



SABER

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



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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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



trustees, Foundation trustees meeting, and the Board of Governors. During these meetings we are updated on the activities of these committees and plans for the next year. The Board of Governors was presented with the proposed budget from the Finance and Budget Committee for 2020. The budget was approved. Thanks to all Trustees, Board of Governors members, and the members of the Finance and Budget committee for your service to the Association.

From the time the 1st Cavalry Division left Fort Bliss in 1943 until 1971 the Cav did not have a permanent home in the continental U.S. Finally, 49 years after the First Cavalry Division returned to the U.S. and a permanent home at Fort Hood, a section of Hwy 14 between Belton and Copperas Cove will be called "1st Cavalry Division Veterans Highway." The signs are up and the unveiling ceremony was March 18. A special thanks to all those who have been working on this for 20 years or more.

When I arrived in Vietnam 50 years ago, I was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division, then to the 2nd Battalion, 19th Field Artillery (105) located in Tay Ninh. From there I was sent to FSB Jamie home to 2-7 Cavalry and joined "Hard Core Bravo" 2-19. The battery Commander for B battery was CPT Mac Hennigan. He was a true leader, well liked and highly respected by the men in B 2-19 who served under him. I didn't get to know him as well as I would have liked because as an FO, I only spent a few days per month on whatever firebase was occupied by 2-7 and B 2-19. I did see him take charge of the ready reaction force when FSB Jay was attacked on March 29, 1970.

You always knew CPT Hennigan had your back. One night after a very rough day in Cambodia for A 2-7 and their FO (me) we were receiving shrapnel into our NDP from the remnants of flares being fired from a nearby firebase. It was not a firebase occupied by my battery, B 2-19. I called the B 2-19 FDC and explained the problem. The FDO then called the battalion FDC and requested that the battery firing those flares choose a different direction, one away from us. Over time several additional requests were made but the incoming continued. No one had been injured yet, but that could quickly change. Then CPT Mac got on the horn. I only heard one side of the conversation, but CPT Mac chewed someone at battalion a new one and the problem was solved in short order.

We recently lost a great man and leader. Mac K. Hennigan passed away January 20, 2020. He was 81.

Allen (TrailSpike 47)

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

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



Here we are heading into the middle of March, with the reunion happening in just 3 more months.... my how time flies.

Here are a couple of myths and/or rumors that have come across our desks here at the office:

- There are no more rooms available at the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport. However, there are 6 additional hotels in the immediate area and when I say immediate, I am referring to a short walking distance.
- There are plenty of tickets available for all events. Keep in mind, I only print off so many tickets the week before go time. If you are waiting to purchase tickets upon arrival, there will not be many available. So, give us a call if you are one of the few who only paid the registration fee.
- Yes, Churchill downs conducts night racing. The cost of a ticket to the Welcome Mixer will include admission into the racing venue. Come hungry, we have planned for a Chef's Buffet; bring cash for your purchase of adult beverages.

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HORSE DETACHMENT by 1LT Mark Butler

2020 has been eventful for the Horse Cavalry Detachment. We've hit the ground running with parades, ceremonies and now our demonstration season and Yesterday and Today presentations are starting to increase. Our our team traveled to San Antonio, TX for the Western Heritage Parade and then headed east to Houston to participate in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLSR) Parade, as well as Grand Entry for the Military Appreciation Night. While in Houston, the team also supported Houston Recruiting Command by conducting a mounted demonstration and Yesterday and Today static displays at local high schools.



HCD Western Heritage Parade, San Antonio, TX

The detachment has been able to host schools and spectators from around the area for our demonstration and barn tours held every Thursday morning. Change of command season for the 1st Cavalry Division is underway, so please come out and see a Cavalry Charge if you have some free time!

March and April once again bring us a list of events. We will be performing in several demonstrations and participating in different parades throughout the Central Texas area, so make sure you come out and support the Horse Cavalry Detachment: March 18 we participated in the 1CD Veterans Highway dedication in Belton, TX; March 28 the HCD took part in the Diamondback Jubilee in Lometa, TX; April 11 we will travel to Burnet, TX to participate in the Bluebonnet Festival; and we will be participating in the Regional Cavalry Competition held April 23-24 at Fort Concho. We are always available after events for photos opportunities and Q&A!

As always, we conduct public demonstrations at the detachment on Thursdays at 1000hrs this is the time we use to train new mounts and Troopers and invite the public to come out and enjoy the show. Feel free to call ahead and reserve some seats at (254) 287-2229. You can also find us on facebook (Horse Cavalry Detachment) where we post pictures from the barn and let you know about upcoming events and ceremonies.



The above photo is of our Horse Cavalry Detachment Troopers conducting Common Task Refresher/Sustainment Training. This session was focused on the M240B and M249 machine guns.

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR continued

If you think you registered for the reunion during the first couple of weeks of February, you did not. Our website decided to go on vacation and left us without the ability to process transactions. Give us a call at the office or go thru the website (it's safe now).

Be sure to continue to check our website at www.1CDA.org to view the list of all the Reunion Attendees (located on the right under information tab) that have registered. The list is broken down by units.

At this point in time, WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF CANCELING THE REUNION IN JUNE. Besides, according to Facebook, if you have ever drunk water out of a water buffalo, you are immune to the Coronavirus. By my calculations, that amounts to nearly ¾ of those attending. So, come on out to Louisville, Kentucky. We're going to have one heck of a GREAT time.

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

June 10-14, 2020	73rd Annual 1CDA Reunion, Louisville, KY
Nov 9-12, 2020	12th Annual Veterans Day in Washington D.C.
Feb 26-28, 2021	Board of Governors Meeting, Killeen, TX
Sept 22-26, 2021	74th Annual 1CDA Reunion, Killeen TX

(In Sept to honor Division's 100th Birthday!)

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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EXP DATE: _____ CVV: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

SIGNATURE _____

You can also renew online at www.1CDA.org
Log in>>> *Saber* Newspaper >>> *Saber* Subscriptions/Renewals

RANGER GRADUATION

“Rangers Lead The Way” The United States Army Ranger Association invites former rangers, sponsors and friends to attend the scheduled Ranger Class graduation and the “Rangers in Action Demonstration” at Fort Benning, GA, **1 May 2020**. <<https://www.benning.army.mil/infantry/ARTB/RIA.html>>. Please refer to the U.S. Army Ranger Association for membership information: <<https://www.ranger.org>> email: assistance@ranger.org or (832) 216-7141.

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302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703
Phone: (254) 547-6537 / 547-7019
Email: firstcav@1CDA.org
Website: <http://www.1CDA.org>
www.facebook.com/AlumniOfTheFirstTeam

Dara C. Wydler: Executive Director
Tina Wilgeroth: Program Director / Editor / Graphics
Karleen Maloney: Memberships / Scholarships / Chapter Director

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



Dear Editor,
My name is Marion Douglas, I'm a Bachelor of Arts Student at Mount Allison University, and this grant means a lot to me because I know that myself and so many others wouldn't be able achieve their educational goals without grants like these to help them. I think I finally have an idea of what I want to do in the future, and because of this grant I have a shot at achieving those goals. My goal is to not take it for granted and take advantage of the opportunities that have been given to me.
Thank you, Marion Douglas

I want to thank the membership of the 1st Cavalry Division for awarding me the Ia Drang Scholarship this year. I truly appreciate this scholarship in so many ways and wish to extend my thanks to the association for supporting me. To be able to receive this money is an honor and allows me the opportunity to continue my time furthering my education here at Lake Erie College. Your gift not only helps me succeed in the classroom by focusing more on my studies, and not money issues, but it also gives me the opportunity to continue my athletic career here as well! I will continue to work hard in school by making Dean's List again this semester, as I did last semester. Thank you, First Team. Josh Forsythe



Receiving the 1st Calvary Scholarship grant is not something to take lightly. In a few words, I can only describe this scholarship as a sense of pride for me. Pride that the reason I am able to receive such a blessing is through the sacrifice of some great Soldiers, including my dad. With that being said, this grant means everything to me. It is helping contribute to my future which I plan to give back to society with the success gained in my educational journey.
Thank you again for the opportunity.
Michael R. Goudeau

Did you realize that contributing to the future success of a student has many benefits that go far beyond your initial contribution?

Consider donating today...



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

You will notice and may wonder why Trooper's Tale this month is filled with compilations from only 1-8 Cav? Unfortunately, we have not received any stories from anyone lately. All these Trooper's Tale articles were pulled from the Jumping Mustang's 2020 Bugle.

Everyone has a story to tell, please consider sharing yours with your 1st Cav Division Association Family! *FIRST TEAM!*

MISSED COMMUNICATIONS, HQ 1-8 Cav 1967 by David Preece

It was November 1967 and I had only been with D 1/8th Cav for a couple of weeks. I had previously served with HQ 2-19th Artillery in the S-2 or intelligence section. In addition to working in the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) I had put our sensors, done short range patrols, and started a village sick call program. CPT Conetto knew that, but the infantrymen generally did not. I was beginning to earn the trust of the Troops, but to some I was still an outsider who became an E-5 somewhere else and just showed up.

CPT Conetto called a "Meeting of the Minds" at least once a day where he would explain to his key personnel what he would be doing that day or night and would ask for input. Most of the E-5s were not invited, but it was because my job was artillery recon sergeant. He would tell me if I was assigned to an ambush, a "killer team," or responsible for artillery fire in a certain area. This particular evening, I was assigned to be radio operator for a "killer team" which already had two E-5s that had been assigned by the platoon leader. Hillary Craig was to lead it. Hillary had an excellent reputation as a good Soldier and aggressive leader. I was just getting his respect.

After dark we left the company perimeter and went to our "killer team" box in the Bong Son Plain. This was usually an area that was a couple of kilometers on each side and since it was a night "free fire zone" we could shoot anyone between the villages, but were not to fire on or enter the villages unless we were fired on first and got clearance for artillery. We set up a hasty ambush and waited. Three VC were observed carrying weapons in the distance, but at night we couldn't reliably engage them with rifle fire. We quickly moved to another intercept position that still gave us concealment. The VC did not walk into our trap. They turned into a small village and we saw the huts where two dropped off individually. The other disappeared off to our right.

Hillary decided that the VC had come down from the hills to get supplies and maybe enjoy the pleasures of women. He felt we had the chance to kill or capture the two VC who dropped off into the huts. His plan was for three to get the first hut and two to get the second. He told me to go to the back or side door on the first hut and keep the VC from escaping. I assumed that the first hut was the one on the left because reading was left to right and also the first VC that dropped off went into the left hut. There was a small patch between some gardens between our jump off point and the huts. There was a fence of sorts that was made of branches and brambles along the side of the path. I started moving slowly and quietly down the path toward the huts. The one on the right was a little closer and I expected Pat, who was behind me, to turn off there. He didn't and occasionally gave me a push which I thought was impatience to get there and I was confused why he was still behind me. I considered stopping and discussing who should have turned off, but it didn't seem like a place to start an argument.

I eventually reached a point where I thought I should turn left to get to the hut on the left. I slowly and carefully pulled the brambles aside so I wouldn't make noise and Pat whispered, "hurry up." I slowly finished and walked up to the hut. There was no back door, but there was a large side door that was partly covered with large circular round mats with which the Vietnamese would flip rice into the air and let the chaff blow away then catch the rice much like a pizza baker. There were giggles from inside the hut as I slowly rolled the rice mat aside. Hillary dashed through the front door, the VC scrambled on his knees for an AK-47 leaning against the wall where I entered, my boot caught the VC in the head, and Hillary jumped on the VC with his Bowie knife all in a couple of seconds. The women let out a scream before she was hit with an M-16 in the face and decided to shut up.

Then there was a scream from the other hut to "stop him." I was trying to get back out the side door as Pat was trying to get in. I don't remember which one of us gave way first, but I found myself outside the hut and the VC from the other hut was running across a back garden. In the dark I couldn't see the sights, so I pointed the M-16 like a shotgun and fired one round. The VC stumbled but continued running although now a bit doubled up and uneven. When Hillary came out of the hut, he asked what happened and I told him that Pat and I messed up and neither of us had been at the back of the other hut. A VC ran out and I shot at him and thought I wounded him. Pat immediately got onto "dumb artilleryman mode, that I had moved too slow, I had gone to the wrong hut, I was in his way, I gave away our position by firing when there was no chance of hitting anyone, etc."

We walked to the garden behind the other hut and didn't find a body. We did not turn on a flashlight outside because we were basically in a "no man's land." We did find a completely covered bunker like some families had to hide from battles. It was suggested that I go in and check it out. I was handed a .45 and a flashlight. I was 6'1" and 180 pounds and going into a timbered underground bunker was not really my thing because they often had pretty narrow passageways with turns. This one promised to be no better. I entered the tunnel that tapered near the top and was probably only 3 feet high. I rounded a corner that was even tighter and found myself in a room about 8- or 9-feet square with a wooden floor. There was a wicker basket and a blanket covering something. The blanket suddenly moved, and I started tightening up on the trigger of the .45. It was two

young boys and I had almost shot them! I waited until my heart rate returned to normal and then backed out of the tunnel and reported what I had seen.

Pat was not satisfied, he told me to go back in and find any tunnels off the bunker and if there was another entrance. I did find another entrance and whistled as I came out, so I didn't get shot by mistake. Hillary didn't say anything at the time. I suspect he was just watching for my reaction and making judgements about me.

The next day the company didn't have anything to do for the battalion in the morning so CPT Cometto decided the company would go to the location of the "killer team" action the previous night and search the village carefully in the daylight. Behind the garden where I had shot at the VC there was some blood. A bit later one of the infantrymen found the body of a VC in a ditch about 78-100 yards from the garden. The weapon was gone, but he still had on web gear. He had an entrance wound on the left side and an exit wound had torn up his liver. He had apparently bled to death during the night.

A couple of the infantrymen came over and patted me on the back congratulating me for my first individual kill. I told them it wasn't the first since I had a few while I was with 2-19th Artillery. I overheard Pat mumbling about artillery being a rear area job. I told him he could claim the kill because I didn't want it. I didn't want anything off the body or any equipment. As I walked away, I thought about the pain the VC must have endured as he died. I thought about him for about 5 minutes before I started focusing on the day ahead. Unfortunately, after Vietnam I saw the VC lying in the ditch a number of times in my head.

HOT LZ, 2-1 Co D 1/8 by SSG Art Drago

Xuan Loc outside of Bien Hoa June 1969. After spending two or three weeks, chasing the NVA, Delta Company 1/8 was now ready to airlift out of the jungle. Interesting that our CO called the combat Engineers the day before to clear trees for the choppers. They used chain saws that made a lot of noise. Then again, the enemy, the NVA, knew where we were. Also, interesting that we violated one of the unspoken tenets that we move our night position to a new location every night. Still we also had to protect the new LZ for the next day. We formed a perimeter around the LZ, jungle on 3 sides with the Don Nai River to our backs. Safe enough, right? However, the NVA were out for revenge since we captured many caches of food and ammunition along the river.

That night our LPs reported movement. There was no contact all night. At daybreak, we gathered our trip flares and claymores had breakfast. We got our orders to position for the chopper extraction. First platoon went to the center of the LZ just before the choppers arrived. The Second platoon (mine) then replaced the area that the First platoon occupied. When the choppers rose up to about 6 feet off the ground all hell broke out.

Small arms fire and rockets whizzed overhead. First platoon was on the choppers, which were receiving fire. I saw a rocket go thru the open doors of a slick maybe 20 feet away from me. I believe that there were some injuries on the slicks. The sortie left. Second platoon Troopers were now caught in the middle of the LZ. Our backpacks were at our feet at the time of the first liftoff. I ducked behind my backpack for cover. Cobra gunships were called in to put down the enemy. Meanwhile we had to low crawl to safety under a base of friendly covering fire. Six of us had to abandon our backpacks in order to get away from the open LZ back to the tree line.

Gunships worked the perimeter, but command wasn't sure the NVA would be back. A plan was implemented whereby only one chopper would land at a time to remove the second and third platoons lowering the risk of losing men and machines.

The defensive perimeter began to shrink as each slick left until there were only four Soldiers remaining to provide cover. Those remaining were LT William Hunt 2nd platoon leader, myself and two other Soldiers. At this point, we moved to a location by the river for extraction. It was scary being the last four Soldiers to leave a hot LZ! Our backpacks were still in the open area of the LZ. It was too dangerous for us to retrieve them.

Finally, the last bird arrived. We had to refuel at 11 ACR Blackhorse before meeting up with the rest of the company. We were resupplied with new backpacks sleeping gear, ponchos etc. Fighter jets destroyed our equipment left behind.

MY FAULTY GRENADE A 1-8 Cav by SP4 Jerry Prater

I joined the 1st platoon of A Company late in May 1967. Approximately a week or ten days later, the platoon was on one of our, what seemed to be, daily search and destroy missions. We had been traversing through some heavy foliage, but luckily the ground was relatively flat, we weren't having to climb up and down the tall hills that were prevalent in our area of operation. Then we came to an open area that seemed to be a very lightly traveled area that was covered with foliage. The open area was approximately ten meters wide and was covered with grass or some other ground cover that was less than one foot tall. In the middle of the opening were sporadic ruts that seemed to have been created by carts traveling over the location on an infrequent basis. The area on both sides of the opening was covered with heavy foliage and LT Pape, our Platoon Leader, had one guy walking flank on each side of the clearing. I remember Robert Cerny walking flank on the left side of the formation because I could hear him grunting and groaning as he was using his machete to clear a path for him to walk.

My squad was walking point and since I was still new and inexperienced and had not yet heard any hostile gunfire, I was at the back of my squad. I was walking on the open area and my mind started wandering back to the TV series *Combat!* because it was one of my favorite shows before I was drafted. Then all of a sudden, my daydreaming came to an abrupt halt when someone came up from behind me, grabbed me by the shoulder and handed me a hand grenade! It was "Doc" Schouwburg, and he told me to be more careful with the grenades because he was "short," he had less than 60 days left in the field, and he didn't want to be killed by someone who was careless with his grenades.

I took the grenade from "Doc" and noticed that the body of the grenade had unscrewed and fallen on the ground, and the lug, clip, lever, powder train, and detonator were still attached to the ammo pouch on my ammo belt. I was very surprised that the body of the grenade could get separated, and I was very concerned that the grenade would explode while it was still attached to the ammo belt and kill me and anyone else who was within five meters of me. The cumulative effect of all the times the recycled grenade had been bumped, hit, snagged,

Continued to pg. 5

LRRP/Ranger News



Ken White
3834 Inverness Road
Fairfax, VA 22033
(703) 989-7630
KenWhite68@yahoo.com

Hello from the nation's capital. The story of MG George Casey's helicopter crash and recovery process in the Jan-Feb issue of the *Saber* generated more emails than I usually receive in response to

a story. Thank you for your interest. What I didn't mention in the story was that I had visited the National Archives in College Park, Maryland on two separate occasions before submitting the story to the *Saber* staff. I was attempting to learn the location of the crash and verify the date. However, I was unable to find anything on it in the 1st Cav's daily journals or in the after-action reports for the brigades, or in MACV's report on aviation accidents. The 1st Cav kept things quiet until they had located the crash site and confirmed the deaths of the crew and passengers and notified their families. Even afterwards, there was little information made available beyond what was already known.

One of the emails I received was from a Gold Star family member, **Ron McKiddy** from Miamisburg, Ohio. Ron's brother, SGT Gary L. McKiddy, served in C Trp, 1-9 Cav and died in a helicopter crash on May 6, 1970, along the South Vietnam/Cambodian border. In his email, Ron mentioned that MG Casey's crash was described in the book *Snake Pilot, Flying the Cobra Attack Helicopter in Vietnam*, by Randy R. Zahn. In the book, Mr. Zahn noted that it took two days of searching to find MG Casey's crash site, July 7-8, and that it was actually the pilot of a slick ship who spotted what he thought might be the crash and called it in. An aerial reconnaissance team from C Trp, 1-9 Cav, was dispatched to the site and was able to confirm the tail number of the wreckage as matching that of MG Casey's helicopter (tail number 69-15138). He also went on to say: "It was still visible on the vertical stabilizer, the only part of the aircraft that was not burned. It was obvious what had happened, considering the weather on the day. MG Casey's helicopter flew straight into the side of a mountain ridge only 45 feet below the crest." Once the crash site was confirmed, LTC Steve Carrier III (Ret), then a captain, commander of the LRRP/Ranger unit, and three of his 6-man LRRP/Ranger teams were transported to the crash site in three separate Huey helicopters where they repelled down ropes to the ground and secured the site for follow-on mortuary specialists.

