you and Pat.

A bit more from Joe Coleman... "Hi Gordon, a little talked about fact; the 61st took part in an amphibious maneuver with the Cav on Iwo Jima in the summer of '56. We were on an LST. Things went pretty well for me until a Navy officer caught me heating my C-rations over an empty C-ration can partially filled with gasoline. This happened below the main deck where our vehicles were stored. Needless to say, I was educated on what a fire at sea could cause. He wound up informing me, had I been a sailor, I would have been court-martialed. Looking back, it was a really stupid thing to do, but I was 20-year-old PFC and the damn Navy had no mess halls on the LSTs." Thanks for the note Joe and glad you came away unscathed.

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

Gordon Cress

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME to the 1CDA TEAM!



SGT AGUIRRE, COLBY TX 3ABCT 1503 SGT ALSTON, BANDI TX A 1- 82FA 1705 WO AMBROSE, WIILLIAM A. VA C 1- 229AVN 7001 1LT BECK, DANIEL TX C 2- 82FA 1802 E-4 BELL, BASIL F. WV D 1- 12C 69 PVT CARSON, ANTAJUAN K. TX HHC 1CDH 1801

SGT LAFFERTY, JERERY L. AZ A 2- 7C 7003 SGT LANFORD, DEMENICA H. NC H 75INF 0769 E-6 LARSON, JOHN OR B 2- 8C 6808 SGT LAWLESS, JAMES TX E 15PSB 0510 SP-5 LEE, ROBERT E. AZ C 27MNT 6508

SFC DIXON, ROBERT TX 3ABCT 1511 MAJ DONATHAN, RANDOLPH TX HHC 1BCT 1806 SP4 DOUGLAS, MICHAEL SC 1 11C 6801 PFC DRAPER, DAVELLE TX 1CDH 1801 SGT ESTER, JOHNNY TX A 312MI 9509 SFC GARCIA, FRANCISCO F. II NM HHB 2- 17 FA 6703 SGT GARVIN, JAMES TX D 2- 8C 7008 SP5 GASTON, HILLARY SR NC 2-7C 6606 SGT GORCZYCA, JACK ID A 2- 20ARA 66 LTC HAMILTON, WILLIAM A. CO D 2- 5C 66 MAJ HARRAL, DARVEL FL HHT 1-9C 6802 SPC HERNANDEZ, DANIEL TX B 3- 16FA 1511 E-4 HERRERA, OSCAR CA C 1-8C 93 E-4 HILL, JASON TX HHC 2- 8C 0509 PFC HILLIARD, TERRY MI C 1- 12C 6506 SGT HOOPER, STEVEN FL B 3-8C 1SG JOHNSON, MICHAEL KS B 1- 115FSB 0489 PFC JOHNSON, RONALD FL B 1- 7C 6911 SGT KARNES, THOMAS E OH B 1- 12C 6508 1LT KEPNER, FREDERICK PA 312MI 7605

SSG LITER, JOHN TX HHC 1- 7C 0305 SPC MARKELL, JOSEPH MO B 1- 9C 0512 SGT MC DANIEL, FLOYD ID C 2-7C 84 SGT MC ELROY, ARNOLD OK HQ 2BDE 7007 SGT MOORE, PAUL TX HHC 1- 3BCT 1411 SP-4 MUNIZ, OFELIO JR TX C 1- 21ARTY 5912 MR. O'NEAL, JOHN W. FL H 75INF 7008 SGT AMOS, HECTOR TORRE LA F 1-7C 9605E-6 PFC RAPAGLIA, ANTHONY S. WA A 2-12C 65 E-7 ROBERTS, LEE R. SC B 1- 5C 6803 SP-5 ROSS, CHARLES OH B 217FA 6511 SPC RYNE, KIRCHBERG TX HHC 1CDH 1801 CW3 (RET) SHAFER, JAMES VA HHC 1CDH 8911 MS. SHEFFLER, TEENA OH 1391 ASSOC E-5 STINSON, STAN TX A 1- 77FA 6511 SSG WALDRON, CLAYTON WA 1- 81ARM 73 SGT WELCH, JOE E WV B 2- 5C 6802 SFC WESTER, JACKSON TX HCS 1CDH 1701 SPC WILLIAMS, JAMES T. TX B 91BEB SGT WOOD, SCOTT NV 15S&S



5th CAV News James E. Reecamper 2351 Robertson Mill Way Nixa, MO 65714-6113 WoodCamp@att.net (417) 844-5347



Greetings fellow Troopers and friends. I personally had a great time at the 1CDA Reunion in Charleston, WV and trust everyone else did also. During the 5th Cav luncheon we conducted our annual General Membership meeting. It was the consensus of members in attendance that we would cancel the 2019 5th Cavalry reunion scheduled for Alexandria, VA due to rapidly decreasing attendance numbers. Future 5th Cav reunions will be discussed at the upcoming 1CDA reunions.

It is my opinion that one of the reasons for the low attendance reflects the times when we did not deploy as units but as replacements causing the unity within the platoons and other small units. I like to hear from others as to why they prefer just to attend company and platoon reunions.

On the brighter side of things, we were able to pick up 3 new members into the Association, Dennis London, B-2-5; John McLean D-2-5 and Bernie Lieving, HQ 2-5. Bernie is a retired Chaplain and has also agreed to accept the position as the Association Chaplain, assuming the current Chaplain wants to step down from that position.

In other news, I received word from Carol DeHart that her husband & Black Knight, Michael L. DeHart, has been upgraded from 2 Silver Star Awards earned on April 10, 1969 to the Distinguished Service Cross. He served with E Co 2nd Battalion, 1st Recon Plt. She further asked that anyone that knew Michael would please contact him. Anyone can do so by letting me know via e-mail at <President@5thcav.org>. I will gladly send you the contact information. This review took 3 years for the Army Board of Review to reach a decision in this matter.

Below is the opening paragraph of the article titled in the last issue of the *Saber*:

D 2/5 Assaults- NVA Overrun

As dawn broke over the An Lao Valley in the last days of Operation Thayer II, D Company, 2/5 Cav made a combat air assault into that valley of ill-fame. Long a redoubt of the Viet Cong, it was a sure bet that they would find "Charlie" that day. They did.

One Trooper, PFC Doyle Davis sent in his participation in the operation. 'We were on the left flank crossing a lake dam when we became under fire from a village. So, most of us ran left and took cover behind the lake dam. So General Orders 2005 tells the rest of the story but did not mention the Soldiers name. I remember his last name Private Hudgins. So maybe he will read this in the *Saber* paper and call me and 1st Platoon was commanded by 1LT Gilbertson." GO #2005 mentioned above are the orders that awarded PFC Davis The Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device. It stated in part "Private First Class Davis distinguished himself by heroism in action on 9 February 1967, while serving with Company D, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry during a reconnaissance mission near the village of Phu Loc, Republic of Vietnam. As Private First Class Davis' platoon approached the village, it was taken under intense enemy fire and sustained several casualties. Hearing a wounded comrade cry for help, Private First Davis, with complete disregard for his own safety, exposed himself to intense hostile fire and raced to position of the wounded Soldier. Protecting him with his own body, Private First Class Davis then pulled the man to covered position."

Doyle can be contacting me, Jim Reecamper at <President@5thcav.org>. I will be sure to get Doyle's contact information.

WANTED/LOST/FOUND

Looking for information about my grandfather who served in Vietnam as a RED HAT in the 1st Squadron, 9th cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile). His name is Tennyson Hill or "Bud" Hill. He served as a parachute rigger and some other things, but I have been looking everywhere to find some pictures or something about him during Vietnam. If anyone has any information I can be contacted at <a href="mailto: (Air Mobile).

I am looking for documentation for a personal historical event during OIF which I survived. I would like to submit a claim to the VA concerning cognitive problems I have been experiencing for years after the IED strike that hit my vehicle which also killed my gunner. The event was in May of 2007 in Baghdad. I was with 1/5 Cav from 2nd Bde. Jeffrey Theal <jeffrey.theal@gmail.com>.

My family recently discovered the unmarked grave of my grandfather in Glendale, AZ. He served in the early 1930s at Ft. Bliss, Texas, where my mother was born in the military hospital. I am seeking a grave marker for him from the VA, but they have refused as we do not have his service number. Months of correspondence with the assistance of Senator John McCain's staff have netted the results that his records were destroyed in the warehouse fire in St. Louis. Our last hope is the 1st Cavalry Division Association and its members. Is there any information on how to resolve this problem? Catherine Farnham <Catherine.farnham@icloud.com>.

Continued on pg. 7

FIRST TEAM HISTORY BOOK

The limited-edition, commemorative 1st Cavalry Division history book has finally arrived! We have copies available if you were unable to pre-order one. Due to limited quantities, please limit <u>one book per member</u>. Additional copies can be purchased at the 2018 Reunion. Please mail us your completed order form located below.

ABOUT THE BOOK

- Includes a detailed history of the 1st Cav Division from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, the Gulf War, and the War of Terror, including its founders, training, engagements, responsibilities today, and more.
- Historical overview of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.
- Richly illustrated with historic and modern photographs, charts and diagrams
- Personal biographies from 1st Cav Division Veterans, with "then and now" photos
- After Action Reports & Stories from 1st Cav Div Veterans, and more!

This quality publication is printed on number one grade, acid-free, double-coated glossy paper to ensure the highest caliber photo reproduction, and smyth-sewn for longevity, meaning the pages are stitched together and bound to last. This Deluxe Hardbound Edition is bound in a classy, black leatherette cover for only **\$55.00**.

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12th CAV News



Ken Howser, Jr. 16505 Virginia Ave Unit 1141 Williamsport, MD 21795-1483 240-366-8447 AceHigh6India@Comcast.Net www.12thCav.US



Colonel Dingeman works the crowd

steel pot; I was souvenired a pair of camo pants, won a plotting board, and didn't get impeached. You had to be there. It, like your deployment and time in service, cannot be described or explained if you were not there, have not yet been initiated, or were not baptized in the fire of this Reunion.

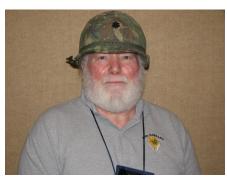
0204 A picture of SSG Curtis Ray Patton, B2-12 Cavalry, Eastville, Virginia was missing from the online Wall of Faces. KIA4 February 1968 outside Hue, South Vietnam, the site had only a generic

0001 Hey Sailor, new in town? Or perhaps, 'Good day, Anybody? Here's Ken' as a new twist-up. A paraphrase of the Henry Morgan radio

show opening. I am back

SABER

from a wonderful time Facebook.Com/12thCavalryRegiment touring West Virginia and imbibing all the color, bouquet, head, consistency, smell, sweetness, salty flavors, acids, and general bitterness of the 71st Reunion. (Totally ripped from a beer tasting manual. But true.) There I met with my adoring fan club; Dancing Doug, Easy Ed, and Jamming James. The times and talks we three had! Superb! Thoughts, sharing, listening - outstanding! Colonel Dingeman worked the crowd, Jim Stokley was chosen as our new Vice President, Donald Oakley D1-12 won the Colonel's



Combat Santa Donald Oakley

Soldier cutout as a placeholder. Born in Tazewell, VA, Curtis distinguished himself as a musician, especially with a guitar-he played country music Chet Atkins-style, with lots of finger-picking. Drafted, he shipped off to Vietnam on March 20, 1967, at 25 a couple years older than the typical Soldier and found himself on the Army's leadership fast track. Within months, he rose to the rank of Sergeant. At the Battle of Hue 2-12 was sent to aid the Marines. Along the way, the 550 Soldiers encountered two dug-in battalions of enemy troops. Although they had no air or artillery support, they were ordered to attack the considerably larger force. Surrounded and dug in, the machine gun disabled, his platoon relied on an M14 automatic rifle. If it ran out of ammunition, the dwindling platoon almost



SSG Curtis Ray Patton **B 2-12 Cavalry**

certainly would be overrun and destroyed. Three men made desperate dashes under heavy fire to bring him more ammo, and all three were gunned down. Curtis took it upon himself to deliver the ammo. "I seen him running towards me with two full cans of ammo and dirt flying in the air from enemy rounds being fired at him. He got within 6 feet of my position when he was shot and killed," Carl T. Johnson wrote. His mission succeeded - the cans were close enough to be retrieved by another Soldier. By the end of the fighting more than 60 percent of 2-12 had been killed or wounded. In the battle there were 216 U.S. killed and 1,584 U.S. wounded. The 2-12 had no time to transport its dead out of the battle zone, so Soldiers buried more than a dozen men, including Patton, in a mass grave. American forces eventually pushed back the North's fighters and recovered the bodies from

the hastily dug grave. As a homage to Memorial Day, the 50th since Patton's battlefield sacrifice, Delmarva Now searched for a photo of the Northampton County man to add to the website. After a nearly three-week investigation they were successful, though the image is fuzzy and grainy. Had he lived, SSG Patton would have been 77 this year. <Liberally quoted and paraphrased, DelMaVaNow. Com>

0404 Re the last, you can see the picture is cut from another picture. Trooper Ray Eden took the original and ran with it, cleaned the image up a bit and whatever else, not knowing if it helped. Then came this reply: "Ken, Many thanks. Yours is better than the one we had. Best regards, Steve Delp, Senior Advisor for Outreach." See? We can all work together. I am asking all B 2-12 Veterans of 1967-68-time frame to scour their memories and files for any pictures

I tried to contact three others from various 12th Cav units, but heard only from one. Trooper Bill Bocock states, "Cockerham, Caldwell, Dickerson, and Pavan; CPT Meszar. Caldwell, Dickerson, and Pavan were Sergeants. You're right. It's becoming increasingly difficult to remember the names." Acknowledge, honor, and remember. They die only when no one remembers.

1004 The 1st Cav grapevine tells me we had 55 12th Cavalry Troopers and 28 guests at the Charleston Reunion. Didn't know there was a 1st Cav grapevine? Then where does 1st Cav Wine come from? I enjoy reunions immensely and the conversations there even more. Conversations with any and all members; not to neglect the wives, active duties, and families met on the moment, or for longer continued conversation. We are all greater Family, and all present are our Family. One need attend only one Cavalry reunion to know that forever. Attending one reunion often leads to more reunions. There are no 'first timers', only full timers. The last time I had this much fun, and prolonged fun? Last Reunion! It has been said, "Connect and reconnect with your fellow Veterans, leave no one hanging who you may help." Your battle orders are to reunite with your brethren wherever and whenever you find them, even if it be one to one. Your next big chance (Take It!) will be in Branson, Missouri, 11 September to 16 September, year this. Our 12th Cavalry Reunion is at the Welk Resorts Branson Hotel, 1984 State Highway 165, Branson, MO 65616. Welcome Reception with BBQ dinner Wednesday, 9-12; Smoked BBQ Lunch on Friday, 9-14; Tommy James and the Shondells at the Welk Theater Friday, 9-14, and Le Grande Banquet Saturday evening, 9-15. (All events optional.) Rates are 2 per room at \$89.00 plus tax per night and includes the daily breakfast buffet. Use the 12th Cavalry Reunion Group Ref # 523159 at 1-800-808-9355, or 1-417-336-3575. With a mere 90 rooms blocked at this rate, please make your plans and reservations with all available haste. <12thCav.US>.

1204 (1) Delta 1-12 Calvary Reunion, Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 September 2018, at the El Tropicana Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. Rooms are \$127.00 per night including all taxes and fees, with 2 free breakfast buffets. There will be no resort fee and the Wi-Fi is free. <ElTropicanoHotel.com>. (2) The 1-12 Documentary film is in production. Are you willing to be interviewed for the documentary film about the 1-12th Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam? To have the production team at the reunion in San Antonio we need to know in advance that at least 10 Veterans will participate. Watch the trailer at <Vimeo.Com/248661824>. It is x-cell-lant! Call Thomas Crabtree at 432-853-4851 or email him at <mmctlc3@ aol.com> and tell him you are in. Finally? Join us in San Antonio!" < April Bootto-Boot newsletter>. Y'all come!

1404 Frank Crary, Tucson, Arizona, was presented the Distinguished Service Cross Tuesday, 22 May, at Fort Huachuca by MG Robert Walters Jr. On April 7, 1966, PFC Crary's reconnaissance platoon from Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, were chasing North Vietnamese regulars

said during the ceremony.

through the jungles of Vietnam when they were ambushed by a numerically superior enemy force in camouflaged, fortified positions. "The recon platoon was outnumbered five to one," Walters "Heavy machine gun fire, grenades and mortars were all dropping on and around the

PFC Frank Crary DSC D 1-12 Cavalry

platoon." The Soldiers were pinned down and taking heavy casualties from a crew-served machine gun somewhere in the dense jungle. Crary managed to spot the machine gunner's nest and began returning fire. "Then, on his own initiative, and with total disregard for his own personal safety, he jumped up and ran maneuvering towards the machine gun position," according to Crary's citation. "In doing so, Private First Class Crary exposed himself to counter-fire from nearby North Vietnamese camouflaged positions, which he methodically engaged and neutralized." "Continuing his one-man assault, he flanked the enemy machine gun, attacking and killing the enemy." Crary's actions that day were credited with turning the tide of the battle. His remaining platoon-mates were afforded the time and space to return fire and neutralize other enemy positions. "Now, what's interesting here is Crary's heroic actions were submitted for a Silver Star," Walters said. "But his Silver Star was not approved. ... It was upgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross. ... How often does that happen?" Trooper Bob March stated, "I put him in for the Silver Star and the Army upgraded it to a DSC. Witness statements were provided by me and Troopers Alex Barber and Chuck Rose. COL John Gergulis did a character witness statement." Several friends who had served in the reconnaissance platoon with Crary were flown in to attend the award ceremony. During the ceremony the current command team from 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment presented additional awards to Crary. LTC Andrew Kiser, Commander of 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment presented Crary the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. CSM Shelly Jenkins of 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment

they have of SSG Curtis Patton and either upload them all to the Wall of Faces or send them to me and I will. Yes, I do take this as personal hurt and mission. My friend of A 2-12, Specialist 4 John Willie Cockerham, Jr., was killed in a mortar attack on 26 August 1969. Many is the time I looked at wall sites and there was never a picture of Johnny. I knew I had pictures somewhere, but they were on slides apparently. After I had my slides copied before we moved, I uploaded them to various sites. They were never posted. This news article and its link prompted me to try again with <VVMF.Org/Wall-of-Faces>. Now there was a badly scanned image, looking like from a high school yearbook. Though the site says up to three days, they were there next day. I went there yesterday and seeing the photos there after all those tries, and forty-nine years, broke me down and brought the tears. I was overwrought with emotion. I urge all Troopers to take the time and make the effort to likewise honor and memorialize our fallen friends and Troopers.

