



SABER

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



THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

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It is summer and vacation time for many of us. Cathy and I are in the final planning stage for our trip to Maine. We were going to go

last year; however, the Maine authorities required either a negative test for Covid or 14 days quarantine upon arrival. Tests were not readily available last summer and being stuck in a hotel 14 days for a 10-day vacation seemed excessive, so we cancelled. Thankfully we were able to get our deposits back.

Not only was our vacation cancelled but so were our Reunion and Veterans Day ceremonies. Both are back on the schedule for this year. Speaking of the latter, I had the honor of participating in the Veterans Day ceremonies at the WWII and Korean War memorials for 4 years (2016 – 2019) as a representative of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

The service at the WWII memorial was mainly a tribute to the Americans who fought in the war. There were always a few WWII Veterans in attendance, and they were recognized individually. The memorial itself highlights all the areas of the world/theaters that American servicemen fought in. Truly, almost anywhere there was fighting Americans were participants.

The Korean War services honored the US personnel who served and the various countries that were allies of the US. There were always South Korean soldiers and representatives from their embassy in attendance.

The largest event by far was the ceremonies at the Vietnam War memorial. There were always a number of speakers, some seemed to be in a mutual admiration society, congratulating each other about all the work they had done to get the memorial, The Three Soldiers statue, and Vietnam Women’s Memorial built. Meanwhile behind the speakers stands the wall engraved with more than 58,000 names some that I knew and several who were friends of mine. There were numerous groups representing various military units and Veteran organizations presenting wreaths to close out the ceremonies after the speeches. The highlight of this for me was the 1st Cavalry Division Honor Guard standing alone at the apex of the memorial overlooking the speakers and the crowd. Go to <www.1CDA.org> to see a picture.

New to D.C. is the WWI memorial which opened this past April. It is a shame that this was dedicated years after the last of the US’s WWI Veterans left us. I plan to visit this memorial and the National Museum of the United States Army during my next trip to D.C.

There are quite a few nonprofits that help Veterans and first responders advertising on tv and radio and in various publications. When you are planning to make a donation, I ask that you consider the 1st Cavalry Division Association Foundation. Our Foundation gives money for scholarships to children of 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers disabled or killed in action. Note: The Foundation does not have advertising or personnel cost, your contribution goes to scholarships.

Stay healthy, stay safe. And, as always, thank you for your service.

First Team
Allen (TrailSpike 47)

THE DIRECTOR’S CHAIR

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As sit at my desk looking back on the past seven months, I wonder where the time went; seems like a blink of the eye in January and here we are mid-July with a reunion just around the corner. Google says, “Clock time and mind time over

a lifetime. This effect is related to saccadic eye movement. So, when you are young and experiencing lots of new stimuli—everything is new—time seems to be passing more slowly. As you get older, the production of mental images slows, giving the sense that time passes more rapidly.” Simple physics, so they say.

This is your final reminder that all Air Assault Certificates must be turned in by 1 August 2021. If attending the September Reunion, certificates will be handed out at the Vietnam War Luncheon (Thursday 23, 1100-1300). I understand there are several gentlemen attending the reunion but not the luncheon, those certificates will be available at the walk-in registration desk. All remaining certificates will be mailed out in late-October.

There will be minor changes to Reunion times for a couple of meetings and events. The Foundation Trustee Meeting will be moved to Thursday, 0800-0900, so all board members have an opportunity to play golf if they so choose. The Gulf War 30th Anniversary Ceremony will be held on Friday, 1300 hrs., 1CD Museum flagpole. This year instead of a Spirit of the Cav ceremony it will be referred to as the Cav 100 to be held Friday morning, exact time has yet to be determined. Be sure to thoroughly review your Reunion handbook for updated times and locations.

We look forward to seeing all our members, both old and new, and their Families this September 2021, in the meantime stay safe and healthy.

HORSE DETACHMENT by CPT Siddiq Hasan, Commander

The Horse Cavalry Detachment rode the “charge with sabers high” for this summer’s Change of Command and retirement ceremonies! Thankfully, this year’s extended spring showers brought the Horse Detachment tall green pastures for the horses to graze when not training.

Things at the Horse Detachment are getting back into a regular swing of things as communities around the state begin to open and request the HCD to support various events. In June we supported the Buckholts Cotton Festival, the Buffalo Soldier Marker Dedication, and 1CD Army Birthday Cake Cutting to name a few. The Horse Detachment bid a fond farewell and good luck to 1SG Murillo and his family as he continues his career at the Pentagon working with the Inspector General. We welcomed back 1SG Villarreal and his family. 1SG Villarreal was previously in the Detachment as a B Grouper and platoon sergeant from 2008-2010. The military trainer had the privilege of presenting eight Troopers their B Group spurs! Congratulations to SGT Dever, SPC Chick, SSG Jenkins, SSG Wiedrick, SSG Helgren, SGT McClendon, SGT Long, and SGT Palencia (pictured below) for passing the written test and the riding assessment.



Showing off their new B Group Spurs

The Horse Detachment had the great privilege and honor to host the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as part of the USO tour he was accompanied by the duo LOCASH, Miss America, and Kyle Chandler.



The Horse Detachment welcomed two new leaders into the Corps of the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), welcome to CPL Christensen and CPL Mayfield. Two other great NCOs were promoted to the next ranks in their career progression, congratulations to SSG Dillard, and SGT Uriosite.

Thank you to everyone that has been able to make it out to the parades and demonstrations as we stay engaged with those that support us. Coming up we

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ADDRESS CHANGE

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

Last 4 #'s of your SSN_____

Tel: (____) _____

Rank and Name: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

SNOWBIRDS

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

Rank and Name: _____

LAST 4#s SSN: _____ DOB _____

1: Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____

2: Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____

1CDA EVENT CALENDAR

Sept 22-26, 2021 73rd Annual 1CDA Reunion, Killeen TX
(In Sept to honor Division's 100th Birthday!)

Nov 9-11, 2021 12th Annual Veterans Day in Washington D.C.

July 6-10, 2022 74th Annual 1CDA Reunion, Dayton, OH

SABER RENEWAL / DONATION FORM

☐ Renew my *Saber* \$_____ for _____ year(s) @ \$10 per year (6 issues). Fill out and return the form below or attach your Saber label so we have your pertinent information.

☐ D-Trooper Fund \$_____

In Memory of: _____

☐ Association General Fund Donation \$_____

In Memory of: _____

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

D-Trooper Program consists of a donation of **\$25** or more. This donation will give you one year of *Saber* with the remainder going into the **D-Trooper Fund**. The **D-Trooper Fund** is one of the more positive means by which you can actively participate in furthering the programs of the Association and again show your pride as a CAV Trooper—a LifeTime Member of the First Team! If you choose to participate in the **D-Trooper Fund**, your name will be published in the Honor Roll section of the *Saber* newspaper and we will send you a certificate suitable for framing, for your first donation only.

LAST 4 NUMBERS OF SSN _____ DOB _____

Rank _____ Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

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

Consider donating today.

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ARTICLE SUBMISSION

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

TAPS

We were notified of the death of the following:

BROOME, 1SG (RET) Lee E., D 1-5 CAV, 1969. 10 May 2021.

BROWDER, SP4 Bruce F., B Co, 1-8 CAV, 1968-67. 18 May 2021.

CARPENTER, CSM (RET) Allen G., LRRP, 1967-68. 10 February 2021.

COURCHANE, SGT David C., B Btry., 2-20 ARA, 1966-68. 24 May 2021.

DYE, Trooper Ronald W., 1CD, 1965-66. 3 February 2021.

EARL, MAJ (RET) Robert J., D Co, 1-5 CAV, 1947; M Co, 3-8 CAV, 1950. 1 June 2021 (Occupation of Japan & Korean War)

FITZGERALD, 1LT Lemuel W., HHC & A Co, 2-12 CAV, 1967-68. 9 December 2020.

FIX, SGT D. Lee, H Co, 75th INF, 1970. 12 May 2021.

FOPPES, PFC Ernest J., A Co, 8th ENG & 5th CAV, 1948. 1 August 2020. (Occupation of Japan & Korean War)

GAUER, COL (RET) Ralph C., HHC, 312MI, 1977; CoS, 1CD, 1979. 3 June 2021.

HAGEMEISTER, LTC (RET) Charles C., HHC, 1-5th CAV, 1966-67. 19 May 2021. (Medal of Honor Recipient)

HEMPHILL, MG (RET) John A., CDR, 2-8 CAV, 1965. 21 May 2021.

JANES, LTC (RET) Ray H., HHT, 1-9 CAV, 1969. 29 April 2021.

JOHNSON, SFC (RET) Charles W., HHC, 1-7 CAV. 14 May 2021.

JOHNSON, SP4 Donald A., HHB, DIVARTY, 1965-66. May 2021.

JONES, SGT Gordon E., C Co, 1-9 CAV, 1966. 17 June 2021.

KING, SP4 Merrill, B Co, 8th ENG, 1984. 8 February 2021.

LEDESMA, SP4 Juan M., C Co & D Co, 1-5 CAV, 1965-66. 16 June 2021.

LOVELESS, Trooper Richard A., 1^{CD}. 1948-52. 4 April 2021. (Korean War)

LEIBY, SPC George F., B Co, 1-7 CAV, 1971. 8 March 2021.

MARSHALL, CPT Robert A., B Co, 1-9 CAV, 1968. 1 May 2021.

MARTIN, PFC Roger M., B Co, 1-5 CAV, 1965. 22 June 2021.

MC CALL, SGT Donald R., C Co, 1-12 CAV, 1969-70. 2 May 2021.

PERKINS, SGM Robert S., 11th AVN, 1964. 6 June 2021.

RAY, MAJ (RET) Marion N., C Btry., 2-20 ARA, 1970-71. 11 December 2021.

RIO, PVT Roy S., D Co, 5th CAV, 1962. 1 June 2021.

SANDERS, SFC Robert M., B Co & HHC, 1-8 CAV, 1951. 14 May 2021. (Korean War)

SHURLEY, SGT Michael, 5-7 CAV, 1967-68. 18 March 2021.

SPRINGER, Trooper Clifford C., 1CD, 1968-70. 19 May 2021.

TAVEAU, LTC (RET) Horatio Sprague IV, A Co., 2-7th CAV, 1965-66; HHC & B Co, 2-7 CAV 1969. 19 April 2021.

WEST, SGT Herbert F., A Co, 1-5 CAV, 1968-69. 16 April 2021.

WILHELM, COL (RET) David, A Co, 1-9 CAV. 11 April 2021.

WOODSON, Trooper Charles E., 1CD, 1968. 24 March 2021.

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

HORSE DETACHMENT

Continued from pg. 1

hope to see you at the Hoffpauir Riata Rodeo in Lampasas on July 30th. If you cannot make it there, we hope you to see you during Cav Week in September, from the 22nd to the 26th.

We love and appreciate the support that this amazing community bestows on us and look forward to our continued engagements and exchanges long into the future. There is now a link on the association website to make it easier to request the HCD to support an event in your area. We do ask that you have the request turned in for consideration 120 days before the event so that we have enough time to prepare. Hot To Trot!

Please call (254) 287-2229 or (254) 404-5193 with any questions. Check us out on Facebook (1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment) where we post pictures from the barn and strive to keep everyone informed of upcoming events and ceremonies. The Facebook page now has an official email that you can send questions and request for support to. Forward At a Gallop!



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

The following stories are from the June 2021 issue of the Jumping Mustangs Bugle

THANKSGIVING 1968

I was an M-60 gunner in D 1/8 in Vietnam from 2/68 to 2/69. We did Khe Sahn, Ashau Valley then III Corps on Cambodian Border west of Tay Ninh. In late November 68 we were out of LZ Mustang. Our sister company Charlie had a platoon in dire straits. Our platoon volunteered to assist them. I believe it was the day before Thanksgiving 1968. Their platoon leader was KIA (DeGarmo) I believe, plus a dog handler and a couple more Soldiers. Our company had been in contact off and on since our C A from Mustang. We had C Aed into a B52 strike clearing not too distant from this firefight we were engaged in on 26 November. Our 2 companies were combined that day as attrition had reduced our numbers well below competent field maneuver elements. This area was their sanctuary, till the Cav said, "No!" We had taken and discovered numerous NVA battalion/company complexes, to include hospitals, classrooms with mockup anti-aircraft training aids. You get the picture, Ashau all over again. We had combined with C Co that day and began digging in, expecting another attack by the enemy anytime, day or night. I have always realized the "Reaper" is a great motivator. Our foxholes were deep.

Our platoon set out about late morning to go help the beleaguered platoon from Charlie. Our perimeter was within 200 meters of the pinned down Soldiers. The battle is in intermittent triple canopy jungle, low brush about chest high, ringed with 100-foot trees. The combined companies had blown a hole in the jungle to get log birds in and out. The hole was not big enough in diameter to get slicks in without the main rotor and tail rotor clipping the trees during descent/ascent. So, the battle was set, we are on our way to help the doomed, thereby dooming ourselves. Tomorrow would be Thanksgiving Day, hot turkey, mashed potatoes, and all. Well, it was supposed to be and for some I am sure it was. But we were Infantry, and Infantry does as Infantry is.

So, it was mid-morning when we set out to help C Co's pinned down platoon. We had not gone far from the combined defensive perimeter (our 2 companies are now combined). We were eastbound, going around the southern edge of a natural open area. The natural open area was only a few meters out, it was dominated by chest high brush with no high trees in it, in an about 50-meter circle. In other words, a near perfect LZ or PZ for helicopters. The enemy, rightly so, encircled this natural entry into the jungle with bunkers, trenches etc, a perfect ambush, kill zone. By design or blind luck our companies had stopped short of this deadly trap and set up our defensive perimeter. Go figure, occasionally, something goes right. C Co had sent it's now beleaguered platoon east but on the north side of this natural clear area. They walked into a deadly trap, at least 2 snipers well camouflaged in the tall trees lining the north side of the clearing. There were bunkers just beyond these trees effectively surrounding the cleared area. There was a crew served Russian machine gun emplacement covering the trail C Co platoon was approaching on.

The enemy had done their homework and easily dominated (C Co and now us, D Co 2nd platoon). Their doctrine was to hold fire till the G.I.'s were on top of them. Then kill a few, knowing more would come to rescue their fallen, as we were attempting to do. By staying in close contact our artillery would be useless unless we chose suicide with our own friendly fires. As soon as we pulled back, so would they, to avoid the artillery and gunship fire we would call in on them. C Co's platoon also had a dog handler and dog walking point. I heard later the dog had been on alert almost the whole time we had C Aed into the enemy's sanctuary.

The enemy was simply everywhere. Sadly, neither survived this battle. The snipers in the trees plus the machine gun took 5 lives easily, then more. As we progressed to the east skirting the southern side of the clearing, our platoon leader tried to neutralize several bunkers with grenades. There were too many and we ran dangerously low on grenades. But we pushed on, intent on rescue, it was our sacred duty to come to their aid. They would do the same for us, an unwritten pledge among infantrymen, I will die trying to save you brother. Tough call, but there it is. Not too far into our advance we encountered one of the huge trees that had been blown over with its root ball several feet in diameter (approximately 5' or more). The main trunk of the tree blocked our path, so you had to either go over the top of the trunk (exposing yourself to any sniper you suspected but were unaware of) or under it. The under route was so narrow you would have to squeeze through pushing your M16 ahead of you. My assistant gunner (the late Tommy Crumbley) chose the under route. He got through to the other side dropping a magazine in the process. He reached down from his crouching position to pick it up when "crack" he was shot in his right arm bicep.

So now I saw only a sniper in one of 3 trees on the north side of the clearing could have possibly seen Tommy and shot him. I laid my M-60 on the root ball and burned those 3 trees up. I climbed over the tree trunk hoping I was successful with the 3-tree problem. We went further east now turning northerly around the east side of the clearing approaching where C Co's platoon was pinned down. By this time John Ulfers "Whitey" our squad leader had taken point trying to reach the downed fellow Soldiers. Right behind him was our platoon leader Dwight Sarjeant, AKA "Big Kid." Machine gun fire, Whitey was down crying "my leg, my leg." Dwight moved to him, grabbed under John's legs to pull him back, more machine gun fire. Dwight was hit in his neck. It was getting late afternoon, not yet dusk but late. Most of us had not slept for the previous 3 nights, nor eaten. It was desperate deadly combat as most of you reading this know all too well. The battlefield positions began to be clearer than in the beginning. I decided to do a right flank, where I hoped they were not expecting anyone. I got on my hands and knees to go around to the east once more then turn north and kill the machine gunners from their flank or rear. It was suicide but that was my plan. A Chicom grenade came flipping through the bushes, it exploded almost as soon as it hit the ground. A professional Soldier had held it till almost exploding so

it would go off before anyone could dodge or protect from its blast. There was an FNG (2 weeks in the field) between me and the grenade. He was grievously wounded; I was in his blast shadow and only got a small amount of the shrapnel in my left shoulder. The blast blew me over and stunned me for a while. But now I had them, I knew exactly where they were. They had unknowingly committed suicide. Isn't combat unpredictable, you know it is. I took the legs down on my gun laid the barrel parallel to the ground about 4 inches above ground level. I turned it on and did not stop. I am now out of M-60 ammo, first time I had ever needed my 45, the platoon sergeant asked if I thought we should pull back, I said yes, all we are doing is stacking up dead bodies right now. It was dusk, we pulled back. The following day we were able to retrieve our fallen. God Bless and I hope we have lived our lives in a manner our dead would have approved of.

Jerry Frease D Co 1-8 Cav, 1968

JUNE 2, 1969

I was assigned to Company B 1/8 Cav, and we were on an operation to meet up with another company and check out a bunker complex on June 2, 1969. We came to a river that had a strong current, making it difficult to cross. Two Soldiers tried to cross the river but couldn't get to the other side. We tried to get a rope across to recover them, but it was not successful. A chopper was called in and they hovered over the two Soldiers as they grabbed and held onto the slick. They were picked up and dropped off across the river. The choppers then air assaulter all the other members of the company to the other side of the river. After all of us crossed the river, we joined up with the other company that arrived at the area before us. The two company commanders agreed on the plan of action and both companies started the assault towards the bunkers. We received a very heavy amount of gunfire and took a lot of casualties. A Loach, scout chopper, was flying around the enemy positions but was shot down and both members of the crew were killed. The enemy fire was so heavy that we had to call in B-25s to bomb the bunker complex where the NVA had set up. We were then able to move forward towards the NVA positions. That evening both companies set up our night perimeter positions. The firefight continued through the night but was sporadic and not as heavy as during the daylight hours. During the evening, a Snoopy came over the area and fired into the bunker complex, but some of the rounds hit inside our perimeter and killed and wounded several Troopers. The next day both companies saddled up and made another assault on the bunker complex, only to discover that the NVA had left during the cover of darkness. We did find a lot of food and ammo in the bunkers, which had been constructed by the French with I-beams and about three feet of cement. Over 50 years have passed since the two days and nights we spent by the river on June 2 and 3, 1969. I have memories and nightmares that I will take with me to my grave. I have a service dog that helps me sleep, but I still have trouble getting enough sleep. If any of you were on this operation and would like to share some memories with me, please contact me at 856-931-6936.