The story of the helicopter crash of Ron McKiddy's brother, SGT Gary L. McKiddy, is also an interesting story. It is described in detail at the following website: <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14021190/gary-lee-mckiddy>>.

On a different note, I recently had the opportunity to talk with **Pat Lyons (1968)**, Muldoon, Texas, about the **May 7, 1968 mission** of LRRP Team One-Zulu where he was the assistant team leader. SGT Bob Whitten (KIA), Fort Myers, Florida, and SP4 Gerald (Red) McConnel, Jr. (KIA), Moses Lake, Washington, died on that mission, along with four members of a ready-reaction force from B Co 4th Bn 31st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade. A summary of the mission is provided below based upon my telephone conversation with Pat, and on information posted on the VVMF website, and finally, on information provided in the After Action Report of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Operation Delaware, dated April 18 – May 14, 1968.

LRRP Team One-Zulu operated out of Camp Evans, the base camp of the 1st Cav, in Thua Thien Province, in northern South Vietnam. Its mission was to monitor and report on the movement of North Vietnamese Army units in the vicinity of Bai Cay Tat Mountain, nine kilometers south of Camp Evans, and 20 kilometers directly west of Hue. The 1st Cav had been battling the North Vietnamese in that area in recent weeks and three LRRP teams were deployed into the area. LRRP Team One-Zulu was inserted onto the mountain at last light on the evening of May 7th.

Most of the LRRP teams that operated out of Camp Evans had just returned to base camp from Signal Hill in the A Shau Valley where as a general infantry platoon, they established and operated a radio relay station on a 5,000 foot high mountain ridge on the eastern side of the valley, five kilometers north of the abandoned airfield at A Loui. There they supported radio communications for the 1st Cav units that were attacking the enemy soldiers on the valley floor. The North Vietnamese were using the valley as a staging area for their attacks against the coastal cities in northern South Vietnam, including Quang Tri, Hue, and DaNang.

CPT Gooding, commander of the LRRP unit, called SGT Whitten and Pat to the LRRP command center and told them that he was forming a new LRRP team, Team One-Zulu, with SGT Whitten as the team leader and Pat as the assistant team leader, with Randy Kimes, RTO; Red McConnel, Jr., medic; Al Voelkel, point man; and, Bob Teagle, rear scout.

After receiving the order from CPT Gooding, SGT Whitten and Pat boarded the unit's command & control helicopter and headed to Bai Cay Tat Mountain for an over-flight of the AO where they would be operating. They observed a saddle on the ridge of the mountain that looked like it would be an ideal defensive position for any enemy soldiers who were in the area. SGT Whitten and Pat selected a landing zone on the northwestern side of the mountain, not too far from the saddle, where the team would be inserted. Then they headed back to Camp Evans to brief CPT Gooding and the other members of the team on what they had observed and on their selection of the landing zone.

Team One-Zulu was inserted onto Bai Cay Tat Mountain at dusk with no enemy contact. They immediately moved off the landing zone and continued moving along the ridge for several hundred meters before they halted and waited to make sure there was no enemy activity in the area. Then they proceeded to move into the jungle, a very thick jungle, where they spent an uneventful night.

The next morning, the team moved along the ridge in the direction of the saddle that SGT Whitten and Pat had spotted on the over-flight. When they came to the edge of a clearing just before the saddle, they stopped and SP4 Kimes attempted to call-in a commo check but found that his PRC-25 radio was dead. He quickly changed the battery in it but still had no signal. Pat was carrying the team's back-up radio so he called-in the commo check.

While the team was calling in the commo check, SGT Whitten and Pat knew immediately that the team needed to move away from the clearing into a tree line that offered some protection. It had gotten too quiet. The team moved down a steep hillside towards a tree line that was about 75 meters below the ridge. As the team approached the tree line, the intense silence was broken by the sound of enemy small arms fire coming from the ridge. Several shots hit SP4 McConnel, who was about ten feet behind Pat and still in the open. Pat was already in the

tree line. Pat emptied several magazine clips in the direction of the enemy fire and threw a grenade towards the enemy position.

Pat immediately got on the radio and called in the situation. "We need medevac, air cover, and possible extraction!" SGT Whitten and the other members of the team pulled SP4 McConnel out of the open area and into the tree line. Shortly afterwards, a medevac helicopter arrived over Pat's position but it came under intense enemy ground fire from enemy soldiers in the saddle and was forced to leave the area, but not before a crew member on the medevac threw out a stretcher to Pat, all the while, the team members were directing covering fire at the ridge. Pat said, "Suddenly, there was a very loud explosion and I felt pain in my right arm and right thigh. I saw my fatigues turning red with blood. I fired two clips in the direction of the saddle and threw a grenade in the direction of it too. I got back on the radio again, but I felt something warm on my hand. Blood was dripping on the handset from a wound on my head."

SGT Whitten returned to Pat's position from inside the tree line, and asked Pat if he had called in the situation and requested a medevac. Pat answered in the affirmative and told him that the medevac had already arrived, and a crew



SGT Robert Whitten (KIA) at Camp Evans, March 1968

member had been hit when he threw out a stretcher to him. Pat also told him that a gunship was on the way to their position and that he was getting ready to pop smoke to mark their position. SGT Whitten said that he wanted to use a strobe light instead.

Pat said "I was talking to the pilot of the gunship to identify the strobe light when SGT Whitten moved around me to a better position. He turned on the strobe and with each flash of the light, was shot by an enemy sniper. I knocked the light from his hand and pulled him next to me. I tried to stop the bleeding, but it was too late."

The helicopter gunship arrived overhead and made two runs at the enemy soldiers in the saddle. On the first run, the bullets from the helicopter's mini guns hit the tree above Pat's head and bounced him up into the air. Pat said: "I saw and felt warm blood all over me – on my foot and leg, and on both my upper and lower back. Then the pilot came back on the radio and with great hesitation in his voice, asked me if I was alright. I told him I was still alive, and I asked him to make another run. He told me that he now knew where I was, and he would make the adjustment. He came back around with his helicopter and fired again at the saddle while the enemy soldiers were shooting back at him. Then everything went quiet. SGT Whitten had passed away next to me and I heard nothing from the rest of the team in the tree line. I thought I was the only one still alive."

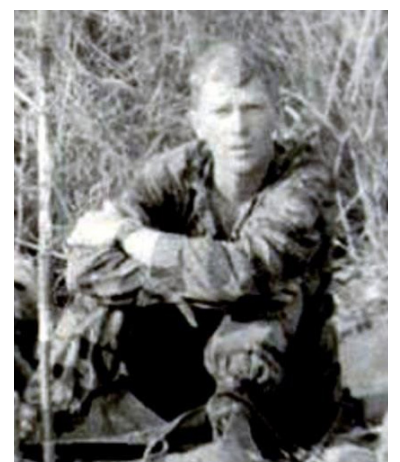
At 1234 hours, a ready-reaction force, the 2nd Plt, B Co 4th Bn, 31st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, landed about 200 meters to the northwest of where Pat and the team were located. When they attempted to move overland to link up with the team, they came under intense automatic weapons fire from the enemy soldiers on the ridge. Six members of the platoon were badly wounded, and four of them: CPL Jimmy R. Brown, Cleburne, Texas; CPL Terrence A. Kandler, Torrance, California; PFC Russell W. Jarick, Los Angeles, California; and, CPL Jimmy R. Wheless, San Angelo, Texas; would succumb to their wounds on that hillside.

On the telephone call with Pat, he noted that the medevac was unable to return to the hillside to pick up the wounded men because of the intense enemy fire that it had received earlier that morning. He learned of this from a recording of the helicopter's radio transmissions after the records from the Vietnam War were unsealed. Three helicopter gunships from the 1st Cav, however, did arrive above the hillside and expended their loads into the ridge and saddle where the enemy soldiers were located.

Continuous illumination over the hillside was provided during the night by USAF flare ships, and the members of the 2nd Plt were eventually able to move overland toward the team's position. Helicopter gunships from the 2nd Bn, 20th Artillery (ARA) and 1-9 Cav provided support throughout the night to assist the platoon. At one point, a Soldier from the ready-reaction force crawled on his belly through the jungle underbrush in the darkness to reach Pat's position at the edge of the tree line and said that he was going to take him down the hill to where the rest of his platoon was located. But when he started to move Pat, the enemy soldiers on the ridge opened on them with intense automatic weapons and small arms fire and drove him back down the hillside. Sometime later the night, or in the early morning hours, another Soldier from the ready-reaction force crawled up the hill to Pat's position and told him that he would take him to the platoon area. Pat said on the call: "He could not find a place on my body to pick me up that was not wounded, so he finally grabbed my good arm and dragged me down the hill to the platoon area. Somewhere along the way, I passed out and he was forced to pick me up and carry me the rest of the way with enemy gun fire all around us. The Soldier's name was Eddie Kent. He lives in Georgia. He weighed 138 pounds, I weighed 225 pounds."

At first light on May 9th, Pat was medevaced off that hillside to a field evacuation hospital at Camp Evans, and then to one at Da Nang, and finally to Tripler Army Medical Hospital in Hawaii. He eventually wound up at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. By the way, Eddie Kent got in touch with Pat years after Vietnam and the two of them have stayed in contact. In 2018 on the way home from the 1st Cav Reunion in Charleston, West Virginia, Pat and his wife, Anita, stopped in Georgia to visit Eddie.

Continued to pg. 18



SP4 Gerald W. McConnel (KIA)



5th CAV News

Harold P. "Doc" Truitt
4584 50th St W
Rosamond, CA 93560
661-810-5971
rr3-6bandaid@antelecom.net



Times Change (Don't they?)

I read some history. Maybe more than a little, and going back through the books, articles and letters of people who went before us suggests to me that Troops in the past frequently knew their commanders in some detail and while not usually in a personal way, they held these men in some regard.

The war I was involved in was, in many ways a sort of anomaly which was caused, I believe, by the way Troops came and went on assignment to their units. I had only one occasion to observe and speak to one battalion commander, though I believe I served under three. I never directly or indirectly spoke to or observed a sergeant major or any officer senior to those in my battalion. There was no doubt who I spoke to on the occasion mentioned above, but I never knew the man's name, though it was apparent that he was very brave, and he cared what was happening to his Troops as well as what was going on in the developing situation.

In the armed forces, particularly the Army, up to the first world war transportation was of course much different than it is now, and commanders did not just hop onto a helicopter and arrive or leave. Prior to and for some time after the civil war, a commander was never very far from his Troops. This led to the Troops observing and having greater understanding of who the individual was.

My guess is that nearly all commanders from George Washington to the present have cared about their Troops, and no man who didn't care about the state of his unit would be likely to be in such a command position. Still there would naturally be differences, and these would be both personal and professional since all men are not (except under the Constitution) created equal. But why talk about that here?


In our country the relation of an individual to the military has frequently been complicated, and certainly not constant. Except for a person born to a military family or at least a family oriented in that way, it might be easy to misunderstand some detail of the job an individual finds themselves in. I'm sure the training regimen is intended to address this issue, and would believe on most levels it in fact, does so. Alright, why does it make sense to the writer to readdress the issue here?

We of the 1st Cav, are a family and concerned with the health and wellbeing of our members. Reams of script have been written about the mental health of a war fighter after one returns from war. I spoke a little about why we need each other in the last column, and the intent was then, and is now the same. That is to encourage discussion about what allows us to understand what we do and be at peace with ourselves and others. There is no part of me that believes I have the

answer in full to this and I'm quite comfortable with the possibility that I might have far less than I believe I do. Hence my desire to see and hear an ongoing discussion. Having said that, my personal observations lead me to believe, that the more thoroughly we understand the job and our roll in it, the better our chance of being at peace with ourselves.

Understanding our leaders as well as we can, and what the job they have involves, is a part of that. From COL's Johnston and Lee through to this very day, the 5th Cav for whatever reason, has seemed to attract some exceptional commanders. George Patton is an example. Most of these men had a good idea of who those preceding them were, and nobody would want to find themselves in such company and not be up to the job. We can be confident and proud of our commanders. Here's to hoping that understanding this can add to our sense of purpose and allow us to know and understand our own responsibilities and have fewer of the doubts that can cause us to be ill at ease with our lives as Soldiers when some of the hard moments have passed.

Time has given us huge improvements in travel and communication. There are no longer any Troops that have not volunteered. Units today go out and return as units so that we can have a much better sense of that which we are part of. Support such as food, medical, and other needs are much improved. (OK, a Trooper can take issue with the food on occasion. Even though it has indeed improved quite a lot.) There are many things of which we can be justified in taking great pride. Let's remain in this together. Speak to each other about our units and our jobs as appropriate. Encourage each other and be well. And wherever possible, do those things that we can, to encourage and lift those who need a smile or other gesture of support.



Rest in Peace, James DuBois

It is with a sad heart that I pass along the news of the passing to rest of our brother SP-4 James DuBois on December 22, 2019. Until recently James and his wife Nellie were always found at reunions of the Association and the 1st Cavalry. James served as President of the 5th Cav Association, Chairman of the Association Board of Directors, Member of the Board, and finally Chaplain. He served with C 1-5 as part of the advance party that left Ft. Benning for Viet Nam in August of 1965 and later participated in operations in the Ia Drang Valley. James was a calm and steady member of the Association who will be missed and remembered with great pride.



AIR FORCE NAVY ARMY

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

National Medal of Honor Day on **March 25** is dedicated to all Medal of Honor recipients. It was on March 25, 1863, when the first Medals of Honor were presented. Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton presented Medals of Honor (Army) to six members of the "Great Locomotive Chase" or "Andrews Raiders" for their volunteering and participation during an American Civil War raid on April 12, 1862.

Created in 1861, the Medal of Honor is the United States of America's highest military honor. It is awarded only to U.S. military personnel, by the President of the United States in the name of Congress, for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty.

There are three versions of the Medal of Honor: one for the Army, one for the Navy and one for the Air Force, with personnel of the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard receiving the Navy version.

Since its creation, there have been 3,468 Medals of Honor awarded to the country's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.

<<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-medal-of-honor-day-march-25/>>

TROOPER'S TALE

Continued from pg. 3

dragged and made contact with the ground, trees, foliage, and other objects had caused the body to become slightly loosened from the fuse assembly. I screwed the two parts together as tightly as possible to make certain that they would not come loose again.

Unfortunately, I didn't get it tight enough. A couple or three days later, as we were on another search and destroy mission, someone grabbed me by the shoulder, pulled me around and handed the body of the grenade to me again. This time it wasn't one of grunts who picked up the fallen grenade. Instead, it was LT Pape, our platoon leader, who was not known for his tactful way of communicating when he was upset about something. He had several choice words for me, and I was determined that I would never have a problem with that grenade again. I once again tightened the body of the grenade as tightly as my hands could manage.

A day or two after the second incident we were on another search and destroy mission. We stopped to take a break and, as we were cooling down from the heat and humidity, we heard movement in the bushes to our left. I took advantage of that opportunity and threw the bad grenade in the area of the movement. After it exploded, I didn't know if I had killed or wounded an enemy soldier or some animal, or if I broke some branches off a tree, or if I just made a small hole in the ground. All I knew was that I was very relieved to get rid of the grenade that had unscrewed and fallen to the ground twice within a two- or three-day period. I never had an issue with a faulty grenade after that.

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Exclusive to the children & grandchildren of the Veterans who were involved in the battles of the Ia Drang Valley during 3-19 Nov 1965.

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

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

12th CAV News



Thomas Lon Crabtree
195 Buzz Street # 18
Branson, MO 65616
432-853-4851
MMCTLC3@aol.com
www.12thCav.US



GREETINGS ALL! 12th Cavalry Association Members say-WELCOME HOME-to our 3ABCT Troopers just returned from Mission in South Korea. Buzz here at the home front is...MISSION ACCOMPLISHED... in true First Team-First Cavalry 'Esprit de Corps' and under the 12th Cavalry 'rallying cry' SEMPER PARATUS! Hope all are well, reunited with their families, and enjoying some rest and retrofit to see in the spring weather. Perhaps, we will see some of you all at the 73rd 1st Cavalry Division Reunion in Louisville, KY, 10-14 June 2020.

On or about 21 February, received a call from **Marian Jeter**, Scott Jeter's wife. Marian informed me that she was not in the Army, never in Vietnam, is not a member of the Association, and did not write the story 'Thirteen Tons of Rice' that appeared in Jan-Feb *Saber* issue. She suggested that I correct this, I told her I would do so...Scott Jeter, D Co, 2D-12th (Stacked Deck) 1968-69 was the author of 'Thirteen Tons of Rice.'

I credited it to Marian based on the email address it was sent from. Scott and I had a good laugh over this, and I thanked Marian for the 'heads up' as I often get these from my own wife Maggie, HA! Looking for some more stories from Scott and will get it right next time. However, I have to say that...Marian...You are a member of the association by virtue as Scott's wife.

21 February 1968 was a significant date in the life of 2d-12th Cavalry Troopers day the fourth and final attack on Hue City occurred and the day David D. Dentinger, A Co, 2d-12th, was awarded the DSC along with the "Million Dollar Wound." His citation reads:



David dentinger 1968

For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam: Specialist Four Dentinger distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 21 February 1968 while leading a squad against four heavily fortified North Vietnamese Army bunkers near the city of Hue. Two of the positions were successfully destroyed, but the remaining fortifications continued to pour an intense volume of fire on Specialist Dentinger and his men. He and another Soldier advanced to the cover afforded by a partially destroyed house to come within close range of the enemy. When his comrade attempted to throw a white phosphorous grenade through a window in the building at the communists' positions, he was severely wounded by sniper fire and fell senseless to the floor. The armed grenade landed beside him. Unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his own life, Specialist Dentinger dove toward the live grenade. Grasping it in his hand, he rolled over to an opening in the wall and threw

the deadly missile toward the bunkers. As he released the grenade it detonated, critically burning him. His quick action, however, caused the primary force of the explosion to be outside the building, and his wounded comrade was not harmed by the blast. Specialist Four Dentinger's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Paraphrasing David's words from his story on our web site... After the initial shock one to two minutes I was able to assess the situation. My left hand, arm, and leg from my belt to the top of my boot took most of the blast. Staring at my hand or what was left of it, it was like looking at someone else's body...there were splatter burns on other parts of my body that would have been terrible under any other circumstances, but they were minor in this case. A dose of morphine eased the pain and gave me a peaceful euphoric feeling. As Doc Wright and Doc Jones treated me, I thought to myself... if these guys can keep me alive and get me out of here, I don't think I'll be back...I am going back to the world! WELCOME HOME David Dulin Dentinger and SALUTE!



David Dentinger 2006

If you have not visited our website, I encourage all to do so. David has written several short stories and essays about his Vietnam experiences. Follow his story from the day he was wounded through his recovery and rehab process in October 1969. Note the story in FM 3-06, Urban Operations, Chapter 7, Headquarters Department of the Army, Washington D.C., 26 October 2006. A complete and precise report of the Battle for Hue City 4 February-21 February 1968, now being used and taught in Infantry Schools. Visit the site <www.12thcav.us>.