0604 Memorial Day got me thinking about who I think of, and who others think about for Memorial Day. I recall a mid-western E6 and a guy from the Carolinas who our CO sent back out of the field, those two I heard were also killed the day Johnny was, but could never prove. CPT's Meszar, Black, Daniel; LTC Gorvad and MAJ O'Keef. Then of course those I knew who were wounded. presented Crary the Expert Rifle Marksmanship Badge and the Presidential Unit Citation. < Army Times, Facebook, and Bob March>.

1804 "Reds Help Yanks Go 'Mechanized'. Phouc Vinh, Vietnam (Special) - Captured enemy vehicles and fuel gave the men of the 1st Bn, 12th Cav, an unexpected lift during their operations in Cambodia with the 1st Air Cav Div. The C Co. Skytroopers uncovered an enemy motor pool containing 33 trucks and jeeps. Most were destroyed, but 12 of those in the best condition were granted amnesty. Of those 12, 10 were driven by members of the company's 3rd Platoon back to FSB Evans. The other two vehicles were kept by the company to become the unit's log wagons. Every morning the Skytroopers would load the trucks with their packs and move out light in the column of march. Open terrain over most of their area of operations allowed the company to bring the trucks up at the rear of their column. Captured fuel kept them running, helped by several Troopers who doubled as mechanics. The vehicles were destroyed when the company left the area, but for a while there the Skytroopers had a taste of being "mechanized." It saved a lot of wear and tear on their backs. "I hated to lose those trucks" said CPT Michael B. Christy, company commander. "I guess I got a little lazy with Continued on pg. 11

CAV News 7 t h



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Greetings and salutations to all the brave Troopers of the 7th Cavalry wherever you may be! I hope that your summer is going well and that you have been able to weather the extraordinary heat and humidity. A hot summer indeed. I recently attended the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion in Charleston,

WV, along with about 750 other Association members. What a magnificent time we had! The comradery of the unit was so strong there! The 7th Cav was well represented, in fact we had the largest contingent there. And the 7th Cav had attendees from Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf Wars, and Troopers currently serving on active duty. We even had future Troopers and family members. What a great time we had reminiscing and hearing each other's' stories. BG Hank Taylor, the Deputy Commanding General - Maneuver, 1st Cavalry Division, joined us, along with Joe Galloway, co-author of We



Abby Swenson listens to Jack Parente (Echo 1 7, 68 69)

Were Soldiers Once and Young and of Ia Drang Valley fame, for the annual Banquet. BG Taylor gave the keynote address and brought us all up to date on the state of the Division. We were also informed of the next reunion; it will be at Fort Hood 5-9 June 2019. Mark your calendars now!!

Do you shop on Amazon? If you do, you can support the 1st Cavalry Division Association's Scholarship Fund and it won't cost you a penny. Here's the scoop; next time you go to Amazon, instead of typing amazon.com into your browser search window, type smile.amazon.com. The addition of the word "smile" within that url address will open a new window. You will have the option of choosing a charity; type in Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. Follow the simple prompts and you're done! Now, every time you shop at Amazon, ¹/₂ of 1 percent of your purchase price will be donated to the scholarship fund. Now, I shop at Amazon a lot, and my purchases over the last 18 months have added \$20.71 to the scholarship fund. That in itself is not earthshaking, it won't even pay for one-third of a text book. But, if 1000 Troopers do this, or 10,000 Troopers do this, what a huge boon to the fund! Try it!

And for those of you who have visited the 7th Cavalry website http://www. us7thcavalry.com/>, and for those of you who have not, now is the time! There is so much valuable information at this site it may take you days to get through it. You can find unit rosters, a history of the 7th Cavalry, a section called "Memoirs" (where you can publish your own story), and more.

And don't forget the Quartermaster – a place at which you can buy cool 7th Cavalry stuff, like this belt buckle. The Quartermaster page is actually tied to Amazon; most purchases provide monetary support for the funding of the 7th Cavalry website. Each time you buy something from the Quartermaster, a portion of that sale will be returned to our webmaster for improvements to the 7th Cavalry site. Enjoy your purchases and support the Regiment. As



you take a "walk" through the Quartermaster site, pause in the library, where you will find volumes tracing the steps of the Cav from the days of the earliest horse Soldiers through the Gulf War. Here is an opportunity for you to buy some of the most wanted items.

This is from William "Bill" Dooley, who served as a combat medic with 1st



William "Rill" Dooley

Battalion, 7th Cavalry. Bill was in Vietnam from late 1966 to early 1968 was attached to A and D Companies. Bill was wounded at Thon La Chu, outside of Hue. He says, "This past May, because it was the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Tet offensive, my wife and I drove from Wolf Creek, Montana to Washington D.C. We parked as close to the VN Veterans Memorial Wall as we could, sounded Taps at the correct

me "Tell your boys the Nelson family has them forever in our thoughts and we send much love and gratitude!" Garryowen, Ron, we will see you at Fiddler's Green.

SABER

Here's a shout out to James Breen, who served as a machine gunner in Delta Company 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry in 1966-1967. Jim reaches out to me after each issue of the Saber is published; he tells me he reads about our regiment before reading about his own, that's great praise for the 7th Regiment! Jim and I have an ongoing conversation about many things, and I enjoy seeing an email from Jim in my inbox. Keep them coming, Jim! I appreciate it!! If any of the rest of you are interested in doing the same, please check out my email address at the top of this column.



Luncheon Recap – The following is from our Association president, it is his annual "State of the Regiment" report.

John Guillory here, your 7th U.S. Cavalry Association President, with a recap of our Association luncheon, held during the 2018 71st Annual 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion in Charleston, West Virginia. All attendees were welcomed and participated in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those gone on to Fiddlers Green since the last reunion.

Next, a brief overview was presented of the Mountaineer state, West Virginia, including the state bird, flower, etc. There was a humorous attempt on my part to sing a verse of "Country Roads", but my bout with laryngitis and my poor singing voice quickly brought the song to a close, with polite laughter and gratuitous applause from the audience.

All former Troopers' wives were sincerely thanked and applauded for who they are, and for all they have done to make their respective spouses the men they are today. My thank you to the ladies included a quote from comedic actor Jim Carey, "behind every great man is a woman rolling her eves."

Next, Mr. Emil "Lefty" Ercolano stood to be recognized, honored, and applauded for recently receiving his two Purple Hearts after waiting nearly 50 years. Our "newish" 7th Cavalry Scribe, Karl Swenson, then stood to be recognized. Karl was thanked and applauded for his volunteerism and his outstanding contributions to the Saber's 7th Cavalry column.

Next on the agenda was the election of three Association officer positions: Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Phil Zook was reelected Vice President, Bob Anderson was reelected Treasurer, and yours truly, John Guillory, was reelected Secretary. The term for each of these three positions is two years.

Our surprise guest of honor was Brigadier General, William D. "Hank" Taylor, 1st Cavalry Division Deputy Commander for Maneuver. General Taylor presented a thorough update and overview of the active duty squadrons of 7th Cavalry. The general was well received, and his attendance and participation were greatly appreciated by all.

A recruitment announcement was repeated regarding the need to fill the position of 7th Cavalry webmaster. For many years Jim Savage has done a fabulous job constructing, managing and updating the 7th Cavalry website. Jim is moving on, so if the website is to continue, someone needs to step up and take over the reins. If you are interested, or know of anyone who is interested, please contact Jim or myself through the website.

Last, but certainly not least, were the traditional individual Veteran introductions, a thank you for attending, a wish for safe travels and a heartfelt Garryowen. Thus, the luncheon was concluded.

Please note: In closing this recap, I want to make you aware that all three of those elected to office have stated they will not hold association office again, after the conclusion of this two-year term. My term as President will conclude next year, and I too will not be back as Association President. So please be prepared to identify, nominate and elect your new association President in 2019, at the reunion in Fort Hood. Also, be prepared to elect your new Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary in 2020, at the reunion at Louisville, KY. I hope that you will agree, in order for the 7th Cavalry Association to continue to move forward, we need some "new blood" to take the reins. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you all next year in Texas.

A Call for Articles and Stories. Once again, I have all but depleted my cache of information and ideas to be published in future columns. For those of you who have called me or sent me emails and letters, be assured that I will be sharing your input in the next *Saber*. But in order to keep the flow going, I need more! Please keep your "war stories" coming, especially those of you from Iraq and Afghanistan - I have not received a single lead from any of you - as well as those of you on active duty and currently serving with the 7th Cav. Now is the time to step up! I will do my best to guarantee you will see your story written. Help an old Soldier out here, make this column flow with your words, not mine!

Until next time, stay safe, stay happy, and rest assured that we all serve in the greatest Regiment ever to see battle! Garryowen, brothers!!

panel that reflected most of my

friends and acquaintances, then drove home. The trip was to honor the casualties of Tet specifically and the war in general. I have a question for the folks of our Association. Are there any other buglers out there? I work for the local Honor Guard and am wondering how many members are doing this also. Thanks, Bill Dooley, Wolf Creek, Montana." Bill's email address is <seadare1@msn.com>.

A belated Happy 90th Birthday to COL Dave Hughes, who celebrated on May 18th. COL Hughes served with Company K, 7th Cavalry during the Korean War. According to his son, David Hughes III, the Colonel is still going strong because he is Infantry. Well, of course! If you would like to wish COL Hughes a belated happy birthday of your own, his email address is <dave@oldcolo.com>. And he has a legacy website that may interest you, check it out at <www.davehugheslegacy.net>.

A sad note, SGT Ronald W. Nelson went on to Fiddler's Green on May 6th. Ron served with 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry in 1966-1967. His wife, Dottie, tells me that he saw heavy combat; he would rarely talk about those days for a good 40 years. Once he started...the dam broke loose and his PTSD intensified. Please keep Mrs. Dottie Nelson in your prayers. I asked her if I could put this announcement of Ron's passing in the Saber, she sent me this picture of her car and she told

WANTED/LOST/FOUND

Continued from pg. 5

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Is there anyone who can help me with information about my father who served in the 1st Air Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War? I hope that you can provide me some insight on what my father did during that time. He seldom talked about it. His name is Donald Washburn and he was assigned to the 132nd Assault Helicopter Company September 1965. Patrick Washburn <washburnpl@hotmail.com>.

I notice that a past Assoc President was Charles E Brady in 1960. Do you know if he was the same COL Brady who negotiated with the Japanese at Santo Tomas? An Inf Sch report by a Trp Cdr in 2/8 mentions him. Ed Miller <millerg2@gmail.com>.

What is YOUR best way of reaching out and spreading the word about the benefits of the Association?

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JULY/AUGUST 2018

8th CAV News



Page 8

Thomas J. De Young 3439 Brooklyn Ave Port Charlotte, FL 33952-7211 616-540-6238 DeYoungTJ@Gmail.Com www.8Cavalry.Org



Hi again, another reunion has entered the vault of history. This year's gathering in Charleston, WV was rewarding for those who attended. The opportunity to reunite with old friends and comrades-in-arms is well worth cherishing and seems more important as we get older. Sharing old stories and getting up-to-date on life's events keeps vibrant and alive the

bonds formed so long ago. Preparations are already underway for next year's reunion at Fort Hood. Meanwhile, here are a few photos of people you might recognize from this year's event:

It was really good to visit during this 71st Reunion with some of the "old Soldiers" with whom we served, with WWII, Korea, younger Vets, and especially poignant to have some conversations with their off-spring who accompanied them to the reunion. I was touched by the fact that for so many, their warrior fathers



had never spoken of their service and how that service had affected the lives of others. In a couple of these discussions, sons were surprised by the impact their fathers had on those of us with whom they served and were sincerely taken by the profound and lasting feelings we had for them. A common remark was, "we had no idea!"

Reunions serve the warrior but can also have an important impact on their children as well. We found that to be true in so many instances. This is one of the reasons I encourage us "old Soldiers" to attend reunions and to bring the family along,



too. The conversations in hospitality rooms offer for many spouses and children an opportunity they never had to hear the stories of the Soldier's service from the perspective of others. We are too often reticent to tell our stories to those closest to us. It is of significant benefit, therefore, to let our families hear

them from the lips of others. It helps them understand the events that formed us into the men we came to be. It led me to look back on what I had written previously on this very topic.

From the July/August 2012 Issue of Saber I wrote this:

"I was talking with a couple of younger people the other day about reading books on our Kindles. One was a recent high school grad while the other was in



in numbers and all volunteer, called upon to serve in multiple deployments. Be proud of your service – we are certainly proud of you!" From September/October 2013 I wrote this piece in a similar vein:

"During this beautiful summer there has not been much in the way of correspondence coming this way. I've received just a few notes from members. I am pleased to see the growing number of us from wars past and present who are reconnecting with those with whom they have served. I note as well the importance of touching the lives of people who mourn the passing of "old Soldiers." As the Veterans of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam are passing on in increasing numbers, their children often do not know the stories of their wartime service and remain unaware of their sacrifice; Veterans are too often reticent to share these memories of events long past themselves. Their survivors are comforted when those with whom they served write letters of condolence sharing photos and memories of those times spent far from home in war-torn lands. These notes remind me of what I learned as a child - two of the seven Spiritual Works of Mercy are to "Comfort the afflicted" and to "Pray for the living and the dead." I've received a couple of letters in this vein but am restrained from sharing with you the very personal content of them, but I can report that they are very much appreciated. John Krull, now 81 years old, wrote of such an experience of sharing such photos and memories of his Platoon leader, LT Charles Carlton, from First Platoon, George Company, 8th Cavalry Regiment in Korea, 1951 with LT Carlton's son. It took John around ten years to locate LT Carlton but found only an obituary and ultimately a link to his son. John says, "I with that I would have been smart enough to connect with people before it got too late." I had a similar experience of finding that MAJ Barney Darby, with whom I had served in Vietnam and with whom I spent a wonderful R&R in Bankok, had passed on. I always wondered what had happened to him after he was wounded and evacuated and only found out about his post Army service after doing some research and finding his obituary. How I now wish I could have located him before he died. He had a powerful influence on me back then and I wanted to let him know it. I guess this all goes to reinforce how important it is for our young Veterans to stay in touch with each other after leaving their units, and for us older Vets to attend some of the many reunions held each year."

The membership in our organizations continues to decline as time passes. It is essential that we bring in this new generation of warriors to our ranks. If you know someone who has served, invite that service member along at our next gathering and let him or her experience the palliative benefit of being with those with whom we share the common bond of military service.

Interesting Regimental facts:

Did you know that the 8th Cavalry Regiment was assigned to patrol the Rio Grande in 1875? Its mission: "protecting the lonely ranches, preventing smuggling, preserving the law, and keeping order along the river."

On a personal note:

I mentioned at our Regimental Association meeting that I've been writing this column for many years, ever since Mouse McGhee died at our reunion. I indicated my willingness and desire to pass the torch to someone else who might like to take it on. My health is not what it once was and as I face the upcoming challenges that come along with it, I haven't the energy to apply to it as I have in the past. So, who among you is ready for a little volunteer work on behalf of our great Association? The editing of the column takes but a few hours every-other month and the effort is very much appreciated by our readers. Want to give it a try? Give me a call and I'll fill you in.

> Attention US Army Infantry or Special Forces Veterans!! Join the only organization exclusively for

> > Combat Infantrymen

her late 20's. They asked what I was reading; I mentioned that I had just finished the very interesting biography of General Westmorland. They replied as one, "WHO?" On questioning, they had no idea who he was. To think that the war in which so many of us fought, that was a central and transformational part of ten years of our national experience, and that remains so vivid in our minds has been relegated now to the unread pages of history. In a YouTube video of a speech by General Zini, he mentions that there are just 1/3 of us Vietnam Veterans left. The Korea War Vets are passing from us quickly, the remaining WWII Vets are very few, and the Veterans of WWI are gone. So many of our young Vets fail to realize how quickly time passes and how important it is to stay in touch with the Soldiers with whom they have served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Somalia, and throughout the Middle East and Northern Africa, and so many other places too many to mention here. Whenever we meet a young Vet, we need to encourage them to join one of many chapters or Veteran organizations lest their service memories remain only as nightmares, their battle-hardened bonds of close friendship dissolve and fade away. For all of you now serving, please make a special effort to join and get your friends to join us in this community of people who have faithfully and proudly served our nation as so few have; you are a very special group, indeed – a people set apart. Unlike previous wars, our Army today is rather small

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

9th CAV News

Michael W. Bond 3014 Northridge Rd. Hardy, VA 24101 mbluvsrj@msn.com (540) 815-5004



Greetings from Smith Mountain Lake, the Jewel of the Blue Ridge. First up is a video link of Dr. Harold Kushner, the former Flight Surgeon for the 1st of the 9th CAV and his Memorial Day key note address at the Vietnam Wall.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrwT-Nyulo0>

Here is a reprint from Terry McCall that covers Dr. Kushner's 5 years as a POW after he survived a helicopter crash, as the sole survivor.

As the Historian of the 15th Medical BN Association, I am privileged to research, read and write about the heroic and meritorious acts of members of the 15th Medical Battalion. There is an abundance of such stories. Recently, I became aware of a story about extreme courage, fortitude, endurance, and resourcefulness by a medical professional from another 1st Cav unit, that I feel compelled to share with the Veterans of 15th Med BN and other medical personnel who served in the Vietnam War. Such is the story of CPT Floyd Harold "Hal" Kushner, who served as the Flight Surgeon for the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (1/9 Cav) in 1967.

Å friend of mine, CPT Aubrey C. Hall, who was the CO of HSC, 15th Medical Battalion from August 68-August 69, mentioned to me that one of his medical school classmates at the Medical College of Virginia had served with the 1st Cavalry Division and had been a POW. Upon hearing about this, I was more than a little intrigued, and set out to find out more.

CPT Kushner became a POW on December 2, 1967 and was not released until March 16, 1973, nearly 5 ½ years later. He is believed to have been the only Medical Corps Officer to have been a POW during the Vietnam War.

CPT Kushner arrived in Vietnam and reported to the 1/9 Cav in August 1967 as its new Flight Surgeon. His predecessor had been KIA. The unit HQ was at LZ Two Bits in Bin Dinh Province, northeast of An Khe. He was immediately flying constantly, performing his duties as Flight Surgeon.