Dominic Degrado, The Dago from Jersey. B Co 1-8 Cav, 1968

MY LEFT SHOE

October 1968 and the end of our tour Jerry, Dan, Rudy, Frenchy, Floyd, myself, and the rest of our company D graduating class; jubilantly heads to An Khe the Base Camp for the 1st Air Cav. As we were processing out, it begins to settle in that making it back to the world could soon become a reality. Base Camp offered different amenities that we were not accustomed to, like beer drinking, a large PX, Red Cross, even a steak house. My hometown buddy Stan who was wounded the second time on Mach 25, 1968 was working as perimeter guard and had a place in a row of barracks to stay in when he was not pulling guard. A perfect place for Jerry, me, Rick, and Dan to stay while in An Khe. Time went quickly and the last night in An Khe involved some serious drinking. Jerry, Dan, Rick, and I crashed in Stan's room. For some unknown reason Jerry had to catch an earlier flight to Cam Rahn Bay. In the dark Jerry got up and got dressed and inadvertently grabbed my left shoe. When I got up, I discovered that my left shoe was smaller. There wasn't time to dwell on the mix up, we were going home. Getting back to Wisconsin and getting out of the Army clothes were top priorities, the shoes were not. It was great to be home with family and friends, eating home cooking, driving, and going where I wanted to. I bought a 1969 Plymouth Roadrunner while on leave. Time flew by and before I knew it, I was saying good-bye, loading my car with my civilian and Army clothes including the 2 different size shoes, and heading for Fort Ord, California. I reported for duty to the sergeant major at the headquarters company of the basic training unit. I gave him a copy of my orders and he asked me, "How much time to you have left on active duty?" A bell rang, I remembered back to Ft. Lewis, Washington upon arrival from Vietnam and being told, "When you get to our next duty station, they are going to ask you how much time you have left, no matter how much time you actually have, tell them less than six months." This is what I did, sergeant major said no drill sergeant school for you. I have often thought that if I ever found out who told me to say less than six months, I would have given them a kiss. I found my new assignment and was given a room in the barracks. I told them I needed clothes and was told they would check on getting them. My next stop was finance I needed to get paid. To my surprise the finance person told me that the 2 cash withdraws I took for my 2 R&Rs were not deducted from my account. Apparently, the finance person at An Khe thought he would help by giving me the money and not deduct it. I headed back to the barracks to another surprise. The supply sergeant said he checked on getting my clothes and there was some regulation or proclamation that I was supposed to have kept my clothes when I went to Vietnam. I explained to the supply sergeant that I had turned my army issue clothes in at Ft. Lewis on my way to Vietnam. I flat out told him, "I just found out that I wouldn't be getting paid for 3 months and I am not going to pay for clothes to be in the Army. If they couldn't work it out, I had a new car and I would go home." Hold on let me check." It took several phone calls but eventually I was given the ok to get a new Army issue and given directions to the quartermaster building. I went in my Army dress clothes to discover someone wearing civilian clothes working there. The person seemed a little put out by filling my issue. He eventually finished up and said, "That's it." I said, "I need a new pair of low quarter shoes." He said, "You have some on." "I said, "One of them is wrong size please get me a pair, I'll turn these in." "No, you already have a pair." "How about I'll trade you a size 8 left shoe for a size 9?" No dice

Continued to pg. 8

LRRP/Ranger News



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lifted by local officials. The Rolling-to-Remember Motorcycle Procession was held on Memorial Day Sunday and drew a large crowd of motorcycle riders and spectators. You might remember that the event was skipped last year due to the virus. Local news reports estimated that the number of bikes participating in the ride was more than 50,000 and that the number of spectators who lined Independence Avenue NW along The National Mall to watch the procession was in the hundreds of thousands.



Rolling-to-Remember Procession

team, in NE Washington, so despite the Pentagon's position, things worked out well for the AMVETS organizers and riders.

The Ride-of-the-Patriots was also held on Memorial Day Sunday. Thousands of motorcycles lined-up at the Harley-Davidson Dealership in Fairfax City early in the morning for the ride to RFK Stadium where they joined the main Rolling-to-Remember procession. Motorcycle police escorted the riders down Rte #50 East to I-495 North to the George Washington Parkway and across the Memorial Bridge into the nation's capital and to RFK Stadium. There they joined the other riders.

"The Ride-of-the-Patriots is intended to take the message of remembrance and honor from the citizens of Fairfax City and Fairfax County to those who gave the most for our country and for our freedoms," according to the organizers.

Rolling-to-Remember, like Rolling Thunder, is a demonstration to build awareness of Veterans' issues, and it is a show of patriotism that is uniquely American. The organizers at AMVETS are hoping that it will become a world-class spectacle, like Rolling Thunder, that attracts riders and spectators from all over the world.

By the way, the Saluting Marine, Tim Chambers, was in position at the intersection of 23rd Avenue and Constitution Ave NW saluting the bikers as they made their way down 23rd Avenue by the Lincoln Memorial and onto Constitution Ave along The National Mall. This is something that he has done every Memorial Day Sunday since 2002, in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks. This year, however, he also stood on a median strip at the intersection of 23rd Avenue and Constitution Ave NW for 24 hours saluting to raise awareness about the issue of Veteran suicide. According to the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, an active duty service member, or Veteran, dies by suicide almost once an hour.



On Memorial Day Monday, the VVMF held their Memorial Day Observance in-person at The Wall. This was the first time that an event had been conducted in person at The Wall by the VVMF since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic when health restrictions were put in place that limited the size of gatherings in public spaces. Attendance, however, was by invitation only and was limited to fifty Veterans, including host Jim Knotts. A small group of dignitaries, consisting mostly of Gold Star Family members, was also in attendance.

The day's keynote speaker was Karl Marlantes, bestselling author of the book *Matterhorn*. Marlantes served as a 1LT with the 1st Bn, 4th Marines, in Vietnam from October 1968 to October 1969, and was awarded the Navy Cross for action in which he led an assault on an enemy hilltop bunker complex.

The names of ten service members were added to The Wall as part of this year's ceremony bringing the total number of names on The Wall to 58,281. The remains of five of these service members were repatriated in 2019 or 2020 by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Defense. All five of these service members were US Air Force or Navy pilots who were shot down by anti aircraft fire over Laos and their remains were only recently recovered. The other five service members had died from wounds received in Vietnam after returning home.

On a different note, June 6, 2021, marked the 77th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion of Europe where allied forces landed on the coast of France and attacked the German forces there. It was the start of the allied campaign to liberate Nazi-occupied Europe. Tens of thousands of Troops from the U.S., Canada, England, and France landed on the beaches of Normandy under a naval bombardment with the equivalent of five assault divisions of infantry. Our unit, H Co, 75th Rangers, traces its lineage to one of the infantry units that was in the first wave of Troops to hit the beaches, the 2nd Ranger Bn.

At 0550 hours on the 6th of June, the 2nd Ranger Bn stormed Omaha Beach with the mission of scaling the 100-foot-high cliffs at a spot at the western end of the beach named Pointe de Hoc and silencing the German heavy-gun battery on top of the cliffs thereby allowing the Troops of the 116th Infantry to establish a foothold on the beach below. The heavy-gun battery enabled the Germans to deliver devastating firepower onto the attacking American Troops on Omaha

Hello from the nation's capital. Things are slowly returning to normal here as more and more people get the Covid-19 vaccine and health restrictions put in place at the start of the pandemic are

The leaders at AMVETS, the Veterans-service organization that sponsored the ride, was never able to get the security people at the Pentagon to agree to let them use the Pentagon's parking lots on the morning of the ride to stage the event. The official reason given by the Pentagon spokesperson was "Covid-19," citing "substantial community spread in Arlington County, Virginia, and the size of the proposed demonstration." Well, the mayor of Washington, DC jumped at the opportunity to have AMVETS use the parking lots at RFK Stadium, the former home of the Washington (Redskins) Football



Ride-of-the-Patriots

and Utah beaches below.

The 1st and 2nd Bns, 116th Infantry Regt, 29th (Infantry) Division attacked the center of Omaha Beach, while the 2nd and 3rd Bns, 16th Infantry Regt, 1st (Infantry) Division attacked the eastern portion of the beach. Fewer than 200 Rangers were able to make the climb to the top of the cliffs, all the while being sprayed with enemy machinegun fire and grenades being thrown at them from the pillboxes above. Once they got to the top, they found themselves in intense hand-to-hand fighting with the German soldiers manning the position but were able to overrun them and capture the position. What they discovered, however, was that the heavy-gun artillery pieces had been moved by the Germans. Apparently, when the preliminary bombing started earlier that morning, the Germans moved the artillery pieces inland to protect them from the allied bombing.

The Rangers followed the deep-wheel tracks that led inland from the emplacements. When they reached a road that ran parallel to the beach, they came under intense enemy fire from German machineguns. Using the mortars that they had carried on their backs while climbing up the cliffs, they proceeded to wipe-out the guns and neutralize the area. Shortly afterwards they found the artillery pieces, undamaged and unmanned, complete with mounds of ammunition. They wasted no time in disabling them with hand grenades and blowing up the ammunition. By 0900 hours, they gave the all-clear signal to the 5th Ranger Battalion that was being held in reserve offshore so they could land to the east with the regular infantry. The 2nd Ranger Bn then proceeded to attack eastward along the top of the cliffs, parallel to the beach, knocking out the German pillboxes and clearing the trenches of German soldiers.

Despite suffering 75 percent casualties, the 2nd Ranger Bn accomplished its objectives and held on to Pointe du Hoc while repelling several German counterattacks. The battalion was credited with the first American victory in Normandy on D-Day.

On a different note, I received a call from **Mark (Allen) Miller** from Los Angeles, California. Mark served with the 2nd BDE, 101st Airborne Division that arrived in Vietnam in November 1967. He joined E Co (LRP), 20th Infantry (ABN), I Field Force-Vietnam, shortly after arriving in-country and spent his tour pulling reconnaissance missions in the western Central Highlands.

E Co (LRP), 20th Infantry (ABN) was formed in September 1967 by MACV and put under the control of I Field Force-Vietnam. It was different from the existing Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) companies in Vietnam that supported the major combat units, such as our unit, the 1st Cav LRRP/Rangers, in the sense that it operated at the II Corps level and had aviation resources dedicated to it, which included helicopters and O-1 (Observation) Bird Dog forward air controller fixed wing aircraft. It was intended to go deep into enemy territory, sometimes beyond the reach of supporting artillery and radio networks, for the purposes of collecting intelligence on enemy units, reporting enemy movements, and directing airpower at targets of opportunity. E Co (LRP), 20th Infantry (ABN) operated along the Cambodian border and in other areas where North Vietnamese soldiers infiltrated into South Vietnam from the North via the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

You might remember CPT David Tucker who was the company commander of our unit in the 1967 timeframe. He came to our unit from A Co, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav, in June 1967 replacing CPT Jim James. CPT Tucker got promoted to major in September and accepted the job of company commander of E Co (LRP), 20th Infantry (ABN) when it was being formed. CPT Tucker was killed on his first day on the job. He was returning from a recruiting trip to a 101st Airborne Division LZ in the Chu Li area north of Bong Son when he was hit with enemy ground fire while riding in a helicopter.

On a different note, the following email was received from **Jim Wright**. "A good propaganda video of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) during the early days of the Vietnam War popped up. Many of you were involved from the beginning as members of the 11th Air Assault at Fort Benning and later as 1st Cav in the Ia Drang Campaign. Others, including myself having been diverted to the Cav to replace a casualty, joined the Cav during the Bong Son / Binh Dinh Campaign in II Corps of 66 /67 and the relief of the USMC Battalion at Duc Pho in I Corps in April of 67. Others of you continued the 1st Cav tradition and effectiveness after Khe Sanh and into III Corps and Cambodia. The airmobile concept proved to be a two-edged sword - it tended to get us into more fights thus the Cav suffered more casualties than any other division during the Vietnam War. This also resulted in 28 Medal of Honor recipients." "To view the video, please go to <https://fb.watch/4Q3w_iMFaJ/>. Best regards, Jim."

The following email was forwarded to me by **Bill Carpenter** (1967). "Dear Sir, my dad served as a LRRP/Ranger during the Vietnam War. He received your newsletter until he moved into a Veterans' Home. I just found an old copy of it, and you were listed as a POC."

"CSM Allen Glen Carpenter USA (Ret) passed from this world peacefully on February 10, 2021, in San Juan Capistrano, California. He was born on May 14, 1941, in Independence, Louisiana. He was a resident of New Orleans and Houma for many years." "He fought valiantly until the end as the Soldier he was against several illnesses related to his military service, which spanned 23 1/2 years. He was a dedicated Soldier who served his country well, to include 2 years in Vietnam. His wartime awards included the Silver Star, the Bronze Star w/ 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and many other medals."

"In 1969, he was selected as the First Drill Sergeant of the Army and received the Meritorious Service Medal by Executive Order from President Lyndon B. Johnson; the Stephen Ailes Award, named for Stephen Ailes, Secretary of Defense, awarded by General William Westmoreland, Chief of Staff of the Army; and an award from the Army Times. Upon his retirement from the Army, he was awarded the Legion of Merit."

"He continued to serve his country when he went to work for the Lafourche Parish School Board where he helped to mold the lives of many students during his tenure as the Senior Army Instructor with the Central Lafourche High School JROTC Program."

"He will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. when Covid restrictions allow. For the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Program, we were invited to the ceremony when my dad was inducted into the Drill Sergeant Hall of Fame. While there, we learned that there was a statue of my dad in front of the Drill Sergeant School."

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY.



5th CAV News

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This has been a wild two months for me. I am in the middle of some big changes for me, and it involves travel, quite a bit of it. The level of my disorganization has increased and that led to the loss of some names of folks who contacted me by phone or mail. One individual whose name I did not lose is Bobbie Rex Ratliss, who is not a 5th Cav alum, but gets the *Saber* from a member of his congregation at church. Mr. Ratliss called me to say he enjoys following the *Saber* and this column in that way.

I mentioned last time that I was going to have a piece for you by **Tim Soyars**. I requested that he do this piece because I found his attitude and approach to things to be refreshing. I asked him to share with us some of the things he did to encourage and develop his Troops. Here is a piece from Tom's book,

Where's Charlie? Memories from a Time of War, 1965-68 by Tim Soyars:
I was a young man of 21 when I went to Vietnam. My rank of 2LT implied leadership, but rank does not make a leader. Leadership is sometimes enate (common sense and situational evidenced by a person's reactions and instinct). Characteristics of leadership can be taught but applying lessons to real life situations are not so easy. In a war zone, especially during combat, leadership can result in life or death. It is critical to know your strengths and weaknesses as well those of your comrades and subordinates.

I was excited and apprehensive when I joined C Co 2nd/5th in March 1967. The battalion commander, COL Robert D. Stevenson presented me to the company commander, CPT Markham, wished me well, returned to his helicopter, and flew back to battalion headquarters. CPT Markham greeted me with enthusiasm and introduced me to the officers and senior NCOs of his company. After some orientation concerning protocol and mission, the CO turned me over to the platoon sergeant of the second platoon, SFC Adolfo Salazar. SFC Sal was a seasoned Veteran and a fine man, as I would soon discover. He was in his thirties, a Veteran of the Korean War, and in his second tour of duty in Vietnam.

He talked about the history of the company, including the battle of Phu Ninh and the second platoon's role in that battle and introduced me to men of my platoon. With each introduction, we briefly exchanged information about hometowns, family, and service history. Then SFC Sal went over the vacancies on the platoon roster and the orders for the night. Second platoon was to take a squad of men to a junction along a trail about 150 meters from the company's perimeter and lie in ambush, returning after first light the next day. He volunteered to lead the ambush. I agreed and told him that he would be in command but that I wanted to tag along. No enemy passed our way, and with little sleep, we returned to

camp at first light to begin a new mission.
During the first few weeks with C Co, I spent a lot of time talking to SFC Sal, discussing the missions, the tactics, the men, the CO, the enemy, and the terrain that we patrolled. Like a sponge, soaked up everything and valued his Veteran combat experiences. He was open and easy-going. As we got to know each other and witnessed leadership styles, we gained each other's trust and respect, and soon that permeated the entire platoon.
When we were at leisure, I would sometimes visit the men of my platoon, inquiring of their well-being, things back home and general conversation. This gave me confidence in them as Soldiers and gave them a better sense of me as their platoon leader. One Soldier who arrived in country in the spring of 1967 was PVT MacNeilly (do not remember his first name. Most called him Mac). He was a good-natured country boy from North Carolina and a good conversationalist. Finding out that I was from the neighboring state of Virginia, he wanted to learn more about me. During our conversations, I learned a lot about him. His dad restored old cars as a hobby, and he worked with his dad doing the mechanical repairs on the vehicles. From the way he talked about his work back home, it was obvious that he really loved working on vehicles. Shortly after being promoted to the battalion S-4, the motor pool sergeant ended his tour and rotated back to the States. To fill the vacancy, I made the most senior Soldier in the motor pool acting sergeant, thus creating a new vacancy. I visited C Co to request the COs permission to talk to PVT MacNeilly about joining the battalion motor pool. Mac was exuberant when I made the offer, and the CO authorized his immediate release to battalion. Mac hit the ground running and never let up. Within weeks, Mac became the most senior member as men completed their tours. I made Mac acting motor pool sergeant, and as soon as army protocol permitted, I made the assignment permanent.
Sergeant Mac was a natural for his position, showing leadership and skill in developing his staff. Most positions for the pool were filled by Sergeant Mac from members of the second platoon of C Co; all men I formally led in combat. I brought my former RTO and others as vacancies became available in the battalion S-4. It was really satisfying to me to be able to bring my fellow combat Veterans into the battalion HQ, and they all expressed appreciation for the opportunity. We built an efficient, highly functioning, and loyal team of which I was a proud member.
"Leadership is:
• Knowing the team and how to make it work together effectively,
• Inspiring in unpretentious and non-authoritarian ways,
• Planning and leading the mission, but focusing on the strategic horizon,
• Providing clear roles and expectations,
• Mentoring with a focus on the individual and playing to their strengths,
• Doing the right thing and always considering the feelings of others and the consequences of your actions,
• Leading by example and, Making yourself dispensable, not indispensable"

THE DOCTOR'S REPORT

COL (Ret) James Noel
HHC 1-5 Cav, 1990
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SSG (Ret) Jonathan Shockley
HHC 1-5 Cav, 1988-1992 (Doc Shock)
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"Doc Shock" has asked Erin Stockton DMD, an Albuquerque, New Mexico dentist, to help us in a series of articles to improve our dental care. The following article is submitted by Erin Stockton DMD.

I have met a lot of patients over the years, and most come with some good stories. When I see a patient with a broken tooth, I always ask for the back story; not just because some of the stories are entertaining (yes – people still open beer bottles with their teeth), but also because it helps me to form my diagnosis and helps me to figure out which treatment options are going to be most appropriate for the patient. And I get to know my patients a little bit better.

Through listening to my patients speak, I have heard a lot of ideas and explanations that are common but are not correct. So, through the next 5 issues of *Saber*, I would like to clear up 5 of the most common dental myths that I hear from patients.

Myth #1: If it does not hurt, there must not be a problem. A lot of new patients come into my practice, head hanging low and feeling a lot of guilt that they have not been to the dentist in years. And now finally a tooth has broken. They tell me "I know it's been years since I had my teeth cleaned, but I figured that since nothing hurt, everything must be okay." After I reassure them that we do not judge or scold people here, I take the opportunity to educate my patient.

I wish teeth, or even the body, worked that way – where being pain-free meant we were healthy, and feeling pain was our signal that something needs attention. Unfortunately, cavities, cracks, gum, or bone disease, even infections sometimes do not hurt until the problem has gotten quite advanced. I compare it to high blood pressure, nicknamed "the silent killer." Most people feel no pain until a major event like a stroke or heart attack occurs, but in the meantime, damage is being done. Problems of the oral cavity are similar. Cavities, when they are small, usually cause no symptoms at all, and are easiest (and quickest) to take care of at that point. When a tooth starts hurting, the cavity has usually reached the nerve inside the tooth and treatment becomes a lot more invasive and costly.

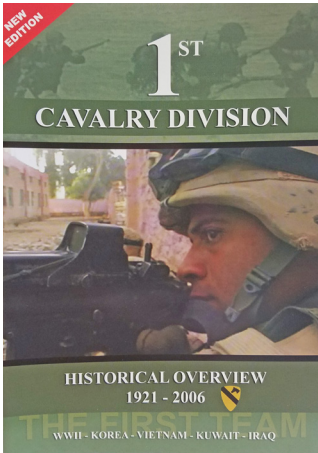
X-rays help us dentists thoroughly check your teeth. Areas that are in between the teeth and hard to see become much easier to evaluate with the help of x-rays. This means that problems with teeth that have no symptoms to you can be detected and treated earlier.

The moral of the story: prevention is best. If you see your dentist regularly, recommendations can be made to help you avoid needing treatment. Problems can be detected early, well before you start to feel that something is wrong, and treatment options tend to be less invasive, cheaper, and quicker. No one wants to experience a dental emergency. They are uncomfortable and never happen at a good time. If you are due for a cleaning and check-up, call your dentist right away. And if you are nervous, let them know. Most dentists care a lot about your comfort and can take some additional steps to help you feel relaxed and safe. Dr. Erin Stockton can be reached at (505) 830-9081 or <coppercanyongfamily@gmail.com>.