FIDDLERS GREEN

20 January-20 February 2020, our Association Membership has dwindled. Three of our early Vietnam Troopers, who served August 1965 thru September 1967 departed to Fiddlers Green:

Jerry Dale Ketcher of Tahlequah, OK, B Co, 1st Bn 12th Cavalry, Dec 1965-Dec 1966. Jerry was laid to rest 30 January 2020 at Ft Gibson, OK. Jerry served his community well in several capacities with the Indian Health Services and as a Deacon in Calvary Indian Baptist Church. Jerry and his loving wife Lenora were loyal and devoted to the Cherokee Nation Community of Tahlequah/Welling, OK. As annual attendees at the 12th Cavalry Reunion in Branson, MO, their presence brought an upbeat aura to the gathering. They will be missed!

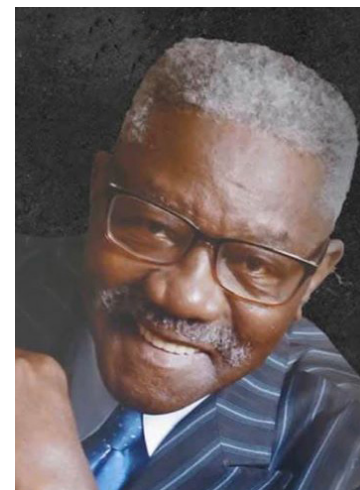


Grady Reed Jr., 1965

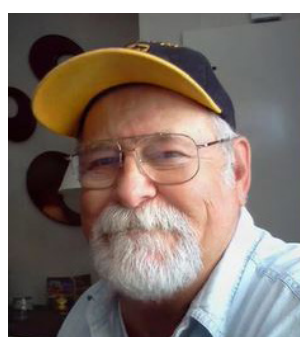
Grady Reed, Jr. of Columbus, GA, C Co, 1st Bn (Airborne) 12th Cavalry, Aug 1965-Aug 1966. Entered service at age 17, initially served with 4th-12th Cavalry, 5th Infantry Division. He attended Airborne School then became a Trooper of 1-12th Cavalry, departing with 1st Brigade from Savannah, GA Aug 1965.

Retiring after 20 years' service he became a Correctional Officer at Jack T. Rutledge Corrections Facility, Columbus, GA. He was a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Free Masonry Hezekiah Lodge 726. A devoted husband, father and grandfather, Grady was true to the 12th Cavalry motto 'ALWAYS READY' throughout a well lived life. ALL THE WAY BROTHER!

Deacon James E. "Point Man" Abram of Philadelphia, PA, C Co, 1st Bn (Airborne) 12th Cavalry, Sep 1966-Sep 1967. Brother James was recruited from an Ammo Supply Unit in Qui Nhon, Sep 1966. Reluctantly, he accepted his reassignment to 1-12th as an Infantryman to be trained under the tutelage of Delbert O. Jennings, MOH Dec 1966 LZ Bird. James became one of the best at walking point and continued to use the lessons and wisdom gained from the Highlands and Plains in his civilian endeavors. He was founder and president of Pointman/Soldier's Heart Ministry. James helped many Veterans through dark times and guided them through the hectic 'paperwork jungles' of the VA Process. A 'BOOT to BOOT' Salute to one of the 12th Cavalry's best! Fiddlers Green is better, we are less. See you when we get there, Deacon.



Carl David White of Pine Mountain, GA, passed away Feb 19, 2020. David



was in HHC 2-12 Cav (Airmobile), 1969-1970. Following his tours of duty in the Army, he began work as a police officer for the Los Angeles, CA Police Department. Upon returning to his hometown of Pine Mountain, he went to work for the Pine Mountain Police Department, where he later retired after 35 years' service, including 27 years serving as the Chief. During his tenure, he was recognized first as being the youngest Police Chief in the state of Georgia, and upon his retirement, he was the longest serving Chief. David and his loving wife, Patricia of 33 years, had 5 children, 11 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. We will miss you brother!



Time to "get outta this place" for this round. Final note, received notice from Division Association that there are no more rooms available at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. If your plans have changed and you can no longer make the reunion, please call the hotel at 502-367-2251 to cancel your reservations to make room for others. Please get your registration in NLT May 18th. After this time the registration fee will double to \$40.00.

For those who receive the 12th Cavalry Crossed Sabers Newsletter, Branson Reunion details will be in it with an overview of progress being made with the BOOT to BOOT Documentary.

CRABTREE OUT! SEMPER PARATUS



1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

Terry A. McCarl
1122 Main St, Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-3150
terryamccarl@gmail.com



I am very honored to have been appointed to the position of 1CDA Historian! I served in Vietnam with Headquarters and Support Company (HSC) 15th Medical BN, 1st Cavalry Division from December 1968-November 1969 as a 1LT, Medical Service Corps. I was stationed at Phuoc Vinh for my entire tour but traveled throughout the 1st Cav Area of Operations.

When I arrived at 90th Replacement BN on Thanksgiving Day 1968, I had no idea where I was going. We were told to check the bulletin board several times per day to see when our orders were posted. After a couple of days, my orders were posted. I read, "1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)." Before going to Vietnam, I had not paid much attention to what Army Divisions were there.

I asked the guy next to me if he could tell me anything about the 1st Cavalry Division. He looked like maybe he had already served at least one tour in Vietnam. He replied, "All I know is that the Cav is the division that they send in when no other division can get the job done. They live and fight in the most filthy, dangerous, and primitive conditions!"

What he said turned out to be true, but in my entire career, I never worked with more courageous, dedicated, and admirable people. FIRST TEAM!

I will be writing a column for each issue of *Saber*. If anyone has questions of a historical nature, please feel free to contact me (email preferred). You will find my contact information above.

7th CAV News



Karl Swenson
3526 E Park Ln
Bloomington, IN 47408
(812) 345-4055
kswenson1@wgu.edu



Greetings to all the 7th US Cavalry members! By the time you read this, our reunion in Louisville will be just a little over two months away. I'm looking forward to seeing you there, to renew old friendships and to establish some new ones. I can guarantee you that somewhere in this paper you will find information about the reunion. I hope you have made your reservations...

We have a couple of items of business to take care of before then, so bear with me as we get those off our plate. **A reminder from US 7th Cavalry Association President John Guillory** that association officer elections will take place during the association luncheon to be held on Saturday, June 13th. Each association member in attendance will be provided with a paper ballot listing the names of nominees. There will be NO nominations from the floor for this election so if you have a desire to serve contact John and let him know not later than 30 April 2020. If you wish to nominate someone else, please make sure you have that person's permission to put the name on the ballot. All officer positions are up for election. Again, the cutoff date for nominations is 30 April 2020. John can be reached via email at <manhunter6869@yahoo.com>.

And from President Emeritus Bob Anderson: As your old scribe, I know the pressure of turning stories into a column and urge the newer generation of warriors to both join the 7th Cav Association AND to send him your stories. With that in mind, I thought I would offer an update regarding the Orders Project that the late Jim Brigham and I have been working on for several years. When I was your secretary, I received many hundreds of orders from hundreds of prospective new members as their proof of service with the various units of the 7th Cavalry. We required proof of service officially at the Fayetteville Reunion in 2000, because a couple of folks wormed their way into high positions within both associations and weren't really who they said they were. A few years ago, I started to organize these various documents into a sortable database of names, ranks, companies, medals, assignments and dates until getting burned out with the tediousness of data entry. I had no idea what the scope of this project would entail but I was convinced that when it was completed, it would contain the most comprehensive list of Sky Troopers who served with the 1st, 2nd and 5th Battalions of the 7th Cavalry in Vietnam. As of March 1st, the database now contains over 12,000 entries and over 700 sets of orders, with more being added literally every day. When completed, I plan to turn over these files to Texas Tech, for their Vietnam History Library Collection. There are Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star recipients as well as hundreds of Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipients. Combat Infantryman Badge and Combat Medic Badge recipients, as well as R&R orders. After several visits to the National Archives in Washington, DC, one thing that they DO NOT catalog are special and unit orders. Special orders contain CIB and CMB recipients and unit orders contains items like promotion lists with each set generating more names. I could still utilize more orders. Finally, as 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of the Cambodian Incursion, there will be a luncheon during the Louisville reunion. 150 Sky Troopers paid the ultimate sacrifice during this 'official' cross border effort to destroy those sanctuaries. I hope to see you in Louisville.



Jack Parente, 1969

it was really hot, and when it was... well, even hotter. *"It don't mean nothin'."* We said it a lot.

We said it because we thought it made us sound tough, we said it to keep from crying, and we said it because we feared it might be true.

We said it when we stopped moving and the bloodsucking insects attacked in swarms, and our faces swelled and our hands swelled, and our lips swelled, and our ears swelled and we thought about getting malaria, and we thought about how good it would be because you got out of the boonies if you got malaria, unless you died from it. Then, it wasn't so good. Dying from malaria sucked... but the prospect of staying inside the wire, sleeping on a cot, off the ground, under a dry tent at the hospital, with hot chow, clean sheets, and nobody shooting at you made the risk of a slow agonizing death from a deadly tropical illness seem totally worth it. How bad could it be? We were kids. What did we know? There it is man. Go for it. *It don't mean nothin'.*

We ditched the big orange pills, but we took the little white ones, the *Daily Dailies*. Those were for the other kind of malaria, the bad kind. Skipping the white pills didn't improve the odds.

Sometimes crazy scams like that sounded like they made sense, especially when fatigue really set in. The field got old quick. You start to think, what the hell. Do it. Bet the pot. Maybe you win. Maybe not. Pull the trigger. Take the shot. Do what you gotta do. Anything's better than this crap. Go for it. Can't get worse. What are they gonna do? Send you to 'Nam?

But you don't. You don't do it. You can't. Something just don't feel right.

A friend of mine – no, a true brother of mine – has spent a portion of the past half-century writing about some of our exploits in Vietnam. He wrote a piece based on that phrase we all used, "Don't mean nothin'" His name is Jack "Boz" Parente. Boz continues to write because for him it is cathartic. I read what he has written because for me it is cathartic. For both of us it allows us to keep the demons away for a little longer. He calls this the Song of the PFC: We said it every miserable day of our miserable lives. It became our mantra. We said it in all kinds of situations for all sorts of reasons, and we said it a great deal, most often when we were miserable, which was pretty damn often, truth be told. We said it when it rained, and when it didn't rain, and when

So, shut up and saddle up, Troop. Your night on LP, your turn on point, but *it don't mean nothin'.*

We said it when dried sweat left white streaks of salt on our ragged fatigues... the ones we wore until our rep could get us clean ones, sometimes five or six days between clean clothes. Sometimes longer. Last stop for those old, shabby, hand-me-down, faded green GI fatigues with some other guy's nametag sewn across the pocket. No tiger-stripe camo for us. Just the old worn-out used-up crap. Torn and ragged after one day in the bush. Disintegrating in four. Caked with a mixture of mud, sweat, bug juice, and gun lube. Sometimes stained with red-brown blotches from crushed blood-swollen leeches the size of ripe grapes, popped red and wet and puffed up with our blood as we twisted and turned, wrapped up in our poncho liners on the jungle floor in our quasi-sleep between shifts on guard. Wake up before first light a quart low, but it don't mean nothin', right?

We said it when a sapper launched a thirty-pound satchel charge over the wire destroying a bunker, killing everyone inside, and burying what little remained of the remains under tons of PSP and sandbags... *but it don't mean nothin'?* Sure, we said it... but we didn't mean it. Not that way. Not that time. Not those times.

We said it when they wouldn't take us off Hill 54. "It don't mean nothin'." We said it, but it was a lie. More than anything, we wanted to get off that hilltop. It was an evil place. It reeked of death. There were about twenty of us left from Echo. We won the battle, but it was a costly victory. We were burned out. Used up. Now they *had* to pull us back.

But they didn't. They kept us on that hill for another ten days with C Co plugging the holes in our line. Ten days can be a lifetime... but it don't mean nothin'. We said it... but again, we didn't mean it. Hell no, we didn't mean it. We were trying to bluff our way through, trying to cover the hurt. We never spoke of Hill 54 afterwards. It never became a war story. It was too sad.

Just a few memories of the old days. Strange days they were back then, brothers. We all have our own war stories. Memories both good and bad. I've learned a lot since then. I know it doesn't pay to dwell on the bad times or walk on the dark side. I don't do that anymore. That's not what it's all about. It's about putting those negative memories to a positive use and making them work to your advantage for a change. Sometimes remembering the friends we lost and the hard times back then - back when our world was very different - can serve a dual purpose. It keeps the memory of our brothers alive, and it helps keep today's little day-to-day surprises in proper rank and file. Just a thought. It works for me.

The Fort Hood Sentinel carried the following story, written by SSG Christopher Hammond, about ongoing training. It's a different Army, boys. Contact, 12 o'clock! With eyes on the objective Ironhorse Troopers begin to fire rounds at the enemy. Once the dust settled, tanks and Bradleys maneuver to provide better coverage for the Troopers on the ground, the radios begin to transmit.

"We have eyes on the objective, break. Three enemy down, break. Requesting confirmation on call for fire. How copy, over?"

With the Thunderhorse Battalion providing the support by fire, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, and 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, known as Stallion and Garryowen respectively, maneuvered to assault the opposing force head on.

"Garryowen has rapid and forceful reconnaissance to our position on the screen line which enables follow-on elements in the Ironhorse to assault through the objectives," CPT Brandon Eans, Garryowen fire support officer, said. "Ironhorse moves as one. Our lethality comes from our communication with our sister battalions and brigade to move and execute across the battlefield." The lethality, readiness and firepower of the entire 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team was tested during the 1st Cavalry Division level training event, Pegasus Forge V.

"The synchronization across the brigade and division is our biggest takeaway from Pegasus Forge," CSM Raul Sierra, 2-5 Cav Regt, said. "The coordination and communication of various capabilities from air support, tanks, Bradleys, heavy artillery and logistics; utilizing and getting those platforms to the lowest warfighting element was really on display during Pegasus Forge."

With UH-60 Black Hawks flying above, tanks and Bradleys positioning themselves on the ground, the infantrymen of the Ironhorse Brigade can maneuver themselves against the enemy without being seen or heard. "We did the best to hold off the OPFOR with everything that we had and maintain fire superiority even in austere conditions," Lancer infantryman SPC Alexander Godard said.

The conditions throughout the ranges on Fort Hood made this Pegasus Forge a dirty one. "The weather set the stage for our Troopers," COL Michael Schoenfeldt, Ironhorse commander, said.

The rain poured in for more than half the time Ironhorse Troopers took to the field. Once it stopped, the rain only left mountains of mud, thick enough to pose a threat to the Troopers maneuvering on the ground and even the mobility of Ironhorse's heavy track-wheeled vehicles.

"The lethality of our Troopers is not tested when the weather is perfect," Schoenfeldt said regarding the austere weather conditions the Troopers faced during Pegasus Forge. "When the rain sets in and makes the

ground impossible to navigate through, when the cold pierces through a Trooper's cold weather gear and that Trooper still brings aggression and lethality to the enemy is when our Troopers are most deadly and what makes the Ironhorse Brigade the combat power house it is," Schoenfeldt added.

Pegasus Forge is just the tip of the iceberg as the Ironhorse Brigade looks further down the road to their National Training Center rotation this spring and their readiness whenever the country needs them. "Looking at NTC and beyond, whether it's a training exercise or real combat/war situation, we're clearly ready to take that challenge head-on," Lancer Battalion Training Officer 2LT Mark Wheeler, said. Pegasus Forge definitely showed us our strengths and weaknesses and how we need to communicate and maneuver to become better."

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8th CAV News



James "Top Gun" Dotson
P.O. Box 684
Murray, KY 42071
270-978-1075
airmobile68@gmail.com
www.8Cavalry.org



Troopers,

Another winter has come and gone. I like spring, it's my favorite season. The air gets fresher and it is a joy to get up and know we've made it to a new day, that great feeling of a new beginning.

We just spent a few weeks in Key West, Florida with 3 other couples. Good weather, good food and being with good friends. Doing nothing except sitting around on the beach. We stayed in some old enlisted men's condos on a Naval Air Base, Trumbo Point. They are by no means new, but are clean, comfortable and very inexpensive... especially by Key West standards, \$140 a night, includes 3 bedrooms, living room, fully equipped kitchen & linens. Retired military and 100% disabled Veterans qualify. You must book in advance, so if interested call 305-293-5001 for more information.

I run into so many Cav Vets all over the country and it's always a joy meeting new people. Of course, I always put the hit on them to join the 8th Cavalry Association. Speaking of which, we have a new member, **Kelly L. Fagan**. Kelly hails from Wagoner, Oklahoma. I didn't get any more information, so Kelly, drop me a note telling me a little about yourself so I can put it in here next time.

PAUL BRAUN

I met Paul Braun at an 8th Cav reunion in Ft. Benning in Columbus, Georgia. He is now coming to the Kentucky Kampout and is a fine addition to our crew.

Paul was born and raised in Hecker, Illinois, a rural, very small community of about 400 people. He arrived in Nam November 25, 1969 and was assigned to C 2/8 as one of their medics. On February 14, 1970 his unit was engaged with the NVA near Tay Ninh. During this contact, 8 of his Troops from Log Chain Platoon were KIA and 21 WIA. He was wounded, along with another medic. This engagement became known as "The St. Valentine's Day Massacre." He spent a total of about 30 days in 2 different hospitals. When he was discharged, he returned to the medical facility at Cav HQ in Phouc Vinh. On March 20, 1970, as was custom, a new Trooper brought in his medical records. Paul was in the rear of the building, so the reception clerk hollered to him saying they had a new Trooper from Illinois. "Doc Braun" went up to meet and greet the new Trooper. Amazing part number 1: this new Trooper was Donald Light, another Hecker resident. What are the odds of 2 Troopers from a town of 400 people meeting this way? Amazing part number 2: in May 1970, Paul and Bruce Hawley were assigned to Firebase Gander in, dare we say, Cambodia?? On May 25th they received a radio call, medivac was bringing in a WIA. They got their stuff together and headed to the chopper pad, where the WIA was brought to Braun and Hawley on a stretcher. Guess who? You guessed it, Donald Light from little Hecker, Illinois. They did their job, dressed his wound and got him ready to go to another medical facility. Don remained calm, and like all wounded, asked if he was going to be ok, to which Paul replied that he would be fine. But that's still not all the story. About a week later Paul was reading the June 1st issue of *Stars & Stripes*. It was an article about a Trooper that was shot in the heart and survived, which not many people can claim. Again, guess who? That's right, our brother from little ole Hecker, Illinois, Donald Light! Don recovered from his wounds. Unfortunately, he developed hepatitis from the blood he received and passed away in October of 2012.

Please, if anyone remembers about this incident or knew Paul or Don, please reach out to me or Paul at <paulbraun1949@gmail.com>.



L to R Paul Braun Don Light

RICHARD MAGNER / MASS GRAVES

I got a message from **Richard Magner, Tiger 38, D/229th (Smiling Tigers) 1st Cav 68/69**. He is searching for 8th Cav Veteran and survivors of the battles listed below. Finding mass graves from the war years is a humanitarian project he began three years ago with Bob Connor, a former Air Force Security Officer. Together, they seek Soldiers with recollections of mass graves resulting from LZ & FSB battles and those who may have been involved in the burial process. Or any battle where they can identify the specific location where the battle took place.

Graves at Frontier City & Mole City have been located with the help of Veterans of the 4/9 Infantry- "Manchus." A single grave at FSB Frontier City containing approximately 214 NVA soldiers and the two graves at FSB Mole City containing near 106 NVA have been pinpointed. They received word from the Vietnam MIA Commission January 16, 2020. Finally, these families will get the closure they have been searching for the past 50 years.

They have located over 5,500 of their MIAs to date. They have also been working with former NVA & VC helping to find American graves. And recently two grave locations were given to the MIA Commission. One was excavated 3 months ago, and they are awaiting confirmation on the two U.S. Army Soldiers reported by these former VC.