CPT Kushner had been transported by UH-1 D helicopter from his home base at LZ Two Bits to Chu Lai on November 30, 1967. The irony of the story is that the trip was made for the purpose of teaching a class to pilots on the dangers of night flying. A storm was brewing and after the class, at about 8:00 PM, Kushner and others on the flight suggested staying overnight at Chu Lai until the weather cleared. The aircraft commander declared that the aircraft had to be returned to LZ Two Bits for a mission the following morning, so they took off in the storm.

The aircraft got off course and crashed on a mountaintop. CPT Kushner was the sole survivor of the crash. The A/C, MAJ Stephen R. Porcella was killed in the crash, Copilot W01 Griffith B. Bedworth died while waiting for rescuers with CPT Kushner, and the Crew Chief, SSG Kenneth D. McKee, the only one not seriously injured, was killed by VC while going for help.

CPT Kushner was captured by the VC on December 2, 1967 and taken to a POW camp located about 50 km west of Tam Ky in Quang Nam Province, southwest of DaNang. He and other prisoners were moved around among several other prison camps until when, in 1971, they were marched 900 km to Hanoi, a trip of 57 days to a prison camp called "The Plantation." In December 1972, they were transferred to the infamous Hanoi Hilton. He was released on March 16, 1973, as part of a massive POW Release called Operation Homecoming.

During those 5 ½ years of captivity, he and his fellow prisoners were subjected to unspeakable physical and mental torture, propaganda bombardment, malnutrition, and sickness and disease with general withholding of medical care by the VC. As a medical doctor, CPT Kushner was officially not allowed to treat his fellow prisoners. However, he did treat them as best he could without any medical equipment other than some razor blades that he used to perform minor surgery such as lancing boils and other injuries. He encouraged fellow POW's to fake malaria and dysentery to obtain at least some medical supplies from the VC. These supplies were secretly stockpiled by him for future use as needed.

Unfortunately, without proper medication and equipment, all he could do was provide comfort to fellow POW's who were dying of various illnesses, as the VC would not provide them. His supervision of his fellow POW's in matters of diet, personal hygiene, and sanitation no doubt saved many lives.

Perhaps the crowning achievement of his military career, on July 29, 1971, he was able to save the life of a fellow POW who was having a heart attack. For this, he was awarded the Silver Star.

COL Kushner returned home in 1973 and served on Active Duty until 1977. He served in the Army Reserves until 1986 at which time he retired at the rank of COL. He has since been in private ophthalmology practice in Daytona Beach, FL.

In 2001, the 1/9th Cav Medical Clinic at Ft. Hood, TX was named in his honor. Besides the Silver Star, he received the POW Medal and the Soldier's Medal. He was inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame in 2001.

To read COL Kushner's complete story in his own words, go to <www.war-stories.com>>WS Library> War Stories>Author Stories>In author column, search for "Kushner, Hal (Dr.)> click on "Personal Story, 1967, by Dr. Hal Kushner."

Sadly, his home was severely damaged by Hurricane Matthew, and he is in the process of rebuilding.

If anyone would like to contact him, please email me at <terryamccarl@gmail. com>, call me at 402-296-3150, or write me at 1122 Main St, Plattsmouth, NE 68048, and I will relay your message to him.

Terry A. McCarl, Historian

15th Medical Battalion Association

1LT, MSC, 11/68-11/69

That wraps up this addition of the *Saber* for the 1/9 CAV. If you have a story to share, please contact me with the above contact information. Remember We Can and We Will, We Could and We Did.

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 10TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON D.C. VETERANS DAY DINNER

The William A. Richardson National Capitol Region Chapter in conjunction with the 1st Cavalry Division Association will host the 10th Annual First Team Veterans Day Dinner on Sunday evening 11 November 2018 at the Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport Hotel, 1480 Crystal Dr., Arlington, Virginia. The guest speaker has yet to be determined.

- A host bar will be open at 1800.
- Dinner will begin at 1900 hours.
- For dinner reservations please send \$60 per ticket to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.
- Full payment must be received **no later than 02 November 2018**.
- We accept all credit cards ensure that your card number and expiration dates are written correctly and legibly.
- Provide your name, address, unit you served with and the name(s) of your guests with your payment.

Tickets will be available for pickup in the 1st Cavalry Division Association Hospitality Suite or at the door to the banquet room.



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SABER

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You can fill out the above Veterans Day Dinner form and return in the mail or go to our website, <www.1CDA.org>Click on the button to download the form, print the form, fill out and mail with payment to the Association office at 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, Texas 76522.

JULY/AUGUST 2018

30th FA News

Page 10



"HARD CHARGERS" Daniel P. Gillotti 4204 Berkeley Dr. Sheffield Village, ÖH 44054 (440) 934-1750 FirstCav68@Roadrunner.com www.HardChargers.Com

Greetings, Hard Chargers. On behalf of the Executive Board of the 30th FA Alumni Association, I'd like to extend our warmest greetings to you and your Family, whether you are currently serving, a Veteran or Retiree, a Family member or a survivor of a Hard Charger. Thanks to all of you for protecting our nation and enabling us to celebrate our 100th birthday. It is difficult to believe that our reunion is now over. Whether you were at the reunion or not, I hope the you felt a part of our celebration of 100 years of excellence. Dan Gillotti brought a lot of those early days at Camp Funston to life with photos of the Soldiers, weapons systems and over-crowded hospitals from the influenza epidemic. As I mentioned in the January newsletter, it is difficult to contemplate that the young recruits that formed the 30th Field Artillery in 1918 at Camp Funston, now part of Fort Riley, KS, could imagine that we would be celebrating the forming of their unit some 100 years later. They were concerned with training for the trench warfare of Europe during the Great War and thinking about their own weaknesses, possibly succumbing to disease or enemy fire. And here we are 100 years later. None of the WWI doughboys are with us anymore, but we acknowledged their service and sacrifice as well as that of all Hard Chargers at our reunion. It was a little bit of a surprise to see how small our Soldiers were 100 years ago! Our mannequin had to be shaved down so that the WWI uniform would fit!

A quick summary of the reunion: Tuesday - The Icebreaker that afternoon featured an address by a representative of the Chamber of Commerce. The active duty battalion members showed up in force to interact with our members. Wednesday - Our meetings were in the morning and we decided that the 2019 reunion will be in Cleveland, OH. Dan Gillotti will take the lead. We voted on new officers. I. Dan Gillotti, and Dan Mitchell will continue in the same positions as President, First VP, and Second VP respectively. Joe Fleming and Jim Harris will step down as secretary and treasurer, they did a fantastic job for us. Bob Waldron and John Dynes will replace them. Comma Causey will continue as QM, Darrell Comer as Membership Chair, and Dynes and Saverio Grimaldi will stay at their posts as newsletter editor and webmaster, respectively. Roger Edwards has agreed to be the Chaplain for the Association. Thanks to all for their past performances and those that agreed to continue to lead the Association. Dan Gillotti did a great job with CPT Washington updating the Regimental Room and will continue as the Regimental Historian. He also shared the Hard Charger history with the membership and other attendees on Wednesday. Over one hundred students enjoyed a BBQ lunch with us, and there were many shared stories of Vietnam and the more recent experiences of these young Soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other war zones. We visited the ranges in the afternoon, fired historical weapons (courtesy of our Colonel of the Regiment COL(R) Frank Siltman) and observed our newest

13 Bravos learn the intricacies of live fire (courtesy of 1-78 FA). Thursday - We traveled to Hobart, OK, to visit the General Franks Museum. The museum was full of interesting scenes, photos and remembrances from GEN Franks' childhood and his career as an enlisted Soldier, OCS graduate and his ascent to four-star general in charge of CENTCOM and OIF. I believe that he had four different displays of challenge coins. We enjoyed another Oklahoma BBQ in Hobart with the museum staff. Friday - LTC James Egan's award ceremony and the Change of Command ceremony marked the morning hours, followed by a reception at the Polo Club for LTC Terry Hilt. Members had the opportunity to shoot on the Engagement Skills Trainer or observe JFO simulation training. Our annual banquet and the world-famous auction were held at the Patriot Club that evening. I acknowledged several letters from the Governor, our local Congressman, and a note from our recently deceased WW2 Veteran, Joe Brown. I also recognized our VIP's - BG (R) Bill Bilo, COL (R) Jack Kloke, and CSM (R) Skip Wilfong.

Thanks to so many who made the reunion a success. Dan Mitchell was the POC at Fort Sill/Lawton and he was assisted by Bob Roshell, the Lawton-Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce, the Homewood Suites staff, the GEN Franks Museum staff, the Patriot Club staff, and of course, CPT Washington and the entire 1-30 Battalion. The Battalion made many of our good ideas come to fruition and made this reunion the best ever. The Executive Board and the entire 30th FA Association did a great job of reaching out to former Hard Chargers to increase our ranks to over 320 members! Thank you! God Bless You All, and I look forward to seeing you in Cleveland in 2019.

Signed: COL (R) Ted Janosko, President, 30th FA Regiment Association



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JULY/AUGUST 2018

SABER

them doing the work." "Yeah, it sure was nice for a while," a rifleman added, "but it couldn't last forever." <Pacific Stars & Stripes Tuesday, June 23, 1970, Page 23>. "We went "Mechanized" 48 years ago today with our discovery of a

Page 23>. "We went "Mechanized" 48 years ago today with our discovery of a cache/motorpool in Cambodia. Lots of "goodies" were taken away that day!"
Trooper Tom Hirst.
2004 Looking to get in touch with D 2-12 Troopers Len "Butch" Bertuli, Jim

Compton, and Gary Vickers. I have read your 5,000-word remembrance, '*Telling our Story*: *11 Days in March*' and would wish to serialize it for our readers in the Saber. Please respond. I would also like to contact Trooper Carl T. Johnson of B 2-12.

2204 May 24, 2018. While thousands of tanks, Bradleys and other pieces of Ironhorse equipment have been shipping out of the Great Place for weeks now, the first major flight of nearly 200 Troopers departed Saturday.

The Troopers are bound for Europe to assume the mission of the rotational brigade in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. For many Troopers on this flight, this is the first deployment or rotation overseas of any kind.

CPT Terry Barnhouse, commander of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment is new to his company and is on his first deployment. "I just took command in February of this year," Barnhouse said. "It's been a few months now, and I've gotten to know everybody. The last few months have been busy,

but it's enabled us to kind of bond as a unit. The NCOs, they're the backbone of the Army, and they are going to be the ones making stuff happen. They were all there for NTC and stuff like that. We're going to be alright." This is the first deployment for most of the company and even the battalion, according to Barnhouse. But he has a plan to keep his Troops focused on training. "The Soldiers really get a lot out of building excellence in their craft," Barnhouse said. "They take a lot of pride, and it helps build morale when they know that they're confident in their MOS and their company, and they know that they can go out and do what they need to do, should the nation call. That, of course, must be balanced with giving them the opportunity to talk to Family back home, and everything like that. With the good cell phone coverage and stuff like that, I think that will be good in closing the gaps in communication (with Family)." He is also looking forward to working with his international counterparts while overseas. "That's really the brigade commander's intent," Barnhouse said. "One of the things that he intends for us to do while we are there is to build those relationships with our Polish counterparts." <ForthoodSentinel.com>.

2400 Journal closed. The honorifics for the Three Amigos were gifted to them by me, for no other reason than they are alliterative, and I like how they sound and roll off the tongue. No disrespect meant or intended. "Hegel was right when he said that we learn from history that man can never learn anything from history." ~ George Bernard Shaw. Semper Paratus! Write if you get work.

Ken Howser, Jr.

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Page 12

SABER

20181st Cavalry Division Association Reunion Attendees: 2 BDE

11 AVN

James L. Thomas, Teddy E. Watson

1-21 FA

Frederick L. Bromwell, Orgene Davis, Tom Foor, Parker L. Graham, Terrance E. Low, Steven J. Lowery, Victor R. Mitchell, John S. Parker, Robert W. Ross, Richard L. Sweat, John D. Vincent, John A. Wagner

12 CAV

William Adkins, Ward Bailey, Basil F. Bell, Forrest Brewer, Lawrence W. Cheney, Alan T. Christy, Basil Clark, David Clemons, Harold L. Costello, Thomas Crabtree, Carlos M. Cruz, David Cyrulik, John E. Darnell, James Dingeman, Gary Downs, Dennis A Dunne, Dennis Fletcher, John D. Floyd, Eugene A Fox, Al Freeland, Jerry Garken, John G. Gergulis, Jesus Gonzalez, John Gordish, Carl Guerinoni, David L. Hancock, Bruce Hayes, Robert Helvey, Jose Hernandez, Leon J. Hinton, Paul E. Hoban, Ken Howser, Edward L. Huckabee, Thomas L. Johnson, James Jordan, Howard Kalachman, Tony Kalbli, Thomas E. Karnes, Rick Kopec, Klaus Lachmann, Jim Landrum, Carl H. Lawrence, Allen J. Lynch, Alan L. Martin, Victor Martinez, Kenneth McAteer, Mike McGuire, Kirk Metcalf, William J. Miller, Martin J. Mosen, Donald Oakley, John Payne, Jack W. Pellington, John E. Pike, Robert T. Quinn, David R. Rabon, Jerry R. Richards, Doug Ritchey, William J. Schuster, Franklin R. Smith, Joseph A. Snyder, Robert E. Speakman, Richard L. Speas, James R. Stokely, Thomas R. Strempka, Martell Swain, Jamie Swidecki, John E. Thompson, Gene Vander Zwaag, Michael L. VanKirk, Edwin M. Waltz, Douglas J. Warden, Steven Weiser, Raymond C. Welch, Steven K. Werner, Richard Wilkos, Fred Wilson, Eugene Wright, George M. York

1-30 FA

Danny F. Jackson

13 SIG

Robert D. Ankeney, Rosemary Carter, Eddie Marie Dockery, Andy Guzman, Rodney L. Halford, Steven P. Hammond, Marvin Patten, Richard K. Pegg, William C. Rizi, Marvin B. Ross, Joseph P. Vasil

14 ENG

Glenn Blankenship

15 ADM

David Gardner, Mason Holmes, Dave Lutgen

15 ARM

Robert Mc Nichols

15 FSB

Richard Kaye

15 MED

Robert W. Hardy, Jose M Miranda, William H. Pickle, Robert Tortolani

15 SS

Herman Anthony, William L. Gore, William R. Hurst, Michael A. Vuolo, Neal C. Whetsel

15 ST

Thomas E. Baker, Donald R. Smolinski

15 TC

James T. Burn, Gary D. Decoteau, Peter Tattersall, Dennis L. Wolfe

1-82 FA

Scott L. Sjule

191 MI

Thomas Cambell, Ronnie Killingsworth, Phillip Sparks, James D. Wright 19 FA

James P Johnson, Allen Norris, John S. Parker, James D. Skidmore

1 ACB

Dara Wydler

1 BDE

Tommy H. Harris, Robert W. Moore, Howard S. Shute, Wayne F. Wehrheim **1 CD**

Thomas E. Baker, Rosemary Carter, John E. Darnell, Richard Kaye, Klaus Lachmann, Bernard H. Lieving, Norman E. Lorsung, Terrell W. Macy, John McNiff, John J. Parente

1 CDH

William D. Taylor, Dennis E. Webster, 20ARA, Kirk W. McCullough

215 CSB

Phillip Sparks

227 AVN

Robert C. Casper, Val D. Clark, Archie Ellinger, Gary M. Orr, Marvin Patten,

Eugene A Fox, Larry W. Goehring

30 FA

William Blair, William C. Bilo **312 MI**

Ronnie Killingsworth

34 ISD

Duane A. Swan

3 BDE James R. Horne, Tim Millar, Robert W. Minney, William Reichert, Marvin Szidon

3 FSSE

Paul F. Amrhein

501 ENG

Gary L. Ullom 545 MP

Daniel L. Russell, Erie C. Wright

5 CAV

Aaron Augustus, Patrick H. Benson, Russell Bernhardt, Clyde D. Blankenship, Thomas Cambell, George L. Cesena, Gerald Clement, Evan W. Davis, Howard Dean, Charles Dykes, Robert J. Earl, Ron Eastman, Robert Eyer, Allan F. Foster, David Garcia, Thomas Germuga, Cass I. Gittins, Jesus Gonzalez, Melvin L. Gregory, Gary P. Hauser, Robert S. Heintz, Bruce Johnson, Donald R. Jones, Steven P. Kernek, Carl H. Lawrence, Bernard H. Lieving, Dennis C. London, George W. McKee, John McLean, Kim Morelock, James E. Reecamper, William Reichert, Ernest F. Rhodes, Richard Sherwood, Terrance Skipper, George F. Smith, David R. Thomas, Joe E. Welch, Carl Wright

615 ASB

Dara Wydler

77 ARTY

Bill Shepard

77 FA

William C. Bilo, Jack W. Pellington

7 CAV

Bob Arbasetti, Robert M. Atkins, John Beard, John Beard, Ronald Benton, Douglas Besteman, Eric Billman, Glenn Blankenship, Edmund Boucher, John William Brock, John Burchfield, Lloyd Butler, Castulo Camarillo, Bobby Chafin, Paul Chambers, Warde P. Chittenden, David Clemons, James C. Comer, Raymond Craig, Ron Curry, Robert J. Datish, James M. Dean, Donald A. Delsing, George D. Dhane, Jose M. Diaz, Samuel C. Dixon, Martin C. Duesel, Lyman C. Duryea, James O. Epperson, Emil A. Ercolano, Robert L. Etzwiler, Sherman Flanders, Glen Gayheart, John Glover, Anthony Grasso, Albert Guarnieri, John Guillory, Jay Hagar, David L. Hancock, Robert W. Hardy, William F. Harper, James M. Hilts, Timothy A. Hodge, Ryan Hodge, Thomas J. Hoover, James R. Horne, Christopher Hutchison, Larry D. Israel, Ronald Johnson, Dexter Judd, James Kasmer, David M. Kirk, Marcia Klima, Robert A. Larson, Carl Lee, Terrance E. Low, Roger Lutz, Claud McMillen, Richard McSweeney, Andrew J. Metrando, Tim Millar, Robert W. Minney, Robert L. Mobbs, Robert W. Moore, Friedrich H. Morawietz Patrick Nardi, Allen Norris, Karl Oestreich, John J. Parente, Roger Parker, Joseph Persaud, Frank G. Phillips, Jeffrey Pitzen, Jr., David J. Posner, Thomas A. Preece, Stanley L. Reed, Gregory L. Rice, Francis H. Richarson Jr., Sean Riley, John O. Rodney, Robert W. Ross, Ronald A. Saizon, Rolando A. Salazar, Terry Sanford, Steve Shear, Robert Shearer, Marion J. Siara, Samuel A. Smith, David C. Smith Larry D. Snyder, Paul Stroessner, Karl Swenson, Marvin Szidon, David Taylor, Raymond P. Temple, Edward Times, Robert Tortolani, John Towarnicki, Lawrence Dean Tucker, Norman Tuggle, Louis Urso, Eddie D. Vanderpool, John A. Wagner, Butch Watkins, Robert E. Wellmaker, C. Boyd Williamson, Phil Worsley, James D. Wright, George M. York, Jerome M. Zdancewicz, Phillip Zook