If there are any topics our Cav team would like addressed, please contact us through the *Saber*. We will have 5 more articles from Dr. Erin Stockton presented over the next year.

James M. Noel M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital of San Antonio

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12th CAV News



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Hear...Hear...Hear...Semper Pararus! 31 May-6 June 2021, 78 Troopers, spouses, and other guests made it to Branson, MO, Welk Resort for 15.5 (16th) Annual 12th Cavalry Reunion. Perennial early arrivals Larry and Adell Harrison, Thomas Emperor, Thomas and Maggie Crabtree, encamped Sunday 30 May & 31 May, 14 Troopers with spouses checked in. 1 and 2 June (Tue-Wed) 18 Troopers with companions landed each day at Welk Patio Helipad in 'ALWAYS READY' mode to sip and nip the delights of 12th Cav Reunion's infamous hospitality room goodies. 3 June: 11 Rear guard Troopers and their counterparts came in. Insertion completed, 16 'Charging Chargers' of 1-12 and 20 'Thunder Horses' of 2-12, provided the firepower for a week of high-spirited camaraderie.

1 Jun (Tue): 25 Brothers and sisters got together at Botana's on West 76 strip for Mexican food and drinks. We all left with full bellies and happy taste buds, restaged in the hospitality room, talked about the week's venue.

2 Jun (Wed): 530 pm kicked off welcome reception with remarks by Thomas Crabtree, Fred Wilson (D Co 2-12 1970-1971) (pictured right) presented a Saber to Mario Mata (C Co 1-12 1965-1966) "last boots off the ground to first boots on the ground" sealed our brotherhood bond and regiment legacy from beginning to end, the circle



unbroken. Crabtree, on behalf of the 12th Cavalry Association, presented Jocelyn Wilson (pictured left) a certificate designating her as an Honorary 12th Cavalry Trooper. Welk Chief Chef (Chris Hatfield Marine Corps), then put on a grand patio cook out of dogs, burgers, wings, potato salad, corn on cob, cantaloupe, watermelon. Troopers and ladies all got up to date with each other about last 20 months doings.

3 Jun (Thu): Twenty Troopers who participated in video recordings for the proposed documentary, initiated Sep 2017, joined in a round circle discussion about the status of the project. Since the

project has been in a holding pattern since Dec 2019, question considered was "Do we want to see this continued to a completion?" Unanimous response was YES, a plan of approach was discussed that will involve remixing parts 1 and 2 and rendering the interviews we have on external hard drive into a historical timeline narrated story. Our options of how to do this were discussed, consensus was we try to contact a college film/journalism department with some students interested in military history to offer them the opportunity to work with us. A 5-man committee was formed, two 1-12 representatives: Doug Warden/Bob March, two 2-12 representatives: Fred Wilson/Tom Paoli and Thomas Crabtree was designated as committee chair. To see it to completion will require coordinated effort and communication among the five. We agreed to get together in the future to form outlines, set guidelines, and move forward. We will need to be in contact at least once a month to work the plan and finalize it before we all cross over. I will touch base with the group first part of July. As the meeting concluded with the Troopers blessing, the committee agreed to "Charge on like Thunder Horses" to assure our legacy does not end up in the trash bin of forgotten lore and revisionist history. Troopers then headed to their rooms to spiff up with the wives, Stetson up, and head to our favorite show, #1 hits of the 60s. Seventy of us filled prime seats, Amber Campbell and Matt Muhoberac reserved for our group, had a great time with uplifting entertainment.

Amber, Matt, and Cast were over the top this day, did not miss a beat, step, or an opportunity to engage the audience. Their tribute to 12th Cavalry Troopers, recorded on DVD was special this time, focused on our ladies. Buzz in the group was one of the best shows of all the 15 years we have attended since 2006. After the show 60 of us headed to Star Bar and Grill, lot of laughter, imbibing and sampling from best barbecue menu in Branson! Amber and Matt joined us and lighted up the atmosphere.



Amber Campbell

They were presented a certificate declaring them Honorary Troopers of the 12th Cavalry Regiment.

4 Jun (Fri): Full roll call: 844 Fallen brothers, commenced at 0940 hrs and concluded with 21 Gun Salute by Kimberling City, MO VVA Chapter. 441/1-12 and 403/2-12 Soldiers were honored by the following Troopers: Thomas Murray (C 1-12 1966), Tim Asbridge (D 2-12 1969 Medic), Ken Chapman (D 2-12 1970), Mario Mata (C 1-12 1965), Fred

Wilson (D 2-12 1970), Tom Paoli (D 2-12 1970), John Gergulis (D 1-12 1965 COL Ret), Chuck Rose (D 1-12 1965 LTC Ret), Mike Van Kirk (D 1-12 1965), Marge Washburn (BG Ret), Ron Washburn (C 2-12 1968 LTC Ret), Ed Huckabee (C 2-12 1968), Dave Kibbe (B 2-12 1970), Carlisle Mahto (B 1-12 1966 SFC Ret), Fred Gunter (229th Aviation 1970), Dave Griffin (B 2-12 1970), Raymond Welch (C 2-12 1965 MAJ Ret), Rodney Young (C 1-12 1970 CSM Ret); Thomas Crabtree (C 1-12 1966) served as MC and bell ringer. COL John Gergulis closed the ceremony with a tribute prayer for the fallen and their families. Thanks to Tom Paoli for enlisting Troops to serve and preserve the memories of our Fallen Brothers. Salute to all who respect this honored tradition. Semper Pararus!

1730 hrs we gathered in the hospitality room/patio for spaghetti supper and entertainment by Carlisle Mahto Band. One of the reunion highlights was that 16 Mahto family members attended, daughters, sons-in-laws, grandson, granddaughters. Good boot scootin' music by Carlisle had our regiment Fred Astaire (Mario Mata) dancing with them all throughout the night. At closing time Mario was not prettier, but they all still wanted to dance with him...HA!

5 June (Sat): Men's and women's meetings were separately held after breakfast to talk about future reunions and life issues. CW4 (Ret) Dub White, Branson Veterans Coalition, educated the ladies about VA policies and guidelines for resolving claims, burial arrangements, and related matters when their Trooper crosses over. Men's discussion considered that this might be the last Branson gig based on what our general health and mobility status might be in another year and the effect of Marriott Corporate takeover of The Welk. Consensus was most of us would not want to go to another hotel because we like the seclusion and privacy of the grounds and the great service we have when we are there. New management policies might cramp our style and limit us to hospitality room access and other amenities we have been privileged with the past 10 years. Speaking with current management, they state that their team will still be in place when Marriott rebrands the facility sometime after September 2021. It is a 'wait and see' decision, to be determined from talks with them in Nov/Dec and March 2022 talks with the Troops about interest in doing it one more time. A tentative date is on the calendar for 7-12 September 2022. I indicated to them that this is contingent on the management and policies in place as of Dec 2021/Jan 2022. Details will be in future issues of newsletter and *Saber* column. Another point considered was will there be others who might step in to help when needed, crucial to any successful gathering such as ours. We adjourned with "Let's go with the flow and see what the next few months bring."

1730 hrs the banquet began with Colors posting, standard toasts protocol. When the ladies were toasted each Trooper presented a red rose to his lady when seated. It was a happy feast of prime rib and trimmings. Banquet night, usually dubbed Saturday Night Live was true confessions night in lieu of no Speaker we did open podium. All 34 Troopers present, took their turn at the podium for 2 to 5 minutes, a dynamic show of esprit de corps. Fred Wilson video recorded the event. We decided it would be worked into the documentary at some point. Although, since 2006 to now, the reunion has developed a legacy of its own. With other recordings we have, we might consider making a documentary of the reunion, a story of its own. Adjourning around 2200 hrs, we gathered on the patio for parting words, a few more beers and fireballs, bidden each safe travels. To date 30 June 2021, all returned safely to their primary camps. Stay in touch for more of the story!

Buzz among the Troopers and ladies who attended this reunion, "one of the best in all our 15 years!"

Next column we will return to stories from the bush...CRABTREE OUT!

It is all copacetic.

Until next time "Soar with the Chief Chopper Pilot...Walk with the Head Point Man...Roll with the Lead Tanker"

Semper Pararus and 'Boot to Boot'

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

The scholarship grant from the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association has allowed me to advance forward in my degree by taking on extra courses during the semester due to their financial contribution in assisting with tuition cost, books, and materials needed to succeed. I am a junior in college pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration and Informatics. I have worked in the healthcare field as a clinical nurse for six years and I have a passion for healthcare.

My goal is to graduate with my bachelor's degree and transition from a clinical healthcare position into an administrative healthcare role to grow within my local healthcare organization. I am grateful to have been selected to receive the scholarship grant from the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, it has made a significant impact on me working towards my goal of completing my degree.

Thank you, Allison Whidden



BG (Ret) Margaret Washburn passes mantle to LTC (Ret) Ron Washburn



COL Ret John G. Gergulis Renders final salute to fallen brothers

7th CAV News



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Greetings fellow Troopers! The 73rd annual reunion is getting closer and closer! In fact, this may be the last *Saber* column you read before the event takes place. If you haven't registered yet, make sure that you do. Elsewhere in this newspaper you will be able to find information on how to do that, or you can go to the Association's website, at <www.1CDA.org> to find out how to take care of the business of registering. I'm looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones! The reunion is one of the highlights of my year, especially this year after so many months of being cooped up!

The following story was submitted by **Frank Richardson**, the man I affectionally call Doc. Frank was a volunteer



in the 1-7 Cavalry Hunter-Killer team put together by the battalion commander, LTC Dougald MacMillan in late 1968. In early 1969, that Hunter-Killer team was absorbed into E Co under the command of CPT Dave Niles. Since the Hunter-Killer team had no assigned medic, Frank (who had trained as a paramedic before being unceremoniously drafted) volunteered to carry the medic bag for the team. But he was also a hell of an

infantryman. So, when the transition to E Co occurred, it was only fitting that Frank would continue to fill both slots in the Recon Platoon, as a medic and as a rifleman. Twenty-five years ago, Frank and some of his closest friends were ready to again visit Vietnam.

During the spring of 1996 I traveled back to Vietnam as a tourist. Our group consisted of me, my E Co "little brother" (SSG. J. R. Beard), a friend who served with the Marines as a Navy corpsman, and his Marine friend. Our guide was a former South Vietnam Air Force pilot who was "reeducated" in a prison camp for 5 years after the war. We visited all the usual Vietnam Veteran tourist spots: such as the Cu Chi tunnels, Marble Mountain, Saigon, Hue, Hanoi, etc.



One day during our visit, two Veterans of the war had an unusual and memorable reunion. Our group was visiting a small rural village and stopped to meet and greet the locals at the farmers' market. Nearby there was a factory which used the local red clay to make bricks and tiles. Some of you may remember the red dirt. During my tour of duty, 1968/69, I had never seen such a factory, so I wandered up the path

to take some pictures. It was the noon hour and three workers were resting under some shade. They saw me and came over to greet me. After the formal bowing and smiling, the oldest of the three who was wearing an old army shirt and a distinctive pith helmet engaged me in conversation.

"You here before?" This was the typical first question asked of us. Every Vietnamese person we met was very friendly especially once they realized we were Americans.

"Yes, I was here before." Because he and I were approximately the same age, he assumed that I might have been in the military. "You Soldier?" "Yes, I was a Soldier."

"What you do?" Put yourself in this position. You are back in Vietnam where you may not have had many good days, there are three Vietnamese citizens, one of whom appears to be a Veteran, and one American, and no one knows where you are. Now, very briefly explain what you did during the war. I placed my hand on my chest and said: "Private."

He let out a whoop, threw his arms around me, lifted me off the ground and kept up a steady stream of conversation with his younger workers who were smiling and laughing. Wow!!!

He put me down and I said to him; "Were you a Soldier?"

"Yes"

"What did you do?"

"Private" Of course, I embraced him and lifted him off the ground.

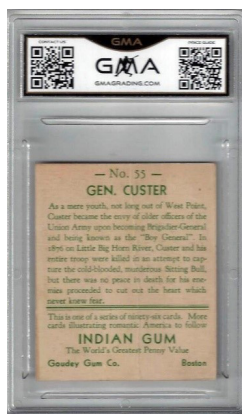
Hugs, handshakes, and a lot of smiling followed. These two once young Soldiers had made their own peace treaty.

I have become somewhat of a collector, and I collect all sorts of things. Mostly coins, but other things, too. Like knives. Switchblades, really. When I was a boy, it was illegal to possess a switchblade. I always wanted one, ever since seeing the movie *West Side Story*. But the law was the law and my dad said "No!" Now, I have a few but I don't know what to do with them. So, they sit in a drawer of my desk and occasionally I pull one out and flick the switch, just for fun. Out pops the blade, just like in *West Side Story*!

As far as my coin collection, I'm certainly not a numismatist but I do have

my favorites. Mostly silver dollars and half dollars, with an occasional nickel or dime thrown in. I think the best part of collecting is the thrill of the online auction – bidding against someone I don't know with little regard for how much I end up paying, which often is too much.

In one of those auctions, the auctioneer had publicized trading cards. You remember, they used to come in packs with gum? Today, trading cards are a multimillion-dollar business with cards available not just for sports but for just about anything.



One card caught my eye. It was a 1933 Indian Gum Company General George Armstrong Custer card. How could anyone who had served in the 7th Cavalry pass up such a deal? This card was one of a series featuring famous men of the Old West and includes the likes of Jim Bridger, Davy Crockett, Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, and, of course, General Custer. And this means that I will now be searching for the other 55 cards in the series. If any of you know the whereabouts of any of them, please let me know. But be careful, collecting can become addictive.

I received several calls and emails in response to my discussion of PTSD in the last 7th Cavalry column. Some were supportive of my diagnosis, some thanked me for the information on the therapies I have experienced, and some suggested that PTSD is not real but instead is a scapegoat used by Vets who need an excuse for failure. To those who offered support, thank you! I appreciate knowing there are others who share my experiences. To those who wanted more information about the Cognitive Processing Therapy and the Imaginal Exposure Therapy, talk to your VA psychologist about them. Ask for a therapist who has experience with them and then prepare for some strenuous work. But in the end, it is worth it. I'm not saying that my PTSD is gone – no, not by a long shot – but it is becoming more controllable. I still have a phobia about going into a restaurant or a business and immediately reconning the building to locate exits and areas I would be unable to defend, even though I know I have never been attacked by the enemy in one of those places. It is simply the hypervigilance that is part of PTSD for so many of us. And to those of you who claim that PTSD is a sham, I suggest you take another look at this nefarious side effect of war. PTSD is much more than you seem to think – it can destroy lives. It can tear apart families and friends. It can shake a person to the innermost core. Yes, PTSD is indeed real! And I'm here as evidence of it. I live with it every day. And I am thankful that I have found an excellent therapist to help me contend with it.



And now for something different. This is the story of a ring, a keepsake, that belonged to a fallen comrade. Somehow it made its way full circle and back into the hands of this Sky Trooper's loved ones. It all started when SP4 George Wilson found that he was being assigned to A Co, 2-7 Cavalry. George bought a ring and had it engraved with his initials and his service number. He was immensely proud of that ring and told his dad that he would always wear it. George arrived in Vietnam 9 May 1967 and began his 1-year tour of duty with A/2/7. Some 11 months into the tour, George was killed in Quang Tri Province during heavy fighting on 6 April 1968. If you look closely, you can see the ring on George's right hand in his picture here.

When George's body was shipped home, his personal effects went with

him, including the ring. George's father put the ring away, along with George's medals, which included the Combat Infantryman Badge, a Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart, in a safe place. There they stayed until 1996 when the father died. And then the ring and medals disappeared – they were possibly stolen along with other belongings of the father. About a year later, a gold dealer in southern Illinois bought some scrap gold and discovered the ring there all covered with mud. The gold dealer was a Vietnam Vet and knew that the ring carried not only a story but certainly great sentimental value for George's family. The dealer contacted the VA with the initials and service number he found on the ring. The VA notified the gold dealer they had attempted to contact next of kin, and that their letter was returned as "non-deliverable." The dealer then put the ring away, where it stayed until recently. The dealer told the story to his sister-in-law, who is an expert at finding people (she does DNA searches for others), about the ring. Karen Jo Crespi could not let this mystery rest, she was determined to find out what she could.

Using her resources, she located George's sister and nephew. She called to tell them she had the ring and that she wanted to get it back to the family. They were ecstatic! They couldn't believe that the ring -- first purchased in 1967, then sent home with George's body, then lost in 1996 and found in 1997, and then finally back to the family in 2021-- was going to be in their possession, thanks to a Vietnam Veteran gold dealer who knew the importance of the ring and a hard charging researcher who was trying her best to put the ring back into the rightful hands. The family is now attempting to replace those lost and stolen medals but the Army requires George's social security account number in order to move forward with that. If any of you have any copies of orders which list George L. Wilson, please contact me so that we can get the social security number, if it is there, to the family so they can complete their quest. If you have someone you are attempting to find but not having luck, Karen Jo informed me she would do her best to find that person for you. You can reach her by email at <krnjo2@gmail.com>.

So, my space is used up and I'm on a deadline to get this in the *Saber*. Again, I ask that you continue to send me your stories so that the rest of us can share them, too. I'll stop for now. This may be the last column you see before the Annual Reunion in Killeen and Fort Hood on 22-26 September. I do hope to see you there! It will be good to renew old friendships and to establish new ones. Please consider attending, at least attending part of it. Information about the reunion can be found on pages 12-13 in this issue. Garryowen, my friends! May you be at peace with all....



Karen Jo Crespi

8th CAV News



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Hello again to my 8th Cav family. I hope everyone is having a good summer, seems like we may be seeing better days. COVID is still around, but due to the vaccinations, I believe things might be on the mend. There are a lot of people getting out more and doing some traveling. I was in Gatlinburg, TN a couple of weeks ago and there were bunches of folks from all over the country.

I am a member of AMVETS Post 45 at Paris Landing, TN. Recently, I was elected for 3rd Vice Commander there and I feel it is a big honor. AMVETS do a lot of good things, helping Veterans and for their community.

We are getting ready for the reunion at Ft. Hood in September, dates are the 22nd through the 26th. The *Saber* has all the dates and times of the events taking place. I want to once again mention that we need everyone that can make it to be at the 8th Cav lunch on Saturday. A lot of decisions need to be made and voted on, so come on and let your voice be heard. We have a great organization, and it is up to us to keep it alive until the younger Troops can follow us.

Father Emil Kapaun

Father Emil Kapaun served as a U.S. Army Chaplain in both WWII and Korea. Father Kapaun was known for risking his life on the battlefield during the Korean War while serving with the 3rd Battalion 8th Cavalry Regiment 1st Cavalry Division, to minister to the Troops on the front lines. He was taken POW in November 1950. He continued to serve, caring for sick and dying Soldiers, trying to keep morale up and inspiring his fellow POWs to keep their faith. Father Kapaun died in prison camp on May 23, 1951. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously in 2013 for his heroic actions on the battlefield at the Battle of Unsan.

In 1954, approximately 4,000 bodies were returned by North Korea and the Chinese to U.S. custody. Nearly 800 could not be identified, including close to 100 which were purported to have come from Pyoktong Prison Camp 5, where Father Kapaun died. They were buried in the National Cemetery of the Pacific, (also known as the Punch Bowl for its shape), hoping to be identified later. Breakthroughs in the ability to extract DNA from the remains of those in U.S. custody, the government stepped up efforts to identify the remains they had in their possession. Through these efforts, Father Kapaun's body was identified. A forensic team from the U.S. Defense POW/MIA successfully determined that one of the previously unidentified bodies buried in the National Cemetery of the Pacific was in fact the remains of Chaplain Emil Kapaun. Father Kapaun is now interred inside a Wichita, Kansas Cathedral.