Here are the 8th Cav battle sites he is currently working on in hopes of locating the reported mass graves:

Ike: 5-Sep-1969, A & E Co's 2nd Bn 8th Cav

Ike: 14-Sep-1969, C & E Co's 2nd Bn 8th Cav & 77th Arty

Carolyn: 6-May-1969, C & E Co's 2nd Bn 8th Cav & A/2/19th Arty

Becky: 5-Jun-1969, 2nd Bn 8th Cav

Becky: 9-Jul-1969, B Co, 2nd Bn 8th Cav, A/2/19 Arty

Becky: 12-Aug-1969, 2nd 8th Cav, A/1/30 Arty

Illingworth: 1-Apr-1970, C & E Co's, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav; 2nd, 27th, 30th, 32nd, & 77th Arty

He made some progress on Carolyn with reports that the grave is located northwest of the LZ near the end of the runway. Regarding Illingworth, he feels good about the estimated grave location, thanks to George Hobson LTC

Ret, former CO of C/2-8th & Dan Tyler, former 229th helo pilot. Yet, the Vietnamese are reluctant to begin exploration without more witnesses. They do not ask for donations nor sell any hats, etc. They only ask for the help from those who may know about any of these burials.

Meanwhile families of MIAs from both sides of the war pray and hope their sons, fathers or brothers are found. For them the war never ended. Any assistance you may offer in contacting helpful Veterans of these battles will be greatly appreciated. Contact Richard at <rwagner@gmail.com>.

CENSUS TAKER JOBS

I recently received a call from a Veteran, telling me about the push to hire Vets as Census Takers. He is going to do it, don't know if I'm going to try. These are, of course, temporary jobs but it sounds like the hours are flexible and they pay decent. Most of us could use a couple extra bucks, so if you're interested go to <www.2020census.gov/jobs>.

VETERANS DAY IN D.C.



Several members of Scotch Platoon C 2/8 Vietnam 68/69 went to our Nation's Capital, Washington D.C. for Veterans Day in 2019. I'm sure there were lots of stories shared between old and new friends. They all enjoyed a private tour of the Capitol dome, all the way to the top. Pictured are (left to right) Bill Pickle, Don Delsing, Terry Macy,

Bert Johnson and Ted Ward. They are shown in front of the new Vietnam statue. Hope to see them all in Louisville in June.

This has always been a memorable trip for Veterans to make. For me, the most special part is sharing a few minutes in front of the Wall, reflecting on the reasons it is there or touching the name of a person you once knew. One of the very most touching times of my life was right at dusk on a cold November evening. Another Veteran and I stood looking in silence at the names there. Wordless, we looked at each other, tears forming in both of our eyes. Enough said.

TROOPER GETS HIS C.I.B.

The men who have the C.I.B. will say that it is the very best medal you can put on your chest. We Veterans know, when looking at a guy with a C.I.B., that he has "walked the walk." Pictured here is U.S. Representative Fred Upton (R - St. Joseph) presenting the C.I.B. to Steven Gordon of Niles, Michigan. Steven was a proud member of Company B 2/8 1st Cavalry Division Airmobile, serving in Vietnam 1967-1968. Mr. Gordon was very thankful to all the people who helped him receive this coveted award. I think I speak for all combat Troopers, once you stepped on the ground in Nam you had this award coming, Brother.



KENTUCKY BOURBON TRAIL

Kentucky, bourbon and fast horses... they go together. One of the best attractions in Kentucky is the Kentucky Bourbon Trail. There are at least 18 distilleries on this trail, and you could never see them all in one day. For those of you who will be attending the reunion in June, Louisville is a great place to start since the official welcome center is at the Frazier Museum. There are 4 distilleries within a mile of the museum, so you could even walk part of it. You can go online and check out the trail if you want to drive to one or more, so you can plan accordingly.

I live in Western Kentucky and I have taken a lot of friends and visitors on these tours. I am going to be personally taking some folks on one of these outings, if interested send me an email to <airmobile68@gmail.com>.

LOUISVILLE REUNION NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the 8th Cavalry Regiment Association will be held immediately following the 8th Cavalry Lunch at the 1st Cavalry Association reunion in June. The reunion will be held in Louisville, Kentucky June 10 - 14, 2020. See www.1CDA.org for reunion information or pages 12 & 13 of this edition of *Saber*. The Unit Luncheon will be at the Crowne Plaza on Saturday, June 13 from 1200 - 1400. The room number will be identified in the Schedule of Events booklet you will receive at Reunion Registration.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings to all the 8th Cavalry members and Happy New Year. The annual reunion is right around the corner and I am looking forward to seeing old and new friends. The reunion is a great time to reconnect with our brothers and friends and continue making memories.

Now down to serious business. We are at a time now that our association and other associations are declining in membership due to age and illness. We need to actively seek out and encourage younger Veterans to become a part of the 8th Cavalry Association and keep it the great organization that it is now. We have also noticed a decrease in members attending the Saturday luncheon/business meeting and the banquet. We've been averaging 25 to 30 members present of the usually 55 to 60 registered members attending the reunion. We have had the same officers for the past 4 to 6 years with elections held every 2 years at the reunion. This is where we need more involvement by the membership to keep the organization growing and strong. We need everyone's help in stepping up and/or recruiting others to fill these positions.

I look forward to seeing all of you and wish you all safe travels to and from the reunion.

Tommy Harris, President 8th CAV

9th CAV News

Jim Kurtz
5235 Nottingham Lane
Fairfax, Virginia 22032
703-764-4489
kurtzjh@gmail.com



JOIN THE 9TH CAVALRY AND SEE THE WORLD

All three units that today comprise the 9th Cavalry have been away from Fort Hood in recent months. The 1st Battalion and the 4th Squadron are in Europe as part of the 2nd Armored

Brigade Combat Team, and the 6th Squadron is on its way home from Korea.

In Lithuania, 1-9 Cav joined forces with NATO Allies for multinational Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) training that concluded on 13 February. Dutch artillery, Croatian mortars, Lithuanian and Norwegian fire support, and the Baltic Air Police were among the units taking part in the exercise. Recent 1-9 Cav activities also include hosting a visit by the U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania; marching in Lithuania's Armed Forces Day parade in November; taking part in an annual 9-kilometer run that honors Lithuanian citizens who confronted Soviet aggression; and marching in Estonia's Armed Forces Day parade on 23 February.

The 4-9 Cav deployed to Europe in October, and among the squadron's early accomplishments was running the port of Vlissingen for the brigade, the first time an American Army unit used that port of entry. Upon its arrival, the squadron was split, with the majority stationed in Swietoszw, Poland, and one Troop at Grafenwoehr, Germany. In mid-February, the 4-9 Cav began consolidating into Graf. During its time in Europe, the squadron has completed Tank and Bradley Gunnery and participated in Combined Resolve XIII with a host of European allies. While in Poland, the 4-9 Cav conducted training from individual through Troop CALFEX level. They also adopted a Polish orphanage and provided the children with donated items during Christmas and again in February with a large sneaker drive (shoes).

As part of the division's 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, the 6-9 Cav is returning to Fort Hood after a successful 9-month deployment to Korea, part of a regular rotation of forces in support of the Republic of Korea. (The 3ABCT from Fort Hood replaced one from Fort Bliss and will in turn be replaced by an ABCT from Fort Riley).

WAR AIR CAVALRY STYLE

The 9th Cav and I parted company in May 1971 when the squadron left Vietnam for Fort Hood. I had too much time left on my tour to qualify for a "drop," so went to another unit in-country until my DEROS (Date Expected to Return from Overseas Service). After that, like many others I pushed Vietnam to the back of my mind and tried not to talk about it. Later as a battery commander in Germany, I was a "Cat B" aviator and flew alongside a tank company commander named Kit Beaton on payroll runs to Vilseck and Oberammergau. Because we both observed that vow of silence, I never learned until after he died that Kit had been a member of the same Apache Troop I was in, but he left before I got there.

Then one day after I retired from the Army, I saw the name Hilbert Chole among dozens of addressees in an email about modeling and simulation. I figured there could be only one Hilbert Chole in the world, so I sent him an email, asking if he was the Bert Chole who'd been the XO of the 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cavalry in Vietnam, when I was in A and C Troops. He responded immediately with a hearty "Welcome Home" and an invitation to join Bullwhip, the squadron association. I accepted his invitation, and thanks to Bert and Bullwhip, I reconnected with old friends and made new ones. Now, half a century after coming home from Vietnam, it is hard to imagine the time when so many of us kept our experiences there bottled up inside.

My 9th Cavalry connection with Bert grew stronger after that. I learned that he had spent two tours with the 1-9 Cav. His first was as Saber White (B Troop Scout Platoon Leader), and I was thrilled in 2005 when Bert sent me an inscribed copy of his book about those times, *Flashing Sabers: Memories of Vietnam 1967-68* (not to be confused with Matthew Brennan's *Flashing Saber: Three Years in Vietnam*, published later).

On his second tour, besides being the squadron XO, Bert was Lobo 6, commanding Echo Troop, a provisional unit formed for an in-country "Air Cavalry Combat Brigade" experiment. Bert was later instrumental in the publication of *9th (Air) Cavalry Brigade (Provisional) Combat After Action Report, III Military Region, Republic of Vietnam, 1st SEPT '70 - 15th FEB '71* — a document whose original drafting he had overseen.

Bert set out to write a third book about the squadron, one he intended would show the value of air cavalry as it was first conceptualized and practiced at Fort Benning in the early 1960s, and as it came to be practiced in Vietnam from 1965 to 1972. He kept working at it even while his health was failing, but in November 2016, we lost Bert. At age 80, with a history of heart, lung, and kidney problems, his systems just wound down. Bert refused to be placed on life support, and following his death, his wife Eileen reported he had told her, "I'm ready. I know where I'm going. Let me go home to heaven."

It would have been easy to assume Bert's third book would never see the light of day, but such an assumption would fail to consider the perseverance of Eileen Chole, who pushed to make Bert's last Vietnam wish come true. I am pleased to inform the readers of this column that *War Air Cavalry Style* did get published, late last year, and is now available from the publisher, XLibris.com, and other booksellers.

I'm about halfway through the book and am finding it always fascinating and often gripping. It reads rough in spots, which is not surprising considering that much of it is based on operations reports that were completed in haste by staffs that had more urgent matters to deal with. (Do not ask me to vouch for the spelling of any Vietnamese place names, except maybe Saigon and An Khe; I don't think Bert would, either.)

Two chapters, written at Bert's request by Earl Hobbs, Jr., a former B Trooper, provide a refreshing and revealing look at what those guys in the back thought of the guys up in the cockpit. As a civilian, Earl had been a licensed fixed-wing pilot with an instrument ticket, but because he wore corrective lenses, he was not eligible to enlist for Army pilot training and instead became a 67N20 helicopter mechanic, winding up in Vietnam as crew chief of a Lift bird in B Troop.

What I love most about the book is how the voice of Bert Chole comes through. He is not at all reluctant to describe the failures as well as the success of air cavalry operations and tactics, techniques, and procedures. Again, and again he points out that the mission of the air cavalry squadron was to start fights, not necessarily to finish them. It took a long time for division and brigade commanders to accept

the need to have airmobile infantry forces on standby, with lift assets, ready to be inserted as a Quick Reaction Force when the 1-9 Cav's "Blues" got into contact with larger VC or NVA forces.

Like many 1-9 Cav Veterans, I have a large collection of books about the war in Vietnam, about the 1st Cavalry Division's exploits there, and about what one author called "the Cav of the Cav" — the 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cavalry. I believe *War Air Cavalry Style* deserves a spot on the bookshelf of anyone who wants to understand what air cavalry was all about.

HAIL TO THE CHIEF



The July/August 2019 edition of this column noted that the new Chief of Staff of the Army had served in two Squadrons of the 9th Cavalry (2nd and 5th); and commanded the 4th Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq. He also commanded the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, and later commanded the 101st Airborne Division in Afghanistan. That column noted that the combat service ID badge the general wore in his official photo was the Screaming Eagle, and suggested he get another taken wearing a Cav patch, for bulletin boards at Fort Hood. Behold, this photo from the February issue of *Army* magazine shows the Chief in the new Class A

uniform, with a proper Cav patch on his right shoulder. Lookin' good, Sir!

C TROOP HERO TO BE HONORED

Fifty years ago, on 6 May 1970, a C Troop Scout bird took a round in the transmission while inside Cambodia and crashed just across the border, back inside South Vietnam. The crew chief, SP4 Gary McKiddy, was thrown to the ground, while the pilot, WO1 Tommy Whiddon, and the observer, SP4 Jim Skaggs, were trapped inside the LOH, which caught fire on impact.

Gary McKiddy got up, went to the burning aircraft, and managed to pull Jim Skaggs out of the cockpit and drag him to safety. He then went back to the aircraft and was attempting to free Tommy Whiddon when either the fuel cell or the ordnance in the cargo compartment blew up, killing both men.

To commemorate Gary McKiddy's selfless actions, a 50th anniversary tribute will be held at his final resting place, Highland Memorial Cemetery in Miamisburg, Ohio, at 2pm on 3 May 2020. Among those scheduled to speak are Jim Skaggs, who will be telling the story of the crash and the events that led to Gary McKiddy's saving his life; Sherrod Brown, United States Senator from Ohio; and other state and local officials.

The public is invited. For more information, contact Gary McKiddy's brothers, Rick McKiddy at (937) 367-5570 or Ron McKiddy at (513) 258-6667.

UPCOMING VIETNAM-ERA TROOP REUNIONS

A Troop, Albuquerque, NM, 2-6 Sep 2020, contact Ron Livingston, <rflivingston@msn.com>.

C Troop, Columbus, GA, 26-28 Sep 2020, contact Pat Bieneman, <pcbnamin@verizon.net>.

LOSSES REPORTED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

Keith Owens, Armament Specialist in C Troop, 1969-70.

Carol Hockenbury, wife of Jay "Doc Hock" Hockenbury, Medic in C Troop, 1965-66.

Gina Nelson, wife of CW2 Vincent Nelson Jr., Lift and Scout Pilot in C Troop, 1969-70.

CW2 Frederick "Mike" Tuttle, Scout Pilot in C Troop, 1968-69.

CW3 Charles R. Hood, the AC of a 227th AHB C&C Huey that dove to the deck to rescue an Apache Troop Scout crew downed in Cambodia on 7 March 1971.

Rest in Peace, Brothers and Sisters



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

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

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All applicants must have earned the Combat Infantry
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For more information visit our website @ www.cibassoc.com;

E-mail: ciamemberapps@gmail.com

Call or write:

Membership Officer

Combat Infantrymen's Association

825C Merrimon Ave Suite 354, Asheville, NC 28804

828-490-9303

James R. Rollins
1566 FM 3258
Lufkin, TX 75904-0440
RollinsJ@consolidated.net

THE HICCUP - Health Care
Information Committee Report

Update on Access to Military Shopping for
Service-Connected Disabled Veterans

Access to Military Shopping

In the last article on benefits for Veterans in the Mission Act, Title VI - Compensation and Other Personnel Benefits, Subtitle C - Other Matters, Sec. 621., Para. 1065. Use of commissary stores and MWR facilities: certain Veterans and caregivers for Veterans: All service-connected Veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war (POW), and individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible Veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) can use commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

Bottom Line

I have had the opportunity to try out the process and access in the following locations: Fort Hood, TX; US Coast Guard Station Galveston, TX; and Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Forth Worth, TX. In all cases, with a visit to the Visitor Center and presenting the VA Card showing Service Connected Disability under your picture and a driver’s license with the REAL ID (Outline of a Gold Star) in the top right corner, access was granted to the installation.

The rules for access to the installation:

Your VA ID Card will be scanned into the system and will be used to allow access to any post.

Access only last 6 months, so you have to keep up with it.

Every installation has different rules for access; Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth will only allow the cardholder access to the installation. Every other place allowed anyone with the Veteran to have access with an ID card.

Once you are on the installation, you will have no issue with purchasing or using anything by showing your VA ID Card.

Please provide feedback if anyone has issues, so it can be sorted out for everyone.

THE SILENT BULLET by Harris Jannusch from 1-8
Cav Jumping Mustang’s 2020 Bugle

“A half a century after serving in Vietnam, hundreds of Veterans have a new reason to believe they may be dying from a silent bullet.” (Source: AP)

I am not a writer so I cannot attempt to report on this important topic with the attention that it requires, so I will refer you to a few sources that clearly explain how deadly serious this problem is. It appears as if some Southeast Asia Veterans are just recently and currently falling victim to an incurable bile system cancer that may be caused by a fluke or by DIOXIN (Agent Orange).

One sad part of this story is that the symptoms, and deaths, are only now coming to light so long after the war. If untreated in its early stages, the fluke can ultimately lead to a rare and fatal bile-duct cancer (Cholangiocarcinoma).

It has taken all of these many decades for the symptoms, and deaths, to appear and to be recognized by the VA and the CDC.

It appears that if you ate raw or undercooked river fish in Vietnam, then you may be a victim. Most Vietnam Vets were not exposed to the source, but some of us were. I did eat river fish and have developed bile and liver symptoms that have baffled many doctors for a very long time. I have been hospitalizations many times, and many medical tests have been performed on me with no resulting diagnosis. I ultimately ended up having a CT scan of my liver that I presented to a VA physician, and I am lucky that I do not have the fluke or this disease. But some of us are not so lucky.

I contacted the VA and it seems as if they have yet to develop protocols about how to deal with the subject. However, in my research (of course I have forgotten the exact source) I read that one Veteran did file a claim that eventually allowed for his widow to receive 100% disability benefits after his death.

The Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation’s website <www.cholangiocarcinoma.org> lists two primary risk factors for contracting the disease: undercooked fish and DIOXIN (Agent Orange). Their site also has a wealth of information about symptoms, treatments, support, and research.

You may also want to read the articles at the following VA and AP links:
www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/infectious-diseases/cholangiocarcinoma.asp
www.apnews.com/710027879483439581359e5241456dd8

RECOMMENDED WEBSITE FOR ALL VETERANS:
<https://www.va.gov>

One of our members recommends filling out these two extremely important VA Forms and submit to your VA as soon as possible.

VA Form 21-0845 is known as an Authorization to Disclose Personal Information to a Third Party. This form should be submitted by someone who wishes to have the Department of Veterans Affairs release their personal information to a third party. If you don’t, your beneficiary will not be able to talk to the VA.

<https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0845-ARE.pdf>

VA Form 40-10007, the APPLICATION FOR PRE-NEED (before death) DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY. This will save your survivors some of the red tape/hassle.

<https://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-10007.pdf>

Quick Reference link: <https://www.va.gov/vaforms>
then simply type in any form number

Thanks James McCormick!

THE DOCTOR'S REPORT

COL (Ret) James Noel
HHC 1-5 Cav, 1990
JNoel2@live.com

SSG (Ret) Jonathan Shockley
HHC 1-5 Cav, 1988-1992 (Doc Shock)
Jsho941055@aol.com

Traumatic Brain injury (TBI) is a term we are becoming increasingly aware of as increased research into brain injuries from repeated brain trauma in present and former NFL players. However, combat related brain trauma has been described going back to World War I, and neuropsychiatric dysfunction has been reported in active duty and Veterans going back to the Civil War. Unfortunately, medical documentations and investigation into these injuries did not begin until the last years of World War II. Extensive research and understanding of what is happening to the brain and nerves in these injuries has exploded in the last 20 years. Unfortunately, many Soldiers from previous conflicts were diagnosed with psychiatric illness because of the lack of knowledge concerning closed head brain injuries.