8 CAV

Earl F. Aldrich, Ray B. Armer, Frederick L. Barhorst, James P Beck, Oris G. Beckett, Steve Benney, Paul Braun, Donald F. Burris, William D. Carpenter, Dennis R. Casey, Jay P. Davidson, Donald A. Delsing, Thomas DeYoung, James Dotson, Kenneth Drombosky, Fred R. Duncan, C. J. Duke DuShane, Robert J. Earl, Byron L. Edgecomb, Ben Evans, Juan Fernandez, Dennis Fletcher, Andy Gerrier, Thomas Ginop, Lloyd W. Gratz, Thomas Hager Jr., Tommy H. Harris, Bruce C. Hawley, Lawrence F. Hempfling, John D. Hershberger, Bertyl V. Johnson, Jon M. Jones, Juan Jose, John R. Keys, William J. Laferriere, Joseph E. Letarte, Michael R. Lewellen, Terrell W. Macy, Thomas M. Mancini, Arnold McCartney, James L. McNeill, John McNiff, J. Michael Mullins, Richard O'Brien, Joseph W. O'Connor, John S. Parker, Robert J. Patterson, William H. Pickle, Al Rackley, Peter J. Rhymer, Marvin B. Ross, Stephen D. Saunders, Sam Savino, William G. Sherwood, William Shotwell, Allan C. Smith, Thomas Spampinato, Robert E. Speakman, Gary Stine, Dennis A. Stormer, Roger N. Teague

Robert L. Thompson, Phil Worsley

228 AVN

Joseph C. Gallagher, Michael Kolenick, Peter Tattersall

229 AVN

James Bracewell, George M. Egan, Patrick A. Murphy, Kenneth White

23 TC

Dale J Gatehouse

26 CHEM

Lloyd Jackson

27 MNT

James W. Donahue, James R. Hays, W. Robert Patton, Phillip Sparks, Joe Viggiano

27 MSB

Gail F. Porter

2-82 FA

Elden M. Parish

2 BCT

James Cole

8 ENG

Sam Below, Philip M. Blevins, Jesse Crimm, Edward O. Gaines, John W. Garmong, Ronald Gilliland, H. Wayne Givens, William J. Grogan, Carl Guerinoni, Donald Litz, David R. Paddock, Mark A. Piasecki, Lynn Titus, Gary L. Ullom, Richard J. VanDeurzen, James Vanecek, Cecil D. Wheeler

99 FA

Richard Clark

9 CAV

Michael Achy, Charles M. Cassidy, Renate Craft, Arthur J. Craig, James C. Day, Daryl Durbin, Michael D. Hoopaugh, William S. Huff, Dale B. Kerns, Carl H. Lawrence, Norman E. Lorsung, Jerry A Mohr, Michael G. Parkhill, Stephen M. Pendergrass, Robert L. Thompson

DCSM

Shane Pospisil

DISCOM

Charles M. Cassidy, Jerry Eller, Jose M. Miranda

Continued on pg. 13

JULY/AUGUST 2018

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Charleston, WV 23 June 2018

The meeting of the membership of the 1st Cavalry Division Association was called to order by the President of the Association, Allen O. Norris, at 0902 hours with a quorum present.

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the members present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The minutes of the 2017 meeting of the membership of the 1st Cavalry Division Association held in Killeen, Texas on 10 June 2017 were approved as written. Minutes were published in the July/August 2017 Saber and posted on the bulletin board at the reunion for the past three days. The reading of the minutes was waived. A motion to accept the 2017 minutes was made by Jim Crasper and seconded by Tom Karnes. The motion was carried by the membership.

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

President:	Allen O. Norris
1st Vice President:	Scott L. Sjule
2nd Vice President:	Richard A. Kaye
3rd Vice President:	Donald R. Smolinski
Board of Governors:	
Cynthia Ballinger	Clifford Boxley
Rosemary Carter	David Clemons
Lyman Duryea	Timothy Hodge
Ron Killingsworth	John LeBrun
Roger May	Michael Vuolo

Foundation Trustees: Terry Maddox and Ron Killingsworth

Museum Foundation Trustees: Scott L. Sjule and Michael Vuolo

The President conducted a roll call of the nominees and opened the floor for further nominations. In the absence of nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, a motion was made to accept the report as written by Dennis Webster, and a second motion was made by Tim Millar. The motion was approved by the membership.

David A. Lutgen, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided a report on the financial status of the Association. His report covered the period of 31 March 2017 to 31 March 2018. He reported that the assets of the Association were \$2,471,137, which is up \$22,737. The liabilities for the Association are \$57,240, which are primarily unexpired *Saber* subscriptions. The fund balance, which is the net worth of the Association, is \$2,413,897, which is up \$13,106 for the period. The Market Value of our investment is \$4,329,919, which is an increase of \$148,145. The unrealized earnings from investments are \$1,925,448, which is an increase of \$121,137 from last year. The Association currently owns \$1,566,817 in high-grade bonds, which produces an annual income of \$73,251. The Association contributes \$12,000 to the Foundation each year. The Chairman of the Committee reported that the Association was in good financial shape.

The Executive Trustee of the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, Peter Tattersall, provided a report on the Foundation for the period 31 March 2017 to 31 March 2018. The Foundation is made up of two segments the Foundation (Base) and the Ia Drang Scholarship Fund. The total assets of the Foundation are \$1,190,846, a decrease of \$25343. The Foundation (Base) assets are \$1,059,723 a decrease of \$756 or 2.1 percent. The Ia Drang portion of the assets is \$131,123, which is down \$24,587 or -15.8 percent. Liabilities, which are payments due to administer our accounts, are \$7,500. The fund balance, or net worth of the Foundation, is \$1,183,346, which is down \$30,343. The Foundation portion of the fund balance is \$1,052,223, which is down \$5,756. The Ia Drang portion of the fund balance is \$131,123, which is down \$24,587. The Market Value of the Foundation's investments as of 31 March was \$1,783,627, which is up \$88,900 from last year, an increase of 5.2 percent. The Ia Drang share of their securities is \$231,678, is down by of \$703. The Foundation Base had unrealized earnings of \$758,088 which is up \$104,705. The Ia Drang Fund has unrealized earnings of \$106,234 which is up \$15,391. The Foundation Base has high-grade commercial bonds in the portfolio, which are valued at \$543,662. The bonds produce an annual income of \$25,501 providing an annual yield of 4.7 percent. The Ia Drang bonds are valued at \$15,048, which produced an annual income of \$731 (yield of 4.9 percent). The Foundation has a more conservative approach to investments based on the closing out of the Ia Drang Fund. The Foundation Trustees estimate that the Ia Drang Fund will run out of money in December 2021 depending on the market and the number of scholarships provided to students. The Foundation provides scholarships to the children of those killed in action and the children of those that are 100% permanently disabled, and to active duty Troopers and their spouses. The Ia Drang fund provides scholarships to grandchildren of Troopers in specified units that were active participants in the battles.

2018 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion Attendees Continued from pg. 12

DIVARTY

SABER

Frederick L. Bromwell, Donald O Callahan, David R. Krueger

DOD Daniel Baughman **ENG BDE** William T. Maddox

GOLD STAR FAMILY

J. Stephania Ryan

HCD Jesse Hurst, Scott L. Sjule **HHBN**

Dara Wydler

HONORARY MEMBER

Joseph L. Galloway

LRRP/RANGERS (52 INF & 75 INF)

Robert N. Alexander, Eddie Bailey, Robert J. Bowles, William D. Carpenter, Harvey J. Claypoole, Howard L. Coble, Terry Cordle, Lawrence M. Curtis, Forrest Decker, Samuel C. Dixon, C. J. Duke DuShane, Bobby Fisher, John D. Floyd, John W. Fort, Stanley Freeborn, Bennie Gentry, Arthur L. Guerrero, Scott E. Hancock, William T. Hand, William F. Hornbuckle, John LeBrun, Craig Leerberg, Partick Lyons, Douglas B. Matze, Jr., Glenn Meritt, Robert T. Oakes, A. Wayne Okken, John W. O'Neal, Robert J. Raab, James P. Regan, Daniel J. Roberts, J. David Russell, David G. Shows, Howard S. Shute, John C. Simones, Grover Sprague, John Trumbull, James F. Weidlich, Bernard J. Wells, Kenneth White, Richard E. Wilkie, Charles D. Windham Jr.

STAFF

Karleen Maloney, Michelle Napolitano, Tina Wilgeroth

VOLUNTEERS

Marlene Crawford, Kelly Maddox, Virginia Maloney, and the WV Almost Heaven Chapter volunteers

2018 Ladies Tea at the J.Q. Dickinson Salt-Works 6-22-18



Here is the highly requested shrimp salad recipe we had for lunch:

J.Q. Dickinson Salt-Works Shrimp Salad by Chef Paul Smith 2# shrimp-cooked, peeled and develned

4 Tablespoon mayo 2 Tablespoon Dijon mustard 1/2 each yellow, red and green peppers diced fine Zest of 1 lemon

Juice of 1 lemon J.Q. Dickinson finishing salt and peppercorns Pinch of sugar Pinch of Old Bay seasoning





The Executive Trustee of the 1st Cavalry Division Association Museum Foundation, W. Terry Maddox. No report on the activities or financials of the Museum Foundation were given as there was not quorum present for that meeting. However, Terry did brief the membership on the Mounted Warfare Foundation and their continued fundraising efforts.

The Executive Director provided the membership with a briefing on the Association Programs. Dara briefed the membership about the new web page and the significant increase in Life Memberships; the location and dates for the next Veterans Day were announced, November 9-12, 2018 at the Crowne Plaza Washington National (in Crystal City). This year marks the Centennial Commemoration of WWI and we are expecting a Military Parade along with the normal ceremonies. The dates of the 2019 reunion in Killeen Texas were announced (5-9 June 2019) and the main hotel will again be the Shilo Inn. The membership was also informed of the pending dates for the 2021 reunion celebrating the Division's 100th birthday.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 0929 hours.

Dara C. Wydler Secretary

Quilt of Valor Denise Saunders made this quilt for Duke DuShane and presented it to him at the 71st 1CDA Reunion in Charleston WV.

2019 Reunion Information:

1ST Cavalry Division Association 72nd Reunion 5-9 June 2019 Shilo Inn, Killeen, TX

Hotel reservations can be made by calling (254) 699-0999. Reunion registrations will go out with the 2019 Calendar and you can register online via the website, <www.lcda.org>.

Looking forward to everyone coming to Texas!

LRRP/Ranger News Ken White



3834 Inverness Road Fairfax, VA 22033 (703) 352-1468 KenWhite68@yahoo.com

Hello from the nation's capital. As expected, the Memorial Day Weekend was a busy time here in the Washington, D.C. area with Rolling Thunder being in town and with the observances on The National

Mall and at Arlington National Cemetery. This year's Rolling Thunder ride marked the 31st year of the event. It was estimated by the event's organizers to have included more than one million riders and spectators combined making it the largest single-day motorcycle event in the world. The first Rolling Thunder ride was in 1988 and included 2,500 motorcycles. It was intended to be a reminder to our government leaders by way of a demonstration that our country should never again abandon its service members like it did in the Vietnam War. Today, the ride is an emotional display of patriotism and respect for all who have served our country.

Rolling Thunder is incorporated as a non-profit organization with 90 chapters throughout the U.S. and abroad dedicated to bringing accountability for POWs/ MIAs from all U.S. wars. It has been influential in the passing of the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1993, a bill that states that a service member cannot be listed as killed in action (KIA) without substantial evidence; and with winning approval from the U.S. government for a POW/MIA postage stamp in 1995. It also co-authored the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act in 1996, which prohibits protests such as those taking place near funeral proceedings for fallen military personnel.

This year's Memorial Day Observance at The Wall marked 45 years since the 591 American POWs held by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong were released from captivity and returned to American control in March 1973 in what was named Operation Homecoming. Fittingly, the day's Keynote Speaker was Colonel Hal Kushner, M.D., USAR (Ret.), who spent five and a half years as a POW, first in the jungle camps of South Vietnam and Laos, and later at the Hanoi Hilton in North Vietnam. COL Kushner was a military flight surgeon with HQ Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, when on November 30, 1967, the helicopter he was riding in crashed into the side of a mountain west of Tam Ky and north of Chu Lai in southern I Corps in the monsoon rain. They were on their way back to LZ Two Bits in the Bong Son area after visiting with a Troop at Chu Lai.



Stephania Ryan and Gen. Colin Powell at Memorial Day Concert

The pilot of the helicopter, MAJ Stephan Porcella (Worcester, Massachusetts), and co-pilot, WO Griffith Bedworth (Woodbridge, Connecticut), died in the crash or shortly afterwards. The crew chief, SGT Kenneth D. McKee (Detroit, Michigan), was unhurt although he was thrown clear from the aircraft and knocked unconscious. COL Kushner suffered a broken wrist and collarbone and was shot through the shoulder with an M-60 round from the ammunition on board that caught on fire and exploded. Thinking that they were close

to Duc Pho and Highway 1 at the southern end of I Corps, SGT McKee set out at first light on December 1st to get help. He never made it. He was found shot dead and submerged in a flooded rice paddy several days later about 10 miles from the crash site. COL Kushner was captured on December 2nd by local Viet Cong soldiers and taken to a jungle POW camp west of the crash site in South Vietnam or Laos after marching for 30 days mostly at night with no boots and tied-up in commo wire.

COL Kushner spent the next three and a half years in a series of jungle POW camps where conditions were very bad and hunger edema, skin disease, dysentery, and physical beatings were a daily part of life. He was eventually moved on foot to Hanoi in February 1971. There he was held in an old French prison called the Citadel and then in the Hanoi Hilton where he remained until his release in March 1973. Kushner said: "it was hard duty in North Vietnam but not the grim struggle for survival which characterized daily life in the camps in the South."

After Vietnam, COL Kushner returned to active duty and restarted his medical career. He stayed on active duty until 1977 when he entered the Army reserves from which he retired in 1986 at the rank of colonel. He also started a private medical practice as an ophthalmologist and had a long and successful career. Kushner said: "I prided myself on not allowing my war experiences to overshadow my life.'

COL Kushner wrapped up his speech with the following: "I am thankful for my life and I have no bitterness. I feel so fortunate to have survived and flourished when so many braver, stronger, and better men did not."

On a different note, the news media in the Washington, D.C. area reported that the cremated remains of four Vietnam Veterans were left at The Wall over the Memorial Day Weekend bringing to 80 the total number that have been left there through the years - some in containers, some scattered. The National Park Service, however, is not allowed to accept human remains and is forced to store them in its Museum Resources Center in Maryland in metal cabinets with the windows in the center papered over until they can figure out what to do with them. As it turns out, the National Park Service recently entered into an agreement with a non-profit Veterans' organization, the Missing in America Project, that will identify and inter with dignity all remains left at The Wall. All remains will be inurned with full military honors at a cemetery in Virginia. They will remain in their original containers and will be placed together in a vacant, spacious underground vault that was donated to the organization by the cemetery. The funeral of LTC Bill Anton (1971-72) USA (Ret.), Las Vegas, Nevada, was held at Arlington National Cemetery on May 22nd with full military honors. Bill, of **Bill Anton Funeral, Arlington** course, was the executive officer **National Cemetery** of H Company, 75th Rangers in

Vietnam in the 1971-72 timeframe. He also served in the Pathfinder unit in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam before serving with H Company. Bill was the past president of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and was the first Nevadan to be inducted into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame. He was also a frequent attendee of the LRRP/Ranger reunions in recent years before he got sick. Bill died on June 15, 2017 in Las Vegas and the transport of his ashes to



(L to R) Ken White, Stephania Ryan, Sid Marcus, Sam Dixon

Arlington National Cemetery for interment was overseen by COL Rivers of the Las Vegas Veterans Affairs.

Attendees from the LRRP/Ranger unit included MG Michael Davidson (1971) USNG (Ret.), Louisville, Kentucky; Sam Dixon (1971), New Castle, Delaware; Sid Marcus (1960) Waldorf, Maryland; Stephania Ryan (Gold Star Daughter of Dwight Durham (KIA) April 10,1969)); and, yours truly.

Bill was a Veteran advocate in many service organizations, and as Nevada state commander for the Disabled American Veterans, he worked through Veterans Affairs channels to assist Veterans with their claims.

He also lobbied for legislation at the state and federal levels to preserve the integrity of military medals and awards through "stolen valor" laws. He helped craft a bill sponsored by former Rep. Joe Heck and Sen. Dean Heller, both Nevada Republicans that then-President Barack Obama signed into law in 2013. The law makes it a crime to lie about receiving military medals and targets people who try to profit by falsely passing themselves off as war heroes. He also served as Nevada's civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army in 2015.

On a different note, I received a letter from COL Gary Adams, USA (Ret.), Idaho Falls, Idaho, regarding the story of LRRP Team 1F that appeared in the May-June issue of the Saber. As a 1LT, COL Adams served with the 1st Cav in the 1966-1968 timeframe and piloted a helicopter gunship in the 2nd Battalion (Aerial Rocket), 20th Artillery, when the Cav was operating in the coastal plains

and jungle mountains of eastern Binh Dinh Province and then at the DMZ in the vicinity of Quang Tri City and the Marine Combat Base at Khe Sanh.

COL Adams had some good comments regarding the incident, for example: "it's regrettable that ARA was not the first source of firepower to be on the scene where the first pair of rockets would have been right at "Center of Mass," with 94 other rockets delivered wherever vou wanted them," and, "the NVA infiltration group must have been extremely green without knowledge of how effective the Air Cav would be."