The Vatican named Father Kapaun a Servant of God in 1993, an early step that could lead to canonization, which is the process of becoming a saint in the Roman Catholic Church. Following is a prayer for the Beatification and Canonization of Father Kapaun:

Lord Jesus, During the folly of war, your servant, Chaplain Emil Kapaun, spent himself in total service to you on the battlefields and in the prison camps of Korea, until his death at the hands of his captors. We now ask you, Lord Jesus, if it be your will, to make known to all the world the holiness of Chaplain Kapaun and the glory of his complete sacrifice for you by signs of miracles and peace. In your name, Lord, we ask, for you are the source of peace, the strength of our service to others, and our final hope. Amen.

Where Were We?

I have got to where I am studying or just looking at maps. When I was in Vietnam, I never looked at a map. All I knew was the 1/8 and 2/8 were on the Bong Song Plains when I came in country January 1968. Went north to the area of Quang Tri, in October '68 went south. I guess that is why I stayed lost all the time. I wish we had Google maps! Anyway, a lot of us landed in country at Cam Rahn Bay. I did not see a bay there but looking at a Vietnam map it is setting on a bay. I always thought we landed south of Saigon, not! 384 km between the Cam Rahn Bay and Saigon, on to cherry school at An-Khe. In my mind, I thought An-Khe was close to the ocean. It was not close, but at 81.3 km not too far. From there to Quang Tri, 467 km. I was surprised at the distance from Quang Tri and other places in that A/O. Following are distances between Quang Tri and Camp Carroll, 8 km; Khe Sanh, 77 km; A-Shau Valley, 150 km. I also did not know that a spur of the Ho Chi Minh trail went straight in the valley. The 8th Cav knew their supply route was mighty close. Last big trip, Quan Loi, 923 km. We were treated very rudely when we arrived there, ha-ha.

Looking for PFC Freeman, East Point, Georgia

I got an email recently asking for help locating someone. Richard Flanders is hoping to contact a Trooper he served with in 1967 by the name of PFC Freeman who was from East Point, Georgia. He served with A company 1/8. Sadly, he lost both legs when he stepped on a tripwire or booby trap that set off a high explosive round. If anyone has any contact info for PFC Freeman, please get in touch with Richard at 706-587-8634. Thank you.

Note from Jerry Prater

The Jumping Mustang 1/8 Cav is having its annual reunion in Gettysburg, PA on Tuesday October 5th through Thursday October 7th.

Things to Do at Ft Hood Reunion

For the explorers in our beloved 8th Cav, here are some interesting things to do in the Ft. Hood area.

1. **Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation**, Cottage Road, 254-287-2523. Lake, beach, horseback riding, paintball course, & much more.
2. **Courses of Clear Creek**, Battalion Avenue, 254-287-4130. Three 9-hole golf courses and a free 4 hold course for kids
3. **Paintball Course Old Sparta Western Town**, Liberty Hill Rd, 254-287-2523. Equipment and paintball supplies
4. **Apache Arts and Crafts Center**, 761st Tank Battalion Bldg. 2337, 254-287-0343. Plaques, Frame Shop, Screen Printing, Ceramic Dept and Hobby Store
5. **Ft. Hood Bingo**, Clear Creek Rd Bldg 50012, 254-532-9253. More than \$3000 paid out daily, computer handsets available.

6. **Ft. Hood Bowling**, Santa Fe Avenue Bldg. 49010, 254-287-3434. 48 Lane facility features an arcade and electric bingo.

7. **Axed Out Texas**, 208 W Rancier Ave. Killeen, TX, 254-768-0203. I have wanted to see axes thrown for a long time. You can even grab an ax and throw it yourself.

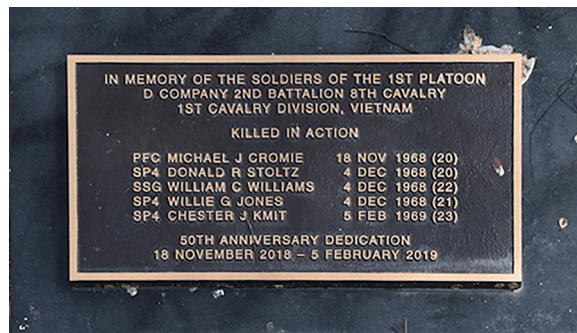
8. Ft. Hood has numerous outside and indoor pools and wading pools. Check them out on the Post guide.

9. Work out gyms and wellness centers all over the post. Check the Post guide.

10. Movies all over on Post and in town. I really like the sound of this one: **Cinergy Copperas Cove** 402 Constitution Dr Copperas Cove, TX, 254-542-4900. In-movie dining, cocktails, entertainment complex.

Memorial Day

Doug Magruder attended the Memorial Day observation in May at the National Infantry Museum. Doug worked so hard and did such a great job putting together these beautiful memorials for the men who lost their lives. The plaque was dedicated to the KIA members of 1st Platoon D Company 2 Battalion 8th Cav.

**Community Service**

Brothers, as we all know, there are a lot of hungry people in this country and many of them are Vets. What a shame. Every community has food banks to help, but it is just not enough. I am challenging everyone reading this to find a food bank near you and help out. When you are at the store, pick up an extra can of corn, bag of potatoes, box of cereal or can of chicken. Whatever you can do. Then take it to the food bank and drop it off. If you cannot find a food

bank, check with your local churches or VA hospitals and clinics. Local schools provide weekend and summer lunch programs for children. Do not shop? Send them a few bucks. You will be rewarded for your kindness, and it makes you feel great to do something special for your community. Included is this picture of me dropping off food at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Paris, TN for their community food bank.

I know what it is to be afraid, on a rain-soaked day such as this.

On a rain-soaked day such as this, in the Nam I prayed fervently.

In the Nam I prayed fervently, shivering uncontrollably in the mud.

As men whose duty it was to kill me, filed by only a little more than a yard away.

On a rain-soaked day such as this, the type of day that dogs do not understand.

In Closing, be careful out there and be good to everyone. Thank you for reading and I hope to see you all at Ft. Hood in September

Honor and Courage

TROOPER'S TALE**Continued from pg. 3**

he acted all indignant. I headed back to my new assignment with a new Army issue less a new left shoe to do the next 7 months and 20 days. Although I wasn't going to drill sergeant school, I wasn't immune from being put on various details. The most notable was burial detail, a small group of Soldiers including a bugler with dress uniforms would travel to local funerals. The bugler would play taps, our group would fold the flag, 7 Soldiers with rifles would fire 3 volleys for the 21-gun salute. It is hard to describe the anguish of walking with scrunched left toes. One funeral was exceptionally sad for a young Soldier from San Jose, who had a large group of friends and family with outbursts of loud crying.

My active duty was up, I put my Army clothes and all thoughts of the army in my duffle bag and drove back to Wisconsin. After almost 35 years I decided to try and find my friend Jerry. To my surprise he was still living in his hometown, I talked with his mother, and she gave me his number and said to call back that evening. It is hard to describe how good it was to talk with him after all that time. We were laughing when I told him how I had to go through the Army with his left shoe. Jerry came back with, "I still have your shoe do you want it?" I ended up rolling on the floor from laughing so hard.

Patrick Dooley D Co 1-8 Cav, 1967

9th CAV News

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MYSTERY PATCHES

Gordon Tillery is a fellow member of the local 1CDA chapter (in Vietnam he was Arty LNO from 2-19 FA to 2-7 Cav and later commanded A/ 2-19 FA, which became D/1-21 FA when only the 3rd Bde remained). He is also an old friend from shared duty at HQ USAREUR in 1979-80. In addition, he is our chapter's expert on patches.

In the latter capacity, Gordon sent me the following pictures in early June:



He explained they had come from a friend of his, Dave Kaufman, a long-time collector of military insignia, the executive VP for the American Society of Military Insignia Collectors (ASMIC), and the editor of ASMIC's

"The Trading Post." ASMIC is the oldest military insignia collecting organization in the world, established in 1937. See <<http://asmic.org/>>

The patches shown are the basic Armor design (picture them with "Hell on Wheels" or "Spearhead" on a tab underneath), with the letters RCN (for "Recon") added. They are believed to have been worn by the 1-9 Cav, which was the 1st Cavalry Division's Recon element in Korea in the 1950s and early 60s. Hoping to confirm that, Gordon asked how the squadron was organized in those days, and when I did not respond, he started digging on his own. The following is a summary of what he found, drawn from multiple on-line sources, some of them contradictory:

- On 20 October 1950, the 9th Cavalry Regiment was relieved from assignment to the 2nd Cavalry Division and redesignated the 509th Tank Battalion. The 509th was activated 1 November 1950 at Camp Polk, Louisiana, and reassigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. After completing training, the 509th Tank Battalion arrived in Korea, where it fought in numerous campaigns. After the war, the battalion patrolled the DMZ until 10 April 1956, when it was transferred back to Fort Knox Kentucky and inactivated.

- Company A, 509th Tank Battalion, 9th Cavalry, previously inactivated at Fort Knox, Kentucky was redesignated Troop A, 9th Cavalry and on 1 November 1957, Troop A, 9th Cavalry was redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, 9th Cavalry; consolidated with the 16th Reconnaissance Company, assigned to 1st Cavalry Division, and activated in Korea. Under the Pentomic System, a standard division consisted of five Battle Groups, with four rifle companies per group. The 1st Cavalry Division comprised the 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, and 12th Cavalry, and the 1st Recon Squadron, 9th Cavalry.

Nothing above provides a definitive answer regarding the origins of the "Armored Recon" patches, but it seems reasonable to think they might have been worn by Soldiers who had trained and fought together as the "509th Tank Battalion, 9th Cavalry." I was a member of C Troop, 1-9 Cav on the day it was officially reassigned from the 1st Cavalry Division to the 1st Aviation Brigade in Vietnam, and I was among many who disliked removing the Cav patch from our left shoulder. Like others, I stood in line to get a Cav patch sewn on my right shoulder. It is not hard to imagine Armored Recon guys feeling the same way.

SPEAKING OF PATCHES

In early June, B Trooper "**Tricky**" **Dick Cross** forwarded links to a website that offers some amazing collections of unit patches worn by flight crew members in Vietnam. The forwarded email said the following:

Please feel free to pass on and to contribute, if you are able. We have most units covered, but I welcome anything relevant among your mementos. Links with former door gunners and crew chiefs, are also sought, as they are more likely to have had 'unique to aircraft' patches made.

Check out the two volumes of aviation patches at the following links:

<<https://www.bonusprint.co.uk/view-online-photo-book>>

<<https://www.bonusprint.co.uk/view-online-photo-book?widgetId=53eed97e-746a-41cc-b11f-5ec4d6c18ffb>>

AND SPEAKING SPECIFICALLY OF AVIATION PATCHES....

The following photo is from one of those two on-line photo books. As should be evident, it is the unit patch of E Troop (Provisional), 1-9 Cav.

The photo is included here to introduce **Larry Sulpizio**, who found my name

and number in the *Saber* and called to ask how he could connect with others who served with him. He was originally in D Company, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, which in September 1970 formed the nucleus of the new E Troop, part of the 9th (Air) Cavalry Brigade (Provisional).

In December 1970, Larry was a gunner in a Huey that led a flight into an LZ. Trees surrounding the LZ were somehow booby trapped, and one went off under his aircraft, causing a fragment to hit Larry in the backside, next to his spine. On the same day, an E Troop LOH got

shot down, killing two others who had come with him to E Troop from D/227. He later confirmed they were SP4 Earl Edward Shannon (the observer) and SP4 John Terrence Kile (the gunner or "torque").

Larry Sulpizio would like to connect with others from D/227 AHB and E/1-9 Cav. He does not do email but welcomes phone calls at (717) 425-4657. Or

write him at 119 Barrick Drive, Duncannon, PA 17020.

One name Larry remembered was that of CPT John Ritter, who commanded E



Troop after Bert Chole. A man by that name is in a photo inside Bert's book about the 9th (Air) Cavalry Brigade (Provisional). Later I heard from Davin McLaughlin that John Ritter had passed away in 2020. Davin included the photo below of E Troopers gathered at Arlington National Cemetery in September 2017. They had gone there for Bert Chole's interment, but gathered to pay respects at the gravesite of Lou "Rocket" Rochat: L-R: John Ritter, Paul Dagnon, Arnie Linder, Steve Ellis, Davin McLaughlin

SCRIBES WANTED: APPLY WITHIN

When the November/December 2018 issue of the *Saber* showed up with no 9th Cav News column, I learned it was because the scribe, Mike Bond, had passed away. I contacted the *Saber* to see if I could help, and I got the job. More recently, I have discovered that Vietnam-era units like Larry Sulpizio's 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion are no longer represented in our *Saber*. To keep the 9th Cavalry fires burning a while longer, I would welcome some help. In return, I would be pleased to help you, by putting another set of eyes on draft products and by sharing tips I have picked up over several issues from *Saber* editor Tina Wilgeroth (such as checking photos before submission to make sure they do not have a cursor in the middle!). If you would like to try your hand as an amateur newspaperman, email <kurtzjh@gmail.com>.

CAV HATS AT ARLINGTON

The 9th Cav News in the January/February 2020 issue told how Bill Gillette created the first Cav hat, worn today by US Cavalrymen everywhere. Bill did so by dipping an old green campaign hat in black dye in his wife's kitchen, and



then getting it re-blocked to closely resemble a hat like the one John Wayne wore in "The Horse Soldiers." Then the March/April 2021 column brought the sad news that Bill had passed away on 31 January. On 16 June, Bill Gillette was buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. To make

sure those military honors included saluting hands touching the brim of a Cav Hat, members of the William A. Richardson National Capital Region Chapter of the 1CDA turned out to pay their respects: L-R: Jack Barrett (15th S&S, 69-70); Jim Kurtz (1-9 Cav, 70-71); Fred Barrett (1CD G-2); Gene Russell (1-5 Cav & 1CD G3 Plans, 69-70). Not pictured: Jim Dingeman (CDR, 2-12 Cav)

PASSAGES

Doug Ricks. The March/April 2021 issue of the VHPA *Aviator* carried a short notice about the passing of Doug Ricks on 22 January 2021. It listed his RVN tours as "68-69 A/7/1 CAV, 70-71 B/1/9 CAV 1 CAV" but indicated no obituary was available. B Troopers told me Doug flew Scouts, but I have been unable to learn much more. I did find a message from him in an email string from ten years ago that said he flew the OH6 most of the time, either as a scout or as C&C, but when the B Troop infantry platoon leader was wounded in December 1970, the CO asked him to take it over. Doug had gone through Armor OCS at Fort Knox, and his prior enlisted service had been as an infantryman and scout, so he joined the Saber Blues. His emailed story concluded, "When the next West Pointer came in, I went on a couple insertions with the platoon and saw the dude knew what he was doing so I went back to flying."

David Wilhelm. The family of David Wilhelm notified Cav-related email lists of his 11 April passing. His online obituary says he enlisted at age 17 in the Army National Guard, and he was activated in 1961 for duty during the Berlin Crisis. He retired as a Colonel after serving 37 years in the Guard, which included 20 years of active service and a tour in Vietnam as a member of A Troop, 1-9 Cav. Jim Haslett recalls CPT Wilhelm's leading four A Troop scouts to Phan Thiet to augment a 2-7 Cav task force, and says he did a great job coordinating with the infantry and other support units. Bob Hurley remembers CPT Wilhelm taking over the A Troop Scout Platoon when CPT Charles "Lani" Wingate departed.

Ray Janes. Loel Ewart reported that Ray Janes, a career Air Force fighter pilot, passed away 29 April in Denton, Texas, following a heart attack days before. Ray did a tour in Vietnam as a Forward Air Controller (FAC) supporting the 1-9 Cav, and later flew missions over Laos.

Robert A. Marshall. Joe Bowen reported that B Trooper Bob Marshall passed away on 1 May. Bob flew lift as Saber 36 and assumed duties as Saber Blue when Bob Poxon was killed.

Brenda Emery. Ron Christopher shared the sad news that Bob Emery's wife Brenda had passed away on 2 May. Bob was an A Trooper and is credited with having designed the A Troop pocket patch. Brenda was also a military Veteran.

Irène Garrett. Pat Bieneman reported that Irène Garrett, the spouse of Bob Garrett, passed away on 12 June. She was born in a small French village where she and her family spent World War II. While working as a translator for the US Army in 1956, Irène met a young American Soldier and they married in 1957. Bob was one of the original members of the 1-9 Cav who deployed to Vietnam by sea in 1965.

Gordon Jones. Pat Bieneman also reported the passing of Gordon Jones, who served in the Charlie Troop Blues in 1966-67. Gordon died 17 June at his home in Columbus, Georgia.

ETERNAL PEACE GRANT UNTO THEM



1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

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In this column, I want to tell you a true, multi-faceted story from the Vietnam war. My main intent is to show you how it is sometimes possible to find information on an incident which you remember vividly, but do not remember the date, location, or many of the details.

This story also discusses something about PTSD and pays tribute to two brave pilots who died in a tragic accident.

On 23 December 2020, Dan Brady, Medevac Medic with 15th Medical Battalion, Jan 70-Jan 71 posted the following on the 15th Medical Battalion Facebook page:

“Here is one that I have thought about for 50 plus years although my memories are of my own participation in the incident. I cannot remember who else was involved, but I am sure a few of you out there will remember. I do not know the exact date or location, but I assure you it was real. It happened in 1970. Possibly at Phuoc Vinh, Tay Ninh, FSB Buttons (Song Be), Quan Loi, or FSB Mace. I just do not remember!

I remember several of us medics, gunners and crew chiefs sitting on a bunker, some smoking and some having a beer, maybe both, while watching a Cobra work out on a hillside just outside of the green line. There was a VC/NVA in a hole or bunker firing back up at the “snake.” We would watch green tracers flowing up at the Cobra, then he would get to altitude and dive on the VC firing the mini-gun or a rocket. Well, we watched this repeatedly for a while cheering “our team” with neither side having the advantage. The Cobra came around at quite an altitude and dove. He waited until the last second and suddenly punched off a lot of rockets. But instead of pulling out for another pass, he just crashed straight into the bunker! We were later told it was called target fixation. He was so concentrated on his target that he could not pull out in time.

Well, there was a long quiet spell and then someone just said, “OH, Wow!” I remember those words so clearly and I can still hear them. Immediately several of us retrieved our helmets and weapons and headed for the Medevac flight line. When we arrived, a couple of our pilots met us and spooled up the chopper. We took off and flew straight to the scene. Unfortunately, we could do nothing but remove the two dead pilots from the burning wreckage and bring them back. There was no trace of the enemy gunner.

That should be the end of the story, but I must find someone that remembers also. Like I say, so much of this is as clear as if it happened yesterday, but I can’t remember any names and I’m looking for your help!”

In response to Dan’s Facebook post, Door Gunner Timothy Kirwan and Medic Reedy Holton recalled witnessing the incident, but no more details than what Dan had related.

I personally remember, during my tour with 15th Medical Battalion 11/68-11/69 at Phuoc Vinh, many times watching a Cobra “duel” with VC/ NVA on the ground in the evening after dark. Someone would yell out “Blue Max is workin’ out!” and we would leave our hootches to watch. We would cheer and root for the “home team” until the enemy gunner was neutralized. The outcome of these encounters was never in doubt! The awesome firepower of the heavily armed gunships always prevailed!

At the end of the incident that Dan described, there was no cheering-only horror and disbelief at what had happened!

When I saw Dan’s Facebook post, I believed it should be possible to track down the date and details of this incident, primarily by utilizing <www.vhpa.org>, the website of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. This outstanding website is one of the Vietnam War Historian’s best friends.

At the time I was in Vietnam in 1969, I am not sure I knew what the aviation unit was that flew Cobras armed with mini-guns and ARA (Aerial Rocket Artillery). Everyone just called them “Blue Max,”

I did a search on <www.lcda.org> for Blue Max, and up came “2-20th Artillery History” which explains how the 2nd BN, 20th Field Artillery Regiment activated in 1916 evolved into the 2nd BN, 20th Aerial Rocket Artillery (AKA 2-20 ARA) in 1965.

So, we are ready to go on a search for an incident involving a Cobra (AH1-G) from the 2-20 ARA in which 2 pilots were KIA. The incident occurred sometime during 1970. The location was probably Phuoc Vinh, Tay Ninh, FSB Buttons (Song Be), Quan Loi, or FSB Mace.

