



SABER

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



VOLUME 71 NUMBER 2

Website: www.1CDA.org

MARCH / APRIL 2022

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Scott Sjule
1CDAPresident21@gmail.com



Greetings Troopers, Are you ready for spring? I cannot wait to see the warmer weather bring the trees, grass, flowers, and foliage back to life. My aging body yearns for spring a little more every year. The more things change the more things stay the same. I am certain much of how I experience the stages of life are consistent with those that have passed through before.

I hear the term "Woke" being used a lot these days. I, like many in my generation (Baby Boomers), initially felt it implied that I was not woke. After going through quite a few emotional discussions in my head, as well as being told by younger people that I did not understand, I have managed to think of generation gaps in a positive light. First the younger folks are correct, I do not understand things the way they do. However, reciprocally they do not understand things the way I do. This gives us a precious opportunity to demonstrate respect and consideration for all. At times, efforts to recognize and provide opportunities for less enfranchised groups of people, often include unfair character judgements of other more enfranchised groups. To navigate these dynamics, it is increasingly necessary for leaders to refine their skills in coalescence. Fortunately, the military has provided training and real-world experience in coalescence. Through intentional training and doctrine in Communications, Leadership and Soldier Team Development, the military has often led the way in cultural integration.

We as the 1st Cavalry Division Association have a prime opportunity to promote cultural growth by interaction with our great Division. Whether it be through visiting active-duty installations, social media, or seeking out members in our local areas, let us be encouraged to Live the Legend by interacting with other members, as well as all Veterans. Not only is the 1st Cavalry Division the Combat Arm of Decision, but our members have become a decisive force in our communities. This is a great reason to be an active member of the 1st Cavalry Division Association <www.1CDA.org>.

During the winter Board of Governors meeting, CSM (RET) Glen Vela shared a link to the trailer of a new documentary about the Air Cav Brigade's critical support during the Surge in Iraq. The name of the movie is "The Longest Month" the YouTube link is <<https://youtu.be/CMih0oZLRoc>>. These Troopers are Legends. I cannot wait to see the movie! Most of the interviews took place in the 1st Cavalry Division Association conference room in May 2019. The original write up was in the May June 2019 *Saber*.

May God Bless You All.
..First Team, Let's Ride!
Respectfully, Scott Sjule

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

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



Women's History Month. A time set aside for the Nation to observe the contributions women have made to our culture and society. Women who planned, organized, lectured, wrote, petitioned, lobbied, rallied, and marched for women's rights, against staggering odds, did so without violence; our world was permanently changed.

This year's theme is "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope." A tribute to the ceaseless work from our caregivers and frontline workers during the pandemic and to recognize the thousands of women from all cultures who provided both hope and healing throughout history.

When asked the question to name women who changed the course of your history, the quick answers are Harriett Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, Rosa Parks, or maybe my mother and/or grandmother. In keeping with a military theme, here are a few women you may not have heard of, and who ultimately changed my history as a service member:

Continued to pg. 11

INDEX	PAGE	INDEX	PAGE	INDEX	PAGE
1CDA OFFICE NEWS	16	CHAPTER NEWS	14	NEW MEMBERS	11
5th CAV	5	CHANGE ADDRESS	2	OTHER REUNIONS	2
545th MP CO	21	DIVISION DOINGS	22	REUNION	12-13
7th CAV	7	DIVISION DVD	7	REUNION PINS	19
8th CAV	8	DOCTOR'S REPORT	17	REUNION T-SHIRT	12
9th CAV	9	DONATIONS	4	SABER RENEWAL	2
12th CAV	6	ELECTION	12	SCHOLARSHIP AD	23
15th MED	18	ENGINEERS	20	GIFT SHOP	15
1ACB DVD	11	HICCUP	17	TAPS	2
AIR ASSAULT COIN/PIN	19	HISTORIAN	10	TROOPER'S TALE	3
CALENDAR	2	HONOR ROLL	23	VIETNAM BOOK	18
CHAPTER INDEX	15	LRRP	4	WANTED	22

HORSE DETACHMENT by CPT Abby Edwards, Commander

Howdy all, HCD has been busy these past few months, but we have been having an absolute blast. I hope you had the chance to see us at the San Antonio Rodeo and the Houston Rodeo. The Troopers had a wonderful time and we are thankful to both committees for hosting us and the opportunity to take part in the amazing event. We were also able to support the Army recruiting efforts in partnership with the Houston local recruiting command with a Yesterday and Today presentation as well as performing our mounted demonstration for the Texas City High School.