LT Gary Adams, Copilot, 2nd Battalion (Aerial Rocket), 20th Artillery, 1966

COL Adams went on to say that "...there were a number of missions where ARA gunships provided much needed fire support to LRRPs. On one-night mission when the patrol's position had been compromised and the team was taking fire at close range, we could only locate them by signals from a red flashlight coupled with the clicking-of-the-mike button on the radio to convey a "yes" or



LRRP/Rangers 2018 Reunion Attendees

"no" answer. Charlie was too close for voice radio communications. The least we could do for our brothers-on-the-ground was to provide suppression rocket and M-60 fire that enabled them to hold on until they could be extracted."

Finally, our unit had an excellent turnout at the reunion in Charleston this year with 45 signing in. It wasn't a record breaker, but it was a good turnout. As I understand it from talking with Bill Carpenter (1967), who is the keeper of this kind of information for our unit, the Louisville reunion in 2006 had the largest turnout with 60 plus. From the looks of things at the hotel and in the restaurants in the area, the 1st Cav overall also had a good turnout. Maybe it was because of the proximity of Charleston to many of the cities on the East Coast and to a number of cities in the Midwest. It was a 6-hour drive by car from the Washington, D.C. area.



At the Reunion Banquet on Saturday night, I had the pleasure of meeting Phillip M.

Zook, David C. Smith, and Marion Siara, who as 1st Lieutenants served as platoon leaders in Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cav when the 1st Cav went into Cambodian as part of the Spring Campaign of 1970. A good friend of mine growing up in Waltham, Massachusetts, Peter W. Gilmore, served in Charlie Company and died in a North Vietnamese ambush in Cambodia on May 24, 1970. It was strange to talk to someone about Peter's death after all these years. A playground in Waltham is named in his honor. RANGERS LEAD THE WAY



Peter Gilmore Playground, Waltham, Massachusetts

ALMOST HEAVEN WEST VIRGINIA FLORIDA CHAPTER CHAPTER

(585) 704-2758

Contact for meeting info.

Pres: Juan Kellog 607 SE 47th St., Apt. 7 Cape Coral, FL 33904-5506

FOLLOW ME CHAPTER

Pres: Robert Dodson

No meeting in December.

Pres: Thomas Ken O'Barr

12210 Valley Dr. Goshen, KY 40026-9501 (502) 228-8032

POC: Larry A. Whelan 2103 Winston Ave.

È-mail: ko42@bellsouth.net

Louisville, KY 40205-2535 (502) 485-1270

Website: www.1cda.org/fort_knox.html

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JAMES J. MASON WEST MICHIGAN

E-mail: rj.anderson2243@comcast.net

Meets on 3rd Thurs of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec, at 7pm, at the Grand Valley Armory in Wyoming, MI.

Meets 3rd Sat of mos at 1100 at the Bark-er Masonic Lodge, 705 Main St., West

E-mail: lawhelan@att.net

Point, KY,

Pres: Owen Levine 77 Clubhouse Dr.

(978) 534-6284

Meets yearly.

CHAPTER

Pres: Ron Kloet

POC: Bob Anderson 9030 Conservancy Dr. NE Ada, MI 49301-8822 (616) 682-5446

Website: jjmwmc1cd.com

POC: Johnnie Robertson

2641 Ashwood St.

Facebook: Florida Chapter 1st Cavalry Division Association

FLORIDA TROOP E "BLACK HAT"

-mail: juankellog@embarqmail.com

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 1:00pm at Biggys Place, 3701 Fowler St., Fort Myers, FL 33901

Meets 1900 4th Tues ea mos Veterans Ctr., 1000 Victory Dr., Columbus, GA.

FORT KNOX AREA CHAPTER

POC: William D. Carpenter 713 Diamond St. Fairmont, WV 26554-3713 (304) 366-0022 E-mail: vetvet1@comcast.net

CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER Pres: Barney B. Jones PO Box 444 Pebble Beach, CA 93953 (831) 917-5952 È-mail: firstcav-cc-chapter@outlook.com

CENTRAL SAVANNAH RIVER AREA CHAPTER This Chapter is closed. Looking for new leaders to run this Chapter. POC: Gar : Gary Quinn 395 Harlem Grovetown Rd. Harlem, GA 30814-4525 (706) 513-5858

COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE CHAPTER Pres: Terry Low 16560 S Harding Rd. Oregon City, OR 97045-9679 (503) 210-5558 E-mail: 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 CHAPTER Pres: Keith Moyer 48 Boretz Rd. Colchester, CT 06415-1009 (860) 537-1716 E-mail: kpmoyerco@hotmail.com Website: www.ConnCav.com Meeting info in newsletter and on webpage.

CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER Pres: Dave Clemons 1101 Victoria Cir. Copperas Cove, TX 76522 (254) 630-3909 Board meeting is the 4th Tues of the mos (except Dec), 11:30 at 1CDA HQ at 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX. Open to everyone. General Membership meeting is 3rd Wed of Mar & Sept at 6pm, place TBD.

FIRST CHAPTER Pres: Robert H. Wolfe 4756 Haracourt Dr. El Paso, TX 79924-3047 (915) 755-7944

CHAPTER INDEX JUMPING MUSTANG CHAPTER Pres: Ferd Gardiner Jr. 2290 W Tall Oaks Dr. 1-8 Cav Beverly Hills, FL 34465 (407)-473-8407 E-mail: fgardiner@cfl.rr.com VP: Gill Harris

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 E-mail: jjknafel@gmail.com Website: www.JumpingMustangs.com

SABER

KETTLE MORAINE CHAPTER

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 CHAPTER

Pres: John Guillory 780 Mandevilla Way Corona, CA 92879-8251 (951) 278-3740 E-mail: fisheye1@sbcglobal.net Vice Pres: John Burgner 228 South Hacienda St. Anaheim, CA 92804-2569 (714) 535-0737 E-mail: 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: John LeBrun 932 3rd St. Blaine, WA 98230 (360) 393-6645 E-mail: caabnranger@yahoo.com Website: www.lrrprangers.com Full chapter meeting during Reunions.



WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION

CHAPTER Pres: Gene Russell 7923 Jansen Dr. Springfield, VA 22152-2413 (703) 220-5322 È-mail: enrussell@msn.com Website: lcda.org/national_capitol.htm 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 gathering.

NEVADA CHAPTER

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

NEWYORK/NEWJERSEYCHAPTER

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

NORTH CAROLINA - TARHEEL

CHAPTER Pres: Roy Wood 4407 Talavera Dr. High Point, NC 27265-9660 (336) 707-1402 È-mail: roywood64@gmail.com Contact for Membership: Don Gibson 803 McDonald Church Road Rockingham, NC 28379-8529 (910) 417-9104 e-mail: dtbjgibson@gmail.com Meets 2nd Sat of Mar, Jun, Sept & Dec.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

Pres: William Koepp 4633 Timothy St. SE Lacey, WA 98503-5764 (360) 259-4815 POC: Roberto Maanao 3036 Marquette Dr. SE Lacey, WA 98503-6255 (360) 491-9118 E-mail: rmaanao@comcast.net Meets 1200 1st Sat of even months, contact William Koepp or Roberto Maanao for meeting location.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

Pres: Robert Stauffacher 18355 Drennan Rd. Colorado Springs, CO 80928-9308 (719) 683-2837 POC: Paul Lemieux PO Box 6548 Woodland Park, CO 80866-6548 (719) 687-1169 -mail: lemieuxpe@live.com Meets 9am 2nd Sat of mos at Valley Hi Country Club, 610 South Chelton Road, Colorado Springs, CO.

SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY CHAPTER

(Greater Chicago Area) Pres: Don Smolinski 603-894-8524 POC: Terry Hodous 3718 W 114th Place Chicago, IL 60655-3414 (773) 445-1213 È-mail: us67-hodo@outlook.com Website: www.sheridansfirstcav.com Meets at the American Legion Post#1084, 322 E. Maple Ave, Roselle, IL 61072. 2018 Meeting Dates: Feb 10, April 21, June 9, Aug 11 Picnic, Oct 13, Dec 8 Xmas party

SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO CHAPTER

Pres: Gregorio Trujillo PO Box 215 Las Animas, CO 81054-0215 (719) 456-0028 POC: John Campos 1308 Lewis Ave. La Junta, CO 81050-3024 (719) 384-0379 E-mail: campos@centurytel.net Website: www.firstcavalry.net Meets 1st Sat of ea mos at 10am at the Holiday Inn Express in LaJunta, CO.

WALTER H. WESTMAN NORTHLAND CHAPTER

Pres: Donald A. Delsing 3697 Gresham Ave. N. Oakdale, MN 55128-3212 (651) 770-5422 E-mail: dandmdelsing@aol.com POC: James D. Wright 12781 Able St. NE Blaine, MN 55434-3261 (763) 757-7140 E-mail: 1stCav-MN@comcast.net Meets quarterly at different locations. Call or write for information.

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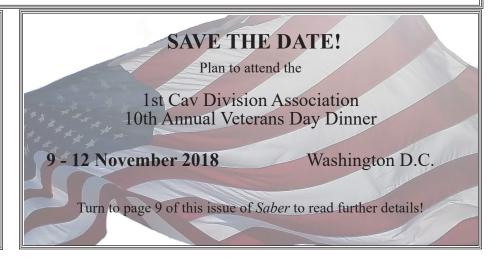
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Page 16

SABER

From the Director's Desk office of 1CDA
Director's Desk Office of 1CDA
71 ST REUNION SURVEY If you attended this years reunion, let your voices be heard and take a few minutes in providing us feedback. We are well aware of the few minor hiccups, that fell out of our control. Thank you for understanding.
1.) Was this your first reunion? Yes No Please circle
2.) How would you rate the food?
3.) How would you rate the venue?
4.) What do you like most about the reunions?
5.) What do you dislike about the reunions?
6.) What can we improve upon?
7.) What would you like to see in future reunions?
8.) Any reasonable suggestions for the Fort Hood/Killeen 72nd Reunion?
Thank you for your input. All responses will be considered.
Please mail your survey to: 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522 ATTN: Tina Wilgeroth or email your responses to programs@1CDA.org. Write REUNION SURVEY in the subject line.
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Email to Programs@1CDA.org



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

Speech given at the 71st Reunion by the 1st Cavalry Division Deputy Commander Manuever-Brigadier General Taylor

"There is no such thing as closure for Soldiers who have survived a war. They have an obligation, a sacred duty, to remember those who fell in battle beside them all their days and to bear witness to the insanity that is war." — Harold G. Moore My name is Hank Taylor and I am a First Team Trooper. On behalf of the Division Commander, MG Paul Calvert and Division Command Sergeant Major Shane Pospisil and I personally want to take this opportunity to thank each of the 1st team Troopers that attended the reunion in West Virginia in June. I was able to meet many of you and your passion for this great Division is contagious. As I move on in my military career, I will take with me this amazing opportunity to be amongst the legends that made the First Cavalry Division the most lethal division in the Army today.

It is not lost on me that each of you read this publication to catch up with old friends, your love for this great Division, and the Troopers and their Families. Thank you for your support, it is truly appreciated by the entire First Team!

Today, the Division continues to blaze the trail paved by the professionalism, sweat and blood of those that have served on the First Team. Each has a unique story associated with your service in the First Cavalry Division and it has shown me how powerful we are as a team. Individually we get nowhere but as a cohesive team, we can do amazing things. As a globally aligned Division we are "team of teams" which enhances our lethality and commitment to mission accomplishment.

Our Division Colors... heavy with campaign streamers. Since 1921 to the present, these streamers represent the countless campaigns and battles the Division has been a part of. They represent the sacrifice...the determination.... the professionalism of every Trooper that has ever worn this patch. Our patch is large and in the words of Gladys Fitch Dorcy "...we made it that way because it is worn by big men who do big things."

From the Troopers on horseback in the deserts near Fort Bliss; the fierce fighting in World War II; occupation duty in Japan; combat operations in the Korean War; Airmobile warfare in Vietnam; desert fighting in the Gulf War; peacekeeping in Bosnia; and fighting the War on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan. You all have contributed to the success of this Division and should be extremely proud of OUR patch and your units.

Today, we continue that history. As the First Team we remain focused to neet operational demands. Trooper Readiness, Training Readiness, Sustainnent Readiness and Community Readiness all feed into the "Ready Now" nd "Fight Tonight" attitude of our Troopers and Formations. Readiness naximizes our ability to accomplish our assigned missions, which deters our dversaries and ensures that the First Team continues the tradition of excellence. Ve have over 5,000 Troopers currently deployed in over 14 different counies. Iron horse just deployed in support of operations in EUCOM while ⁴ Air Cavalry Brigade is in the midst of their redeployment back to the tates after 9 months conducting missions in EUCOM. BlackJack recently eturned from a 9-month deployment to the Korean peninsula and GreyWolf eturned after 9 months supporting operations in support of CENTCOM. s you all already know, the demand for First Team Troopers continues to emain in high demand. The Division remains focused on operations all over ne globe and stands ready to defeat the enemy anytime, anywhere. Our traing is complex and demanding and our equipment readiness is the best in III ORPS. But it is the professionalism of our Troopers that sets us apart from the est of the Army. Trooper Readiness is a culture throughout the Division, and hat culture was established long ago by the Troopers who previously served. ou are the ones that paved the way for us who wear the uniform today. You ave handed down your legacy as some of the fiercest warriors to take the fight the enemy and I can tell you first hand that all of us in the Division thank you.

So, to each of you, I want to personally thank you...your service to our Nation has made a difference. Know that you will always be a Trooper and you will always be a member of the First Team. As such, you have a unique opportunity to continue to make a difference.

As a Trooper for Life, take pride in knowing that you are our ambassadors to the communities you live, the place you work and to our Army's future Soldiers. Ladies and Gentlemen, I am Hank Taylor and I am proud to be a member of the First Torm. This is our Tormy it's a grant tarm because of our Troopers

the First Team. This is our Team; it's a great team because of our Troopers; it is the Nation's First Team! Live the Legend!

2019 CALENDAR

We are working diligently on your 2019 Calendar!

Calendar donations keep this program operational. Without your donations we are unable to continue this program.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT & GENEROSITY!

UNITED STATES ARMY SOLDIER FOR LIFE

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 <u>Veterans</u> '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 September/October 2018 edition.

Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is Friday, 6 September 2018

ARE YOU A RECENTLY RETIRED VETERAN?

What tips do you have to offer to our new Soldiers of Today?

Email your responses to programs@1CDA.org Write TIPS in the subject line.

15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB

Mike Bodnar 13010 N. Lakeforest Dr. Sun City, AZ 85351-3250 (623) 972-4395 MBodnar27@Juno.Com www.15thMedBnAssociation.org



I have been trying to get Daily Staff Journals DA 1594s to document which MEDEVAC pilots and crews made any particular pickups. Thus far the best information is coming from the requesting battalion

DA 1594 e.g. 2-7 Cavalry. The HHC 15th MED DA 1594s I have seen do not document MEDEVAC missions specific to those requested in brigade. I have asked a lot of Veterans, but no one has been able to say if they know of that being documented on any DA 1594. I was told that the request for a MEDEVAC, chain of command, would be from the lowest level: platoon, to company, to battalion, to brigade. As fast as a radio can transmit.

Researching for activity in the 1st Cav, 1st Brigade specific to the 15 Aug 69 NVA offensive, I was told by the National Archives that a DA 1594 for A Co 15th MED does not exist. If the mission to the MEDEVAC crew stationed at A Co in 1st Brigade did not come from them-and I have no way of knowing if A Co documented it as there is no existing DA 1594 for them-then it had to come from Brigade. I got a sample copy of the 1st Cav 1st Brigade DA 1594 for 16 Aug 69 and it pretty much reflects what is on the 2-7 Cavalry DA 1594 about MEDEVAC requests. Although, the 1st Brigade DA 1594 mentions all activity in the brigade AO for all battalions. I have seen on various 2-7 Cavalry DA 1594s-of the many more of those I have-the actual mention of the MEDEVAC AC's call sign, so that is helpful. It isn't always called out.

I have been reading all the DA 1594s for 2-7 Cav just to follow and plot on the maps I have of the daily movement of C 2-7 Cav which is specific to my own experience. Anyone can do the same for their experience if they obtain these same tools. Now that I see occasionally the MEDEVAC AC call sign is called out I know which crew flew any particular mission. This seems to be the only way to know until someone tells me different, but no one has. I asked MEDEVAC pilot and 15th MED webmaster Ron Huether how they got the missions and he said they came from brigade. I couldn't discern if brigade meant the 15th MED company at brigade, or even if they were a middleman. If they documented on a DA 1594, nothing was preserved.

I spoke to 1st Cav Association Executive Director Dara Wydler on the phone asking her about the Daily Staff Journal DA 1594 because she was a First Sergeant in an aviation unit during her Army career, and she told me the first thing she looked at when she went on duty every day was the DA 1594. She said that told her everything about what had happened and what she needed to know. She said it was filled out by the CQ, not necessarily typed, and she didn't know if any of those were preserved to the National Archives like the ones I am obtaining. The fact that the Daily Staff Journals DA 1594s from Vietnam I have been preserved to the National Archives and are available is incredible.

Ironically, for a combat field unit, all the 2-7 Cav Daily Staff Journals-I have-a full year- all typed, in military fashion. I can't imagine anyone trying to decipher handwritten important documents like that in personal handwriting which at worst could be like the notorious "doctor's handwriting" style. When 2-7 Cav battalion headquarters was in its worst situation, like when FSB Jay was heavily attacked on 29 Mar 70 I have no DA 1594. The next day 30 Mar 70 all the entries are sparse and eerily say, "All elements report negative SITREP"-but still typed.

are sparse and eerily say, "All elements report negative SITREP"-but still typed. I asked Ron Huether if the MEDEVAC 9-Line request information was saved and he said 9-Lines were written on scraps of paper, in ink on the palm of your hand, or given over the radio and written on the windscreen in wax pen. There was no record of them kept. Because no documentation of which MEDEVAC AC pilot and crew performed which mission and because I only occasionally see a pilot call sign documented on any DA 1594 I have viewed I asked Ron if a MEDEVAC pilot call sign list could be made so I or anyone could ID the pilot who picked up for them, if the call sign was known. Ron said that one was started by MEDEVAC pilot Rich Leonard-whom I flew with at least one harrowing time-and I was given the web address: https://15thmedbnassociation.org/historical-documents/pilots-callsign.aspx.