Wikipedia defines Traumatic Brain injury (TBI) as a disruption in the normal function of the brain caused by brain injury as a result of direct or indirect trauma. Of interest to our current active duty Soldiers and our Veterans is the traumatic brain injuries caused by blasts. The blast can be from Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), incoming artillery, detonated bombs, grenades, and environmental explosions. The injuries can be secondary to objects from the blast striking the Soldier, or from the impact of the Soldier to a solid object following the blast. The direct primary injury from blasts has only been understood and described in the last 30 years. Explosions cause a pressure wave. This blast of wind is then followed by a negative pressure (a vacuum) which results in a second wind coming from the opposite direction. These winds or pressure waves are greater, the closer to the explosion the individual is. The back and forth winds can result in violent shaking of the brain inside the skull. In the Middle East 97% of the injuries to a Marine unit were blast related. 53% of these blast injuries involved the head and neck. The most common head and neck injuries were concussions. 82% of these Soldiers were able to return to duty in 3 days. Victims may have no sign of external injury. Repeated concussions in a short period of time increase the risk for more serious brain injury. With these blast injuries the brain is shaken and most frequently nerve fibers (axons) are injured. More serious injuries involve bruises to the brain, brain swelling, and hemorrhage in or around the brain. Magnetic Resonance Imaging has greatly helped in recognizing brain trauma but is usually not available until the Soldier reaches tertiary care facilities.

In a study of 433 combat Veterans, moderate or severe brain injury was present in over ½ of those evaluated. 88% were due to closed head (blast) type injuries. Symptoms included chronic and recurrent severe headaches, insomnia, agitation, vertigo, dizziness, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. If an active duty Soldier or Veteran is experiencing these symptoms, they should inform their medical care team and describe the exposure to blast or other head trauma and ask for an evaluation by medical experts with experience evaluating and treating closed head injuries. An excellent reference is: “*Blast - Related Traumatic Brain Injury: What is Known*” published in February 2006 Journal of Neuropsychiatry and is available free on-line. Please contact me at the above email address if there is an issue you would like for me to explore. Doc out!

James M. Noel M.D.

OTHER REUNIONS:

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

B Co 2/12 Reunion, 3-6 April 2020. Hawthorn Suites, Columbus, GA. Contact Al Zeller <zellera@msu.edu> or (850)219-6268. Email from Al Zellner 2/5/20

1/7 Ia Drang Reunion, Apr 26 – Apr 29. Fort Macgruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Reservations phone # 757-220-2250. Rate/night \$90.48, including taxes. POC: Tony Nadal 757-258-3999.

2020 Officer Candidate Schools Reunion and Hall of Fame Inductions, May 2-4, 2020. Columbus Marriott, Columbus Georgia. Refer to <https://ocsalumni.org/> or contact Dan Johnson, 402-981-1072, or <VP-Admin@ocsalumni.org>.

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

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

77th Field Artillery Association Reunion, August 18-23. Hampton Inn, Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island, Florida. Reservations 904-491-4911, ask for Jennifer, and use Group code # 77A
POC John Moran 937-361-1333 or <johnjanmoran@woh.rr.com>.

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

A Trp, 9 Cav Vietnam Era Reunion, Sept 2-6, 2020. Albuquerque, NM; POC: Ron Livingston, <rflivingston@msn.com>.

C Trp, 9 Cav Vietnam Era Reunion, Sept 26-28, 2020. Columbus, GA; POC: Pat Bieneman, <pcbnamin@verizon.net>.

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

OIF/OEF VETERAN
82nd FA News

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



During our deployment to Mosul, Iraq and surrounding areas we not only had the mission of securing the battle-space to deny the enemy areas to operate from but were also charged with doing what we could to garner the sup-

port of the Iraqi people and help them rebuild their communities. Throughout our yearlong deployment we took on numerous projects such as trash clean up, basic infrastructure repair, and more enjoyable projects such as building soccer fields. Here's one example of what the Troopers were able to accomplish above and beyond our combat mission.

Don't forget about the 1CDA reunion fast approaching in June, I hope to see many of my fellow Redlegs there. Thank you for those who have visited my website <www.assaultforward.us> to support our 100% Veteran owned & operated small business and purchase 100% made in America lapel pins, tie-clips, cuff links. You can save 15% off any order with the discount code "Saber" at checkout!

Shekhan Village Park Grand Opening

Declaring it a great day for the people of Shekhan, mayor Hassan Narmo with the assistance of 2LT Patrick Fullerton, a platoon leader from Battery B, 2-82 Field Artillery of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division cut the ribbon officially opening the recently renovated Shekhan Village Park. "We have many projects in-progress and planned in the Shekhan district. This is a great example of what the United States Forces have done to help the people of our community," mayor Narmo stated in front of the multiple television cameras present for event.



As soon as the ribbon was cut, the children of the area anxiously rushed in to play on the new equipment. For weeks they had been watching as workers from the Kandal Company installed new slides, swing sets, and teeter totters. The contractors also emplaced new benches throughout the park and planted dozens of new trees and bushes to make landscaping improvements to the park. A freshly painted exterior wall and fence provided a clean and welcoming appearance to the area. Zuhad Hazim Ali, the general manager for the Kandal Company said, "We performed some extra work on this project just to make it look better and as a gift to the people." The process for refurbishing the village park had begun approximately six weeks earlier when during key leader engagements between mayor Narmo and leaders from Battery B the park was identified as a potential "quick win" project that would provide an immediate benefit to the community and improve the lives of the Iraqi people. With the Provincial Reconstruction Team and other Non-Governmental Organizations tackling bigger projects such as agriculture, infrastructure repairs, and building schools it was determined that the park would be an excellent project for the "Bulls" of Battery B to take on. With the assistance of their civil affairs team a scope of work was developed to lay out what work would need to be done to bring the park up to standard. Bids were solicited from numerous contractors and after the winning contractor was selected a meeting was arranged between the mayor, contractor, and Battery B. Walking



through the park the mayor laid out his vision and the contractor was able to explain his intent. This coordination ensured a smooth process for the project once work started. On average 25 local laborers from Shekhan were hired each day to work on the project. "It's really great to see how excited the kids were and how much fun they had playing in the new park. I'm glad we were able to help this community out," said Fullerton.

THE ORIGINS OF ARMY DAY

Army Day should not be confused the Army's Birthday, which is celebrated on June 14. The origins of Army Day can be traced back to a little-known Defense Test Day, which was observed only twice: once in 1924 and once in 1925. Congress then disallowed any further observances of this day. In response, the Military Order of the World War under Colonel Thatcher Luquer established Army Day. Army Day was first celebrated on May 1, 1928. That date was chosen in hopes of dampening Communists' celebration of Workers' Day, which also occurs on May 1. But, starting in 1929, Army Day was changed to April 6, the anniversary date of the United States' entry into World War I.



Army Day was established as a nationwide observance to draw public attention to national defense and to acquaint the public with Army activities. In addition, the day was used to stress the need for military preparedness, which the nation had lacked as it entered earlier major conflicts. "The failure to make adequate preparation for the inevitable struggle, the consequent suffering from disease and death entailed upon the armies which were hastily raised, the prolongation of the conflict far beyond the time which sufficient and equipped forces would have required for victory, and the heavy costs of reconstruction" were caused by the lack of preparation of the nation.

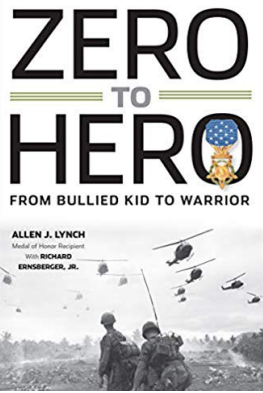
On April 4, 1936, President Roosevelt issued a proclamation that Army Day be recognized by Congress as April 6 and observed nationwide. On March 1, 1937, Congress passed Resolution #5-75 which officially recognized Army Day. Army Day was last observed nationally on April 6, 1949. <www.military.com>

NEW MEMBERS

- E-6 BARNES, DAVID NJ E 7TRANS 04
- E-5 BRUNSON, GLENN IL 1- 7C 69
- E-8 CECIL, JOSEPH T. FL A 5- 7C 6804
- SFC CLARK, ANTHONY TN D 215BSB 0606
- E-5 CLARK, KENNETH NC D 1- 9C 6811
- SSG COULTER, JAMES D. AL 3BCT 0610
- E-4 DAUDA, TOHEEB O TX B 1- 82FA 1905
- CW3 DECOSTA, STEPHEN OH C 1- 9C 66
- SGM DIGIUSTINO, MICHAEL NC 162INF 03
- SSG HALL, WAYNE E. NY B 1- 9C 79
- SFC HAWLEY, EDWARD LA 615FSB 03
- SP-4 HUSZCZO, JOHNNY OH 1ACB 7002
- MR. KAYA, KURT OK 1411 ASSOCC
- SGT KNIGHT, TROY D. KY 2- 5C 9001
- SGT LEWIS, ROGER TX C 2- 5C 7001
- E-8 MATTHEWS, DORTON JR TX D 1- 68ADA 74
- E-4 MCCLELLAN, WILLIAM BLAIR TX C 2- 82FA 8901
- E-5 OPELA, H. TERRY NY A 1- 8C 6211
- SP-4 PARKS, ROBERT MI 115AGCO 7809
- SFC (RET) SAWICKI, RICHARD W FL B 257QM 69
- MR. SOLOMON, ARNOLD TX 1409 ASSOC
- MR. STOLT, ROBERT NJ 156 L-ASSOC
- CSM TIMNEY, TERRENCE R. SC 15ADM 6507
- 1LT TOBIN, NICHOLAS IN HHC 2- 7C 19
- MR. TOMCZAK, ROSS CA 1408 ASSOC
- MR. TORRES, JOSE JOE AZ 1410 ASSOC
- E-5 WOODSON, FRANK TN B 1- 229AHB 7006
- SFC YOSHIDA, MICHAEL MO 1- 7C 72
- MR. YOUNG, KEVIN NC 1413 ASSOC

WELCOME TO THE 1CDA TEAM!

LIMITED QUANTITY
ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!



This is the life story of Al Lynch in his own words, an American hero who is now one of only 72 living Medal of Honor recipients. This is the story of a happy boy growing up in Chicagoland's South Side industrial neighborhoods. His early happiness was almost eradicated by several years of intense bullying, though he found ways to overcome that experience. This is the story of an aimless young man whose prospects of following in his father's footsteps as a blue-collar tradesman were cut short by the Vietnam War and by his personal search for something greater than himself. This is the story of a man whose meandering military career, and his life up to that point, came into sharp focus when, in a deadly firefight in Vietnam, he rushed to rescue three wounded Troopers in no man's land.

He was urged to leave the wounded and return to a safe position. But Lynch refused to retreat in order to stay with his Troopers despite having every reason to believe he would die that afternoon. Because of these actions, he is a hero.

\$25 ZERO TO HERO
hardcover book by
1 SG (RET) ALLEN LYNCH
MOH Recipient

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Name: _____

Address: _____

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

SHIPPING IS FREE

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

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

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

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

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

HOTEL INFORMATION

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

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

THIS HOTEL IS NOW BOOKED. NO MORE ROOMS AVAILABLE.

We have provided additional hotels for our members to consider and in walking distance to the Crowne Plaza:

Hampton Inn (502) 366-8100
Spring Hill Suites (502) 361-9009
Tru by Hilton (502) 792-8800
Howard Johnson Express (502) 363-9952

RV PARK INFORMATION

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

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

REUNION EVENT OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE BEST PART OF THE REUNION

As always, the best part of any reunion is the people that attend. The 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion brings in Troopers from almost every era of

the First Team's history. Troopers that rode horses, fought in the Pacific with MacArthur, occupied Japan, fought in Korea, or stood watch on the DMZ will spend time with the Sky Troopers of Vietnam and the Troopers from Operation Desert Storm, Fort Hood, Bosnia, and the latest combat Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The equipment and terrain might be different, but the common bond of serving with America's First Team binds us together. Saddle up and ride on down to Louisville in 2020!

**OFFICIAL NOTICE
ELECTION OF OFFICERS – REUNION 2020**

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10

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

THURSDAY JUNE 11

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

FRIDAY JUNE 12

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

SATURDAY JUNE 13

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

SATURDAY cont'd

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

SUNDAY JUNE 14

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER NEWS UPDATES

We invite all of our Chapter Presidents, 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 **Friday, May 1, 2020.** Please send to Memberships@1CDA.org or mail to 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522.

ATTENTION CHAPTER PRESIDENTS:

If you are attending the 73rd Reunion in Louisville, KY, please plan to attend the Chapter Presidents Meeting Sat, June 13, 11:00-11:30am. We highly encourage all Presidents & VP's to attend. We recommend you start collecting your ideas to present them to the other Chapters. See you there!

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Pictured here are some members of the Connecticut Chapter posing in front of a cobra helicopter. Our meeting was at held at the East Hampton VFW in East Hampton, CT. This helicopter's number is 66-15325, flew in Vietnam with B Troop, for the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment. It flew missions from August 1968 until September 1970.

The next meeting of The Connecticut Chapter will be on **April 18** at the **Manchester American Legion**, Manchester, CT. Meeting time is **1:00pm**. All new and prospective members are welcome.

Keith Moyer, <kpmoyerco@hotmail.com> or 860-885-4330.



CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER



Chapter members at Stable Call in Temple, TX

Call on **April 23rd** at **6pm** will be held at the **Belton VFW Post 4008** and **May 28th** at **6pm** will be in **Harker Heights Post 3892**.

Members of the Chapter will be gathering at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery on Memorial Day in conjunction with the ceremony that is held there each year. Wear your Cav Hat and come out to honor our fallen.

The Chapter will have quite a few members heading to Louisville for the reunion in June and we hope that many others will come to join us in this annual event.

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!

Tim Hodge 254-718-4533 <tim@allaboutinsurance.com>.

The Chapter held two Stable Call gatherings this year in Copperas Cove and Temple. We also held elections and a general membership meeting on 26 March. We hold elections ever two years for our officers. New officers will be posted in the next *Saber*.

The upcoming Stable

FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST CHAPTER



Members at Jax Arena Vet Show

Florida's First Coast Chapter is officially approved by the Board. We will continue meeting the **last Tuesday of the month** at the **American Legion Post** on San Juan Ave at **19:00 hrs**. Burgers, brats and tap beverages are available. We had a presence at the dedication of the National POW/MIA memorial site and at the Vets for Vets gathering at the local Coliseum. Soon our own polo shirts will arrive. Our mailing list is some 45 1st Cav Alumni. We welcome Associate members from

other units. Local contact phone is **904-534-8899**. Sanderson, Waldo, Starke, Yulee, Hilliard, Callahan, Macclenny, Middleburg, Lawtey, Green Cove, Hampton and Green Cove are all within a short drive. Come join us.

FORT KNOX AREA CHAPTER

Our Ft. Knox Area Chapter has been working in preparation for the 1st Cavalry Division Assn Reunion here in Louisville. We plan on having a lot for the members to enjoy. Kentucky is known for Churchill Downs (Kentucky Derby), Louisville Slugger baseball bats, Bourbon and now just south of Louisville our new replica Vietnam Memorial Wall. We will continue to add more to the visit as we all want this to be memorable to all.

LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

An honored guest, Mr. John Moore, attended our 1CDA LA/OC Chapter's February breakfast meeting. John, formerly LTJG Moore, is a Vietnam Veteran and former gun ship pilot with the U.S. Navy's helicopter squadron known as the HA(L)-3 Seawolves. In the photo, John is seated, third from the left. John chat-



ted with chapter members over breakfast, answered questions and provided an informal overview of the Seawolves squadron's operations during his 1968-69 Vietnam tour. The Light Helicopter Attack Squadron, nicknamed the Seawolves, was an all-volunteer squadron the U.S.

Navy formed in support of Naval Special Warfare operations and Mobile Riverine Forces during the Vietnam War. The Seawolves were an all-volunteer squadron of approximately 3000 men. Nine detachments, consisting of two crews, four men each, were strategically located throughout Military Regions III and IV, Mekong Delta. The HA(L)-3 Seawolves, the most decorated squadron in U.S. Naval Aviation history.

John Guillory, President, 951-283-7458.

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY CHAPTER



Bud Alley and Bob Arbasetti

On a cold November 16, hundreds gathered to attend the dedication of the Sal Mione Park in Rahway NJ.

Sal Mione is a much-loved figure in the New Jersey Veteran's community. Sal was a true patriot. He helped many Veterans and was a faithful friend to all that knew him.

On Saturday, **April 18** the New York-New Jersey Chapter will hold our Spring Meeting. The meeting will be held in **Ridgefield Park** at the **Elks Lodge**. On the agenda is Veterans and division up-

dates. At all meetings, lunch is free. Come early and share a coffee and donuts and chat with friends. Come see old friends and make new ones.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

Our board members for 2020 - 2022 are: President – Gail Porter; Vice President – Clayton Waldron; Secretary – Vacant looking for someone serve in this position; Treasurer – William Jackson; Chaplain – Doug Coles

Current General Membership Meetings: **Noon** on 1st Saturday; Bi-Monthly Feb, Apr, June, Aug – Membership Appreciation / Drive Summer Picnic/BBQ, Oct, Dec – Christmas Dinner Party. Location: **Carrs Restaurant**, 11006 Bridgeport Way SW, Lakewood, WA 98499 unless otherwise announced. The meeting starts at **noon**, but the camaraderie begins soon as you get there! Hope to see you at our next meeting on **April 4, 2020** and then on **June 6, 2020**.

Current Executive Board Meeting Location 2nd Monday; Bi-Monthly Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Nov 1230, Family Pancake House, 3900 Kitsap Way, Bremerton, WA 98312.

Check out our Facebook page at ([fb.com/1cdanw](https://www.facebook.com/1cdanw)). **William A. Jackson**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER



At the January meeting, outgoing President Robert Stauffacher was presented a replica of GEN George Patton's sword in appreciation for his eleven years of dedicated leadership of our chapter. In his parting remarks, Stauffacher paid tribute to LTC John F. Stockton, 1/9th Cav, as his personal hero, a great leader, and as the one individual who resurrected Cavalry Stetsons, traditions, and Esprit de Corps to the U.S. Army. He also paid tribute to his wife Dora whose support and efforts allowed him his success in leading the

chapter. The chapter extended its thanks and best wishes to Bob and Dora, who together have devoted countless hours to the success of the chapter.



The latest Hard Charger Award was presented to SP4 Bernie Penfield who served in the 1/8th Engineers in the Bong Son Plains and An Khe in Vietnam, cutting landing zones and gun placements. SP4 Penfield was a 63B20 mechanic, as well as deuce and a half, and five ton, and all track vehicles at Fort Bragg before Vietnam.

Rocky Mountain Chapter holds its meetings on the **second Saturday** of each month, **9am** at **Valley Hi Golf Club**, 610 South Chelton Road, Colorado Springs, CO, and always welcomes new members.

For more information, please call **Paul Lemieux**, Vice President, **719-687-1169**.

SHERIDAN'S CALVARY CHAPTER

A number of Members attended a special Veterans recognition ceremony hosted by the facility, staff and students of Lockport Illinois Township High School, 120 Veterans including 10 WWII and 7 Korean Veterans were honored individually and participated in unfurling one of the largest American Flags flown in the state of Illinois.

Our **May 16** meeting will be held at the **Italian American Veterans Museum** (Casa Italia) 3800 Division Street, Stone Park IL. The Italian American Organization has been a proud partner and supporter of our organization for these past years.

Additional Chapter Meeting Dates: August 8 Picnic – October 17 - December 5 Xmas Party events and meetings normally held at American Legion Post #1084, 322 East Maple Ave, Roselle, IL 61072.

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 POC** at <us67-hodo@outlook.com> or **773-445-1213** for additional information regarding membership or attending one of our future events.

From the
Director's Desk

Office of 1CDA

WE SUPPORT

UNITED STATES ARMY

SOLDIER FOR LIFE

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

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

Why is this important to the Association?

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

The next *Saber* newspaper is the
May/June 2020 edition.

Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is
Friday, May 1, 2020
Please email to Programs@1CDA.org

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

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

2020 CALENDAR DONATIONS

Thank you to our following who have donated
\$100 or more towards our 2020 calendar:

E-4 HESTER, Robert \$100

Hope you are enjoying your 2020 calendar!
Calendar donations keep this program operational.
Without your donations we are unable to continue this program.

Thank you to all our members that support this program!

Is your unit not represented in our Saber?