SSG Dillard, 1SG Villarreal, SGT Long & SSG Jenkins at the San Antonio Rodeo



HCD participating in the Houston Rodeo Parade

Although March was a quieter time for the Detachment in regards to supporting local events, the Troopers used the time to better themselves as riders and develop their horsemanship. Our C Groupers took their B group exam that evaluates their knowledge of riding with a written test and then a practical riding test the next day on a horse chosen by random selection. Those who pass both the written and practical will have displayed their riding expertise and earned the right to wear spurs. Our Trainees will also take their initial entry test to join the Detachment as a member. A fun fact: since 2005, the HCD has tracked how many members have been a part of the Detachment and as of now there have been less than 300 members! We hope to reach the 300 goal with these newest Troopers.



HCD Demo Team performs at Texas City High School

as well as providing color guards for the Riata Round Up in Lampasas, TX on 29-30 Apr. We hope to see y'all out there!

The Horse Cavalry Detachment is fully open to the public! Please come visit us at our barn for a barn tour or our Thursday 1000 demonstration at 69007 Trooper Loop, Fort Hood, TX. We love and appreciate the support that this amazing community bestows on us and look forward to our continued engagements and exchanges long into the future.

Please check out the link on the Association website <www.1CDA.org> to make it easier to request the HCD to support an event in your area. We do ask that you have the request turned in for consideration 120 days before the event so that we have enough time to prepare. Please call (254) 287-2229 or (254) 404-5193 with any questions. Check us out on Facebook (1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment) where we post pictures from the barn and strive to keep everyone informed of upcoming events and ceremonies. We have an Instagram now (@horsecavalrydetachment) as well, where we post pictures of the remarkable things our Troopers are doing. The Facebook page now has an official email that you can send questions and request for support to. HOT TO TROT!

April gives the current B Groupers a chance to earn the coveted A Grouper title. A Groupers are considered the elite riders of the group and have demonstrated not only their riding ability but their proficiency in horsemanship. HCD will be participating in the Blue Bonnet Festival and Parade in Burnet, TX on 09 Apr

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

July 6-10, 2022	74 th Annual 1CDA Reunion, Dayton, OH
Nov 9-11, 2022	13th Annual Veterans Day in Washington, D.C.
June 14-18, 2023	75 th Annual 1CDA Reunion, Louisville, KY

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 (____) _____

E-mail _____

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP DATE: _____ CVV: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

SIGNATURE _____

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

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

Consider donating today.

SABER

The newspaper of the 1st Cavalry Division Association
published during each even numbered month at
302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703
Phone: (254) 547-6537 / 547-7019

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.

OTHER REUNIONS:

15th Medical Battalion Association Reunion, 21-24 April 2022. Omaha, NE. Hampton Inn and Suites Omaha Downtown, 1212 Cuming St., Reservations 402-345-5500 and Homewood Suites by Hilton Omaha Downtown, 1314 Cuming St. Reservations 402-345-5100, Group Code for both hotels is "15th Med MVV." POC: Ron Ingram, <papillion251@aol.com> call or text at 402-670-1370. Info at <www.15thmedbnassociation.org>.

E Co 1/5 1st Air Cav Vietnam 1969-71 Reunion, 28 Apr-1 May 2022. Harrisburg/Carlisle, PA. Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, 815 E. Eisenhower Blvd, Middletown, PA, 717-939-1600. Details at <Echorecon.com> or email questions to <tmfauquher@aol.com>.

E Co 2/5 Reunion, 16-19 May 2022. Ft. Walton-Destin Beach, FL area. Island Hotel, (formerly the Ramada). POC Mick DeHart, <michael.dehart754@gmail.com> or 937-875-8446.

1st Cavalry Division Association 74th Reunion, 6-10 July 2022. Radisson Dayton, Dayton, OH. 1-866-247-5162.

8 Cav Jumping Mustangs, 14-17 Sept 2022. Crowne Plaza Burr Ridge Chicago, IL. Reservations: 630-325-2900 \$125/night. Use code Jumping Mustangs. POC: James Knafel 260-244-3864 or <jjknafel@gmail.com>.

77FA Reunion, 14-18 Sept 2022. Colorado Springs, CO. Radisson Hotel Colorado Springs Airport, 1645 N. Newport Rd, 719-597-7000. POC: John Moran, <johnjanmoran@woh.rr.com> or 937-361-1333.