Follow along if you wish. Go to <www.vhpa.org>. Along the left side of the homepage, click on “KIA by Date.” Up will come a directory of panels with start and finish dates and panel numbers. Panel 15W is 11/28/69-1/5/70. Select 15W and up will come the chronological list of incidences during that time.

Advance to Incident Date 700102 (01/02/70) to begin the search. There are no incidents on 15W that meet our criteria, so scroll down to the bottom of the page and click “Return to Panel Index.” On the Panel Index, select Panel 14W and repeat the process of looking for incidents that meet the search criteria of 2 Pilots KIA’s, 2/20 ARA.

Repeat this cycle for each panel going forward through 1970.

The first incident to appear to possibly meet our search criteria is on Panel 09W, 06/26/70, B Battery/2/20 ARA. Click on “68-15026” and up will come a description of this incident. There is a limited description of the incident. It is described on <www.coffeltdatabase.org> as “Hit while covering combat assault.” Does not appear to match conditions described by Dan Brady. Click on “Return to Panel Date Index” at the bottom of the page and continue to the next panel.

The second incident to appear to possibly meet our search criteria is on Panel 08W, 07/15/70, A Battery/2/20 ARA. Click on “67-15729” for description. Description does not match conditions described by Dan Brady.

Further down on Panel 08W, the third incident to appear to possibly meet our search criteria is 08/01/70, A Battery/2/20 ARA. Click on “67-15519” for description. Matches conditions described by Dan Brady. Location was Phuoc Vinh. Pilots were CPT Frank Imre Kraxner and 2LT David Leon Caplan. To access information on KIA’s, click on the respective names.

To see photos of CPT Kraxner and 2LT Caplan, go to <www.vvmf.org>, click on “The Wall of Faces” at the top of the homepage, and search for “Frank Imre

Kraxner” and “David Leon Caplan.” Click on “View Profile” for each to see more information.

Slow hand salute to those two brave pilots who gave all on 1 August 1970. Deepest sympathies to their loved ones.

CPT Kraxner’s tour in Vietnam began on 12 September 1969. His DEROS was probably scheduled to be about 12 September 1970, about 42 days after his untimely death.

2LT Caplan’s Vietnam tour began 11 May 1970. He was about 80 days into his tour.

According to Dan, learning the details of the incident, including the names of the KIA’s has provided some degree of closure for him on the tragedy. However, the memory will always be with him, as with others who witnessed this incident.

If anyone reading this column witnessed this incident at Phuoc Vinh on 1 August 1970, please contact me at <terryamccarl@gmail.com> or 402-296-3150.

Hats off to the 2-20 ARA who provided invaluable life-saving services to many other units throughout the Vietnam War. I know specifically of the 2-20 ARA sometimes escorting Medevac crews enabling them to get in and out of hot LZ’s to evacuate wounded. Maybe more about that in a future column!



CORRECTION TO THE PREVIOUS COLUMN

A correction to my May-June 2021 Column: In the first part, entitled “1st Cavalry Division (1CD) Facts and Statistics,” in the second-to-last paragraph, where it says “So, within an 11- month time, from January 68 to November 1969, 1CD’s HQ was in 3 different Corps Tactical Zones (II, then I, then III.),” November 1969 should be November 1968.

1955 FOOTBALL GAMES IN JAPAN

As a follow up to my Jan-Feb 2021 column about the Toya Maru Tragedy and the football games in Japan in 1955, one of our members, **Don Harvey** submitted the following documents about the 1955 football game between the 1CD Army All-Stars and the 24th Infantry Division Taromen:

1. 1st Cav Div Army All-Stars host 24th Infantry Div (Korea), Camp Schemmelpennig’s Brown Field, November 24, 1955, Sendai, Japan
2. 1955 Red Raiders Football Team News Clipping Headings

The first document contains rosters for the teams. You will note that PFC Don Harvey was a 6’-0”, 225-lb tackle representing DivArty on the victorious (26-0 over the 24th Infantry Division) 1st Cav Div All-Stars. Although the roster says that the game was 24 November 1955, the date was changed to 10 December 1955.

The second document is a collection of newspaper clipping headings about the 1955 season of the Red Raiders (1st Cav DivArty) football team.

Space does not permit including these documents here in this column, but for those interested, they will be posted on the 1st Cavalry Division Alumni of the First Team Facebook Page. If you do not have access to Facebook, contact me by phone or email and I will send them to you by email.

Don served an 18-month tour in Japan from January 1955- July 1956 with C Battery, 77th Field Artillery and with B Battery, 82nd Field Artillery. Thanks for submitting this information, Don!

DID I GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED?

Over the past 14 months that I have served as your historian, I have received calls or emails with questions from about 60 1st Cav Veterans. I have tried to answer them all or at least refer the inquirer to other sources of information. If you have not received an answer to your question (s), please call or email me again.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION!

This issue of *Saber* should be in your mailbox between mid-July and mid-August. The Sept- Oct issue should be in your mailbox between mid-September and mid-October so this July-Aug issue will be the last issue distributed to everyone before the big reunion September 22-26. Hope to see you all there!

BUY THE COFFEE THAT BENEFITS 1CDA STUDENTS



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1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
12TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON D.C.
VETERANS DAY DINNER

The William A. Richardson National Capitol Regional Chapter in conjunction with the 1st Cavalry Division Association will host the 12th Annual First Team Veterans Day Dinner at 1900 hours on Thursday evening, 11 November 2021 at the **Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport Hotel**, 1480 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia. The guest speaker has yet to be identified. Call 703-416-1600 to get your reservations and tell them you are with the 1st Cavalry Division.

- A host bar will be open at 1800 and dinner will begin at 1900 hours.
- For dinner reservations please send \$65 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 **29 October 2021**.
- We can 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.

Wreaths will be placed at the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam Memorials as they are each year on Veterans Day, 11 November. The ceremony conducted at the World War II Memorial begins at 0900, the ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial begins at 1300 hours, and the Korean War Memorial ceremony is at 1600. Join us in D.C. for Veterans Day.



1CD Honor Guard
photos from
Veterans Day
2018

12th ANNUAL VETERANS DAY DINNER

\$65 per TICKET

Thursday, 11 November 2021

NAME: _____ UNIT: _____

GUEST NAMES: _____:

ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____ # Tickets: _____ Credit Card: _____ Check: _____

NAME ON CARD: _____

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP DATE: _____ CVV # on back: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY & LEGIBLY

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

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 in Copperas Cove, Texas.

FIRST TEAM



OTHER REUNIONS

20th & 79th ARA Reunion, 30 Aug-3 Sept 2021. Holiday Inn Express 199 East Bay Street Savannah, GA. Reservations 912-231- 9000 or 888-978-6498; Hosts are Jerry and Ann Hipp.

A Trp, 9 Cav Vietnam Era Reunion, 1-5 Sept 2021. Albuquerque, NM; POC: Ron Livingston, <rflivingston@msn.com>.

77FA Reunion, 15-20 Sept 2021. Elegante Hotel, Colorado Springs. CO. Reservations 719-576-5900 use code #2696746; POC: John Moran, <johnjan-moran@who.rr.com>.

1st Cavalry Division Association 73rd Reunion (Division 100th Birthday), 22-26 Sept 2021. Shilo Inn, Killeen, TX. Refer to pages 12-13 for available hotels, registration form, & further information.

C Trp, 9 Cav Vietnam Era Reunion, 25-27 Sept 2021. Columbus, GA; POC: Pat Bieneman, (859) 771-6342 or <pcbnamin@verizon.net>.

D CO 1-12 Cav, 27-30 Sept 2021. South Point Casino Hotel & Spa Las Vegas, NV. Reservations 702-797-8901; Reunion Registration Form at <www.cattrack-6india.com> POC: Tom Kjos 480-352-2583 or Fred MacLennan 347-853-1281.

1-8 Cav Jumping Mustangs (Vietnam), 4-7 Oct 2021. Wyndham Gettysburg, Gettysburg, PA. Reservations 717-339-0020, \$124/night. Use code Jumping Mustangs. POC: James Knafel 260-244-3864 or <jjknafel@gmail.com>. All attached personnel welcome.

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

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73RD ANNUAL REUNION OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 22-26 SEPT 2021 KILLEEN, TX

Overview of 73rd Annual Reunion September 22-26, 2021

The Crossed Sabers Chapter invites you to join the rest of the First Team family in Killeen/Fort Hood, Texas for the 73rd Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association from 22-26 September 2021. Most of the First Team will be home for this reunion and we are planning an excellent event. All Life Members and Associate Members of the 1st Cavalry Division Association are welcome to attend this special event. As always, family members of our war dead, Gold Star Families, and widows of our members are welcome to join us for this reunion. Please register early to assist us in coordinating the best reunion possible. Some events will have limited seating available due to the size of available rooms. All members of the Association must register and pay the Registration Fee to attend the reunion. Early registration, November 1, 2020 through July 30, 2021 is \$20 for all members, except those on active duty. Active Duty Troopers pay \$10 to register. Those sending in Registrations post-marked after 30 July 2021 must pay late registration fee of \$40. Family members attending with an Association member, widows of 1st Cavalry Division Troopers and Gold Star Family members that attend do not have to pay a registration fee.

HOTEL INFORMATION

We will be utilizing the Shilo Inn as the Reunion Headquarters and will hold many of the reunion events that are scheduled this year in the Killeen Civic and Conference Center (KCCC) located adjacent to the Shilo. There are no hotels in the area large enough to hold our group so we will be utilizing busses to get together for our events. The Shilo Inn has guaranteed a room rate of \$109 per night plus tax for up to 130 rooms on peak nights and there is no charge for parking. Call (254) 699-0999 reserve a room. The reservation toll-free number is (800) 222-2244. Make sure that you identify yourself as attending the 1st Cavalry Division Association reunion and make your reservations prior to 21 August 2021. The hotel does provide a free shuttle service from the Killeen Airport. Shuttles and rental cars are available at the airport. The hotel is located at 3701 South W S Young Drive in Killeen. We expect to have rooms blocked at the Courtyard by Marriott, located at 1721 E. Central Texas Expressway. Many of you may recognize this as the address of the hotel which we used to use (Plaza) but this is a much-improved hotel. The Courtyard Marriott has been completely renovated and remodeled and looks brand new with new plumbing and air conditioning and a fresh new look.

ADDITIONAL HOTELS IN THE AREA ARE LISTED BELOW:

Shilo Inn & Suites	\$109	(254) 699-0999
3701 S. W.S. Young Drive, Killeen, Texas		
Courtyard Marriott	\$109	(254) 616-2000 or
1721 E. Central Texas Expy, Killeen, TX (800) 321-2211		
Residence Inn		(254) 634-1020
400 E. Central Texas Expy, Killeen, Texas		
Holiday Inn Killeen-Fort Hood		(254) 690-5511
300 E. Central Texas Expy, Killeen, Texas		
Candlewood Suites		(254) 501-3990
2300 Florence Rd, Killeen, Texas		
Fairfield Inn and Suites		(254) 526-3333
200 E. Central Texas Expy, Killeen, Texas		
Premium Inn and Suites		(254) 432-0100
2603 E. Elms Rd, Killeen, Texas		

There are several other good hotels in the general area in Killeen but if you choose to stay at one of those hotels, we will not be able to provide bus transportation for you. All the hotels provide free parking and there is ample parking at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

RV PARK INFORMATION

If you are coming in a Recreational Vehicle there is an RV Park directly behind the Killeen Civic and Conference Center. The fee is \$25 per night and they provide electric, water and dump facilities. Contact the KCCC at (254) 501-3888 for additional information. If you are active duty or retired military the West Fort Hood Travel Camp would also work but it is several miles from the KCCC, and they do not take reservations. The RV Park in Belton is still open but is no longer a KOA facility.

REUNION EVENT OVERVIEW

The 73rd Annual Reunion will run from Wednesday, 22 September through Sunday morning, 26 September 2021 and is full of events and time to visit with one another. This year we will be running our usual events and have again included a Golf Tournament (four-person team, best-ball scramble) that will provide support to our Scholarship Foundation on Wednesday. The golf tournament will be held on the Courses of Clear Creek on Fort Hood. We are seeking sponsors to help off-set costs to maximize our income for the Foundation and its scholarship programs. We will have some teams from the active duty Troopers and hope that many reunion attendees will also want to play and enjoy this event. This year the **Ladies Tea** will be held at the **Killeen Vive Les Arts Community Theatre** adjacent to the Killeen Civic Center and the Shilo Hotel. Lunch will be catered, and the ladies will have an opportunity to watch a live performance at the theatre. As anticipated, we will have our Welcome Mixer, War Era Lunches, Unit Lunches, Texas BBQ, Purple Heart Breakfast, Ladies Tea, Association Banquet, a Sunday Breakfast, and Memorial Service. We will have meetings of the Chapter Presidents, Foundation Trustees, the Board of Governors, and our General Membership meeting. During our General Membership meeting on Saturday morning, we will hold elections for the Association and Foundation. Seating for all events is open except for the Reunion Banquet on Saturday night. If you are attending the banquet, you must get your tickets marked with a table number at the Banquet Seating table when picking up your registration

packet. If you want to sit with specific people, we recommend that you go to the Banquet Seating table together with your tickets available. Do not wait until the last minute or we may not be able to accommodate your needs.

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

The Association will provide a Reunion Room in the Shilo Inn during the reunion for you to gather and enjoy yourself. Drinks in the Reunion Room are free, but we ask that you generously donate to help us pay for this room.

The Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Shop will set up a store in the Shilo Inn to sell all kinds of First Team merchandise including shirts, hats, Stetsons, pins, decals, and other items too numerous to mention. The Souvenir Shop will also be open in the 1st Cavalry Division Museum during the reunion. A Reunion T-shirt may be ordered, and the order form is located on this page.

The Division will have units deployed but will have Troopers from all our units at Fort Hood during the reunion. The Division leadership is coordinating a special event on the evening of Friday, 24 September entitled “Spirit of the Cav” and other events on post during that day as well. This year we have offered an opportunity for our members to pre-purchase a box lunch for Friday’s events. Busses will transport reunion attendees from the Shilo to Fort Hood on Friday for a vehicle displays, visits to the 1st Cavalry Division Museum, and a Demonstration by the Horse Cavalry Detachment. Visits to some of the unit areas will also be available and you can get a first-hand look at today’s Army. If you have not been to Fort Hood for a reunion, make sure you attend and see the great Troopers of today’s First Team.

TRANSPORTATION

The Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport (GRK) is a modern airport with jet service from Dallas and Houston. Airlines with flights to Killeen include American and United airlines. The Austin-Bergstrom Airport with other major airlines is located approximately 78 miles from Killeen and airports in Dallas are about a three-hour drive away.

The following rental car agencies are in the airport: Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, and National Car Rental. Airport shuttle and taxi service is also available at the Killeen Airport.

AMTRAK offers services to Temple, Texas (25 miles away) if you wish to travel by train. Rental cars and bus service from Temple are available.

Trailways bus service is also available to Killeen.

THE BEST PART OF THE REUNION

As always, the best part of any reunion is the people that attend. The 1st Cavalry Division Association reunion brings in Troopers from almost every era of the First Team’s history. Troopers that rode horses, fought in the Pacific with MacArthur, occupied Japan, fought in Korea, or stood watch on the DMZ will spend time with the Sky Troopers of Vietnam and the Troopers from Operation Desert Storm, Fort Hood, Bosnia, and the latest combat veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The equipment and terrain might be different, but the common bond of serving with America’s First Team binds us together. Saddle up and join us in Killeen in 2021!

REUNION UPDATES

- Foundation Trustee Mtg** is now Thursday 0800-0900.
- Gulf War 30th Anniversary Ceremony** is being added to the events. This ceremony will be held on post, Friday at 1300 at the 1CD Museum flagpole.
- Spirit of the Cav Ceremony** this year is now being referred to as the Cav 100. Cav 100 will be held Friday morning on post. Exact time has yet to be determined.

BE SURE TO THOROUGHLY REVIEW YOUR REUNION HANDBOOK FOR UPDATED TIMES AND LOCATIONS.

HONORARY AIR ASSAULT CERTIFICATES

If you turned in an application, your certificate will be handed out at the Vietnam War Era Luncheon on Thursday, 1100-1300.

If you are NOT going to the Vietnam War Luncheon, then your certificate will be available at the walk in registration desk.

IF YOU'RE NOT ATTENDING THE REUNION, YOUR CERTIFICATE WILL BE MAILED OUT LATE OCTOBER.

See ya at the Reunion!



**This reunion will be in conjunction
with the Division's Centennial Birthday.
Come celebrate with the Division!**

WEDNESDAY SEPT 22

0900-UTC Association Golf Tournament
0900-1800 Registration Desk Open
0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
1300-1400 Foundation Trustee Mtg

THURSDAY SEPT 23

0900-1800 Registration Desk Open
0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
0900-1000 Chapter President's Mtg
1100-1300 War Era Luncheons
1330-1530 Board of Gov Mtg

THURSDAY cont'd

1200-1400 Ladies Tea
1930-2130 Welcome Mixer (Cash Bar)

FRIDAY SEPT 24

0900-1600 Registration Desk Open
0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-1500 Events on Fort Hood
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
1500-1700 Spirit of the Cav
1800-2000 Texas BBQ

SATURDAY SEPT 25

0730-0845 Purple Heart Breakfast

SATURDAY cont'd

0900-1100 General Membership Mtg
0900-1600 Registration Desk Open
0900-1600 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
1200-1400 Unit Lunches
1500-1600 Veterans Benefits Briefing
1745-1845 Cocktails (Cash Bar)
1900-2230 Association Banquet

SUNDAY SEPT 26

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

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 73rd REUNION (2021) REGISTRATION FORM

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

I will attend the 1st Cavalry Division Association 73rd Annual Reunion at the Killeen Shilo Inn, Killeen, TX (254-699-0999), September 22-26, 2021. Cancellations must be received by 5:00pm Friday, August 20, 2021 in our office (254-547-6537) for a refund. ****Cancellations are non-refundable after August 20, 2021 deadline.** Registration fee required for Association Member only (Widows and Gold Star Family members pay no fee). Registration fee includes: Name Tags, Reunion Booklet, Reunion Pin, and an information packet.

Are you a member of the 1CDA: Y / N

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

NICKNAME: _____

Contact #: _____

Unit#1: _____

Unit#2: _____

Unit#3: _____

Gold Star FM: _____

Is this your first 1CDA Reunion: Y / N

I will be accompanied by:

(As name will appear on Name Tag)

Spouse/Partner: _____

Guest#1: _____

Guest#2: _____

Guest#3: _____

Guest#4: _____

Guest#5: _____

Guest#6: _____

HOTEL: _____

FUNCTION	#	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Registration Fee (Members Only)	1	\$20.00	\$20.00
After August 20, 2021	1	\$40.00	_____
Active Duty (w/ID Card)	1	\$10.00	_____
THURSDAY SEPT 23			
Ladies Tea	_____	\$40.00	_____
War Era Luncheon (circle one)	_____	\$25.00	_____
Korean War Vietnam War GWOT			
Welcome Mixer	_____	\$30.00	_____
FRIDAY SEPT 24			
Fort Hood Box Lunch	_____	\$20.00	_____
Texas BBQ Dinner	_____	\$35.00	_____

FUNCTION	#	AMOUNT	TOTAL
SATURDAY SEPT 25			
Purple Heart Breakfast	_____	\$25.00	_____
Unit Lunches (circle one)	_____	\$25.00	_____
5C 7C 8C 9C 12C			
ARTY HQ LRRP ENG Wings			
Association Banquet	_____	\$45.00	_____
5C 7C 8C 9C 12C Wings			
ARTY HQ LRRP/Ranger ENG			

SUNDAY SEPT 26			
Group Breakfast	_____	\$25.00	_____
LRRP Breakfast	_____	\$25.00	_____

Credit Card Check Cash (circle one)

CC# _____

Exp Date ____/____/____ CCV# _____

Add a little extra (Donation) _____
Saber Renewal \$10.00 _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Don't forget to include your \$20 registration fee!

(Signature)

CHAPTER NEWS UPDATES

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

Submission deadline to appear in the next Saber is **Wednesday, Sept 1, 2021.** Please send to Memberships@1CDA.org or mail to 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522.