You can change that by
sharing your stories with us and
become a column writer; a scribe for
First Cav Division Association!

Since 1CDA is a non-profit organization, we rely on the
generosity of our members like **YOU**,
we ask you to consider a donation to our scholarships.

The Association can only achieve its goals with the
assistance of generous donations. Without these
donations, serving our Soldiers, their Families and Veterans
would not be possible.

Thank you to our committed & steadfast membership!

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

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

VIETNAM T-shirts are AVAILABLE

All shirts are a 50/50 cotton/polyester blend GRAY short sleeve T-shirt with BLACK writing.
Sizes 3XL, 2XL, XL, L Available

\$23

Front: Cav Patch with years 1965-1972 written above, with Vietnam written across the Cav Baldric
Back: Color image of Memorial Wall & Flag “Remembering 5,618”



1CDA Vietnam T-shirt Order Form

Short Sleeve Shirts \$23 ea

Vietnam T-shirt ___3XL, ___2XL, ___XL, ___L

of Shirts:___ Total Due: ___

Cash: \$___ Check: \$___ Credit Card:\$___

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date: _____

Please Print Clearly

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Phone #: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

SHIPPING & HANDLING IS FREE

15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB

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



I got email from Earl "Buck" Fink <finkpamd@aol.com> who said he was with A 1-5 Cav and that they were the company whom Ronnie Mays said stayed with them on FSB

David after everyone else had left. Earl confirmed, like Ronnie had said, that one Trooper was KIA in his hammock when they received incoming RPG fire. Earl said that it was unfortunate, and that Trooper was "short." I carried a captured NVA hammock in C 2-7 Cav but sleeping above ground to me was a no-no, for just that reason.

Earl said he was a Penn State graduate, drafted into the Army in 1969, went through basic training, then Infantry AIT, and finally NCO School, so he said



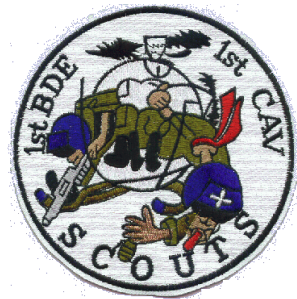
Last to leave Cambodia and Nam LtoR Smiley and Earl Buck Fink A 1-5 Cav 1970

however the 1st Cav was winding down, and even ended up with a rear job, the Army utilizing his college economics degree.

I got email from **Ronnie Mays** who said he finally contacted fellow artilleryman Larry Diesburg whom I wrote about and was badly wounded on FSB David. They talked for over two hours, and Ronnie signed up Larry in the 1st Cav Assn. They plan to meet at the upcoming Reunion in KY. Ronnie said it was thanks to the column in the *Saber* that they were reunited.

I got a telephone call from **Hanz Zinsman** from Hawaii. Hanz said he was a 67N MOS which is UH-1 Helicopter Repairman, or Crew Chief and mentioned going out to FSB David in response to reading my column. Hanz said he was in the **1st Brigade "Flying Circus"** <flying-circus.org>. They were the 1st BDE scouts, C&C, and all things aviation needed. Hanz said something like his brother was a door gunner, so that's what he wanted to be. Recruited as a crew chief certainly increased his chances of becoming a door gunner.

I forget why he said they went up to FSB David, but that's where 1st Brigade had relocated from Tay Ninh which I had mentioned J.B. Coleman wrote about in "Incursion." Hanz said he went out to look at the dead NVA after the attack, like others wanted to do. He sent me photos which were proof. See the 1st Cav 1st Brigade Aviation Patch pictured left.



Hanz Zinsman 1st Brigade Aviation 1970

Hanz said he is Hawaiian. I thought his name didn't indicate that, but he said his grandfather was German, and the rest is history. Hanz said after the Army something about Westpac Helicopters, which I wrote down, probably continuing his career. You must check with him for the details, and I don't think he'd mind if you call him at (808) 277-8766 if you wanted to contact him.

I also got a telephone call from **Tom Hoover** of Marine City, MI (586) 549-6745. Tom said he was in **B 1-7 Cav '68-'69**, A Shau to Tay Ninh. Tom was looking for a Medic of his. The only help I would be with that is to mention him in the column if any Medic reading might recognize him and his stats.

Tom sent me a DVD of his Nam home movies. It is an interesting reminder of that experience.

FROM THE 15TH MEDICAL BATTALION ASSOCIATION: The 15th MED Bn Assn has acquired essentially all the 15th MED Bn records on file with the National Archives and the National Personnel Records Center. However, many records were lost, destroyed, misfiled or are otherwise unavailable, and many are illegible. We're seeking historical information from our members.

You can help by scanning any historical documents from Vietnam and sending them to Terry A. McCarl, Historian, 15th Medical Battalion Association <historian@15thmedbnassociation.org>. If you are looking for historical information, please send an e-mail to <historian@15thmedbnassociation.org>. Thanks!

SP4 Jimmy Odum: **22 June 1970 MEDEVAC mission** awarded the DFC.



Tom Hoover B 1-7 Cav '68-'69

Jimmy is looking for the Medic and Door Gunner on that mission. If you were on that mission, or know who was, please contact the historian.

CW2 Gil Gatto: **3 December 1968 MEDEVAC mission.** CW2 Gil Gatto would like to get in contact with anyone who knows anything about an incident near Quan Loi on 03 December 1968, particularly those who were on his crew. He was the AC, 1LT Charlie Williams was the Copilot, and SP4 Gary Dubach was the Crew Chief. He does not remember the identities of the Medic and Gunner and would like to know.

That operation has been designated as "Combat Assault on LZ Eleanor, 21 km E-SE of Loc Ninh Airfield, Phuoc Long Province, 03 December 1968" on <coffeldtdatabase.org>. KIA in this incident were twenty members of D 2-7 Cav; two members of HHC 2-7 Cav; and one member of A Battery, 1/21 Artillery.

Gil recalls that he flew over four straight hours picking up approximately forty wounded and taking them to the C Co, 15th MED at Quan Loi. His aircraft was the only one hauling wounded during that period, but he believes that other MEDEVACs were involved after that time. He would like to know the identity of those other crews.

A Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously to SGT John N. Holcomb, D Co, 2-7 Cav for valorous actions in connection with this incident. His citation describes the incident in detail. Research SGT John N. Holcomb MOH Citation.

According to Gil, USO comedian and singer Martha Raye was traveling somewhere (don't know where) to do a show, got word of the mass casualty situation at Quan Loi and diverted her helicopter to Quan Loi to provide her assistance as a nurse. She was known to frequently do that type of thing throughout WWII, Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Gil recalls that when he landed with the first load of wounded, she was there to help. She pitched in, helping with the wounded and afterward, drank a few beers with the Troops and stayed the night in the "luxurious VIP Guest Accommodations" at C Co, 15th MED.

Charlie Williams passed away on 9 November 2013. Gary Dubach was KIA February 14, 1969.

Point of interest: The aircraft flown by Gil Gatto and Charlie Williams on 3 December 68 was 67-17174, which was shot down on April 14, 1969, resulting in the deaths of SP4 Gary Dubach (Crew Chief) and SP4 Stephen Schumacher (Medic).

LTC (Ret) Ken Moro (then CPT) was the XO of C Co from 06/68-05/69 and has some memories of this incident. Ken Moro recalls that a Chinook transported about thirty stabilized wounded from C Co 15th MED at Quan Loi to hospitals in Long Binh and Saigon.

If anyone remembers who the Medic and Gunner on Gil's aircraft were, or anyone else who flew MEDEVAC missions that day or the next, or remembers anything about the incident including Martha Raye, please send an e-mail to <historian@15thmedbnassociation.org>.

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

TAPS

We were notified of the death of the following:

ABRAM, SGT James E., C Co., 1-12 CAV, 1966-67. 12 February 2020.

ANDERSON, SP-4 William "Bill" K., C Co, 2-12 CAV, 1970-71. 30 January 2020.

DuBOIS, SP-4 James E., C Co, 1-5 CAV, 1965. 22 December 2019.

ENGLISH, SSG Talmadge Gene, C Co, 2-5 CAV, 1969-70. 25 January 2020.

FEATHERSTON, MAJ (Ret) Jimmy J., HHC, G-4, 1CD & HHC, FSSE, 1969. 5 February 2020.

GAILFOIL, SGT John R., A Co, 227 AVN, 1968; F Co, 9 CAV. 8 February 2020.

GUILLEN, CPL Jose E., HHC, 1CDH, 1956. 2 October 2019.

HARPOLE, PFC Norman, HHT, 7 CAV, 1956. 5 March 2020.

HENNIGAN, MAJ (RET) Mac K., B Co 2-19 FA. 20 January 2020.

LOORAM, LTC (Ret) James F. X., S-3, 1-7 CAV. 4 January 2020.

McKINNEY, LTC (Ret) Boyse, HHC, 227 AVN, 1965-66. 9 December 2019.

McKOWN, CW4 (Ret) William "Bill" N., SVC, 7 CAV, 1946. 3 March 2020.

MILLER, Trooper Dale, 1CD, 1941-45. 22 February 2020.

MILLER, MSG (Ret) Paul V., A, 1-7 CAV & 15 REP, 1950. 5 December 2019.

POPE, SSG Billie G., D Co, 2-5 CAV & E Co, 9-1 CAV, 1966-67. 21 December 2019.

SILVERBERG, SGT Stanley S., HHC, 1-21 FA, 1968. 27 January 2020.

STRAND, CPT Melford "Mel" L., MD, 1CD, 1966. 9 January 2020.

TUTTLE, CW2 Fredrick M., C Trp., 1-9 CAV, 1968-69. 27 January 2020.

WHITE, SGT Carl David, HHC, 2-12 CAV, 1969-1970. 19 February 2020.

WILGANOSKI, SGT August "Pat," B Co, 1-12 CAV, 1968. 2 March 2020.

YOWELL, SP-5 Donald H., B Btry, 1/77FA, 1967. 31 December 2019.

ACTIVE DUTY TAPS

There have been no reported non-combat Active Duty deaths.

LZ MAPS, 1-8 Cav 1968-69 by SP4 Jim Kasper, printed in Jumping Mustang's 2020 Bugle

I found a map of Vietnam with all our LZ and Fire Bases. It has really helped me because I have searched many maps over the years. It is full of much information maybe too much. I was there in 68 to 69. My bases and ones I got on were An Khe, Sharon, Betty, Ann, Pedro, Wunder Beach, Mustang, ST. Barbra, Tracy, Elrod, Grant, White, and more.

In order to locate the maps, Google VIETNAM WAR - FOR THE ONE'S WHO FOUGHT IT then click on the link "Vietnam War for the Ones Who Fought It." A map of Southeast Asia will appear and on the left side of the page you will see a link for "Landing Zones." Click on that link and then click on "73 more" and 77 different LZs will be listed. Just scroll down until you see the LZ you want to locate. Click on the LZ and a white circle will appear on the topographical map. Use the wheel of the mouse click on and then scroll down on the circle and you will see the location as it appears today.

20th and 79th Artillery Regiment News



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



ASSOCIATION VISION 2020: The Challenge issued in our last *Saber* has had some positive response and I, along with the Board, are happy campers! I received a call from **Bob Allegretti** of Mansfield, Ohio who was an active member back in the early days of the Blue Max ARA Association with paid up dues through 2007. For some unknown reason to me correspondence with Bob ceased in January 2008. He shared the *Saber* article about our reunion in Savannah, GA with his wife and she suggested they attend. So, Bob is now an up-to-date life-time member and registered for the reunion. If anyone has similar stories, please call me and let's get current and join in future reunions.

THE CHALLENGE CONTINUES: We are requesting that every member submit the names and contact information of at least two (2) nonmembers with whom you served in ARA to our Secretary Rodger McAlister. We then can consolidate the list to avoid duplication and send an invitation to join the Association from our President Clovis Jones. I'm still thinking out loud to you now. If anyone wants to contact inactive members, that would be appreciated immensely! If you can help me with our **Vision 2020** goal of 20 new members by December 31, 2020, I'll be an even happier camper!

UPDATE: Our 23rd Annual Aerial Rocket Artillery Association Reunion is at the Holiday Inn Express, 199 East Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia; **Aug 31 - Sept 4, 2020**. Ann and Jerry Hipp, our hosts, are working to make this reunion a relaxing, enjoyable and memorable experience for us all. A special issue of the Straphanger will be issued with detailed reunion information on tours, scheduled dinners, and the 2020 registration form. Please reach out to everyone you know that served in our history making units, and their family members to join us in Savannah.

Billy Wood is performing the painstaking and diligent task of assembling an ARA Association directory so we can better reach out to, and stay connected with, those we know. I highly encourage you to respond to Billy's request for input regarding the directory. This directory is strictly in house and for membership use only. We never know when we may be in a city or county and need the expertise or knowledge of one of our members.

Vice President Jim Castillo is using all means available to him reach those who served in ARA units to invite them to join us in Savannah; and to become members. ARA members will be present at the VHPA Reunion with a TOC, **May 21 - 24, 2020** at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, CO, as a part of this outreach effort.

The ARA Cobra that served in A Battery, 4/77th is being restored for exhibit in the Field Artillery Museum at Fort Sill. This restoration is near completion with wings, rocket pods, and nose turret attached. Museum Director Gordon Blaker is seeking ARA Vets in the Fort Sill Area to help with final restoration projects. Those folks willing to assist, please contact Director Blaker at the Field Artillery Museum, 580-442-1819. Speaking of Fort Sill; there is the ongoing project to capture ARA history at the Morris Sweet Library. Please send copies of any ARA history in your possession; written or audio, to Morris Sweet Library, 730 Schimmelpennig Road, Fort Sill, OK 73503

I am pleased to be a part of the ARA Association and to share in this outreach program to contact the hundreds of nonmembers. Here's hoping that **Vision 2020** will see more participation. We have so much to share with all ARA personnel and to provide support where needed as we have entered the sixth decade since the end of the war in Vietnam.

REUNION 2020 - GET READY FOR SOME LIVE OAKS AND SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY:

I have more news on the 2020 Reunion in Savannah, GA, August 31 through September 3. 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. The hotel has only valet parking for a reduced rate of \$25. Additional parking is available at two nearby city owned secure garages at \$10 per night. This may be a better choice since we will be transported as a group to our scheduled dinners. Join us in Georgia's oldest city and first capital for a truly unique experience that Ann and Jerry Hipp, our hosts, have planned. I encourage you to make your hotel reservations

early by calling 912-231-9000 or 888-978-6498 and using the code "**2020 ARA Reunion**" to secure our \$119.00 plus 13% taxes and a \$6 city occupancy fee. Breakfast is included. Savannah is one of the most beautiful and enjoyable cities in lower 48 and consequently a huge tourist attraction. Jerry and Ann have wisely adjusted the usual dates to avoid the high hotel rates inherent in the weekends.

The welcome banquet will be at world renowned Mrs. Wilkes Boarding House. Mrs. Wilkes is normally open for lunch only, 5 days a week, and serves old fashioned southern food for a fixed price and in a family style (that means large dishes of food for self-service with refills coming as needed). A board member has eaten there and can vouch for its quality and quantity as well as its ambiance. We have a special booking there Monday evening at 6 pm. The menu includes a dozen southern veggies, plus beef stew, pulled pork and fried chicken - **ALL YOU WANT!** Arrangements will be made for bus/trolley transportation to/from Mrs. Wilkes' NOTE: Only 82 can be accommodated so it is first come/first served on

the signup. The cost for our dinner will be a total of \$30.00, includes tax and gratuity.



Tuesday, 1 Sept, is reserved for Savannah Old Town Trolley Hop-on Hop-off City Tour. Highlights seeing 16 stops through the city at your own pace: Lighthearted live narration by entertaining trolley driver, impressive 18th & 19th century architecture, seeing the Pirates' House & historic City Market, viewing the home of the founder of the Girl Scouts.

Wednesday, 2 Sept, has a scheduled tour of Hunter Army Airfield where many pilots received flight training in the AH-1G in the 1960's. Hunter serves as the home of the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 160th Aviation, and 1st Ranger Battalion. Lunch will be in the Troops Dining Facility (Mess Hall) as we did at Fort Benning in 2015. We will have bus transportation to Hunter.



Thursday, 3 Sept, our annual board meeting will be in the morning when the ladies of ARA will be having their meeting. Thursday evening, we will have our banquet at Vic's on the River across the street from the hotel. The dinner will feature two main courses of top sirloin and baked parmesan crusted lemon red fish with several vegetables and usual drinks and two desserts of peach cheesecake and key lime pie. All that for a total of \$46.00! There will be an open bar, pay as you go. Choice of wine will be \$24.00 per bottle. Choice ordered drinks will be \$6.50, beer at \$4.00 and wine \$5.00/ glass. Our guest speaker for the dinner is Tracy Smith Himes.

She is the sister of Larry Smith who served as the crew chief in A/2/20 ARA that rescued the crew of a down Air Force HH-3E Jolly Green Giant helicopter (that mission was cover in a precious *Saber* article). Tracy has written a book, *War and Pennies*, which covers the 99 letters written home by her brother Larry while serving in Vietnam. The pennies go back to the pennies he sent in the letter to Tracy. Tracy embraces the art of storytelling and will share family dynamics as she visits the humor Larry needed to survive. She will cover Larry's time back home. She can be found online.

Hotel amenities include a rooftop pool overlooking the city and the Savannah River (which is right across the street from the hotel), a full service bar open every evening, use of the hospitality room for our annual meeting and the bar area for the ladies meeting. Some free transportation about the city is available and the hotel is a scheduled stop for all tour companies. Dozens of restaurants are within walking distance. Go online for fine dining in Savannah, GA and check out Jesse Blanco's recommendation for five great places!

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

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

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

LRRP/RANGER NEWS

Continued from pg. 4

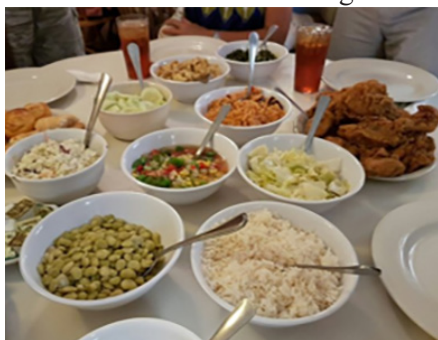
On a final note, the NATO Fest 2020 military music festival will be held the weekend of April 30 - May 3, 2020 in Norfolk, Virginia. NATO Fest is the largest spectacle of military splendor in the United States. According to LTC Jim Wright (1967), "It is the gold standard and mother of all military tattoos (i.e., military music festivals)."

Most or all of the NATO countries participate in it and tend to go all out with bands, demonstrations, exhibits, and military units providing an astounding display of inspirational military music, majestic massed pipes and drums, show-stopping drill team maneuvers, colorful and elegant dancers, and more, honoring the NATO Alliance and its members nations.

NATO Fest is sponsored by NATO in conjunction with the Virginia Arts Festival. Many of the events are free and are open to the public while others require tickets. The events are held at various locations in downtown Norfolk, including Town Point Park, Scope Plaza, and Scope Arena. Many of the events include guest speakers from the various branches of the military, and often include recipients of the Medal of Honor from the Afghanistan, Iraq, and Vietnam Wars. For more information on NATO Fest 2020, go to <<http://www.yahoo.com>> and enter *Virginia International Tattoo* in the search bar. Hope to see you there.

LATE NEWS: LT Joe Dilger called Doug Parkinson (1967-68) to say that the river cruise in Louisville will be on Friday evening, June 12th. There were scheduling problems with the original date of Saturday.

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If you have been searching for someone that you served with within 1st Cav, try posting it here. Submit requests to <Programs@1CDA.org> for the next Saber!