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

TAPS

We were notified of the following deaths:

ADAMS, SGT Richard L., C Co, 2-7 CAV, 1968-69. 16 January 2022.
BARRETT, COL (RET) Frederick T., HHC, G-2, 1CD, 1968-69. 20 February 2022.
BARRY, CPT Edward, A Co, 227 AVN, 1971. 3 December 2021.
BLEICHWEHL, COL Scott, HHC, 1CD, 2005. 8 January 2022.
BYRD, SSG William A., C Co, 1-9 CAV, 1965. 5 February 2022.
CHAMBERS, SPC Calvin D., C Co, 2-12 CAV, 1970-71. 1 July 2021.
CURTIS, PFC Eugene R., C Co, 1-7th CAV, 1971-72. 8 November 2021.
DINKEL, SGT Jared T., D Co, 1-5 CAV, 2017. 6 February 2022.
ERCOLANO, SGT Emil A., C Co, 2-7 CAV, 1968-69. 4 February 2022.
FRIDRYCH, SP5 Richard A., D Co, 227AVN, 1966-67. 10 February 2022.
GRIDER, CPL Edgar L., C Co, 77FA, 1950. 11 December 2021.
GRISANTI, SGT Mario D., A Co 1-5 CAV, 1969-70. 20 January 2022.
GULLEY, SSG Marshall, D Co, 1-9 CAV, 1996; C Co, 1-9 CAV, 2001; B Co, 2-8 CAV, 2006. 1 October 2021.
HEWITT, CSM (RET) Southern W. 'Buddy,' A Co, 1-7 CAV, 1965-66. 6 December 2021.
HOLEWA, SFC (RET) Stanley, B Co, HHC, A Co, 13 SIG, 1983-85. 13 January 2022.
MAXWELL, 1LT Gordon K., 15 SS, 1968. 25 January 2022.
McKINLEY, Trooper Robert "Bob," 15 MED, 1965-68. 18 August 2021.
OLIVER, SP4 Nathaniel Q., D Co, 15 TC BN, 1969. 24 January 2022.
PATTON, SP4 W. Robert, B Co, 27 MNT, 1965-66. 7 August 2021.
SCHRODER, MSG (RET) Richard L., B Co, 15MED, 1969. 19 November 2021.
STEINE, LTC (RET) Joel R., HHT, 1-9 CAV, 1965. 26 September 2021.
STOKES, LTC (RET) Ronald J., B Co, 27 MNT & DISCOM, 1968-69. 15 February 2022.
VROMAN, SGT Russell C., HHC, 8 CAV, 1953-55. 14 November 2021.

ACTIVE-DUTY TAPS

We have been notified of the following non-combat Active-Duty death:
MEITL, SPC Joseph M., 2-82 FA, 3rd BDE, 2022. 10 March 2022.

Trooper's Tale



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

A Btry 1/77 Artillery, 1969-70

My tour of duty began in April of 1969 with A Battery, 1/77th Artillery, 1st Cav Division. I extended 2 months to June of 1970, to receive an early out. I served as Howitzer gunner, just short of 14 months in country.

During that time our howitzers flew across Vietnam into different fire bases, went on gun raids with the infantry checking out areas of operation. At times jumping from the chinooks into elephant grass setting up our howitzers and



SP4 Cooper packing to go home

a small perimeter. We entered Cambodia during the incursion end of May 1970.

During this time, we came under heavy attack on LZ Ike in May 1969, June 18th and 20th a full-blown ground attack. We rotated back to LZ Ike around Nov 69 and again came under a large ground attack.

We would pack up on short notice and flew off to another landing zone. Most often cork screwing into another LZ. We even loaded up into a C-130 and flew into a staging area for the Cambodian Incursion. Our battery flew combat missions 20-25 times.



SP4 Daniel L. Cooper

Reunion 52 Years in the Making by Anoushka Dalmia, Worcester Telegram & Gazette

It had been a while since Frank Bingham and Gary Garstka had met each other. 52 years, if you're counting. In the summer of 1968, both men, then 23 and leaving in their home state of Massachusetts, were drafted for the Vietnam war. They spent over a year there, serving their country in 1969 in unit C Battery 1/21st Artillery of the 1st Cavalry Division.

They lost touch when they returned home, until Bingham reached out a few years ago. Delays, exacerbated by the pandemic, prevented a meeting. Until this Veterans Day rolled around.

Bingham grew up in Dedham, Garstka in North Hampton. Amid their unit of 60 Soldiers, it was East-Coaster personalities that had brought them together. "We talked the same language and Gary had a sense of humor over there. When the accents action slowed down, we would talk. When things got rough, we would still talk," said Bingham.

It went without saying that their year in Vietnam wasn't one they wanted to relive. But the bonds they formed within their unit and the memories that they share that nobody else would ever truly understand meant that seeing each other again after all this time was a moment to cherish.

"Gary and the other fellows, they knew what I went through. I know what he did. He knows what I did. We were fortunate enough to get through it, and at times we didn't think we would," said Bingham.

Garstka agreed, both men turning their eyes away as a thought of the losses, the "casualties" of the war. "We were lucky on several occasions," he said somberly. "The tightness of the unit got us through but the only thing that mattered was going back home, back to the real world," said Bingham.

On New Year's Day in 1970, he finally came back to his home, landing in Boston. Garstka would follow a week later, arriving in Oakland. He waved to the protesters of war, dressed in uniform, walked into the airport, and asked, "What's the earliest thing you've got, smokin' east?"