ALMOST HEAVEN CHAPTER



The Almost Heaven WV Chapter of the 1st Cavalry Division Alumni Association met in Flatwoods, WV. President Jim Hays presided with members in attendance VP Marie Dockery-Goben, Bill Carpenter, Robert Goben, Robert Minney, Arnold McCartney, and the chapter welcomed newest member, **Gary Austin**. The members discussed raising more awareness of the chapter to fellow WV Veterans and growing membership; volunteering and contacting active WVNG, ROTC cadets and the 1/150th Cavalry Regiment. The chapter also discussed its desire to host another alumni reunion in Charleston, WV in the future. The fall chapter meeting will be held on **Saturday, September 11, 2021.**

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



This is a picture of the memorial service for one of our founding Chapter members, Bill Pomeroy, on 31 May. Pictured L-R: Steve Carter, John Larensen, Paul Marling, Keith Moyer, Al Johnson, and Sandi Pomeroy. Our next meeting will be **October 23** at the **Manchester American Legion**, Manchester Ct. starting at **1pm**. All members and prospective members are encouraged to attend. For further information contact President, **Keith Moyer: 860-537-1716** or kpmoyerco@hotmail.com.

CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER

Our Chapter will be supporting the Association's reunion from 22-26 September 2021 which is also the 100th Birthday of the 1st Cavalry Division which was formed in 1921 at Fort Bliss, Texas. You will notice that the normal reunion schedule has changed to provide more time on Fort Hood during the Friday and the Division has a bunch of events planned for that day. All the regular events at reunion are still scheduled but may be on different days. The Chapter will sponsor a Golf Scramble on Wednesday morning so all of you that play golf can enjoy yourselves. Besides the events on post on Friday, I expect that we will have a great Reunion Banquet on Saturday night.

If you are a member of the 1st Cavalry Division Association and live in the Central Texas area you are a Chapter Member, we have no additional dues or fees other than membership in the Association.

Visit 1st Cavalry Division Association Crossed Sabers Chapter on Facebook to see what else we have going on in the Fort Hood area. First Team! **Dennis Webster**, President

FORT KNOX

We regretfully lost a Chapter member, Lee Edward Broome 81, of Louisville, passed away peacefully on May 10, 2021. He was with D 1/5 Cav, 1969. He was a retired tank tech, served three tours in Vietnam and earned a Bronze Star for Valor.

We have moved our meeting location to the **Masonic Lodge on 1158 N. Dixie Hwy, Radcliff**. We are still meeting on the **3rd Saturday of each month at 11am**. Hope to see everyone at our next meeting on **August 21st!**

FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST CHAPTER



On Memorial Day, we had a representative at the Jacksonville National Cemetery for the proceedings there. One of our own will soon take the Honor Flight from here to Washington. Honor Flight does just that, honors Vets with a day at the Memorials in D.C.

At our June meeting, we had two presentations which should be of interest to other Chapters.

1. Operation Barnabas: a group that finds, houses, rehabs, Veterans in need or other distresses. Contact person is Raylan Heck 904-401-2972.

2. U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps: a group of Vets that supplements first responders in times of local emergencies. Contact person is Carl Lay 904-679-2155.

We urge other Chapters to consider these two groups in your support planning.

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY CHAPTER



The New York-New Jersey Chapter will hold the fall meeting on **October 16, 2021**, at the **Ridgefield Park Elks Lodge** at **11:00 am**.

Reunion of old friends and Chapter Veterans. Review of events of the past years. Remembrance of those we lost. Check our Facebook page for updates when available.

SHERIDAN'S CHAPTER

Our Charter member and Medal of Honor recipient Allen Lynch paid a virtual visit with a class of about 27, 8th grade students at Elwood School, Elwood Illinois. The students were able to read about Lynch before the meeting and to write questions regarding his experiences. The students were engaged and appreciated hearing his presentation regarding his military experiences with the 1st Cavalry Division.

The **Chapter Annual Picnic** scheduled for **August 7th** at the **Roselle American Legion Post**. Our **Oct 9th Membership Meeting** is scheduled at the **Italian American Veterans Museum in Stone Park**.

The Sheridan Chapter cordially invites anyone who served or was attached at any year with the 1st Cav to join our group. Contact **Terry Hodous** at us67-hodo@outlook.com or **773-445-1213** for additional information regarding membership or attending one of our future events.

WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION CHAPTER

At our March Zoom meeting, we had COL Sunset Belinsky PAO Cyber Command give a brief overview of the Command and then speak about online security and ways to ensure information you see online is accurate.

On 16 June members of the chapter attended the funeral of LTC Bill Gillette 1/9 CAV. He was buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, and to make sure those military honors included saluting hands touching the brim of a Cav Hat, members of the William A. Richardson National Capital Region Chapter of the 1CDA turned out to pay their respects.

Our last meeting was on July 17th LIVE at the American Legion Post 176. Contact me at **703-220-5322** for more information on when our next meeting is or if you are interested in joining us for the first time. Join a group of Great Americans.....1st CAV Troopers.

TerryAMcCarl@gmail.com or 402-296-3150



UNITED STATES ARMY
SOLDIER FOR LIFE

values, ethos, and leadership within communities.

Why is this important to the Association?

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

1. **Foundation Trustee Mtg** is now Thursday 0800-0900.
2. **Gulf War 30th Anniversary Ceremony** is being added to the events. This ceremony will be held on post, Friday at 1300 at the 1CD Museum flagpole.
3. **Spirit of the Cav Ceremony** this year is now being referred to as the Cav 100. Cav 100 will be held Friday morning on post. Exact time has yet to be determined.

If you turned in an application, your certificate will be handed out at the Vietnam War Era Luncheon on Thursday, 1100-1300.

If you are NOT going to the Vietnam War Luncheon, your certificate will be available at the walk in registration desk.

**IF YOU'RE NOT ATTENDING THE REUNION,
YOUR CERTIFICATE WILL BE
MAILED OUT LATE OCTOBER.**

1. Reunion Registrations: **Please be sure to include your \$20 registration fee.** Many members who have mailed in their registrations, have forgotten to add the \$20 into the grand total. You will receive a reunion confirmation letter in the mail. Please read it carefully; we will let you know if you owe money.
2. In preparation for the Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Gift Shop moving to 1CDA Headquarters in October 2021, catalog sales are now being run out of 1CDA Headquarters office. The current Gift Shop (inside the 1CD Museum on post) will close on or about 1 October 2021 when the 1st Cavalry Division Museum closes its doors in preparation for a move into the Mounted Warrior Museum. The current plan is to re-open the Gift Shop in Copperas Cove, 1 November 2021, just in time for the holidays. However, catalog sales will continue without interruption.
3. If you need to send anything to the Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Gift Shop please mail to 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703 (the P.O. Box will no longer be used).

Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is
Wednesday, September 1, 2021
 Please email to Programs@1CDA.org

Hope everyone is enjoying YOUR 2021 Calendar!

Thank you to our following members who have donated \$100 or more towards our 2021 calendar:

COL (RET) GORE, William

\$100.00

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

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT & GENEROSITY!**

Do you have 1CD war stories you would like to share with other 1st Cav Veterans?

Send them to us and they will appear in the Trooper's Tale section in an upcoming Saber!

302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522 or
email to Programs@1CDA.org

Today's 1st Cavalry Division breakdown is not what it once was. Below is the breakdown of the current units of the Division. Also for anyone on social media, please feel free to look up the units on Facebook and see what your old unit is doing.

1st CAVALRY DIVISION UNIT BREAKDOWN

1st Armored Brigade Combat Team "IRONHORSE"

- 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment “GarryOwen”
- 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment “Lancers”
- 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment “Stallions”
- 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment “ThunderHorse”
- 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment “Dragons”
- 91st Engineer Battalion “Sabers”
- 115th Brigade Support Battalion “Muleskinners”

FACEBOOK: 1st ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team "BLACKJACK"

- 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment “BlackKnights”
- 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment “Mustangs”
- 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment “HeadHunters”
- 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment “DarkHorse”
- 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment “RollingThunder”
- 8th Engineer Battalion “TrojanHorse”
- 15th Brigade Support Battalion “Gamblers”

FACEBOOK: 2nd ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team "GREYWOLF"

- 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment “Chargers”
- 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment “Ghost”
- 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment “WarHorse”
- 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment “Saber”
- 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment “SteelDragons”
- 3rd Engineer Battalion “Beavers”
- 215th Brigade Support Battalion “Blacksmiths”

FACEBOOK: 3rd BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

1st AIR CAVALRY BRIGADE "AIRCAV"

- 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment “Attack”
- 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment “Lobos”
- 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment “SpearHead”
- 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry regiment “PaleHorse”
- 615th Aviation Support Battalion “ColdSteel”

FACEBOOK: 1st AIR CAVALRY BRIGADE AIRCAV

1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade "WAGONMASTERS"

- 1st Special Troops Battalion
- 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

FACEBOOK: 1st CAVALRY DIVISION SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

1st Cavalry Division Artillery Brigade "REDTEAM"

FACEBOOK: 1st CAVALRY DIVISION ARTILLERY

Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion "MAVERICK"

FACEBOOK: 1st CAV HHBN

NEW MEMBERS

E-5 ADAMCZYK, WALTER J. FL D 2- 5C 6906
LTC ALLEY, DAVID NC C 228 AVN 82
SP-5 ATKINSON, GARY AZ C 1-229 AHB 9009
LTC BABAS, ROBERT MI D 2-8C 6811
SGT BATTEN, STEPHEN R IA C 1-77ARTY 7003
CSM (RET) BOURJAILY, FREDERICK CA F 1- 7C 70
LTC (RET) BUTLER, BRIAN MI HQ DISCOM 00
E-3 CHAPMAN, KENNETH D. SC D 2-12C 7004
LTC DE LOACH, BRAD PA HHC 3-8C 2009
MR. DIATSCHENKO, VICTOR TX 1432 ASSOC
MAJ DIPIERRO, JOSEPH GA C 1-30ARTY 6609
SGT DUCOTE, DOUGLAS CO HHC 1-12C 1107
SFC ESQUIVEL, CHRISTIAN TX B 2-5C 0510
E-5 FURMAN, TIMOTHY J. CA B 1-12C 6710
SP-4 GARAY, CARLOS E. TX D 2-7C 7006
CPT GIBBLE, WILLIAM TX HHC 1ABCT 2106
1LT GUIDARA, FRANK MA 1-7C 6910
SGT HAFF, ROBERT CA HHC 8ENG 6612
LTC HENRY, JOSEPH R. CO B 1-77ARTY 6901
SGT HILL, EDWARD FL E 1-8ACR 6904
MR. HOROHO, DANIEL VA 1431 ASSOC
1SG LEITER, PAUL IN HHB 1-82FA 8012
CW2 LLOYD, RICHARD L. TX C 1-9C 71
CPT LYONS, WILLIAM WA B 2-20FA 6703
E-5 LYTLE, EDWIN WA B 1-30ARTY 6902
E-4 MORTON, ADAM MI B 1-12C 07
MAJ MUMMERT, JONATHAN TX 1CDH 2106
SPC MUNOZ, ALEJANDRO CA HHXC 1-8C 1607
E-4 MYERS, ROBERT R. CO B 2-8C 7001
SGT NOSSE, WILLIAM R. OH D 1-8C 7003
SGM SAUNDERS, JONATHAN TX 1CDH 2007
E-4 SCHLABACH, DARYL FL C 13SIG 7110
SFC SHAND, RACHELLE TX HHC 1-8ENG 1908
SGT SMERZ, PHILIP R. FL HHC 1-8C 6608
COL SNYDER, NEIL TX HHB DIVARTY 20
CW2 STOCKWELL, BRAD AZ A 229AVN 7102
E-5 VAN CURAN, JEFFREY KS 1CDH 0704
SP-4 VILLANUEVA, FRANCISCO MI D 2-7C 7212
E-4 WALDO, JAMES NY D 27MNT
SP-4 WHITLEY, BRAD VA B 1-227AHB 9601
CPT WILLIAMS, RUSSELL GA A 1-9C 66609
E-5 YOUNG, RICHARD IN 11AVN 6803



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THE 1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION: MEMOIRS OF THE FIRST TEAM IN VIETNAM-
SPECIAL REPRINT EDITION

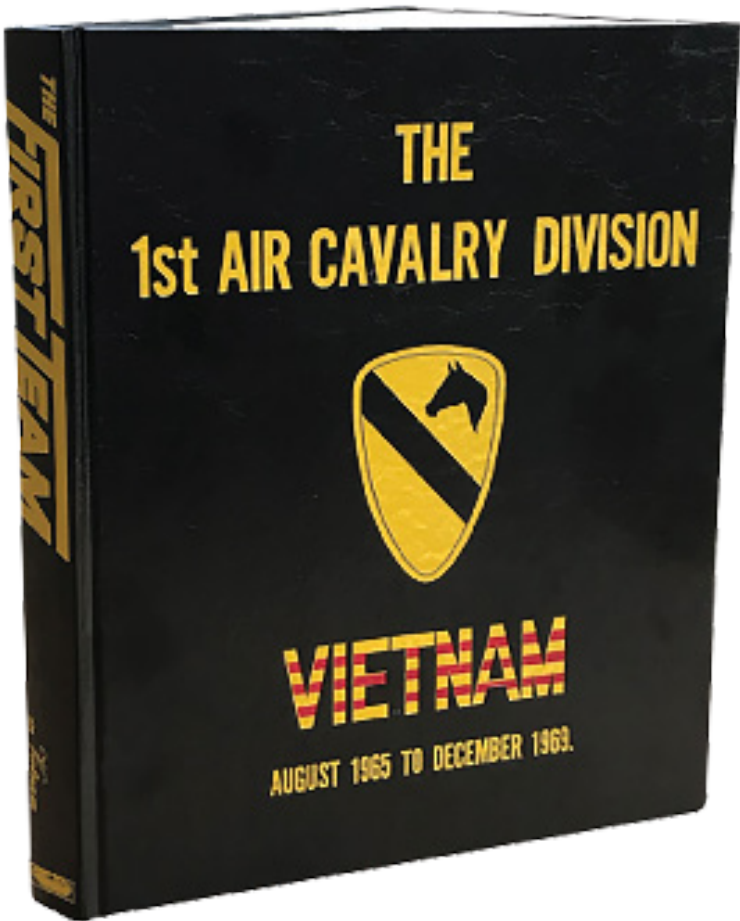
Yes! This is the same book Acclaim Press offered in the *Saber* last year (where you purchased directly from the publisher). If you missed that opportunity to pre-order, we were able to order a limited amount of copies to have available to our members. Please mail us your completed order form located below.

ABOUT THE BOOK

In 1970, the Division published a full-color hardbound commemorative book to document the time spent by 1st Cavalry Skytroopers in Vietnam, from 1965-69. Many of our members received a copy of this special book nearly 50 years ago, but over time the books were lost, damaged or worn down from frequent use. This reprint is identical to the original printing that rolled off the presses in 1970, but brand new and in pristine condition!

The 1st Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam-Special Reprint is a 10x12-inch, oversized hardbound volume with 296 pages with hundreds of full-color photos, printed on heavy-weight glossy paper for superior photo reproduction, with sturdy Smyth-sewn binding for longevity, and bound in a classy black leatherette cover with full-color silk screening. Only \$85 with FREE SHIPPING! Due to limited quantities, we are limiting 1 book per member.

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20th and 79th Artillery Regiment News



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



“Armed Falcon 28 Delta, on Station!” A healthy and happy greeting to all of you ARA members! We are still dealing with the lingering COVID19 impact, and some people are still on-the-fence deciding whether to get the vaccination or not. I cannot believe that we would not want to knock this pandemic to the moon. I know we live in a free country, but people are still dying from the virus. My words continue to be: “Please protect yourself, protect other!” That is the least we can do as caring citizens!

I notified **Gary Adams** two months ago that I had found his correspondence and was going to include it in this issue. Gary sent a beautifully handwritten letter in cursive (if anyone remembers and can read it!). I include portions of that letter for your reading.

Greetings Bruce, I did not make the last two ARA Reunions, but still the aviators and other friends from the 2/20th ARA are frequently on my mind. When I saw in the last “Saber” that Stan Cass and Richey Hinton had passed on, it was a stark reminder that our ranks are dwindling. Both Cass and Hinton were platoon commanders in “A” Battery when I was there. In Hinton’s platoon, I was Armed Falcon 28D, until I became Armed Falcon 27 in what had been Cass’s platoon when I first arrived in RVN as a 2nd LT in Aug 1966.

Recently my VN slides were digitized, and this exercise was a good reminder of 18 months spent with some of the finest men in the Army. Also, some of my 2/20th papers were sorted through, and I found some paperwork used to get Richard L. Mills a Silver Star for a night mission he led when he was the Operations Officers for “A” Battery.

My aircraft was flying mortar patrol form LZ Two Bits at Bong Song, when we received a fire mission to help a LRRP whose position had been compromised. The patrol was taking fire and being probed. As a single ship we expended our 48 rockets, and the door gunners laid down suppressive M-60 fires. After that I needed to return to Two Bits and MAJ Mills came on station to relieve us. He made the correct decision to saturate the area around the patrol with 2.75 and 7.62

covering fires while he went into and successfully extracted the three-man team.

MAJ Richard Mills served his second tour with 4/77 ARA. He was Battery Commander and became the BN S-3 during the 1st Cav campaign into Laos during Operation Lam Son 719. Photo of MAJ Mills receiving the Silver Star from the Bn CO, and I am the skinny Lieutenant who is 3rd in line from Mills.



Thank you, Gary, for sharing the story of MAJ Richard L. Mills’ mission. We appreciate reading about our comrades, especially, when recorded by one of our own who was on the scene and participated in the mission! I know that Rodger McAlister paid you a visit last week. I am sure that you two had lots to talk about having served together in 1966-67. Both of you are believers and share much as we move through the aging process. I know you have found it challenging to make it to our last two reunions. We keep both of you in our prayers and trust that all of us find peace in the remaining time we have! God bless you, friend!

Update on Our Savannah Reunion: Our ill-fated 2020 Reunion has been salvaged by the ingenuity of many drug companies and plans set in motion by an administration gone past. We are approaching a high enough rate of vaccinations to achieve “herd” immunity and many of the restrictions have been lifted. In other words, the ARA Savannah Reunion, August 30 to September 3, 2021, is a go.

Gerry and Ann Hipp have done a great job at pulling things back together. There have been some changes and it is critical that some information be repeated to assure good and accurate registration. As stated, many times earlier, the dates have been adjusted to avoid the high hotel rates inherent in the weekend.

We will set up station at the Holiday Inn Express, Savannah Historic District, 199 East Bay Street (intersection of Bay and Abercorn) which is virtually the center north of old Savannah. Rooms will be \$119 Sunday 8/30 through Thursday 9/3 (as opposed to \$155 on Saturday 8/29 and \$195 on the following weekend 9/4 & 9/5). Savannah is worth a few extra dollars to see at leisure. The rates DO NOT include 13% taxes and a \$6 city occupancy fee. Parking is available at two nearby city garages at about \$10/night and valet parking only at the hotel for a reduced rate of \$25. Breakfast is included and a hospitality room on the lower level have already been contracted by Herb Hirst, as well as the site of the Farewell Banquet 9/3 (Vic’s on the River – across the street from the hotel).

Monday, August 30 — Our Welcome Banquet at 6:30pm. We lost the venue at Mrs. Wilkes Boarding House but have secured the Hunter Club at HAAF (just inside of Montgomery Road gate at 135 Duncan Dr, Bldg 6015; 912-315-4603). The Menu is low country boil buffet (all items are cooked and served separately). Steamed jumbo shrimp—16-20 count and smoked Hillshire sausage, fresh corn on the cob, parsley, new potatoes, savannah red rice, baked chicken with rosemary, coleslaw, homemade rolls and butter, peach cobbler and ice cream, sweet and un-sweet tea, and water. There will be a cash bar. Travel will be by bus from the hotel.

Tuesday, August 31 — Savannah Trolley Tour: From the hotel at a discounted rate and includes a 90-minute highlight tour of 20 special locations and an on/off pass good for all day. One regular tour stops at our hotel.