ENGINEER News



Jesse Crimm
4445 Silverwood Ln.
Jacksonville, FL 32207-6241
(904) 737-6172
TheCrimms@Gmail.Com

Remember Me? Or do you know me? Or this is me. This paragraph will now become a standard insert. Of the dozens of individual pictures available to this writer, missing persons have haunted me. And now 50 years along, I will publish what I have or what you may submit from your searches. If these pictures are you or if you know the face, call me. Time grows short for us to reconnect. For those of you conducting searches, use commonly available sources. Call ICDA ask if the missing person is a member. If so, have they released their phone or address? Contact the VFW or AL in the last known hometown. It is possible that your missing person is still known locally. There is always Facebook, Air Medal Society, Military Order of Purple Heart. But you must pick up the phone. Don't quit.



Hungry? Stomach Growling? Or Just Indigestion? **Bob Siemer** had just finished his Thanksgiving turkey, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, lima beans when a memory came back to him. "I'm not always sure of names and dates, but the essence of the stories will be true and factual to the best of my memory. This was on FSB Marissa in April 1970. We had made a combat assault (CA) landing later in the day than was planned. A small dozer was sent in two (2) sorties, the blades and tracks in the first sortie and the bulldozer body in the second. Ideally, we would have had the tracks laid out so that the dozer body could be airlifted into place onto the tracks. However, things were running late and haphazardly. Also, the connecting hardware was missing. When I asked if anyone had seen the hardware the response was, "I saw them toss it from the helicopter." "It's over there somewhere." Over there somewhere was heavy elephant grass. One squad had been looking for the nuts and bolts without success. As a fully equipped Engineer Platoon we had a mine detector. We used the mine detector to locate the missing hardware! We got the dozer assembled but were still behind schedule. As a result, we were not able to establish a good perimeter barrier (berm) prior to nightfall. Consequently, every available body had to pull guard duty at some point during the night. We were apprehensive without the defined perimeter. We were hearing lots of activity and even low growls coming from the surrounding jungle. We had a lot of "mad minutes" (firing randomly into the surrounding area) that night. A lot of the fire was directed towards the growls. The next morning a recon of the surrounding area revealed a partially eaten dead boar that obviously belonged to a tiger that was emitting the growls. Despite all the firepower concentrated in that area there was no tiger to be found and he (or she) escaped successfully." Now Bob, a Christmas story next?

All Hands On Deck: Sorry if I offend anyone using a nautical term here but **Texas Burrell**, a Coast Guardie, called about the 8th Engineers. And yes, his name is Texas and get this, he lives in Austin. One day Tex, as we'll call him, was fingering his dad's challenge coin. It's gold and about the size of a nickel with 8Eng EM Club stamped on. Now Tex would like to hear from any Korean Era Vets and in particular 8th Eng's. So anyway, Tex calls Copperas Cove and gets forwarded to me and now me to you, particularly those of you who have any Korea Vets in the family. Tex will take your call at 512-359-2247. But let's let Tex tell the rest of the story. "My father is SFC Eugene D. Burrell, 1st Cav, Korean War combat Veteran. My father passed away in 2013, but I have slowly gone thru some of the belongings he left me. I thought I had seen everything, but I ran across a coin that I was unfamiliar with, so I began to research it. I eventually found "First Cavalry Division Association" website and started making calls. After speaking with a very kind lady at ICDA, she gave me Mr. Crimm's number and I called, a few days passed, and he called back. We talked for almost an hour and he was able to shed light on the coin in question and "we" believe we know its purpose. Mr. Crimm asked me to write a little something about my dad, so here it is. He was never a man that bragged about his accomplishments and he never bragged about his service, but I can always remember that old black and gold 1st Cav patch that hung in the gun cabinet. He was a very simple man, but that patch was always modestly displayed in the gun cabinet. When I was young I would ask him about the Army and the war, and he told me stories but they were all stories more suitable for a boy my age but as I got older he told a few more stories and a few more details. He spoke of a battle he was in, his company unit was overtaking a mountain top and on the other side of the mountain lay the enemy in great numbers, dad said it wasn't looking too good for him but they had called in an airstrike and that seemed like it was never gonna happen. They held off the enemy the best they could, but they were running out of ammo, men and energy...then they could hear the jets! Dad said they looked up and the jets were headed right at them, they had made it to the top of the mountain but those jets were coming in fast and then they let loose of the rockets and dad said those damn things were coming right at us. Dad thought it was the end, but the rockets just cleared their heads and wiped out the enemy on the other side. I believe dad was explaining "pucker factor" to me that day. My father is the main reason I

choose to serve my country as well, and when I returned home the stories continued but with more detail. And then one day my uncle, dad's brother, had passed away. Uncle Bob was a WWII Veteran. Dad and I drove across country to bury my uncle and take care of his belongings. On that trip dad decided to tell more stories, but these I had never heard before. He had waited for this opportunity, for now his son had seen combat too and it was time to talk. The admiration I have for my father and every service member that served before me, with me and after me, I can hardly put into words. I have since adopted the words my dad spoke to me, "I'm no hero, but I served with some." Dad taught me a lesson one day. I was a stubborn child and he was hard man, not a great combo for me. But he casually pulled me to the side one day and asked a simple question (I was around 10 yrs old). He asked me what the most important day, the most important holiday in America is. Now, I thought there might be a "stiff penalty" for the wrong answer but I tried anyway, I said Christmas- NOPE, well then Easter- NOPE, (now I'm



Eugene Burrell



nervous) and I came up with any answer I could and they were all wrong, but he calmly said "Son, the most important day is Veterans Day because without Veterans in this country, there would be no other holiday," and then he went back to what he was doing. That was day I had decided I wanted to do what dad did, I wanted to join the military, it was around 1977-78, NOV 11. Thanks for your time. To all who have served, you are never forgotten. Mr. Crimm, I have attached a picture of the coin and of my Hero, my Dad. Thank you for your help, and good conversation, thank you for your service to this great nation."

East Egypt? Well, we've all been there and done that, but what about East China? None other than Tom Hoover, who got a paragraph in the previous issue, sent a package of photos from, you guessed it, East China Michigan and they even have a zip code there. Tom was with B/1-7 but we'll forgive him for that. If you want your full DVD version from the samples below, call Tom at 586-549-6745.



Least We Forget: **Dean Kontover** checked back in to remind us that the 91st and 3rd Eng Bn's worked alongside the 1st Cav in the RVN. Therefore, here are their unit crests and if any of you have other acknowledgements to make, speak now.

Horn Tooting, Self: Do Sunday school lessons interest you or C. S. Lewis or science fiction short stories? If so, look me up by name under Amazon Books.

Ever on Grave Digging Detail? Here is a chance to help out now for what was for you then an unhappy experience. Read this inquiry from **Richard Magner**. His email is <rwmagner@gamil.com> Phone 860-836-4638 "I am searching for Veterans and survivors of the battles listed below that may assist us in locating graves. It is my understanding in the case of LZ & FSB battles, Engineers were often tasked with digging the trenches in which the NVA/VC bodies were buried. Finding mass graves from the war years is a humanitarian project I began three years ago with Bob Connor, a former Air Force Security Officer. Together, we seek Soldiers with recollections of mass graves resulting from LZ & FSB battles and those who may have been involved in the burial process. Or any battle where we can identify the specific location where the battle took place. Graves at Frontier City & Mole City have been located with the help of Veterans of the 4/9 Infantry- Manchus. A single grave at FSB Frontier City containing approximately 214 NVA soldiers and the two graves at FSB Mole City containing near 106 NVA have been pinpointed. We received word from the Vietnam MIA Commission yesterday morning. Finally, these families will get the closure they have been searching for the past 50 years. Over 5,500 of their MIAs have been located to date, though nearly 300,000 remain lost. We have also been working with former NVA & VC helping to find American graves. And recently two grave locations were given to our MIA Commission. One was excavated 3 months ago, and we are awaiting confirmation on the two U.S. Army Soldiers reported by these former VC. Here listed are the 1st Cav battles of western III Corps I am currently working on where engineers may have been involved digging trenches for burial:

Ike: 18/20-Jun-1969, A, C & E Co's, 2-5 Cav, A/1-77 & 5-2nd Arty; BC 37/90
Ike: 04-Nov-1969, C/2-5 Cav; A Trp 1-9 Cav; A Bat, 1-77 FA; 8th Eng Bn; BC 98 Jay: 29-Mar-1970, A & E Co's, 2-7 Cav; B Bat, 2nd Bn, 19th Arty; A/8th Bn Eng; BC 74

Jamie: 12/13-May-1969, 2-7th, B/2/19 Arty; BC 83 Joy: 12-Jun-1969, 1-7th; BC 35
Atkinson: 15-Apr-1970, B & E Co's 2-7 Cav; B/2-19th Arty; BC 66
Ike: 5-Sep-1969, A & E Co's 2-8 Cav; BC 46 Carolyn: 6-May-1969, C & E Co's 2-8 Cav & A/2-19th Arty; BC 220 Becky: 5-Jun-1969, 2-8 Cav; BC 101
Becky: 9-Jul-1969, B/2-8 Cav, A/2-19 Arty; BC ?? Becky: 12-Aug-1969, 2-8 Cav, A/1-30 Arty; BC ??

Illingworth: 1-Apr-1970, C & E Co's, 2-8 Cav; 2nd, 27th, 30th, 32nd, & 77th Arty; BC 88.

We have received some information from Veterans about graves from a few of these battles, but the Vietnamese are asking for more witnesses with better descriptions prior to commencing exploration. We do not ask for donations nor sell any hats, etc. We only ask for the help from those who fought, then buried their foe. Meanwhile families of MIAs from both sides of war pray and hope their sons, fathers or brothers are found. For them the war never ended. Any assistance you may offer in contacting Veteran engineers of these battles will be greatly appreciated. All the best. **Richard Magner Tiger 38, D/229th (Smiling Tigers), 1st Cav 68/69"**

Continued to pg. 22

50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CAMBODIAN INCURSION

VIETNAM STUDIES, AIRMObILITY

1961-1971

Written by: LTG John J. Tolson
Airmobility 1961-1971 CHAP-
TER XI*The Changing War and
Cambodia, 1969-1970*

On 26 April 1970 MG Elvy B. Roberts, the Division Commander, received instructions from LTG Michael S. Davison, Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, to prepare plans for a coordinated attack to neutralize the Central Office South Vietnam base area in the Fishhook of Cambodia. He was told that the 1st Cavalry should be prepared to implement this operation within 72 hours of notification.

This operation, here referred to as the Cambodian Campaign, was officially entitled Operation TOAN THANG 43, TOAN THANG 45, and TOAN THANG 46. It did not include the Army of the Republic of Vietnam operations in the area of the Parrot's Beak to the south which were concurrent and continued after the operations of the 1st Cavalry Division.

During the period 26 to 28 April, the 1st Cavalry Division and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam Airborne Division conducted joint planning for the operation. The major consideration at that time was the allocation of enough forces to ensure successful accomplishment of the mission while continuing to conduct tactical operations within the III Corps Tactical Zone. The Allied forces that were to be used for the Cambodian Campaign were then deployed against the northern tier of III Corps Tactical Zone. The 1st Brigade of the 1st Cavalry was deployed in the far western War Zone C; the 3d Army of the Republic of Vietnam Airborne Brigade was in central War Zone C and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and 3d Brigade, 1st Cavalry, were in the eastern portion. The 9th Regiment, 5th Army of the Republic of Vietnam Division was operating in Binh Long Province with the 2d Army of the Republic of Vietnam Airborne Brigade to their east. The 2d Brigade of ICD was in Phuoc Long Province. The DIVARTY Commander was responsible for the defense of a large sector centering on the division headquarters at Camp Gorvad.

Essentially, an attack into Cambodia meant little change in the operations of the 1st Cavalry. The division had been moving progressively up to the border and expanding its interdiction operations both to the east and the west. Small hasty fire bases, each established only for a few days, had become the method of operation. Company and platoon-size airmobile units fanned out through wide areas of jungle and forest, traveling light, receiving resupply only once every three days. Since the division was already concentrating on fast-moving, light operations, leapfrogging from one small hasty fire base to the next, the order for the Cambodian campaign simply told it to do more of the same.

On 28 April, the division was further directed to be prepared to commence operations within 48 hours of notification. It had been decided that a combined task force would make the initial assaults into Cambodia. Command and control of this operation was given to the Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver of the 1st Cavalry Division, BG Robert M. Shoemaker. A combined U.S. and Army of the Republic of Vietnam staff was assembled at this time and prepared the final plans for the operation.

For Bob Shoemaker, this would be the culmination of years of dedicated effort to prove the air mobility concept. Ever since the early days of the 11th Air Assault Division and the movement of the 1st Cavalry to Vietnam, he had been recognized as one of the foremost tacticians of air mobility.

The concept of the operation was that Task Force Shoemaker, consisting of the 3d Brigade with one mechanized infantry battalion and one tank battalion under operational control, the 3d Army of the Republic of Vietnam Airborne Brigade, and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, would conduct air assaults and ground attacks into the Fishhook of Cambodia. Following an intensive preparation phase of B-52 strikes, tactical air strikes, and artillery bombardment, the 3d Army of the Republic of Vietnam Airborne Brigade would air assault into the area north of the objective to seal off escape routes and begin operations to the south. Simultaneously, the task force (-) would attack north across the Cambodian Border with the 3d Brigade on the west and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment on the south and east. 1-9 Cavalry (-) would conduct screening operations in the task force area of operations while elements of the 9th Army of the Republic of Vietnam Regiment and the 1st Army of the Republic of Vietnam Armored Cavalry Regiment would screen to the east in Binh Long Province adjacent to the objective area. All elements would then conduct search and interdiction operations to locate and exploit enemy- lines of communication and cache sites in the objective area.

In the early hours of 1 May, six serials of B-52's dropped their heavy ordnance on hard targets within the primary objective area. The last bomb went off at 0545. Fifteen minutes later an intense artillery preparation began with the priority to the proposed landing zones in the 3d Army of the Republic of Vietnam Airborne Brigade's objective area. D-day had arrived.

At 0630 the 1st Army of the Republic of Vietnam Cavalry Regiment began its movement from the northwest of An Loc toward the border. At the same time a 15,000-pound bomb, with an extended fuse designed to detonate about seven feet above the ground, was dropped to clear the jungle at LZ EAST. This was followed fifteen minutes later by a similar drop at LZ CENTER. Shortly after first light, the Forward Air Controllers began directing tactical air strikes on pre-planned targets, shifting to the 3d Army of the Republic of Vietnam Airborne Brigade's objective area during the period from 0700 to 0800.

1-9 Cavalry began aerial reconnaissance operations early on D-day and by 0740 had established contact. Five North Vietnam Army soldiers and their 2½-ton truck became the first recorded casualties of the operation. At 0800 hours 1-9 Cavalry conducted a landing zone reconnaissance which was followed ten minutes later by the combat assault of an Army of the Republic of Vietnam airborne battalion into LZ EAST. The landing zone was secured and became a fire support base when six 105-mm howitzers and three 155-mm howitzers were inserted shortly thereafter. During this air assault, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment had moved out of their staging area and crossed the line of departure, moving north. In the 3d Brigade area, C Co 2-47th Infantry (Mechanized) crossed the Cambodian border at 0945, followed by elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment to

the east which crossed approximately fifteen minutes later.

The 5th Army of the Republic of Vietnam Airborne Battalion in a 42-ship lift supported by 22 Cobra gunships began its combat assault into Objective B at 0946 and reached LZ CENTER by 1005. The 9th Army of the Republic of Vietnam Airborne Battalion completed its combat assault into Objective A on the west.

Contact was immediately established with a panicked North Vietnam Army force of approximately 200 men. The Cobras supporting the contact expended most of their rockets and machine gun ammunition on groups of 10 to 30 North Vietnam Army men fleeing the area in a dozen directions. It was apparent that tactical surprise had been achieved during the combat assaults as there were no reported instances of .51-caliber ground-to-air firing.

During the afternoon of D-day, two companies of the 2-7 Cavalry made a combat assault into Objective X-RAY in the northern portion of the 3d Brigade area of operation. This movement had been tentatively planned by GEN Shoemaker and, due to the relatively light resistance throughout the area, he ordered its execution as the final combat assault of D-day.

The enemy reaction to the opening of the Allied Offensive took the form of a confused, milling crowd, ill-prepared to deal with the massive onslaught that was unleashed. Tactical surprise was complete. The enemy had not left the area, nor had he reinforced or prepared his defenses. The heliborne assault forces were not greeted with heavy anti-aircraft fire but rather only with small arms fire from a few individuals. Nowhere in evidence were the heavy machineguns from the three antiaircraft battalion-size units known to be in the area. While later evidence showed that while some strategic preparations had been made hedging against a possible allied thrust, the enemy tacticians had not taken steps to counter an air assault. Air mobility had again caught the enemy off-balance. The results were evident, as noted in the following official excerpts of the day's activities:

The 1-9 Cav had a field day catching small groups of NVA trying to evade, resulting in a record total of 157 NVA killed by helicopter. TAC Air in another record setting day put a total of 185 sorties on hard targets which resulted in 109 NVA KBA in the ARVN Airborne AO alone. Among the ARVN Airborne forces, the 5th Battalion was outstanding with 27 NVA killed and 8 prisoners taken during the day. The prisoners were later identified as members of the 250th Convalescence Battalion, the 50th Rear Service Group and the 1-165th Regiment, 7th NVA Division. The 3d Co, 3d ARVN Airborne made the first significant cache discovery at 1720 hours when they found a large medical cache of up to 6,000 pounds. The cache included the finest in modern surgical equipment and had been imported from western Europe via Air France, possibly through Phnom Penh. The ground contact of Co H of the 2/11 ACR was the highlight of the 11th ACR operations during the day. After passing through a regimental-size base camp, a large enemy force was encountered in trenches to the north. The ensuing battle left 50 enemy dead versus 2 U.S. KIA, the only U.S. combat fatalities of D-day.

The next few days of operations were characterized by a continuation of maneuvers begun on D-day. The enemy made strenuous efforts to avoid contact and to determine the extent and placement of the Allied forces. His command and control apparatus were completely disrupted, and he was caught off guard and ill prepared. The High Command scattered in two's and three's and a large exodus of trucks going in all directions was noted by the 1-9th Cavalry.

On 3 May Task Force Shoemaker was reinforced with elements of the 2d Brigade. Multiple small caches were being discovered by the ground units while the first large weapons cache was observed from the air by A Trp of 1-9th Cavalry. This area was engaged with gunships and Tactical Air resulting in the destruction of 7 2½-ton trucks, 13 ¾-ton trucks, and 3 jeeps. Another truck park in the nearby area was discovered and the Cavalry Troop destroyed nine trucks with their own gunships.

On 4 May 1970, B Trp of the Cavalry Squadron observed numerous bunkers and military structures in a densely vegetated area northwest of the current ground operations. Additional aerial reconnaissance teams further reported that these structures and bunkers related to bamboo matted trails. One pilot also reported seeing numerous antennas in the southern part of the complex. On 5 May, Co C, 1-5 Cavalry, in response to the aerial reconnaissance sighting reports, displaced into the northern half of the complex which had been dubbed the city. Immediately upon entering the suspected area, the Cavalry Troopers reported finding numerous storage bunkers measuring 16 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 8 feet deep. Subsequent reports indicated that most of the bunkers contained large quantities of weapons and munitions and that the enemy had just recently evacuated the area. Throughout the period 5-13 May, 182 storage bunkers, 18 mess halls, a training area and a small animal farm were discovered in the area.

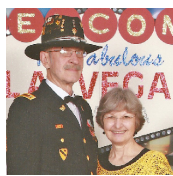
The logistical storage bunkers contained clothing, food stocks, medical supplies, weapons and munitions. The bulk consisted of ammunition. Generally, all types of equipment and supplies were in an excellent state of preservation and in good operating condition when discovered. The city covered approximately three-square kilometers and consisted of a well-organized storage depot that was capable of rapid receipt and issue of large quantities of supplies. Judging from the general condition of the oldest bunker and from translation of supply documents found in the area, it was apparent that the storage depot had been in operation for two to two and one-half years. Some bunkers had been constructed within the last six months.