I asked if those call signs were retired and I was told they were recycled. I then asked about putting dates on when those pilots had those call signs, and I supplied some to him that I knew. Ron got to work, took some of my offerings, his own knowledge, and some from earlier years I got from Larry Hatch. Larry flew in '66-'67 before everyone was designated with the MEDEVAC prefix and was MEDEVAC call sign Mercy 11. Now, anyone like myself can look up which MEDEVAC pilot and crew picked up for them if they see a call sign called out on their battalion's Daily Staff Journal.

Four 11Bravos showed up at the Reunion to thank the 15th MED for everything they did in for them in Vietnam. Rob Doll, Anthony Manetta, and Stuart Olson of 2-8 Cav were in a platoon that ran into an NVA headquarters and got mauled. Pilot Ron (Baby Huey) Huether and CE Jim Ferguson worked that mission and were at the Reunion to meet those grunts and talk about how they remembered that mission. A short article about that mission may be read at "Snipers in Box Canyon" on the website which I included in an earlier *Saber* column. The MEDEVAC pilot call sign list is a work in progress. So, if anyone has information and updates they are encouraged to contact the webmaster Ron Huether <medevac2@15thMedBnAssociation.org>.

thirty days and under fire.

I told him I totally agree, that's the way I thought it should be, but it's not up to me. The AR that I have read over seems to state differently. I think the AR allows for up to a brigade, like if any medical personnel were off on a brigade task force, or if the unit was brigade size. One has to thoroughly read the AR and then it's up to interpretation, like all laws. It's difficult to know what the Army originally meant, and it seems to keep changing.

I was only being figurative in referring to our battalion surgeon, but Ron had no way of knowing that. I think the AR for the CMB would allow for an infantry battalion surgeon to earn a CMB, but I'm not the deciding committee. I was emphasizing that our battalion surgeon wasn't more safely back at the LZ Battalion Aid Station but flew out with the battalion commander in the CC helicopter and even courageously jumped off to assist us, which if he was eligible for the CMB according to the AR, that helped him earn it.

That particular doctor was with 2-7 Cav more than thirty days-months in fact. He was very helpful like I describe, as well, he once called together all the Medics in my company and told us he was allowing us to carry antibiotics, which previously was not permitted. That made an enormous difference treating jungle rot which was a scourge to my platoon members, and I as well was not immune. I had members of other platoons come to me because their Medic didn't care. It happened.

I also personally saw that doctor working on a mass of wounded and not giving up when most anyone else would think they were dead. That battalion surgeon was with an infantry unit more than thirty days, under fire at times, and I think was certainly deserving of the CMB. Other battalion surgeons, if they are reading this, could tell me what they know.

Ron said, "I guess I'm blind, because I could swear there was a thirty-day time on it. I say this because we had an awards-crazy platoon leader in MEDEVAC that set up a few foxholes on the wire at Phuoc Vinh and had orders cut on the officers for thirty days saying we were attached to the infantry in the Perimeter Defense Squad. All so he could meet the requirements for the CMB. I know most of my DUSTOFF pilot friends wear the CMB but over the years I've never had one that could produce orders. I guess this all falls into the category of, ain't we got better things to worry about?" I would say, no, we don't have better things to worry about, because that is important, to me. Combat Medics in infantry units busted their asses, as well as risked them. I had better have gotten his quote right or he'll have another bone to pick with me.

I have seen too much fraud over the years-stolen valor-even in the 1st Cavalry Division Association by purported members, to take it lightly. I met one Veteran at a Reunion who was wearing a CMB and I asked him whom he was with. He said that he would never have lowered himself to be in the infantry, that some general pinned the CMB on him once for helping with the wounded in the rear after taking incoming. I was incensed!

A dedicated MEDEVAC Medic I knew said he would have dearly loved to have the CMB. But, if you covet that badge so much, you also have to covet the job of being with and helping the infantryman every step of the way through his hell, keeping him healthy and alive, even at the cost of your own life. So many have done that the right way, and it's like a family.

One Medic I knew when I was first assigned in Vietnam in the rear by the 93rd Evac Hospital, Andy Van Duinen, followed my lead when I 1049ed-twice and a couple of verbals-to the 1st Cav, just so I could do my part like all the others who had no choice. Andy transferred to the 1st Cav to fly on MEDEVAC but was initially assigned to 1-8 Cav. He never left 1-8 Cav until DEROS because he said he liked the grunts so much. And they probably liked him. That's what the CMB means.

In the last column I mentioned the combat units coping with the restraints of the Vietnam War when the enemy had sanctuary and could come and go and not be legally pursued past the border. Then came the Cambodian Incursion.

I have also over the years mentioned the out of print Government Printing Office book: Dust Off: Army Aeromedical Evacuation in Vietnam by Peter Dorland (Author), James Nanney (Author) which can be downloaded for free as a PDF

<https://history.army.mil/html/books/090/90-28-1/CMH_Pub_90-28-1.pdf>. Just run that title on Google.

Again, DUSTOFF was the non-combat referring call sign the first Army aeromedical evacuation units of the 44th Medical Brigade chose from a list. You can read about it in the book. There is a whole section on the Air Ambulance Platoon of the 1st Cav which we know differed and used the radio call sign MEDEVAC. MEDEVAC also differed because it mounted M60 machine guns.

The following is from this book about Cambodia: "From the early 1960s the North Vietnamese Army had brought supplies and Troops into South Vietnam along the Ho Chi Minh Trail running south through the Laotian panhandle and eastern Cambodia, and along the trails running northeast from the Cambodian coast on the Gulf of Thailand. In 1967 the United States began covert operations, code-named SALEM HOUSE, against these enemy supply routes. Although limited in size and scope-each incursion team had a maximum of twelve allied Soldiers, including three American Soldiers, and a maximum penetration of twenty kilometers into Cambodia - some 1 400 SALEM HOUSE missions took

While I was communicating with Ron about all this he mentioned he had a bone to pick with me because I had said our 2-7 Cav battalion surgeon had earned his



15th MED and MEDEVAC Veterans assembled 2018

Combat Medical Badge when he jumped off the Charlie Charlie bird to take over assisting us with ourwounded. Ron said he thought a CMB could only be earned by Combat Medic assigned to an infantry unit for place from 1967 through 1970.

"In early 1970 the U.S. military leaders in Vietnam saw the need for larger strikes against the supply routes. Insurgents in Cambodia were stepping up their campaign against the new anti-Communist Cambodian government of LTG Lon Nol, and Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, was soon isolated. On 1 April the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces began to clear a corridor ten to fifteen miles wide along the border all the way from the Gulf of Thailand to the Fish Hook region north-northwest of Saigon, threatening III and IV Corps Zones in South Vietnam. Responding to these threats, the allied forces decided to openly assist the new Cambodian government. In mid-April ARVN forces conducted a limited cross-border raid near the Parrot's Beak region, south of the Fish Hook region. At the same time U.S. and ARVN staffs started planning for a joint operation against several enemy sanctuaries in Cambodia, especially in the Fish Hook region, and on 28 April President Nixon approved the final plan. From early May to the end of June elements of several large U.S. combat units in South Vietnam - the 1st Infantry Division, the 1st Cavalry Division, and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment- took part in these joint strikes at suspected Viet Cong bases over the border. USAF B-52 tactical bomb strikes and large-scale U.S. helilifts Continued on pg. 21

JULY/AUGUST 2018

20th and 79th Artillery Regiment News



Page 18

Bruce Wilder 1308 Blue Sky Lane Kingsport TN 37664 423-276-6626 wbwilder@vahoo.com www.araassociation.com



I send greetings to all fellow ARAers from the beautiful land of Central Michigan. Here the wind is always blowing in a favorable direction. The nightly temperatures have been in the 50s and low 60s, which makes up for any warm weather during the day! Around here everyone is getting ready for the celebration of our Independence and by the time you read this the 4th of July will have come and gone. It is that time of year when we give thanks for our freedom and independence, and to remember and thank our forebears for their diligence in planning the future of this great nation. I hope everyone took time out from our busy schedules and dedicated some of this holiday to more than just picnics and partying. I hope all had a chance to face our flag and pledge allegiance, thanking God for this great Republic! Plus, there are many unit reunions to attend during this summer period and moving into the fall where hot places tend to cool down to bearable temperatures. Our next reunion is one in particular, because we chose Fort Sill, OK in September for a cooler time.

Into each life some rain must fall! Seems I left out the month of our next reunion in the last issue. As I have stated many times before, we don't know how many more take-offs and landings we will execute; nor do we know how many more reunions we will attend. So, this is a good time to pitch the news about our next reunion, which will be held at Fort Sill, OK, on Wednesday, September 12 to Sunday, September 16, 2018. I have sent this announcement to the editor of the 101st newsletter to be included in their Screaming Eagle so that members of 4th Battalion, 77th Artillery (ARA) can be informed.

Why select Fort Sill, Oklahoma? There is a history of Army Aviation at Fort Sill. The first Army helicopter was acquired around 1947. The United States Army began training pilots at Camp Gary and Camp Wolters. Later, in the early 50's the Air Training Department of The Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, OK took on the challenge. Later it came to be known as the Army Aviation School, and moved to Camp Rucker, AL in the Summer-Fall of 1954. The Army Aviation Center was established there, with the Army Aviation School its major functioning element. Camp Rucker soon became Fort Rucker, and the United States Army Aviation Center (USAAVNC) was established there the following year.

The United States Artillery and Missile School (USAAMS) at Fort Sill recognized the value of Aerial Artillery in their publication of the January 1968 "Artillery Trends." They included a nine-page chapter on Aerial Artillery. The chapter was headlined as The Field Artillery Battalion (Aerial Artillery) by MAJ Wilbur R. Pierce, Jr. of the Tactics/ Combined Arms Department, USAAMS. It starts, "A new dimension has been added to the fire support capabilities of the artillery with the addition of aerial artillery to its arsenal. The mission of the battalion is to provide aerial artillery direct fire support to assault units." The article covers the organization, weapon systems, tactical missions, employment, standby on station, ground alert, use of the L-19 Bird Dog, call for fire, and hybrid rocket testing.

This reunion will become a real lesson in American History and one should brush up on that area of Oklahoma and its settlement, the treaties with the American Indians, and establishment of a military presence. Long known as the home of the U.S. Army's Field Artillery, Fort Sill evolved from a frontier cavalry post into one of the most important military installations in the United States. It has played a significant role in every major American conflict since 1869, continually adjusting to suit the needs of the nation in times of crisis. The fort dramatically assisted the integration and settlement of southwestern Oklahoma and is the economic engine that drives Lawton, presently the third-largest metropolitan area in the state.

Names, places, and events that associate with the history of the post are the Dodge-Leavenworth Expedition; Joseph C. Eldridge, Indian Commissioner; the Last Comanche Chief, Quanah Parker (1845-1911); Apache Chief Geronimo; Texas President Sam Houston; MG Philip Sheridan, who named Fort Sill after his West Point Classmate, BG Joshua Woodrow Sill, who was killed at the battle of Stones River, TN in 1862; GEN Winfield Scott; COL Benjamin A. Grierson and the Buffalo Soldiers of the Tenth Cavalry; Camp Wichita; Secretary of War, William Howard Taft; the School of Musketry and Grenades 1896; the School of Fire 1911; the Infantry School 1913; the first aircraft 1915; and the U.S. Army Aviation School 1945. Fort Sill played a major role in expanding the city of Lawton, named after MG Henry W. Lawton, Fort Sill Quartermaster killed in the Philippines in 1899.

This is another important reunion as we greet and honor all those members who came into Vietnam in 1968 as this is their 50th Anniversary celebration. Also, this is a special celebration for the 4th Battalion, 77th Field Artillery (Aerial Rocket Artillery - ARA) who departed Fort Sill to join the 101st Airborne Division. To understand more about the battalion let us look at its history. It was redesignated 19 March 1959 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Howitzer Battalion, 77th Artillery; concurrently, withdrawn from the regular Army, allotted to the Army Reserve, and assigned to the 90th Infantry Division (organic elements concurrently constituted). The battalion was activated 1 April 1959 with Headquarters at Austin, Texas. Inactivated 15 March 1963 at Austin, Texas, and relieved from assignment to the 90th Infantry Division. It was re-designated 1 September 1968 as the 4th Battalion, 77th Artillery (ARA); concurrently, withdrawn from the Army Reserve, allotted to the Regular Army, assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, and activated at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The battalion arrived in Vietnam on 17 October 1968 under the command of LTC Roger Bartholomew (who served as commander of C/2/20 ARA 1965-66). This battalion had some pilots from the original 2nd Battalion (ARA), 20th Artillery and also had many who had never seen combat. When the unit arrived in country, a few more pilots were transferred from the prototype 2/20th ARA. Most notable of the 101st Airborne Division's combat actions were Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970. The Division served in the northern I Corps area of operations against the NVA infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley. The Division supported the ARVN Operation Lam Son 719 which involved invading southern Laos in 1971, but only aviation units entered Laos. The battalion was re-designated 1 September 1971 as the 4th Battalion, 77th Field

Artillery. The battalion departed Vietnam 4 January 1972 when it returned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Again, I want to emphasize the importance of this to all ARA members because we are of one brotherhood. For those who may not have used the call signs: "Muggy Parlor" (First Team in 1965), later "Armed Falcon" or "Blue Max" we were part of an innovation in close air support in direct support of the Sky Soldiers of 1st Cav Div and the Screamer Eagles of the 101st Airborne Div with call signs of: "Dragons," "Toros," and "Griffins."



We have chosen the Homewood Suites at 4155 East Interstate, Lawton, OK 73501, Phone: (580) 357-9800. The Homewood Suites is an all suites hotel, one of the Hilton hotel brands. Complimentary breakfast is served daily from 0630 to 0930. A guest social is held Monday through Thursday evening from 1730 to 1930 where complementary beer, wine and a light meal is served. The hotel general manager blocked 40 rooms for our reunion, 10 double queen bed suites and 30 king bed suites. Each suite has a kitchen. The room tax is 14.38%.

Chief Parker's 10 Star House

Geronimo's Grave Site

Room rates are \$99.00 plus tax for the king suites (\$113.24) and \$109.00 plus tax for the double queen suites (\$124.68). The room rates are valid 2 days prior to and 2 days after the reunion.

Here is where I need to quote an aviator friend from the 1970s. When COL Jay Kitterman, Group Aviation Officer, wanted to make a point during a briefing, he would say, "Pay attention, Slick!" My point is that of those rooms on hold status, only 3 queens suites and 7 kings suites remain open as of July 1, 2018. Clovis Jones, our host, who is doing a yeoman's job at pulling this reunion together long distance, informed me that if these suites go, the manager will block another 20 rooms for us. Let us not wait til the last minute and operate on a wing and a prayer that there will always be another room available

Here is a brief outline of scheduled activities:

Day 1: Wednesday, Sep 12th arrive and register 1200 - 1530 on. Bus departs 1600 for Fort Sill Visitor Control Center (VCC) and then on to the Fort Sill Patriots Club for cocktails and buffet dinner. We will be back at Homewood Suites by **2200**.

Day 2: Thursday is devoted to observing a Live Fire Exercise and a tour of the Artillery and Air Defense Artillery Museums at Fort Sill. After the complimentary breakfast the bus will depart at 0840 and return for the Hotel Social at **1700**. Lunch will be with the Troops in their dining facility.

Day 3: Friday is an open day for your enjoyment to visit and spend time doing whatever your heart desires.

Day 4: Saturday morning 1000-1200 we will have the Annual Meeting with election of new officers and directors while the ladies are having their Annual Meeting. We will have open time until the buses leave at 1610 for the Visitor Control Center and then on to the Historic Patriots Club and our farewell dinner. The name of our guest speaker will be published as soon as we have a solid confirmation.

Day 5: Sunday morning we will gather for our traditional Farewell Breakfast from 0630 to 0930. Then we say our goodbyes and look forward to meeting again in 2019 (location to be decided at Fort Sill reunion).

Additional Activities: During open time on Friday and Saturday, places of interest in the Lawton area are the: Museum of the Great Plains, The Holy City of the Witchitas, The Comanche National Museum & Cultural Center, The Historic Mattie Beal House. Please go online for a preview of how beautiful and interesting these places are. There are a couple of Casinos - Apache Casino Hotel & Comanche Nation Casino - if you would like to gamble.

I look forward to another great reunion and returning to Fort Sill for the first time since attending Basic and Advanced Artillery Courses there in 1960 and 1964-65, respectively. The "caissons rolling along" for some old timers will be matched this time with the airmobile platform of Aerial Rocket Artillery supporting the Infantry as part of Division Artillery. We have come a long way and we need to support that tactic found only in the Vietnam War. We were a special Artillery unit and that history needs to be remembered and documented

for those who follow us.

Enjoy the rest of your summer! See you at Fort Sill in September! "This is Armed Falcon 28 Delta, breaking right!"



Horse Dawn Artillery Demonstration

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE



Rolling Thunder Helps Vets Honor Their Lost Brothers by Jake Hughes

Sid Marcus had just flunked out of college when he received his draft notice for Vietnam. "I didn't want to go just yet, so I appealed to the draft board and they gave me four more semesters." After getting his degree, he was drafted in the Army in 1968. Everyone wondered why, with a degree, he didn't

become an officer. Sid didn't want to do any additional time in service, just do his two years and get out.

"They told me they'd put me in an MOS that related to my degree, in statistics. But then they sent me to infantry school, so I guess they forgot." In 1969, Sid was sent to Vietnam. He spent several weeks in a replacement company until he volunteered to join a ranger unit, Company H, 75th Infantry (Ranger). He went through rigorous on-the-job training, going out to scout for enemy activity, but he distinctly says he did not attend actual Ranger school in Fort Benning. "My hat's off to those guys." After a few months, he was assigned to a statistical position in the rear for the remainder of his service.

Sid bought his first motorcycle, a Yamaha 350, when he got home. He rode it for a few years, but when he got married and decided to raise a family, he got rid of the bike. He didn't ride again for several decades, until he saw something that re-sparked his interest: Wreaths Across America, an event where wreaths are laid at military gravesites across the country. He witnessed the Patriot Guard Riders escorting the truck of wreaths, and felt it was a cool thing to do. So, in 2003, he bought a Harley-Davidson Dyna Wide Glide.

Rolling Thunder, an annual motorcycle event in Washington, D.C. also motivated him to rejoin the military community. Riders from across the country gather at the Pentagon parking lot for fun, friends, and food. Then, the over one million riders ride across the Memorial Bridge and end at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, "The Wall." The purpose of the ride is to honor Troops and Veterans, and especially the POW/MIA service members still unaccounted for.