Wednesday, September 1 — Visit to the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade featuring the AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter Squadron. We will have a 90-minute visit and lunch at the Army dining hall.

Thursday, September 2 — Farewell Banquet at Vic’s on the River – across the

street from the hotel—easy walk or shuttle. MENU: Duet plated dinner (includes coffee, tea & buttermilk biscuits). Pan seared top sirloin, parmesan, and lemon redfish (guests receive both options), mixed green salad (tomatoes, cucumbers, and croutons w/balsamic vinaigrette), roasted garlic mashed potatoes, asparagus, snip top carrots, peach cheesecake/ key lime pie (guests receive both options). Cash bar, house wines by the bottle available.

To stock the hospitality suite at minimal cost to the Association it has been suggested that each attendee who is driving bring a bottle/case of his/her favorite liquid libation. Those who are flying and wish to contribute can contact Jerry and place an order and reimburse him upon arrival. Jerry can make pick-up at Class VI on Hunter for most stuff. Better choices of wines are available from local retailers. All contributions will be appreciated: <gthipp@aol.com> or just call 912-598-8785 to discuss your wishes/leave a message.

The current registration form is valid. Registrations must reach Herb Hirst by (NLT) August 15 to be included in the two Hunter AAF visits. Additionally, registrants need to provide him with the legal first name and middle initial, date of birth, and last four of their SSN for themselves and any guests. We will be transported by bus both times which is why we are asking for the additional information. We need this regardless of whether they are retired military.

If you have not reserved your room, act promptly, or run the risk of not being with the group. There are only so many rooms saved for us in the block. There is a sister hotel next door but that still removes one from the main crowd.

We Celebrate the lives of Several ARA Members: Sergeant David Charles



“Chalk” Courchane, B Btry, 2/20th ARA, 1966-1968, was born on July 20, 1945, in Wenatchee, Washington, to Louis Luke Courchane and Viola Ashley. His brother, Dale Courchane, gave him the name “Chalky.” Chalk attended Wenatchee High School for a month but left to work in the fruit orchards. Eventually he worked as a cement finisher for Pacific Concrete, with his main job being that of an edge man. On July 8, 1966, he was drafted into the U.S. Army. After basic training at Ft. Lewis, Washington, he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in An Khe on December 12, 1966. Like many of the pipe-line replacements to the Cav he flew into Pleiku on a C-141. Later, in 1967, Chalk was the NCOIC of Petroleum, Oil & Lubricant (POL), Ammo Dump,

and the motor pool for the battalion. He was honorably discharged on April 23, 1968, from Ft. Irwin, California. He continued to work in cement finishing and was a volunteer firefighter. He enjoyed genealogy and helped many people trace their family lines. Prior to his death he was working with a couple of authors on writing different historical books. Chalk’s favorite pastimes were reading history, stamp collecting and genealogy. David Courchane died May 24, 2021. Funeral services were held in Wenatchee Washington on June 7, 2021, with burial at the Wenatchee Cemetery. “Chalk” we bid you farewell and pray for your eternal peace and rest in the arms of a loving and caring God.

From the March/April 2021 issue of the VHPA AVIATOR there were two notices. The first was Lynn F. Coleman, LTC Ret; HHB and A Battery 4/77, ARA, 101 ABN, 1969-70, who died on December 8, 2020, in The Villages, FL. He earned his BS from Hofstra College and MS from Troy State University. He was commissioned in 1958 and served over 28 years. In 1980 he became a Mason while serving in Japan and held leadership positions in several bodies in Oregon and Florida at both the local and state levels. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Diane. We thank you for your many years of devoted service. Rest in God’s eternal loving and caring arms of peace, Lynn!

Also, Marion Neal Ray, Major Retired, C Battery 2/20 ARA, 1970-71, 1CAV, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, call sign Blue Max, died December 11, 2020. He flew with the 170 AHC in 1967. Ray was born in North Little Rock, AR, on December 2, 1938. He graduated high school before the age of 16 and attended Tuskegee Institute and Northeastern University studying mechanical engineering. In 1961, he was drafted into the Army. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Helen. Marion, thank you for your service and now may you rest in God’s eternal grace.

In closing, I urge you to get your stories in writing so that others who follow may know the history and years of successful service rendered by the once-in-a-lifetime Aerial Rocket Artillery units in Vietnam with a totally new concept of Airmobility Warfare. It is your story, please tell it! It is our story; we need to record it! It is our history, so let us get it right and on paper.

Savannah is just days away and I look forward to seeing all of you again. For those who are not able to attend, our prayers are with you for recovery of health and God’s presence in your faithful journey! For those travelling, we pray for a safe journey and travelling mercies! We all have that hope of God’s eternal love! Therefore, go with God’s Ancient Words! Words that have been long preserved for our walk in this world, changing you and changing me!

Until next time, “this is Armed Falcon 28 Delta, breaking right!”

WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME IN THE SABER UNDER THE HONOR ROLL?

Honor Roll privileges are given to members who make a D Trooper donation, donation to the Association, or scholarship donations to the IaDrang or the Foundation.

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15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB

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MBodnar27@Gmail.Com
www.15thMedBnAssociation.org



I received a correction to the last column. MEDEVAC 21 Art Jacobs said that he was in MEDEVAC 1967 to 1968, not what I wrote and was printed. I had gotten his dates from

the 15th MED Assn website page: "MEDEVAC Pilots and Their Call Signs." That list has also been corrected. That page was put together as best as possible years ago and relies on corrections from readers who are more knowledgeable. After some lengthy commo with Art, I have submitted even more corrections for those call signs and dates. Their webmaster edits that page.

Art also mentioned that I had left off CWO Jim Doran pictured to his left in the one photo of four at LZ Sharon. I thought that he was leaving one individual unnamed in his caption, but that was my copying and pasting that somehow clipped it off.

I received a snail mail document handwritten by 1968-1969 A Company 2-8 Cav 11 Bravo **Thomas Ginop** <tree1968.1969@gmail.com>. Tom took the time and wrote a long memoir of his Tour 365. It would make a good *Saber* Trooper's Tale.

After their move south with the 1st Cavalry Division-which was Operation Liberty Canyon-Tom's company combat assaulted out of LZ Rita-Operation Sheridan Sabre-leaving mass graves being created from a ground attack there before they arrived. Then, closer to the Cambodian border on their second day, they walked into a bunker complex and an ambush. Tom said, "I did not know I could be that scared! It was unreal.

"We took several KIAs and WIAs. It was the sixth of November. I had just turned twenty years old and was now living a nightmare!

"We would ambush the NVA at night, and they would ambush us in the daytime. Just before Thanksgiving Day we were working with our sister companies B and D, and a company from 5th of the 7th.

"We were looking for a large force of NVA. Our company had little action. We had just a couple of small firefights. However, A 5-7 and our B Company really hit it and had many casualties and needed a MEDEVAC.

"It made it in [the MEDEVAC] and picked up a load but was then shot down in our area. We were sent to recover the bodies. After two days in a hundred-degree heat, we got to the crash site.

"As best I can remember, the pilot, copilot, and door gunners were belted in. Everyone else had been thrown out. It was a very traumatic sight!

"We had to bag all the bodies and get them to an area where they could be picked up by choppers. All the while we were there, we could hear the NVA talking and moving around. We could also hear chain saws.

"We were informed later that we were in the middle of at least a battalion sized NVA force. Once the bodies were evacuated, we got moving as soon as we could to get out of that area.

"I am not sure if they removed the wrecked chopper or if it was left there. By the way, that occurred on Thanksgiving Day. I haven't had a good Thanksgiving even after all these years!"

That is an excerpt from Tom's writing. He continued writing about what happened after that, and for the rest of his year in Vietnam. I told him after I read it, and about what had happened to most everyone around him, that he was fortunate to have left Vietnam with only one Purple Heart, and his life!

Thinking that everyone on MEDEVAC 18 was consumed by fire I was somewhat surprised that they had found the crew members still belted in. As helicopter crew members on MEDEVAC, we had to wear Nomex; shirt, pants, and gloves; and our Army leather combat boots. Together with our flight helmet, that made us more fire resistant than not.

Something Called Pride from DAV Magazine, August 1985

For most of us, patriotism and love of country were imbedded in us while we were yet children. But, what about the children who have grown up during the controversial times of Vietnam? What do they think about wartime Veterans and their country?

An indication of the thoughts and feelings of today's young people emerged from a recent ticker-tape parade for Vietnam Veterans in New York City. Richard W. Stueber of North Massapequa, N.Y., a SP4 in Co A, 1/7 Cav Air Mobile, at An Tay, Vietnam in 1967, said he took his family to the parade with mixed feelings."

However, for his 12-year-old daughter, Kristine, it was a memorable experience. A composition of her impressions was sent to DAV Magazine. She entitled it, "The Final Chapter of the Vietnam War." It follows:

As I stood and watched them march, heads held high, tears in their eyes, I realized the things I never had fully understood. Men in wheelchairs, on crutches, and people hurt by that chemical, Agent Orange, were all there. Men and women from around the nation, who had fought in that terrible war, had finally received some respect and honor, which they so truly deserved. I turned my head and saw my mother with tears in her eyes, and my father, in his uniform, searching for someone he knew; a face he would recall.

Streamers came down and cheers went up and more tears came. People clapped and kept yelling, "Welcome Home." At first, I did not understand what exactly they meant by that, but in time I realized. Our Soldiers, our brave Soldiers had never really been welcomed home.

Then I saw it, three men were holding a banner, on the banner was written in bold letters, "Ten Years Too Late." What exactly did that mean? I knew, I knew by the look on their faces; a hurtful look, it was too late? Now, it brought back those horrible memories, memories that they had tried to bury. Now, for some, it was a time for happiness and rejoicing.

I stood next to a lady who had divorced her husband many years before. But she still loved him, and when he died, she realized that love, and did everything she could. Now, she held up signs saying, "Welcome Home," and "We Will Get Jane Fonda." Again, I didn't understand, but soon I found out that she had said some terrible things about the war and the Soldiers.

My father had spotted his cavalry unit, 1-7. He grabbed our hands and we rushed into the parade, joining all those men. As we marched, I was not aware of the crowds cheering, or the ticker tape falling from above. I was only aware of the men standing in their uniforms, tears in their eyes, shouting those unforgettable words, "The U.S.A. is No. 1!" and raising their hands in salute.

That could not be said about everyone not a crew member, like the extracted casualties. As a MEDEVAC Medic I was tethered in using a wide strap hooked onto any of the floor rings, the other end hooked to a mesh net jacket over my bullet resistant chest and back armor. I never left home without it! I could reach anywhere in the helicopter that I needed to do my job, right to the doors. Any explosion or crash would less likely throw me out.

I cannot know if the MEDEVAC 18 Medic, SP5 Johnny Glen Gregg, was strapped in as trained. I can say the wounded infantrymen on board were not.

I had to ask Tom Ginop, and he said he did not find ashes. He said the bodies thrown out were scattered everywhere. Tom did not want to go into any more detail, because of the stress. He said that others he tried to contact about it did not want to remember it all. But Tom courageously answered my further questions.

Tom also referred me to his platoon leader, Tip Harte. Tip also did not, for the same reasons, want to elaborate, but did confirm what Tom had told me. I thank them both.

As well as MEDEVAC 18 WO1 James Donald Doran, his copilot 1LT Stephen Carl Beals, crewmen SP5 Johnny Glen Gregg, SP4 John Stephen Alling Jr., and PFC Robert Earnest Jones KIA 26 NOV 68, the following extracted A 5-7 Cavalry infantrymen were KIA: SGT William Michael Ebel, SGT Curtis Hall Rainer, SGT Patrick Edward Smith, SP4 Pietro Piconi, PFC Roger Dean Algire, and PFC Bobby James Perkins.



SGT Ebel



SGT Rainer



SGT Smith



SP4 Piconi



PFC Algire



PFC Perkins

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

My father was shouting, too; but I just stood and watched. I was filled with something called pride. I was proud of all those men, and especially proud of my father.

Later as we read the words on the wall, dedicated to Vietnam Soldiers, I was again filled with pride. I read letters of Soldiers to their friends and family. One asked if this war was worth a human life. One boy wrote his parents, telling them that he didn't think he was ever coming home, that he was to die.

I looked around at the men, and tried to picture them as young teenagers, a couple of years older than me, but I couldn't. I was honored and proud to be part of it all. I will never forget this day, not ever!

Though it will not wipe away the memory or sorrow or pain the war has given, I think that everybody was honored, proud, and most of all, loving those Soldiers that were there, and remembered those that died. It may be late, but the love was still there.

I am proud of these men, and especially proud of my father. I love them all!

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545th MP Co News

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The Military Police Corps, Regimental History - Part Seven – Vietnam War

The nation's next major military involvement occurred in Southeast Asia in the 1960's. As security deteriorated in South Vietnam and the threat to it from the Communist Bloc increased, United States involvement in the Vietnam War escalated. With the increased deployment of United States Forces there, the need for more military police correspondingly grew. In 1965, battalion-sized units were deployed in Vietnam under the command and control of the 89th Military Police Group. These units provided area military police support throughout the country. Their major tasks were to enforce United States military laws and provide security for American military installations, working areas, and quarters. The continued buildup subsequently led to the deployment of the 18th Military Police Brigade, the first unit of its kind to be employed in combat.



720th MP Bn on convoy escort duty

The 18th Military Police Brigade became operational on 26 September 1966. Initially, Vietnam War this Brigade was to assume command and control of all non-divisional military police units in Vietnam. Until then, those units were under the control of commanders in their respective areas, primarily performing security missions in addition to maintaining law and order. The Vietnam Command desired more active involvement by the military police in direct support of combat operations. While at first the 18th MP Brigade performed many unusual and unfamiliar tasks, as time progressed these unfamiliar tasks became commonplace MP missions. Military police performed the usual law and order, physical security, traffic control and confinement missions. In combat operations, they could be found in their camouflaged fatigues patrolling the jungles and villages near Long Binh and in other areas throughout Vietnam. Their first large-scale, combat support operations were "Operation Deckhouse IV" and "Operation Attleboro," conducted in November 1966. During these operations, MPs provided convoy security and traffic control. In "Operation Cedar Falls," the 18th Military Police Brigade supported the 173d Airborne Brigade. This operation was a full-scale strike on an area known as the Iron Triangle, a heavily jungle region near Cu Chi. Living and working in the field, the 720th Military Police Battalion began earning the Brigade's reputation as "the only combat tested MP Brigade." One platoon of men spent twenty days in the field with the infantry. In February 1967 the Brigade was involved in "Operation Junction City" with the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions and "Operation Thayer II" with the 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile). In the latter operation, elements of C Company, 504th Military Police Battalion, joined the 1st Cavalry Division. In addition to detainee escort and route security, the MPs also performed as "tunnel rats," locating and destroying many enemy tunnels, as well as aiding in the capture of many suspected enemy soldiers. During April of that year, the brigade supported "Task Force Oregon" (later reinforced and re-designated the 23d Infantry or "Americal Division") in southern Quang Ngai Province. In addition to many other missions, the brigade



In defense of Saigon

In July 1967, V-100 Commando armored cars became a welcome addition to the 720th and 504th Military Police Battalions. Prior to their arrival, the 18th Military Police Brigade depended on gun jeeps. The V-100 was tested and evaluated by the military police in Vietnam, resulting in an authorization for the procurement of seventy-two. They provided a big morale boost for the MPs and were a great augmentation for the gun-jeeps. Due to added military police commitments and the fact that the battalion's V-100s were positioned in Saigon to assist the 716th MP Battalion, the 720th MP Battalion acquired twelve armored personnel carriers armed with .50-caliber machine guns. The importance of putting the carriers into action as soon as possible did not leave time for the MPs to receive formal instruction on the operation of this vehicle. The MPs instead took the initiative and learned on their own.



V-100 Commando armored cars

In 1967, a Cordon and search operation, "Operation Corral," occurred. It was designed to locate and destroy any enemy close-in strike capability directed against the Long Binh Post complex. The operation began at precisely 1800 hours on 11 September 1967, as the thundering sound of helicopters, tanks, and

armored personnel carriers brought the 9th Infantry Division's MP contingent into the staging area. Within the next five minutes over 250 men from the 720th Military Police Battalion converged on the area, equipped with gun jeeps, V-100 Commando cars, searchlights, loudspeakers and barbed wire barricades. As the infantry sealed and secured the area and supporting helicopter gunships prowled the sky, the men of the 720th combed through huts, muddy undergrowth and rice paddles. Their objective was to flush out Viet Cong, VC sympathizers, enemy supplies and contraband. When the failing rays of sunset turned day into night, huge artillery flares and searchlights enabled the 720th to continue its aggressive and intensive search around the clock.

Following this action, the brigade was assigned the responsibility for the security of a twenty-two square mile area south of Long Binh, thus becoming the first military police unit in history to man a tactical area of responsibility in a combat zone. This area contained hundreds of small streams and rivers where the military police set up night ambushes to stop the Viet Cong who were using these waterways as infiltration routes. Other military police activities included sweeps, reconnaissance patrols, and cordon as well as search operations. Becoming more involved in infantry activities, military police exchanged their shiny helmets and brassards for bush hats and flak vests. They continued to conduct small unit operations in South Vietnam until 31 January 1968 when the TET Offensive began.

During the TET Offensive, the 716th Military Police Battalion became involved in the Battle of Saigon: the fiercest battle in which a military police unit has ever been engaged. At approximately 0300 hours, 31 January 1968, Viet Cong elements launched attacks within the Saigon area on such key targets as the United States Embassy, BOO #3, the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Annex Area, the Embassy Hotel, and in the vicinity of the racetrack on Plantation Road. Viet Cong units roamed the streets dressed in black uniforms or in civilian clothes with arm bands designating unit identification. Many also wore yellow handkerchiefs around their necks.

Shortly after 0300 hours, the MP guards at the Embassy were attacked and two MPs were shot in the back. Patrols from the 716th quickly surrounded the area. The Viet Cong also set up a machine gun in a building across the street from the Embassy.



Defending the American Embassy, the 716th MP Bn, during TET 1968

When a two-man MP patrol stopped in front of the Embassy, both men were killed by automatic weapons and small arms fire. During the hours of darkness, choppers attempted to land a 101st Airborne element on the Embassy roof but were constantly repelled. At 0630 hours, the enemy machine gun was silenced and the MPS crashed the main gate and stormed into the Embassy grounds. At no time had the Viet Cong gained entry into the Embassy building, but they were on the surrounding grounds. As the MPs battled the Viet Cong inside the grounds, the 101st Airborne landed on

the Embassy roof. The paratroopers then proceeded down the stairs at the same time as the MPs were coming inside the compound. The enemy was armed with AK 47s, machine pistols, and some rocket launchers. This engagement resulted in four MPs and nineteen Viet Cong being killed in action.

At 0400 hours on the same morning, the 716th received a report that the Viet Cong had surrounded BOO #3. A reaction force was dispatched to assist there. As the force approached the BOO in four 1/4-ton vehicles and one 2 1/2-ton truck, they were hit by claymore mines and recoilless rifle fire. Initially, approximately thirteen MPs were killed, and thirteen others wounded in this action. An additional reaction force then was dispatched to help recover the dead and wounded. Heavy fighting continued for thirteen to fourteen hours while the MPs, with infantry and armored support, cleared the area and retrieved bodies.

At 0530 hours, across from the Korean Embassy, a jeep with an officer and enlisted man in it from the 716th was hit by recoilless rifle fire, wounding both men. Soon after, a machine gun jeep from the 716th was hit by small arms fire. The two MPs in it were killed and their machine gun was captured. The Viet Cong then took the machine gun to the Embassy Hotel roof and fired on MP patrols, Korean troops, and Vietnamese National Policemen who were in the area. The 716th responded by sending a 3.5 Rocket Launcher team to the area. At 1630 hours the area was cleared, and the machine gun recovered.