Captured supply records indicated that the supply depot primarily supported the 7th North Vietnam Army Division. Based on the discovery of classroom facilities, numerous mess halls, firing ranges, as well as large stocks of items of personal clothing and equipment in the cache site area, it was determined that the city was also used to provide refresher military and political training to recent replacements from North Vietnam.

Throughout the Cambodian campaign, Allied forces would uncover other major caches of equipment which proved that this area was truly one of the most important logistical bases of the enemy. On 25 May a large automotive parts cache was discovered by A Co 2-8 Cavalry which was the first of a series of caches of various supplies discovered in the area from 25 May to 9 June. One of these, a communications depot, discovered by D Co 2-8 Cavalry, indicated that the enemy did not have time to evacuate his most valuable communications equipment.

THE REMAINDER OF THIS STORY WILL APPEAR IN THE MAY/JUNE SABER.

HQ and Special Troops News



Ron Killingsworth
10329 Caddo Lake Rd
Mooringsport, LA 71060-9057
(318) 426-3654
retmiagt@gmail.com

Greetings Troopers and families from NW Louisiana where Spring is peeking around the corner and rain continues to fall. Sue and I are looking forward to the reunion in KY and hope to see you there.

We just returned from the annual board meeting of the 1st Cavalry Division Association held in Killeen, TX, and meetings of the Museum Foundation and Trustee meetings of the Association's education foundation. Our Association remains strong financially and the recent great increase in the stock market has improved our financial standing. Troopers continue to support the Association with their donations. And, just as the Marines are always "looking for a few good men (and women)," the Association is always looking for members who are willing to serve in various positions within the Association. Troopers willing to not only hold a position, but willing to put some work into it! Contact the Association office if you are willing to serve in any of the various position within the Association leadership. It is time for you Gulf War, Bosnia and more recent engagements Veterans to begin to assume leadership of the Association. And, I am still hoping someone will step up and take over the "scribe" duties of writing this column.

In the last issue of the *Saber* we talked about the Quartermaster Corp and I received some feed-back from Troopers who served in the Cav in these combat support positions. **Marion Turpin** of Florida sent in the following about his service in the **11th Air Assault** and the **15th S&S Bn**:

"Ron, so good to see an article in the *Saber* about my old 1st Cav unit. The poor old supply and service people seem to be forgotten. I was a company clerk initially in the 11th Air Assault Div (test) for a year at Fort Benning and subsequently became a 'Cav Trooper' in May 1965. The picture you had in the last issue of the *Saber* is one of our three forward platoons that serviced the brigades. I was a clerk in the HQ Co of the 408th S&S and then in the 15th S&S Bn. My CPT was Ronald Harmon from Anniston, AL, and my 1SG was SFC Robert Harris. I did not go to Vietnam as I was too 'short' when they departed Fort Benning in August of 1965. We spent a lot of time in the field of GA and the Carolinas in 64 and early 65. Last year I looked up CPT Harmons' address in AL. He passed away in 2009, but I did talk with his wife. He was a wonderful man and a mentor for a young Trooper. I belong to the Fort Myers Black Hat 1st Cav organization in FL where I winter each year. Great group of guys including COL Jim Dingeman from the DC area. The rear area people do not seem to have the same "esprit de corps" that those infantry men had. Keep up the good work. Hope to hear from some of the other Troopers in the 15th S&S."

Thank you, Marion, for your memories. If you want to contact Marion, you can reach him at <turp904@gmail.com>.

I also received emails from **Neal Whetsel**, who served with the **15th S&S Bn** in Vietnam from **1968-69**. Neal, who obtained his commission through OCS, has been nominated for the OCS Hall of Fame and may be inducted into that great organization in May. Neal wrote:

"Thank you for your time and effort to research QC history and information in your article. The 15 S&S Bn, in the 1968-69 timeframe in Vietnam, was in both I Corp and III Corp, when I was assigned to the Bn. Having attended the West VA reunion and the Fort Hood reunion last year, it was a pleasure to meet you at our reunions. Now I plan to be at KY in June as I took basic at Ft Knox and AIT at Fort Ord before I attended OCS for my commission at Fort Lee, VA. I was assigned to the Cav as Division Petroleum Officer while at Camp Evans, Hue and Phu Bai in the I Corps and participated in Operation Delaware during Tet, Operation Pegasus and then Liberty Cannon with the Cav's move to the III Corps area. Then I went to Phuoc Vinh and the Division AO refueling operation in 1969 until April, when I returned to U.S. and Army Reserve duty as required. In the I Corps area, with over 450 Helos, we were pushing 7 to 8 hundred thousand of JP4 daily, when in full blown operation with most of units on the move and engaged. Our storage was just under 3 million gallons or about 3-day supply

within the AO. At the Fort Hood reunion last year, I talked to Aviation officers and Troopers in the 115th Sustainment Bn, which used to be the 15th S&S Bn."

Thank you, Neal, and as always, appreciate the feed-back. Neal has promised to write more about his time in Vietnam and to dig out some of his old photographs.

While I was assigned to the 312th MI Bn in 82 to 84, we had a Catholic priest, Father Frank, as the battalion chaplain. Father Frank was a MAJ and a great all-around Trooper. His goal was not just to support any religious beliefs of the battalions' Troopers, but also the "health and welfare" of all the members of the unit. He also served in the Fort Hood chapels. During REFORGER in 1983, he joined us in the snow and mountains of north Germany. He encouraged us, gave us candy, and was ready to help in any way. Chaplains are much more than religious leaders! Now, here is some information about the U.S. Army chaplain's corps.



The Army chaplain is a qualified religious leader dedicated to serving Soldiers and families. Chaplains provide ministry worldwide, accompanying Soldiers and families as they carry out their unit's mission in both peace and war. The chaplain's mission is to bring Soldiers to God and God to Soldiers. America calls on our Army to fight and win our nation's wars and Army chaplains are there every step of the way. The motto of the Chaplain's Corps is "Pro Deo et Patria" (for God and country). Army chaplains serve in every type of unit, including Special Operations, infantry,

aviation, intelligence, hospitals, prisons, cyber and community ministries. They offer specialized ministries in ethics, world religions, hospital ministry and marriage and family counseling. Within the Chaplain's Corps you will also find some very important and caring enlisted Soldiers known as Religious Affairs Specialist (RAS). Together with chaplains they form the Unit Ministry Teams. While the chaplain is a non-combatant, the RAS is responsible for the security of the team and is fully trained in Soldier tasks and religious support matters. The Army is a pluralistic environment. Rabbis, ministers, imams and priests serve our Soldiers and their families.

There have been many "famous" military chaplains throughout history. Today we will cover just a few of them. LT George L. Fox, a Methodist minister; LT Alexander D. Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; LT John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest; and LT Clark V. Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister are known as the "Four Chaplains." When the U.S.A.T Dorchester was torpedoed by German submarines, four U.S. Army Chaplains offered their aid to the hundreds of men aboard the transport ship, sacrificing their own lives during the rescue. For their actions, the men were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross. Later, Congress authorized the "Four Chaplains Medal," which was presented to the next of kin of each of the four chaplains. Emil Kapaun served as a chaplain in World War II and the Korean War. In 1950, he and his unit were captured by Chinese soldiers and taken to a North Korean prisoner of war camp. He died of malnutrition and pneumonia in one of the camp's hospitals. Kapaun was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his service during the war. Even while severely weakened, Kapaun constantly performed religious services and rites for other prisoners in the camp. He was also known to give away his own food, mediate disputes, and persuade prisoners to tend to the wounded. Kapaun was one of 12 Army chaplains to die in the war, all in North Korean concentration camps. His Distinguished Service Cross was later upgraded to the Medal of Honor. For more information about heroic chaplains, visit <<https://www.goarmy.com/chaplain/about/chaplains-in-army-history.html>> and most of the above information, about the Chaplain Corp, was obtained from this website. Regardless of your religious belief, or lack of any religious belief, chaplains are ready to help you in any way they possibly can. And don't forget all the hard work and dedication of our enlisted Religious Affairs Specialist.

That's a wrap for this issue. I hope to meet some of you at the reunion in Louisville, KY. It's not too late to send in your registration. The reunion hotel is "full up" but there are plenty of hotels close by. Contact the Association office if you need help. Call the Association office and let the ladies there know how much you appreciate their hard work. Go by the office in Copperas Cove if you are in the area. Meantime, Sue and I wish you and your family the best and may God watch over and keep you, the active members of the great 1st Cavalry Division, many in dangerous places, and may God bless the U.S. Army, our nation and all the members and families of the Great First Team and the Association.

ENGINEER NEWS

Continued from pg. 20

An Engineer of Course: Jeremy Miller of the **391st Engineer Co** was about to join 19 other Vets to end his pain by suicide on any given day. He doesn't know why but he stopped and did not become another statistic. Four others in his Company had not stopped. He described his mission in Iraq as "looking for bombs on the side of the road." We 12B's know exactly what he was talking about. Instead, Miller decided to walk across America starting in Crescent City CA. By the time he got to Nevada, he learned to live without anti-depressants. By the time he got to Kansas, VFW Posts were welcoming him with food, flush toilets and cold beer. Miller made it to Arlington in December of 2019. Here's the point: Thinking about suicide? STOP! Call me. Call 1st Cav Association. Call anybody. (Source: VFW Magazine, Feb 2020, Photo by Nathan Pettingill)



NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29 honors the men and women who served and sacrificed during the longest conflict in United States history.

It was on March 29, 1973, when combat and combat support units withdrew from South Vietnam. Generations later, Veterans of this time period are gaining the respect that was not so freely given upon their return. Involving five U.S. presidents, crossing



nearly two decades and 500,000 U.S. military personnel, it left an indelible mark on the American psyche.

Returning Veterans did not always receive respectful welcomes upon their arrive on American soil. There were 58,000 killed, never to return. National Vietnam War Veterans Day recognize the military service of these men and women who answered the call to service their country when she needed them. They didn't make the decisions to go to war.

On National Vietnam War Veterans Day, we recognize the service and duty rendered by all servicemen and women of this era.

HISTORY

U.S. Sens. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., and Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., introduced legislation in 2017 to honor Vietnam Veterans with a day on the anniversary of the withdrawal of military units from South Vietnam. President Donald Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Day Act on March 28, 2017, calling for U.S. flags to be flown on March 29 for those who served.

<<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-vietnam-war-veterans-day-march-29/>>



HONOR ROLL

Thank you for the generous donations from our following Troopers:

SP-4 ALLRED, William L.
In Memory of Wood Lee Hicks, Killed in Vietnam 1-25-66
SGT AMBURGEY, Paul W.
SGT ANDERSON, James J.
In Memory of All That Gave Everything
CPL ANNICELLI, Anthony
CPT BARTLETT, Robin B.
SP-5 BEGLEY, Kevin F.
SP-4 BEAMON, Thomas J. Jr.
In Memory of SP-4 Maston S. Parham
CW4 (RET) BOEHM, Geoffrey M.
1LT BRAUNEIS, Paul F.
In Memory of Oscar Gutierrez
CW4 (RET) BREWER, Casto L.
In Memory of SGT William PAPA E Co. 2/8th Cav (1968)
SP-6 CHAPPEL, Elton B.
CPT CHASE, Joel K.
SFC CLARK, Charles
SGT CLAY, Ronald
SSG COLLINS, Arthur J
In Memory of Peter Zanca Jan 1968 D 1/7
SP4 CONDROSKI, Joseph R.
In Memory of Doc Charles M. Kinney C Co 2/7 Cav 1965-66
SGT CONNOLLY, Joseph M.
In Memory of CPT Peter Valtz B 1/12
SGT CONNOLLY, Joseph M.
In Memory of B Co. 1/12th Cav
COL (RET) DeVRIES, Paul T
In Memory of LTC (RET) James A. Curcio
SGT DIAZ, Raul N.
In Memory of Ed Rosette Unit 1/77th Field Artillery
SSG DOWDY, William M.
In Memory of Ronald Colson (KIA 3-21-69)

MAJ (RET) ARMER, Raymond B.
SP-4 BABCOCK, David H.
SSG (RET) BROWN, James H.
E-5 DEAN, James
In Memory of Richard Ander B 1-5 Cav
SP-4 DELGADO, Joseph
In Memory of All Vietnam Veterans 8th ENG
SP-4 DRAPER, David A.
E-4 ESCHBACHER, Paul A.

MS. BOWMAN, Fern
In Memory of Charles (Bob) Kincaid, Jr.
MS. BROWN, Karen M.
In Memory of Charles (Bob) Kincaid, Jr., who passed away on December 25, 2019
1LT GARNELLA, Thomas W.
In honor of Joel Chase
CW-4 (RET) GOLDEN, Robert T.

ANONYMOUS
CW4 CHIN, James
CPT COX, Charles W.
In Memory of LTC Anthony Curico
E-5 FORD, Harry
In Memory of Robert E. Ford (Father)
E-5 FORD, Harry
In Memory of Lynn A. Ford (Wife)

SGT CARTER, John G.
In Memory of SP-4 Michael Farley C 1/7 10/30/1971

SSG CORBUTT, Tom

Editor Note:

Honor Roll privileges are given to members who make a \$25 or more D Trooper donation, donation to the Association, or scholarship donations to the IaDrang or the Foundation. Honor Roll privileges do not include calendar donations nor Saber renewals.

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MR. GEORGE, John T.
SFC GILLILAND, Ronald
In Memory of CSM William E Leach
SP-4 GRINNELL, Thomas H.
In Memory of Ed Joujohn Roche
CPT HALL, Sanci
CPT HALL, Sanci
1LT HANSON, Robert M. Jr.
CPT (RET) HARWOOD, Bruce K.
In Memory of LT Felix King B 2/8 Cav ’65
SGT HERRICK, John
In Memory of Prentice D. LeClair
E-5 HOLT, David W.
SP-4 HUGHES, Billy H.
In Memory of MAJ Billy J. Nave, CSM Kennedy, 1-9 CAV
SP-5 HURST, William A.
In Memory of All Passed Troopers
SFC JOHNSON, Bryant
In Memory of Little Joe-Guns-A-Go-Go
SFC KOHLBERG, Robert
SGT KOLNOK, Michael J. Jr.
In Memory of John Costello Phantom Raider 6
SGT KOLNOK, Michael J. Jr.
In Memory of John Costello Phantom Raider 6
SP-4 LOKEY, George S.
MSG MAYER, Lawrence M
In Memory of Cindy Mello
SFC (RET) McHOUL, John
In Memory of Benny Kavrchis

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In Memory of Vietnam Vets
SGT HONZO, Joseph E.
SP-5 HOWARD, Dickie W.
SGT McCULLEY, Dennis
CPT MEYERS, Richard R.
SP-5 MIRAGE, Paul
In Memory of Donald A. Orsini D Co 1/12 Cav, 1st Cav Division

DONATIONS \$50 - \$75

SGT GROB, Brian A.
In Memory of Ernest Grassi
CPT HETH, Donald
For 2nd Platoon C Company 1/5th 1968
SGT JACKSON, David
SGT SANTANA, Jose A.
In Memory of Albert Antaki
PFC SCHAEFER, Patrick G.

DONATIONS \$80 - \$100

MR. HAYDEN, Bradley
In Honor of my brother’s service with the 1st Air Cav in Vietnam. RIP Miller Dean Hayden, Jr. GarryOwen
SGT HENRY, A.C
In Memory of SSG Carl Reid, 2/24/68, C Co. 1/7th Cav.
PFC HINKER, Brad
E-5 KELLEY, Peter G.
PSG (RET) PALMER, Leslie L.
In Memory of SP4 Roger Edward Denny, A Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery Regiment who was killed in action 11 March 1969.

DONATIONS \$120 - \$150

CSM (RET) HENDRICKSON, Robert J.
In Memory of CPL Bruce Neal Knox, B Co. 2/12th, TET Offensive, 2-4-68 a member of the “Lost Battalion”

DONATIONS \$200 - \$250

1LT BENOIT, Clifford
In Memory of SGT George R. Schipani K Co 3/8 Cav, died at POW Camp 5, N. Korea 1950.

PFC MEYER, Charles
SFC NATTRASS, Eric
SGT NELSON, Tommy A.
E-4 O’GRADY, Mike
SP-4 PARISH, Willard F.
In Honor of Charles “Bob” Kincaid LZ-X-RAY Nov 1965
MRS. PARISI, Grace
In Memory of Amedo A. Parisi
SP-4 PATTERSON, Roger D.
SP-5 PETERSON, Paul A.
MRS. RAINS, Joanne
In Memory of Ret CSM Charles J Rains
E-5 RICEDORF, Ralph S.
SFC (RET) SAWICKI, Richard W.
In Memory of Richard P. Sawicki (on ‘The Wall’)
CPT SCHELLINGS, Joseph A.
SP-4 SELLECK, Patrick
In Memory of LT GEN Hal Moore & Family
1SG SIMMONS, Larry
E-5 SKELLY, Thomas D.
CW4 SOMMERS, Jerry C.
MR. STGEORGE, John T.
SSG (RET) STEVENS, Charles T.
In Memory of PFC Robert Dial 15 Mar 66
SGT TARDIFF, Chris A.
In Memory of Randy Lamont and Steve Simpson
SP-4 TELLES, Thomas R.
E-4 THROCKMORTON, Robert E.
In Memory of Robert E. Throckmorton WWII 1st Cav Division
SP-4 WATTS, Donald J.
CPL WILLIAMS, Warren Jr.

SP-5 REICHERT, William Jr.
In Memory of Bob Johnson (former Assn President)
SGT SHOWALTER, Richard T.
In Memory of Arnold John Kulhanek KIA June 2, 1970
SP-5 WEADON, Michael
SGT WHITISH, Bruce
In Memory of Leonard Borchard
SP-5 WOLFE, Dennis L. Sr.

CPT STAHL, Frank B. Jr.
SGT VERNON, Fred
COL (RET) WHITTLE, William A.
SP-4 WILSON, David W.
In Memory and Honor of SGT Coffee, CPL Hill, PFC Hamill and others lost on 4 Nov 1965 with RECFON Co D 2/8

SGT SANTANA, Jose A.
In Memory of Albert Antaki
SGT TARDIFF, Chris A.
In Memory of Vietnam Vets
LTG (RET) WALKER, Keith
SGT WHITISH, Bruce
In Memory of John Giddings
SGT WILLIAMS, John P.

SGT WOLAVER, ROB
In Memory of Keith V. Huffstutler KIA Republic of South Vietnam 1967

SP-4 STEWART, Carl
SP-4 THOMPSON, Gary
CSM TRATT, Samuel G.

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Birthday Wishes to the Roaring 1920's Birthday Babies!!




- MAJ (RET) ROBERT J. EARL
turned 92 on 3/11/2020
- MSG (RET) ENOCH I. POTTER
turned 92 on 3/15/2020
- COL (RET) HENRY J. STEIN JR.
turned 92 on 3/15/2020
- SFC HERMAN A. AHO
turned 92 on 3/17/2020
- CPL DAVID E. EVANS
turned 96 on 3/29/2020
- MSG LYNN E. ANDERSON
turned 92 on 3/31/2020
- BG (RET) JOHN C. BURNEY JR.
turned 96 on 4/06/2020
- SGT PATCH CURTIS
turned 99 on 4/10/2020
- PFC HOWARD O. DEAN
turned 92 on 4/10/2020
- SGT DAWES D. LEE
turned 94 on 4/12/2020
- SSG WILLIAM R. OAXACA
turned 94 on 4/14/2020
- SSG JOSEPH A. STEVENS
turned 98 on 4/14/2020
- 1SG JOSEPH A. MCCADDEN MD
turned 94 on 4/16/2020
- SFC FRANK GIAIMO
turned 94 on 4/18/2020
- COL (RET) DANIEL B. PEYSER
turned 94 on 4/21/2020
- PFC FLOYD G. SPICE
turned 92 on 4/21/2020

Happy Birthday to these young Troopers!

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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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FRONT

TOP LEFT SHOULDER:
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with the U.S. flag on right arm



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