It's the POW/MIA that are especially close to Sid's heart. "They're still out there. They still bring back remains from Vietnam, and even as far back as Korea and World War II. Not nearly as fast as I would like, but they're bringing our Veterans back."

Sid thinks events like Rolling Thunder are important. "It gives Veterans an outlet, an excuse to ride your motorcycle. To get out and have a few beers with your buddies. Even if you don't know anyone, spend 15 minutes there and you become friendly."

Sid attended this year's ride with the American Legion Riders, a group he is an active participant of. Rolling Thunder Run took place on May 27th.

Remembering a Bond from Vietnam by former SSgt Bill Corsair (McGroarty) | Special to Stars and Stripes

On Feb. 29, 2012, combat Veteran, patriot, husband, father, grandfather, businessman and friend Ron Piatek, 66, was laid to rest. Except for family, friends and a small band of brothers with whom he served in Vietnam, nobody noticed, and the world kept on turning.

In that respect, he was emblematic of so many of the American warriors who served during the Vietnam War. Piatek left the war behind him 49 years ago. Of course, as any warrior will tell you, it's never really behind you; it's always a part of you. In 1968, 50 years ago this month, our Rhode Island Army National Guard company was called to active duty. Back then, it was the exception, rather than the rule. It was the first time the 115th Military Police Company was called to duty in war time. Its 126 members, including 49 who served in combat in Vietnam, many volunteering, remain unheralded or even noted by the Rhode Island National Guard. Some say, "Courage is action in the face of fear." There was a lot of both, yet nobody hesitated to answer the call.

Some died in combat, and for them, the "gift" was not to be. They are men and women who stand apart from others and whose sacrifice is forever to be heralded. Then there are the rest of us, who are blessed to return home to, as we called it in 'Nam, "the world."

We all know someone who has served in our armed forces. Some came home; far too many did not. On this Memorial Day, remember them with a prayer,



and to those who returned, a "Welcome Home."

Former SGT Ron Piatek was one of the many who stood to be as volunteers. Our CO was, at that time, CPT Joseph Del Sesto. He was a short, muscled man with the swagger of a 6-footer. You had to love him. He called me into his office and said, "Bill, I just saw a general with a customized jeep... Who's better than us? I want one." So, I got together with Ron and the men at the motor pool and we built a custom jeep that would have been comfortable on the cover of any hot rod magazine.

Joe saw that jeep, jumped in the back seat and ordered his driver to DRIVE! One of the commanding generals saw him, and the next thing I knew I was back in the CO's office. "Bill, they want to take my jeep away and put it back to the way it was. Don't let them do it."

"Is that a direct order, sir?"

"Yes."

"If physical force is necessary?"

"Whatever it takes".

So, at 6 the next morning, Ron, me and, as I recall, Tim Mulligan, were at the motor pool in fatigues, with side arms and clubs. Ron sat on the right fender, I sat on the grille and Tim on the left fender. Shortly after, a dozen or so officers and executives showed up and a major stepped forward and said: "We're here to take the jeep." We slid down from the jeep, stood spread-legged, with arms folded and clubs in hand. "I'm under direct orders, I can't let you do that, sir." There was a long pause, a conference. Then they all left.

It took a couple of hours for them to persuade Joe to release the jeep. But for two hours, a captain and three young members of an MP Company from the smallest state in the union held West Point's "best and brightest" at bay. Our company motto was: "They'll Know We Were Here." After that, I'm sure they did.

Shortly after, I received my orders to Vietnam and I was assigned to the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile), at the forward headquarters in Phuoc Vinh, just outside of Cambodia. I was there less than a month when one of my men told me I had a phone call. On the other end I heard a familiar voice: "Uncle Bill, it's Ron, I'm here." Ron had been assigned to the same division, at a place called Tay Ninh, nicknamed "Rocket City" because, like Phuoc Vinh it was hit so often by rocket attacks and ground probes. I was able to visit with Ron a couple of times, and he was able to catch a ride on one of the Sky Troopers' choppers to visit with me.

My last 52 days in country, I was assigned to the network in Saigon. Ron wanted to visit but couldn't hitch a flight out. He stumbled across an abandoned ambulance and got it running and he was off down Highway 1 to Saigon. He drove the ambulance to a hospital, turned off the motor and left the keys. We often wondered what the conversation was like, when the CO of the hospital discovered that he was one ambulance richer than he was the day before.

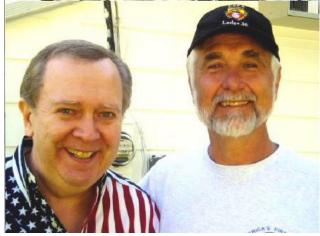
These aren't traditional combat stories; I leave those for others to tell. I will say it wasn't possible to be with the First Cavalry Division and not see action. But with Ron there, I never worried about a breakthrough on his flank because I knew he wouldn't back down and if anything happened to me, he'd make sure I wasn't left behind. He was that kind of Soldier, that kind of man. Neither one of us was real confident that we'd make it home, so when we found ourselves on a plane, in December 1969, headed for the states, surprise was just one of our emotions.

I've always felt that every day, after that, was a gift from God. I start off my prayers each morning with the words: "Thank you for another day."

Ron's gift was meeting and marrying his wonderful, loving and loyal wife, Gail, who was with him from beginning to the very end. His daughter Tracy. His son-in-law and, his pride and joy, "The boys," his two grandsons. There it is, a

wonderful gift from God, a present of love, joy and family, unwrapped one day at a time, for over 40 years. What a blessing.

In the First Cav, they had something we called a "body buddy." You could designate your buddy to accompany your body home if you were killed in action. You'd meet with the family, help with the arrangements and tell them what a hero their son, husband or father was. After two weeks it was back to the war. Ron, I



Corsair, left, and Piatek before Piatek's death in 2012

didn't forget our promise. Welcome home, buddy. Welcome home, my brother."

A Special Breed That then, is a small portion of my memories of Ron. He's in my thoughts every

counted when others walked away. This was my eulogy to him, with memories that will remain forever.

Ron Piatek, left, and Bill Corsair serving in Vietnam, 1968

The Eulogy

"Friends then, friends now, friends forever. I'm Bill Corsair. God didn't give me a brother, so I chose one. His name was Ron Piatek, and for over 50 years we have been "brothers."

I first met Ron when we were serving in the National Guard as MPs. When our company was activated and sent to West Point to train against the Army's 82nd Airborne Division in night infiltration, recognizance and riot control, Ron was with me. When that training was complete, and the company was designated Strategic Army Forces, we settled in to augment the existing MP company at the Academy, pass on our skills to the cadets and await further orders. With the second round of U.S. Troop withdrawals in 1969, we were used as a replacement personnel pool, individually, for all combat divisions, under the levy system or

day but especially on Memorial Day. You, no doubt have a hero of your own, if not family, perhaps a friend, an acquaintance or a buddy who stood shoulder to shoulder with you when the night was dark, the future in doubt and the only thing you were sure of was the courage of the man beside you. Heroes walk among us every day, but these heroes marched toward the sound of the guns. They're a special breed of Americans and they, and all who wear or have worn the uniform, keep this great Republic free.

Our gift to you is a "present of love, joy and family, unwrapped one day at a time" in a free America. Cherish it; we will keep it and you safe.

Bill Corsair was an Army Staff Sergeant with the 115th Military Police Company, Rhode Island National Guard, and a member of the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in Vietnam. He was awarded a Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and Combat Air Medal. Before he was called to active duty, the then-disc jockey provided the original voice for Hasbro's "Talking GI Joe." He is a member of the Radio Hall of Fame. He and his wife, Janis, are SAG Award-winning actors, living in New York City. This eulogy has been previously published.

의 Once Cav, Always Cav! 1st Cavalry Division Association 뉴

ENGINEER News



The Best of America III, Touches/Feelings: Warm chocolate pudding as it surrenders to your finger, cold chocolate pudding that pushes back at you, the squish your foot made as a child in mud, mint plant leaves that when squeezed also smell, crushed ice on your tongue in August, sawdust dribbled between your fingers, rubbing alcohol evaporating on your skin also in August, your handprint in new concrete, being fingerprinted for a good reason, having a Cav patch tattooed on your right shoulder, pecan tree bark compared to aspen bark, using the blade tip of your pocketknife to clean your fingernails, those indentations on your steering

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wheel that make it easy to drive with one hand while your other hand is free to set the coffee cup in the holder or fish around for a smoke and light, garbage bags that you have to snap open out of the container then tie up before disposal, the feel of your ripsaw going through wood after you applied WD40, the bolt of your Remington 370 being worked back then forward, Simonizing your car, hugging your adult children.

Photo Gallery: For your enjoyment here are some pictures pulled off of the Sky-



beaver page of Facebook. For those of you who have fond memories of Camp Evans, here is your supply drop. Someone will have to write and let me know why roads did not work. Besides, it looks like things are going to land outside the wire. Notice the 8th Eng Insignia in the left foreground (you may have to squint). Thanks for the 292 antenna also in the left foreground goes to the HQ section and who could be a 12B and not

Camp Evans Supply drop

love the Case 450 dozer brought to you in three air drops to assemble; track, body and blade? Then there was disassembly where you were likely left as the last

Soldiers on an FSB wondering if a Huey would come back for you. And didn't you love those skycranes? No dust to contend with. (Lie) The skull engineer insignia is a modern-day variation on an old theme. Who among you will be the first to have this tattooed from shoulder blade to blade? The Huey and the moon are probably a photoshop composite. But the sentiment is nice



and could be tattooed on your chest to match your new backside. Target practice at LZ Uplift will be an inspiration to any mortar men (13B?) who happen to be reading this. But what is really interesting is that odd shaped culvert half and tube stuck in the ground in the foreground of the picture.



grabbed the table in the center of the Reunion room where the A/C kept us cool and near the bar, (11) Most interesting story about how Gen Smith commanded the 8th – Jack Garmong-only two beers allowed for officers at the O club- and Smith was known to count the cans, (12) Persons who knew the difference between gold, silver, blue braids on the official Cav Stetson hats—Jim Vanecer, Don Hitz, William Gregory, Michael Douglas, Cecil, (13) Persons who spent the most table time trading stories and getting to know one another again—Cecil Wheeler, Ron Gilliland, Ed Gaines, Sam



Below, Mark Rasecki. So, there you have it and are correct to ask what did we come away with? What makes it worth the effort? The answer, each other. Let there always be kindness among us. Your mission for 2019 is to find and bring one more buddy to the Reunion and to send me pictures of 2018.

PS: The distance-traveled award to WV does not count additional distances planned for children and grandchildren visits although the words Michigan, Florida and Tennessee were mentioned around the table.

<u>Active Duty June 2018</u>: The 243rd birthday of the Army was celebrated at Ft Hood and in Baghdad by elements of III Corps. Presiding at Ft Hood was MG Thompson, DCG of III Corps. Following tradition, the first cuts of celebration cake were given to the youngest Soldier, PVT San Nicolas by CSM Michael Crosby.

<u>Active Duty II</u>: Your PSG or 1SG has just advised you that a Stetson is a good thing to have for a Cav Trooper and you agree. Notice that the word Stetson was used and there is a reason for that. The reason is called rain and sweat both of which cause imitation Stetsons to go limp when most needed. You might be able to think of other situations where limpness is not desirable. So, what do you do? There is only one answer. Go the Museum gift shop. Stiffen up and get the real deal Stetson.

<u>For Your Protection</u>: You should know that a Federal agency, The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, has issued rulings to provide protection for your brokerage accounts if you are over age 65. The cause of these rulings is that many senior citizens become easy fraud victims, you potentially included. Your broker must now ask if you want to designate someone as a Trusted Contact. Your broker is now allowed to hold brokerage transactions for fifteen days if there is reasonable suspicion that you make a buy/sell decision under duress or threat or just plain error of judgment. Trust me, the ability of a broker to question your decisions may save your estate. I had an elderly neighbor that lost a pile on a Jamaican Lottery scheme promising payoff numbers. (This information provided by our Leo Miller)

<u>And Finally</u>: When attempting to talk to a medical office, yes, I do know to hang up and call 911 if this is an emergency.

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION USAA REWARDS VISA SIGNATURE® CARD

USAA Bank will make a contribution to the 1st Cav Division Association for every credit card account opened and each time you make an eligible purchase with the card.

(You get 2,500 Bonus Points after your first purchase)

Start earning 1 point for every \$1 spent for all your everyday purchases.

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• Redeem your rewards points anytime on usaa.com or from your mobile phone, with no redemption fee.

(You can also redeem your points and donate to your favorite military affiliate group. Many of our members actually donate them back to the Association.)

Target Practice

<u>The Reunion 2018</u>: Awards: (1) Most considerate group effort; the get-well card signed by those attending and sent to Gen Smith, (2) Most appreciated award; crackers and peanut butter snacks provided- -the wives who planned ahead, (3) Most shrimp consumed in one setting--Gary Ullom, (4) Most yellow plastic Reunion cups collected--Rick Van Duerzen, (5) Furthest distance travelled to WV and with miles yet to go afterwards to visit grandchildren--Dave Paddock-Montana, (6) Largest warehouse of customized 8th Eng T-shirts to distribute while being a sworn Constable of Carter County KY--Phillip Blevins, (7) Person with the least Irish sounding last name--Carl Guerinoni, (8) Person with the most customized and crowded vest with insignia, decorations, pins and designations-- Harold Givens, (9) Person who finally broke down and bought a Cav baseball style cap from the gift shop—Jesse Crimm, (10) Advance planning award; whoever • Choose from two card designs created exclusively for the 1st Cavalry Division Association.



For more information about USAA you may call 877-917-1232 or visit www.usaa.com/1CDA.

Mr. Jim Noelke & COL Jimmy Marks

Colonel Jimmy Marks, and Mr. Jim Noelke of Monahans, Texas, at a Ward County Texas ceremony commemorating Flag day and the Vietnam war 50th anniversary and the birthday of the U.S. Army. The Colors were posted by the Monahans Patriot Guard and a table was set up for the missing man. A delicious barbeque meal courtesy of the Monahans Chamber of Commerce was provid-ed to all Veterans and the Vietnam Veterans were all given certificates



of service, and lapel pins. Speakers were Ward County Judge Greg Holly and County Commissioner Dexter Nichols USMC Vietnam. Mr. Noelke was given a certificate for his brother, PFC Richard Noelke 1st Cavalry Div. Noelke, a medic in the 8th Cavalry was killed in action on November 6, 1965 during the Ia Drang Battles. Noelke was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry for his actions in saving many lives.

Division Doings Continued from pg. 1

ficer for 1-12 Cav. "Anytime we can support those who support us, and we get great support from the Central Texas and Bryan, College Station community—we jumped at the chance." The brigade transported the vehicles with help from the 96th Transportation Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade on the Thursday before the event. They set-up on Friday and returned to Fort Hood on the following Monday. Despite working over the holiday weekend, the Soldiers involved all agreed that it was something they would remember.

"The Soldiers involved took a lot away from the event," Wonsetler said. "A lot of the visitors commented about how great it was to hear first-hand from the Soldiers and it energized us to show off what we do on a daily basis and have it so positively received."

TF Lobos MK Conducts Air Movement of 1/6 USMC By CPT Michael Pinnaro, 2-227 GSAB AR-S UPAR

Charlie Company Ghostriders, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, attached to 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion "Lobos", 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade supported the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines as they conducted aerial insertions and movement to contact training in conjunction with their small arms range on May 2 at Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base, Romania.

Prior to this training exercise, 1st/6th USMC have not worked with elements of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade. This was a unique training opportunity for both **Continued on pg. 22**

15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB News Continued from pg. 17

and helicopter gunship strikes prepared the way for the ground forces. DUST OFF and MEDEVAC helicopters supported both South Vietnamese and American Soldiers in this operation. During May the 1st Cavalry's Air Ambulance Platoon supporting the attack flew 1,042 missions (307 in Cambodia) and evacuated 1,600 patients (946 from Cambodia). The dense jungle and forests along the border resulted in eighty hoist missions for 182 patients. Although constituting only 7.6 percent of the total missions for May, hoist missions accounted for 53 percent of the ships hit by enemy fire that month. In May four ships were destroyed and eleven damaged. Ten crewmen were wounded, and one killed. In June deeper penetrations into Cambodia increased flying time for the pilots and crews, even while the number of missions declined as the lighting tapered off. The crews flew 682 missions (199 in Cambodia) and evacuated 1,056 patients (397 from Cambodia). They also extracted 185 patients in ninety-one hoist missions. The 45th Medical Company and the 159th Medical Detachment helped

Reunion Raffle Prize Winners

Thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets! The proceeds went into the Scholarship Foundation of the Association.

1st Cavalry Division's Deputy Commander Manuever - Brigadier General Taylor presented the winners with their prizes. Pictured below are our winners.

B 1-9 Blues Insertion Point Canvas Winner





Custom 1st Cav 1.5 L Ca Wine Winner

CDA 71st Reunion Wooden Plaque Winner





the Air Ambulance Platoon by backhauling many patients to hospitals around Saigon. Because the Viet Cong had been warned of the foray and had fled the area, casualties were far below the April estimates. What had loomed as a severe test for the Dust-Off system proved to be largely routine work, except for the dangerous hoist missions over triple-canopy jungle and forest."

Just before the unknown Cambodian Incursion all MEDEVAC crewmen were told everyone was going to be assigned to a helicopter, which was irregular. It wasn't until 01 May 70 when we were all in assembled in Quan Loi which was the central staging area for Task Force Shoemaker that the Air Ambulance Platoon Leader CPT Hagerty gathered us all together on a landing pad and said, "Men, we're going into Cambodia!" We all cheered-and went to work.

I received the orders for two Distinguished Flying Crosses that were awarded to MEDEVAC crewmen in Vietnam in 1969. One was to CE SP5 Elmer J. Dahlman Jr. for returning and suppressing enemy fire during a hot urgent medical evacuation near LZ Joe 12 May 69. When leaving, an enemy tracer round ignited the fuel cell causing a forced emergency landing during which SP5 Dahlman continued to suppress enemy fire until help arrived.

The other Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded to door gunner SP4 James M. Odum for heroism while participating in aerial flight evidenced by actions

Door gunner SP4 James M. Odum awarded DFC 22 Jun 69

above and beyond the call of duty 22 Jun 69. During a medical evacuation of ground forces SP4 Odum leaned out of his seat in order to clear the aircraft and help position it over the friendly unit's position. Enemy fire became too intense and the MEDEVAC had to leave the area while SP4 Odum returned fire. Making another attempt into the area, SP4 Odum fearlessly exposed himself as he placed suppressive fire on the hostile positions until enemy fire completely destroyed his machine gun. No more was noted.