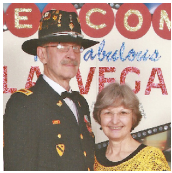
At 0630 hours, an alert force from the 716th was pinned down in the vicinity of the racetrack and another alert force from the 716th was dispatched to its aid. As the vehicles proceeded down Plantation Road toward the racetrack, they came under .50-caliber fire. LT Braddock, C/52d Inf, 716th was killed by the automatic fire. The vehicle he was in then was hit by a satchel charge and burned. Another officer and two NCOs were wounded in a gallant but futile attempt to retrieve LT Braddock from the vehicle. Despite these losses the two alert forces linked up and engaged the enemy. Heavy fighting continued throughout the day. Additional assistance was requested, and a mechanized infantry platoon was dispatched to the area. Fighting continued at the racetrack for an additional ten days.

Many other areas in Saigon were under attack during this period with BOQ's, BEQ's and National Police Headquarters being primary targets. At 0330, 31 January 1968, a black civilian car came down the street toward the Presidential Palace. The vehicle failed to heed a warning to stop by the MP and was engaged and destroyed by two machine gun jeeps. Around 0800 hours, Viet Cong elements penetrated Tan Son Nhut Airbase and attempted to attack the MACV Complex located there. A reaction force from the 716th engaged the enemy in the vicinity of the MACV Annex. Joined by a back-up force from the 92d Military Police Battalion, MPs cleared the area at 1500 hours.

- TO BE CONTINUED -

Contents and images in this photo history provided by the Branch and Command Historian, US Army Military Police Corps, and the 545th MP Company Association Archives.

HQ and Special Troops News



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Greetings, Troopers and Families from NW Louisiana. After a very wet Spring, Summer has arrived with the usual Louisiana heat and humidity. If you think Fort Hood, TX, was a bad assignment, you should serve at Fort Polk, LA, during June, July, and August.

Sue and I hope you have made your reservations at the hotel and with the Association's office for the annual reunion this September in Killeen, TX. It is going to be a great reunion and we would be happy to see you there along with all our great friends in the Association.

This column is mostly for Troopers who served in either Combat Support or Combat Service Support Military Occupation Specialties (MOS). The regiments have their own column, along with the Military Police, Engineers and Artillery and the Silver Wings. You might wonder what the difference between Combat Support and Combat Service Support might be. I did, and I did a little research. Thanks to the great websites out there, finding information is relatively easy. The following information came from the websites. <<https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/ground/cs.htm>> and <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combat_service_support_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combat_service_support_(United_States))>.

Combat Support (CS) consist of fire support and operational assistance provided to combat elements. CS forces include units and Soldiers that provide critical combat support functions in conjunction with combat units and Soldiers to secure victory. Military occupational specialties designated as combat support include jobs in the fields of engineer, military police, signal, military intelligence, and civil affairs.

Specialties in fields such as personnel, finance, supply, maintenance, and transportation are designated as Combat Service Support (CSS). Combat forces are units and Soldiers who close with and destroy enemy forces or provide maneuver and firepower on the battlefield. Combat branches of the Army include Air Defense Artillery, Armor, Aviation, Field Artillery, Infantry, Special Operations Forces, and Combat Engineers.

It has been widely recognized and long known that logistics is vital to any army; however, it is equally understood that logistics has always been one of the limiting factors of military operations. The US Army stands at a point in time when both the technology and the opportunity to transform are present for consideration in designing a new force. Army leaders envision a highly effective objective force that is capable of being rapidly deployed anywhere on the globe to fight in any environment. This objective force must be designed and fielded in such a manner as to require a minimum amount of combat zone combat support (CS) footprint, or stated another way, the logistics tail. In the mid-1980s the Combat Support (CS) branches were incorporated into the regimental system. Unlike the Combat Arms, which each had several regiments, CS branches retained their "Corps" title. The entire branch was integrated into a regiment under the "whole branch" concept.

Maneuver units in contact with the enemy are totally dependent upon their logistical support in terms of services, and these CS units' survivability is essential. Potential adversaries have long regarded the support base as an easy target, and we must train everyone to fight as infantry. (Ron's comments: I always knew that every Soldier in the U.S. Army was infantry first and their MOS second.)

There is a poorly defined distinction between the "combat arms" (who actively try to kill the enemy, as attack helicopters do), and the combat support and combat service support branches. Combat support, in theory, refers to those who actively facilitate the battle (such as the Signal Corps, Military Intelligence, Engineers, Military Police, and the Special Operations Forces' Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs units) while combat service support (CSS) refers to those who sustain the ability of the combat arms to fight by transporting the ammunition, fuel, food and water, servicing and repairing the equipment, providing health care, sorting the mail and providing other personnel and administrative services.

The distinctions between combat and support are often arbitrary and inconsistent across Soldiers within a branch or corps. The combat engineers are a macho "combat arm" who share and often exceed the risks of the infantry and armor as they precede them into battle to clear minefields and bridge or blow-up obstacles. They rely on sophisticated armored vehicles or brute strength and defend themselves or attack enemy positions with personal and heavy weapons. The civil engineers use military versions of civilian equipment to build roads, buildings, and other infrastructure in the rear. The combat signalman crouches alongside the infantry platoon leader under fire, while signal battalions set up and operate the mobile subscriber telephone nodes, satellite uplinks, and other communications throughout the theater of operation.

The military police may be far forward or far to the rear, maintaining route security, securing, and guarding enemy prisoners of war, or enforcing the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) on U.S. service members who misbehave.

I now have a much better understanding of the difference between CS and CSS, and was surprised to find military intelligence under CS. It is important to know that whatever your job was in the military, whether you served in the time of war or during the Cold War, or during the few periods of peace in our history, your job was especially important. I know that when you were pulling KP or policing the area, it was hard to imagine that your job was important. The Army is like a human body. Every piece is important. Every finger, every toe, every eye, every ear is important, and if any piece is missing, the body does not function 100 percent. AND, regardless of WHERE you served, in the U.S. or in some overseas location, let me personally thank you for your service. AND, if you were stationed in some lonely place, in combat, or not, or even if you never left the U.S., let me say to you "welcome home" Trooper. We are all glad you made it back.

I recently read an extensive "History of Military Intelligence" by John Patrick Finnegan and Romana Dunyah published by the Center of Military History, U.S. Army, Washington, DC. Unknown to me, Military Intelligence (MI) used many small posts or camps for military intelligence purposes during WWII. One such place is Fort Hunt, VA. I had never heard of Fort Hunt and doubt many others have either. For an interesting article about the Fort, go to: <<https://www.nps.gov/articles/forthuntww2.htm>>

If you would like a copy of this book in pdf format, email me and I will send you a copy of the pdf. It will take you many hours to read the whole document! It also contains all the shoulder patches, unit insignias and honors of all the MI units.

Another interesting place used by MI during WWII was Camp Ritchie, later known as Fort Ritchie, MD. Deactivated in 1998 and purchased by John Krumpotich for \$1.85 million dollars, Fort Ritchie was used for various types of training of intelligence operatives during the war. Read more about it on the website <www.abandonedcountry.com> and type in Fort Ritchie, MD or simply Google Fort Ritchie, MD. Several military personnel who were stationed there have posted comments.

Another little-known place was Camp Sharpe. Located on the actual battlefield of the Gettysburg Civil War battle, it was used to train select Soldiers to conduct psychological warfare against the Axis powers. Read more about it at the website <www.ydr.com> and type in "psycho-boys."

This website: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ritchie_Boys> contains more information about Camp Sharpe and Fort Ritchie and the "Ritchie Boys" that were trained in many specialties of Military Intelligence at these two locations.

Fort Snelling, in either Montana or Minnesota, there seems to be some confusion as to which state it is in, was used as a language school headed by MI teaching the Japanese language and Chinese language. This fort or post had a long and interesting history. Go to this website for information: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Snelling> Scroll down to see the part it played in WWII.

I received zero feedback from the last column. My telephone works. My email works. I know you have a story to tell. Others would enjoy hearing it. Lonely is the columnist with only his own thoughts.

Hope to see you in September. If you have never attended a reunion, this would be a great one to be your first. See some old friends. Make some new friends. If you attend, look me up. My cell number is at the top of this column. Call me while you are at the reunion, and we'll have a beer. After all, the beer is free! Meantime Sue and I will celebrate our 56th anniversary this month. I'll turn 76 in August. June 14th is the Army's birthday. I entered active duty on June 14th, 1963. And now our president has declared June 19th a federal holiday. Enjoy your time off. Keep your powder dry, watch your back and may God bless you, your family, the U.S. Army, the great 1st Cavalry Division, and our nation.

WANTED

A CO 2/12 JULY 4, 1967

With just celebrating Independence Day, does anyone remember the location of A Co 2/12 on the 4th of July 1967? Additional 81mm rounds of Willy Pete were ordered and used to pepper the side of a small hill for our Independence Day 1967 fireworks celebration. Thank you, SP-4 Thomas Telles <tellest@swbell.net> or (915) 227-1582.

GHOST WALKERS 1962-64, KOREA HERBICIDES

I am the widow of a Spec Ops Joseph Wayne Dunagan, known as Skinny, who served in Korea 1962-64 and who died in 2018 of cancer. Joe's unit was nicknamed Ghost Walkers and they were across the Z many times at night. We know from the affidavit that Tom Rosenberger gave and the copy of the picture he took of the test plots under Freedom and Libby Bridges that they were spraying toxic herbicides then in Korea. I would like to connect with anyone else who was in Korea 62-64 to see what they are willing to share. My aim is to get the presumptive use of herbicides in Korea pushed back to the time that Tom and Joe were in Korea and to get my claim through for his benefits that he and I worked for 17 years before he died. You may get in touch with me at <msba.wright@gmail.com> or at 541-276-2082. Thank you in advance for helping. Sincerely yours, Barbara Wright-Dunagan, P.O. Box 511, Pendleton, Oregon 97801.

LOOKING for the RESCUED SOLDIER NOV 14, 1968, RIVER in CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

I was a Sergeant with B Trp, 1-9 Cav (Airmobile) during Vietnam. I am hoping to find a Soldier who was rescued on Nov 14, 1968, from a river in the central highlands of Vietnam, surrounding An Khe. On that day, my pilot gunner SSG Trenton and I spotted a downed chopper. One of the three Soldiers in the downed ship, the only one alive, was standing in the river, waving at our Loach overhead. We maneuvered through thickets of trees lining the river and kept a barrage of fire power upon the enemy until we could get close enough for the Soldier to reach our helicopter's skids. With him clinging to the skids, we flew him to a friendly location. I have often wondered about this Soldier and would like to connect with him. He or his family could contact me, Lee Heckman at 402-841-6233 or at <topplarayne@gmail.com>.

D Co 1-8 CAV, CAMBODIAN INVASION

To 1-8 Cav D Co Troopers who served during the Cambodian Invasion, I served on LZ Snuffy as a medic under MAJ Taylor. D Co was there for Base Security. Two of your medics did the sanitary detail with me. I enjoyed working with them. They were the best of friends. I gave them the nicknames of Papa Doc and Baby Doc. Papa Doc I believe was the company medic, Baby Doc was a red-haired freckle faced kid.

After the 1-8 Cav was sent home, I was at Bien Hoa airport waiting for my plane. Your CO came over to talk to me, he said, "Remember (some name I didn't recognize), he was that red haired freckle face kid. He got killed. We made contact, while treating the wounded. He got shot in the chest and had a sucking chest wound. The company medic came up and put Vaseline gauze and tape on the wound. A few minutes later he also got shot. Rather than stay down, Baby Doc got up to help his friend. The tape pulled lose and he died."

My heart sank when I heard this, for the life of Baby Doc. He was a good kid, good man, good medic, good Soldier. But also, for Papa Doc, he lost his best friend.

I have rubbings from The Wall of all those from Echo Recon that were killed. I would like to know Baby Doc's name and where he was from. Did they give him a medal besides the Purple Heart? What happened to Papa Doc? Did he recover from his wound?

I tell my kids about the good men who died and how. Baby Doc deserves to be remembered not only as a name on The Wall, but for what he did.

Thanks, Delta, for any info.

Doc Frag Echo Recon 1-8 Cav, Roger Tominski <tominskic@yahoo.com> 231-845-6947



HONOR ROLL



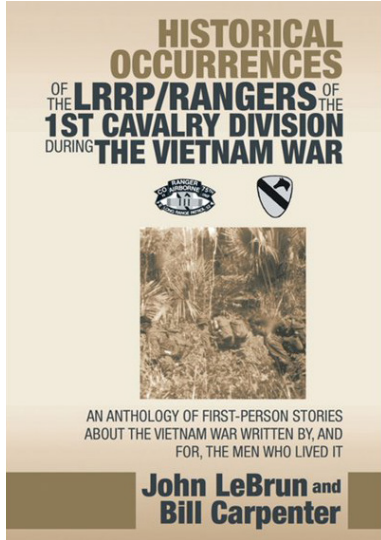
Thank you for the generous donations from our following Troopers:

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SGT CRAFT, Edwin T.	\$100	IMO Ronald Holt, KIA 10 May 1970			
IMO SSG David W. Osborne “OZ”- KIA 8-23-70 RVN		CPT (RET) LAND, Henry W. II	\$100		
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IMO SP-4 Virgil Guajardo Camp JJ Carrol		SP-5 LAUNDERVILLE, Dennis	\$35		
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SP-4 HAMILTON, Larry L.	\$50	IMO Bob Jackson C 2/7 1969-70			
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IMO SFC Charles W. Johnson		SGT RHODES, Harry W.	\$25		
SGT HERNANDEZ, Austino	\$25	E-4 ROEDER, Harlan L.	\$25		
SGT HENRY, A. C.	\$200	IMO B Co 1/5 Nov 14-22, 1965			
IMO SSG William “SGT Pate,” Peterson, 11/15/67,		SP-4 ROOKER, Richard	\$40		
C Co 1/7 th Cav & IMO SSG Carl Reid, 2/24/68,		SSG SANTY, John E.	\$50		
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1LT HOLTSLAG, Joseph F.	\$25	MRS. SCHROEDL, Betty	\$25		
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CPT HORRIGAN, Paul	\$50	COL SHIRLEY, Eric P.	\$30		
Remembrance of CPT Fred Bergeson &		MS. SHOEMAKER, Marjorie	\$25		
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BOOK of INTEREST:



Second Printing of
HISTORICAL OCCURRENCES
OF
THE LRRP/RANGERS
OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



AN ANTHOLOGY OF FIRST-PERSON STORIES ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR
WRITTEN BY AND FOR THE MEN WHO LIVED IT

These are the men who met the enemy up close and personal, many times close enough to touch.

Bob Carr at a reunion: “We do not tell ‘War Stories.’
That phrase implies a certain amount of questionable embellishment. We recall ‘Historical Occurrences.’
We do not lie; we tell the truth. No one is going to believe us anyway.”

When SSG John Barnes was recruiting for the unit, his line was:
“We prefer men with no wife, no girlfriend, no kids and who have suicidal tendencies.”

These are some of the stories from the men who served in the
1st Cavalry Division’s LRRP/Ranger unit during the Vietnam War. These men are not professional writers. What they wrote was not reviewed by a professional. These stories are the 30-40-50 year old memories of what they did when they were 19-20 year old “Lurps” and chopper pilots.

These stories are true events as they remember them.

THE BOOK IS AVAILABLE FROM THE 1CDA SOUVENIR SHOP, PUBLISHER, AUTHOR HOUSE AND SEVERAL ONLINE WEB PAGES.



Birthday Wishes
to our Troopers turning 90+ years young!

- CPL PASQUALE R. DI MATTIO**
turned 96 on 7/04/2021

SFC ADAM JOHN ROSINSKI SR.
turned 90 on 7/06/2021

SFC (RET) ROBERT E. LANE
turned 90 on 7/08/2021

CMS GILBERT CURTIS
turned 90 on 7/10/2021

COL (RET) PAUL P. WINKEL JR.
turned 90 on 7/10/2021

SFC JAY F. HIDANO
turned 94 on 7/11/2021

BG (RET) JOSEPH L. ECOPPI
turned 92 on 7/12/2021

SSG CARLOS HERNANDEZ
turned 90 on 7/12/2021

CPL JOHN P. KRITZER
turned 90 on 7/17/2021

T-5 MORRIS T. TWEETEN
turned 95 on 7/19/2021

CPL RICHARD A. WEAKLEY
turned 91 on 7/22/2021

SGM (RET) JOHN H. FERGUSON
turned 90 on 7/23/2021

MSG (RET) ROBERT L. FRANTZ
turned 91 on 7/24/2021

LTC (RET) WILLIAM L. POTTS
turned 91 on 7/26/2021

SFC ROBERT C. DILLON
turned 90 on 7/30/2021

SSG LYLE P. EDWARDS
turned 92 on 8/08/2021
- COL (RET) GEORGE TUCKER JR.**
turned 94 on 8/11/2021

1SG (RET) PETER DEGAETANO
turned 90 on 8/12/2021

T-5 FRANK M. KRAUSE
turned 93 on 8/12/2021

PFC CHARLES J. MEYER
turned 93 on 8/14/2021

T-5 MICHAS M. OHNSTAD
turned 95 on 8/14/2021

CPL WILLIAM F. VORNSKAHL
turned 91 on 8/14/2021

1SG CHARLES E. EHREDT
turned 90 on 8/15/2021

PFC ROBERT R. COOK
turned 92 on 8/18/2021

LTC (RET) RICHARD ROGERS
turned 90 on 8/19/2021

T-5 ROBERT SKOLE
turned 93 on 8/23/2021

SFC (RET) DOUGLAS A. CHUBB
turned 90 on 8/25/2021

1SG LELAND E. BUD KOLBERG
turned 91 on 8/25/2021

SSG PETER MACFARLANE
turned 101 on 8/25/2021

PFC CLAUDE E. EAKINS
turned 92 on 8/26/2021

CPL MILLER L. FICKETT
turned 91 on 8/26/2021

COL JOHN B. CARTAFALSA
turned 92 on 8/30/2021

MSG (RET) BILLY F. DOWERS
turned 91 on 8/30/2021

COL JAMES L. HOLMER
turned 95 on 8/31/2021

Happy Birthday to
these young Troopers!

Thank You
Charles G. Terry, C Co 1-12 1st Air Cav, 1969
for sharing your photos with our membership!



Resupplying rations



C Co 1-12
1969



Battle Buddies



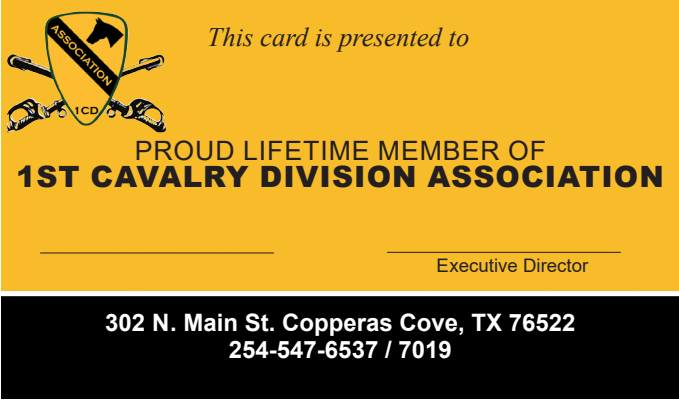
Combat Assault Tay Ninh



Wounded in Action going out



Replacement Membership Cards



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

The new cards are NOT available for Associate Members, the new cards are only available for our Life Time Members.
On the back of the card it says:
1st Cavalry Division Association is a non-political, non-profit 501(c)19 fraternity for Soldiers and Veterans currently serving or have served in 1st Cavalry Division.
The Association is a group of Soldiers and former Soldiers from Private to 4-star Generals who share a bond of service with the FIRST TEAM who are dedicated to supporting the Division and each other.

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Total Due: **\$5.00 each**

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Name: _____

Signature: _____

Phone #: _____

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

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
was formed in the Admiralty Islands
July 17, 1944
HAPPY BIRTHDAY 1CDA!
FIRST TEAM!



PURPLE HEART FACTS:

On Aug. 7, 1782, George Washington created the award (originally called the Badge of Military Merit) to give to Soldiers for any commendable action. It was only awarded to a few Soldiers during that time and forgotten about until it was reinstated on Washington's 200th birthday, Feb. 22, 1932.

Purple Heart Day was established in 2014 to honor and recognize those who have been awarded the decoration.

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration still presented to service members.

Purple Heart Day: August 7

NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR
<https://www.thepurpleheart.com>
374 Temple Hill Rd.
New Windsor, NY 12553
845-561-1765