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

HQ and Special Troops News



Ron Killingsworth 10329 Caddo Lake Rd Mooringsport, LA 71060-9057 (318) 996-9969 retmiagt@gmail.com

Greetings Troopers and Families from NW Louisiana where the weather continues to be hot and dry. Sue and I drove to the 71st Annual reunion in Charleston, WV. It was a two day trip up and two day trip back home through some beautiful country in AR, TN, KY and WV. Charleston is a beautiful city with an exceptional State Capitol building. The reunion was a great success with lots of "first time" attendees. I think the final count was 734 Troopers, their wives and other Family members. The Deputy CG (Maneuver), the Division Command Sergeant Major and LTC Rye along with the great Honor Guard attended the events on Saturday, including the banquet on Saturday night. We owe a "job well done" to Dara, Tina, Karleen and all the folks of the "Crossed Sabers" chapter who brought the Gift Shop and ran it during the convention. A big "job well done" to the "Almost Heaven" Chapter – great reunion! Sue and I really enjoyed seeing old friends and making new friends.

I attended the Board of Governors Meeting, the Museum Foundation Meeting and the Association Foundation Meeting. The Association remains in good shape. The status of the new "Mounted Warrior" Museum at Fort Hood remains uncertain. Meantime it appears the 1st Cav Museum at Fort Hood will remain open. However, plans are being made to move the Gift Shop into the Association's Headquarters building in Copperas Cove. The Crossed Sabers Gift Shop continues to do business and more and more purchases are made on-line at their great website. The Association Foundation continues to fund scholarships to children and grandchildren of the Ia Drang battle, but the funds are probably going to run out in 2020-2021. All students currently holding scholarships will receive the full four years. The Foundation Scholarships to active duty Troopers and the wives and children of Troopers killed in action remains strong but the loss of the annual golf tournament has reduced the income for these scholarships. Donations to the scholarship funds are always greatly appreciated and consider amending your will to leave a portion of your estate to the foundation. During FY2017, \$66,650 in grants were paid out to scholarship recipients.

North Korea has agreed to return the remains of many of our MIA's from the Korean War. The Association is making plans to be ready to notify members of the funerals of these great Troopers, who gave all, as the information becomes available. We would like to make it possible for members to attend these funerals and represent the great 1st Cav Div Association as these Troopers reach their final resting place. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

The General Membership meeting was poorly attended but those present elected Officers, Board Members and Trustees for the Foundations. It is your Association. The least we can do is attend the annual meetings and elect good people to conduct the business of the Association. The next reunion is at Fort Hood from June 5-9, 2019, at the Shilo Inn. Get your hotel reservations in now if you want to stay in the reunion hotel! Registration forms will be in future editions of the *Saber*. The reunion in 2020 will be in Louisville, KY, and the 2021 reunion will be back at Fort Hood, possibly in Sep 22-26, in order to help the active 1st Cav Troopers celebrate the 100th birthday of the great 1st Cavalry Division. The new 1st Cav Div Assoc website is working well, and many are choosing to use this method to renew their *Saber*, contact other Troopers, and sign up for the conventions. Check it out at <www.1cda.org>. If you have not yet logged in and updated your info, please do so, especially updating your email

address, home address, etc. Please keep the Association office informed of any changes to your email or home address.

The HQ and Special Troops luncheon on Saturday was smaller than usual. There were a lot of people at the reunion who did not attend the unit luncheon, which is a shame. Those attending were: Dennis Webster, Copperas Cove, TX, HHC 1CD; Joseph Viggiano, Mt Prospect, IL, 27th Maint Bn; Rich Kaye, Harker Heights, TX, HHC 15th FSB; William Rizi, Tampa, FL, 13th Sig; Jim and Kathy Hays, French Creek, WV, 27th Maint Bn; Larry Thomas, Ocean Isle Beach, NC, HHC 11th Avn Gp; Tommy and Amanda Bakeer, Strasburg, VA, 15th TC Bn; William and Elnora Gore, Clemmons, NC, 15th S&S Bn; Steven and Heather Hammond, Winston-Salem, NC, 13th Sig; Gail Porter, Port Orchard, WV, HHD 27th MSB; Rosey Carter, Lott, TX, 13th Sig and HHC 1CD; Rich Pegg, Beaver Falls, PA, 13th Sig; James Cole, Scott Depot, WV, HHC 2nd Brigade; Mike Vuolo, Middle Village, NY, 15th S&S Bn; David and Cathie Lutgen, Enderlin, ND, 15th Finance & Admin Co; Larry and Mariann Goehring, Spraggs, PA, HHC 2nd Brigade; Dan Russell, Duluth, GA, 545th MP; and Ron and Sue Killingsworth, Mooringsport, LA, 191st MI and 312th MI.

I reminded all those attending the luncheon that I can't write this column without your input. I hereby remind all of you reading this. If you served in the HQ of any unit or in any combat service organization, then I would like to hear from you. This is your column! I would really like to hear from our Gulf War and Iraq or Afghanistan Troopers. With that in mind, I did hear from Wayne Dupre. Wayne wrote:

"Ron, after reading about your trip to New Orleans, it got me to thinking. I lived there during WWII. I was 3 years old when it started and 7 when it finished. I remember a lot about the war years, the black outs, the rationing of sugar, gasoline, and airplanes flying in formation. My dad had his car stolen – all they wanted was the tires! He worked at the Delta Shipyard and came home one morning and took us to see them launch a "liberty ship". That was really something for a kid to see. I started school in 1944 and that was the most terrifying day of my life. I was born in 1938 and will be 80 in August. My dad had two deferments during the war. He was a lead-man in the ship yard, piping engine rooms but he also took time off during harvest season to make sugar for three months, then back to the ship yard. I always read your column first. You do a great job. BTW, most people do not realize that New Orleans is not Cajun, but French. Warren Dupre – 27^{th} Ord, Korea 62-63"

Thanks, Warren for the kind comments and your remembrances of New Orleans and WWII. Now write me something about your time in Korea. I also heard from Dan Russell, 545th MP, who attended the reunion. He brought a former 545th MP with him to the reunion and wore his MP uniform which was very impressive. He and his friend, Dr. Jack Wright, are trying to get a fellow MP's Bronze Star with V device upgrade to a Silver Star. More on that next time.

William Rizi and others are engaged in a project to provide wooden urns for indigent Veterans. These Veterans are currently being buried in cardboard or plastic boxes. The organization is called "Veteran Urn Project" and they provide beautiful handmade wooden urns free of charge across the country. You can contact William at <rillbizi@ij.net>. It is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in Tampa, FL.

I apologize for my column in the previous edition of the *Saber*. I felt like not submitting one at all. So, I hope you readers will help me by sending me your stories, your efforts to contact an old friend, your news and your suggestions. Let's keep the column alive or we lose our voice in the *Saber*. Until next time, watch your back, pray for our nation and our military, and may God bless you and your family, the USofA, the US Army, the great 1st Cav Div, and may His face shine on you and bring you joy and peace.



Division Doings Continued from pg. 21

organizations allowing each element to develop interoperability between the different branches as well as improve unit readiness for each organization.

The Marines got after landing zone and pickup zone operations, aerial insertions, and their standard operation procedures for movement to contact battle drills. The aircrews from Charlie Company that supported the 1st/6th USMC air movement request got after internal air assault planning and execution, briefing and handling passengers on their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, and multi-ship operations.

SPC Juan Machuca, one of the helicopter crew chiefs who supported this mission said, "We are on a NATO base in Romania and we see multiple branches of the United States military as well as multiple nations stationed at the base. This mission allowed us to train and build interoperability among our unit and the 1st/6th Marines that we see every day. It made me feel great being able to support these Marines and enhance their training as well as training down range

in the future."

CW2 Keith Bonner, a Black Hawk Instructor pilot, was the primary planner and flight lead for this mission. He was responsible for mission planning, briefing 1st/6th USMC leadership on the aviation portion of the operation, and the lead aircraft during the 1st/6th movement.

This mission gave the Ghostriders an opportunity to introduce the junior Marines to Army aviation and allowed the Marines to work with an Army aviation unit utilizing UH-60 aircraft. As our time dwindles down, we continue to build a strong relationship with the Marines for future missions in the Black Sea Area.

Although it is hard being away from their families, this is an excellent opportunity for the Troopers of Air Cav to work with our sister branch of the military and build relationships across Europe.

2-227th Aviation Regiment is part of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade's nine-month deployment to United States European Command's Operation Atlantic Resolve. The battalion is currently deployed in Latvia, Poland, and Romania training and working with American and European Soldiers during their training exercises.

James R. Rollins

THE HICCUP - Health Care 1566 FM 3258 Lufkin, TX 75904-0440 RollinsJ@consolidated.net Information Committee Report

Emergency Health Care for Veterans

With the recent 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion, many First Teamers were on the road, away from their homes and their local VA Hospitals and Clinics. One of the many benefits that you earned was access to Veterans Administration Hospitals and non-VA Hospitals for emergency treatment. This is why it is so important for all Veterans to register with their local VA Medical Facilities prior to an emergency and always carry their VA Card.

During a medical emergency, Veterans should immediately seek care at the nearest medical facility. A medical emergency is an injury, illness, or symptom so severe that without immediate treatment, you believe your life or health is in danger. If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Veterans do not need to check with VA before calling for an ambulance or going to an emergency department. During a medical emergency, VA encourages all Veterans to seek immediate medical attention without delay. A claim for emergency care will never be denied based solely on VA not receiving notification prior to seeking care. (Note: An emergency department (ED) is a facility that is staffed and equipped to provide emergency treatment and does not include community facilities that provide medical treatment in situations other than emergencies.)

It is, however, important to promptly notify VA after receiving emergency care at a community emergency department. Notification should be made within 72 hours of admission to a community medical facility. This allows VA to assist the Veteran in coordinating necessary care or transfer and helps to ensure that the administrative and clinical requirements for VA to pay for the care are met. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has two authorities to pay for emergency care in non-VA facilities, for eligible Veterans. These authorities allow VA to pay for emergency care rendered for service-connected Veterans and nonservice-connected conditions for enrolled Veterans who have no other source of payment for the care.

Service-connected Veterans may be eligible for payment or reimbursement for emergency treatment received in non-VA emergency departments if they receive emergency treatment. In general, VA can pay for emergency medical care at a local ED for a Veteran's service-connected condition, or if the care is related to a Veteran's service-connected condition. Specifically, emergency medical care for a Veteran's service-connected or related (adjunct) condition(s) is eligible for VA payment as long as VA wasn't reasonably available to provide the care.

In accordance with the following situations and requirements, VA can pay emergency care costs for:

- 1. A Veteran who receives emergency treatment of a service-connected, or adjunct condition* in a community emergency department; or
- 2. A Veteran who is Permanently and Totally disabled (P&T) as the result of a service-connected condition is eligible for emergency treatment of ANY condition; or
- A Veteran who is participating in a VA Vocational Rehabilitation 3.

Veterans Choice Program

Robert L. Daumiller, JD

Rule 31 Listed General Civil Mediator

Complaints abound concerning the Veterans Choice Program. It is illegal for a provider agreeing to treat Veterans under the Veterans Choice Program for any services rendered. Most problems surround the Veteran being billed for services under the Program and/or being found secondarily liable for payment to the private provider should the VA be a slow pay or a no-pay, there is a simple cure. The Veterans must realize that all appointments must be cleared through and made by the Veterans Choice site, or a real problem could occur.

My experience with the Veterans Choice Program has been horrific. They range from missed scheduling, never seeing the provider, not seeing my lab reports to problems with the private provider/billing companies sending me nasty grams wanting paid for the visits, to threats of being sent to credit agencies. I no longer use the program.

There is a fix that will work. At the time of a Veteran's appointment, the Veteran will be asked to fill out and sign a patient input form. That part is both necessary and proper to provide the health care information needed by the provider. However, if the Veteran reads the proffered form - all of it, front and back - the Veteran will see that it contains clauses that should a low-pay or a no-pay by VA occur, the Veteran by signing the form as is could be billed for payment and sent to collection agencies until the fiasco is resolved. It is a nightmare that VA never anticipated or could care less about.

In any event, the solution is simple. Answer all queries concerning past and urrent health and injury issues but scratch out and initial all those clauses that could leave Veteran potentially liable for claims of payment. The private provider will not object at that time, or if it does, it is a hell of a hint to the Veteran that a problem with this provider is on the horizon. Obtain a copy of the executed form before turning it in. Once accepted by the private provider in the modified format, should VA pull one of its stunts, the Veteran cannot be held liable because the private provider knew about the modification of payment terms, accepted the modified form and agreed to provide care knowing that the Veteran chose not to be responsible for payment. Šo, BEFORE A VETERAN SIGNS ANYTHING, read the form in its entirety. It is incumbent upon the Veteran to be extremely careful of what he/she signs concerning visits to obtain care from any private provider associated with the Veterans Choice Program.

Program, and who requires emergency treatment to expedite their return to the program, is eligible for emergency treatment for any condition; and (scenarios 1-3 must all meet #4)

- 4. The emergency was of such a nature that the Veteran (or other prudent layperson without medical training) would reasonably believe that any delay in seeking immediate medical attention would cause their life or health to be placed in jeopardy.
- A service-connected condition is one that has been adjudicated by the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and a disability rating has been granted. An adjunct condition is one that, while not directly service-connected, is medically considered to be aggravating a serviceconnected condition.

Note: Legal authorities and payment methods for VA payment for emergency care for service-connected conditions are contained in Title 38 U.S.C. §1728, 38 CFR §17.120, and 38 CFR §17.132.

Nonservice-connected Emergency Care for Veterans may also be covered by VA for emergency medical care at a community ED for a Veteran's nonserviceconnected condition. However, there are several requirements and factors that affect the extent to which VA can cover those services. Specifically, emergency medical care for a Veteran's nonservice-connected condition(s) is eligible for VA payment when all of the five following elements are true:

- 1. Care was provided in a hospital emergency department (or similar public facility held to provide emergency treatment to the public); and
- The emergency was of such a nature that the Veteran (or other prudent 2. layperson without medical training) would reasonably believe that any delay in seeking immediate medical attention would cause their life or health to be placed in jeopardy; and
- A VA medical facility or another Federal facility was not reasonably available to provide the care; and
- 4. The Veteran is enrolled and has received care within a VA facility during the 24 months before the emergency care; and

The Veteran is financially liable to the provider of emergency treatment. 5. There are limitations on VA's ability to provide coverage when a Veteran has other health insurance (OHI). If OHI does not fully cover the costs of treatment,

VA can pay certain costs for which the Veteran is personally liable. By law, VA cannot pay:

- Co-payments
- Co-insurance
- Deductibles
- Similar payments a Veteran may owe to the provider as required by their OHI

Note: Legal authorities and payment methods for VA payment for emergency care for nonservice-connected conditions are contained in Title 38 U.S.C. §1725 and 38 CFR §17.1000.

BOTTOM LINE: This is available to only registered Veteran's in the medical side of VA. This is not something you can expect to occur if you have done nothing with VA. More information on this can be found at the VA website: <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/emergency care.asp>

D Co, 2-7 Cavalry Memorial

This statue was made and given to us by Robert Douglas, who was one of our Platoon Leaders in Vietnam. It is to honor those from our unit, D-2/7Cavalry, who were killed in action during our tours in War. Bob presented it to us and wanted us to give it to one person from the unit who served there and have him hold and display it in his home for a year. He could have the name of one of his buddies, who were killed, inscribed on the base. At the end of the year, it would be turned over to another person from the unit.

The plaque on the back was written by John Taylor. I asked John to make the

box out of some walnut wood from a tree that I had cut down and had stored in the barn. At first look, John rejected the rough looking pieces--yet on reflection, he took what was rejected and turned it into something very special. Perhaps there is a metaphor between Christ the rock that was rejected (Mark 2:10) and is the savior and the specialness we regard in this memorial that we have selected to honor those we served with. For me personally, this was a great honor to have two names installed on the memorial as well as to review all the other names that represent each of our brothers. The first was a medic (Lloyd Duncan) who was killed, and I took his place--the second was a medic (Danny Mawdsley) that took my place and was killed. As each of us understands the true reality of that, "Those names on this monument could very well of been our own!" The statue has been in circulation for about six or more years now and is turned over to a new person each year at the 1st Cavalry Reunion. This year it went to Dean Tucker. Last year, Roger Lutz had it and he had a wooden cover box made for it to make transporting easier. He had a metal plate added on the side inscribed with the names of those killed in 1967 and 1968. There is room for more plates to inscribe the names of all those from other years.



Sincerely, Robert L. Daumiller / D. Co. 227th. AHB / November 67 - May 68

Robert L. Daumiller, JD Rule 31 Listed General Civil Mediator 137 Berkshire Loop Crossville, Tennessee 38558 931-250-1068 / <tnmediator@zoho.com>





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1LT HORRIGAN, Paul In Memoriam for LT Quintin D. Zambano, 5th Cav, C Co. 2nd Plt, 7st Cav (Airmobile) KIA October 15, 1967 Friendship of CPT Jimmy S. Hammett, 191st MI Det, 1st Cav Div (Airmobile) 1967

Friendship of CPT Frederick A. Bergerson, 191st MI Det, 1st Cav Div (Airmobile) 1967

Friendship of LT William Ames, 191st MI Det, 1st Cav Div (Airmobile) 1967

LRRP/RANGER ASSN of the Vietnam War **PSG PALMER**, Leslie

In Memory of PFC William Henry White, A Battery 1st Battalion, 30th FA, Who was killed in action 23 July 1968, Danang, Biah Province, Republic of Vietnam MR. POOL, Robert B.

In Memory of MSGT Roy P. Benavidez, USA SF(Ret)-MSGT Benavidez served two tours in Vietnam and seriously wounded both tours.

<u>\$501 - \$1,000</u> SSG (RET) GORMAN, Thomas N. In Memory of: 1LT James C. Ulrich Feb 13, 1967 KIA Binhe Dinh Prov MOS 7193, Wall 15E Row 026 E-3 Marvin M Dicko Binh Dinh Prrov Jan 21, 1967 KIA MOS 13A10, Wall Panel 14E Row 061 E-3 George A. Turner Pleiku Prov Nov 21, 1966 MOS 13A10, Wall Panel 12E Row 107

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