It was a flight to Newark, and he took it, flying onward to Logan. His brother picked him up at 3 am in the bitter cold, and mid snowfall. Dressed in his uniform, he went home first thing and woke his mother up and gave her a kiss.

"He went his way, and I went my way. And that was it," said Bingham. It would be almost 50 years before they would speak again.

A Stone Hill graduate, Bingham came back to an incredibly supportive family, which he is grateful for. He put the ordeal behind him, and he got to work, spending 46 years selling agriculture insurance, putting his four kids through college.

Now living in West Roxbury, with grown children and a few grandchildren, he's had more time to look back. When he attended a Veterans Reunion in Washington D.C. seven years ago, memories started to rush back. He met people from his unit and that part of his life began to surface once more.



(L) Frank Bingham & (R) Gary Garstka

So, he reached out to Garstka a few years ago through a phone operator, knowing he must be somewhere in the Bay State. Garstka, who's been living in Hadley, has an uncommon last name, which meant that the first number Bingham dialed turned out to be him.

The men talked, catching up on a lifetime of memories. They wanted to meet but life went on and the pandemic hit, delaying it by another two years. Until Thursday.

The former Soldiers

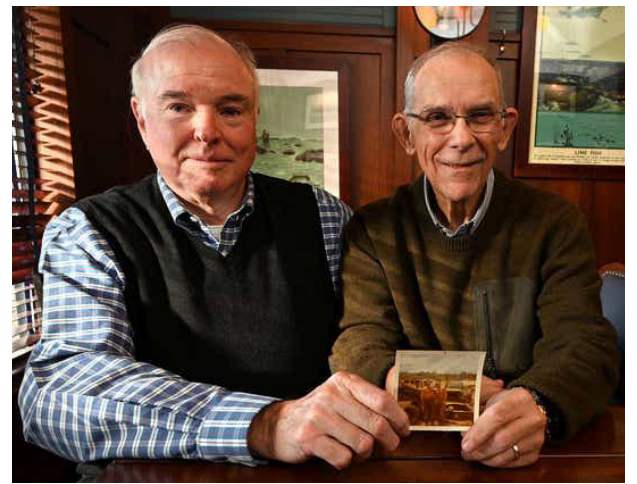
met at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Worcester. Garstka had never seen it and was impressed. Their wives met for the first time and the foursome headed for lunch at The Soul Proprietor.

Their shared experiences bringing them closer together but during their time together, they want to have a nice meal, enjoy the company and some lighthearted conversation.

"War is not a pleasant thing to talk about but the friendships you can make..." said Bingham, pausing as he teared up. Garstka put a hand on his shoulder, comforting him. "This guy was a rock over there," said Bingham softly, glancing at Garstka beside him.

"We were Soldiers once, young Soldiers. It's hard to describe when you go from a combat experience right back to the real night. And it happens overnight, basically. It's hard to deal with but we had good people in the service," said Garstka.

So, over some delightful seafood, they told jokes and kept things light, avoiding the seriousness of the past. And Bingham said they look forward to doing it again soon. After all, this meal was on Garstka's nickel, and he has to treat him back.



(L) Frank Bingham & (R) Gary Garstka

Papasan's Meat Cleaver by SSG Art Drago, D Co 1/8, 1969-1970

By the late fall and early winter of 1969, I was stationed on the Green Line at Quan Loi by the French house and pool. We were responsible for care, maintenance and bunker security for our section of the Green Line. Soldiers were assigned by their units on a nightly basis to man the bunkers and were not necessarily 11B. No matter, we expected them to provide defensive security by staying awake and being alert at the ready. One of our cadre was able to get a large chunk of beef. I do not know if it was really beef and I do not know where he obtained it. In any event, the five of us, 1 butter bar Lieutenant, me, another NCO and 2 SP4's decided to have a barbeque. Our collective mouths were watering at this prospect but there was one major problem. We did not have a knife large enough to butcher this huge chunk of meat into individual steaks. Our machete was not sharp enough. I have a suspicion we could not ask our mess Sergeant for help, if you get my drift. In desperation someone had the idea to ask papasan to borrow a large knife or cleaver. Our tent backed up against an ally separating us from the French hired local help. I believe that they lived there too. One of the guys spoke to papasan and asked if we could borrow his meat cleaver to slice the chunk of supposed beef. The bargain was that we could borrow the cleaver if we gave papasan some meat. Charcoal too must have been part of the bargain as this was available in Vietnam. The deal was struck, and the meat was sliced into many more steaks than we could possibly eat. It would not go to waste even giving papasan his cut. We had a delicious steak dinner that late afternoon for ourselves. We then proceeded to cook the remainder of the steaks for those Soldiers reporting for bunker duty that evening. It was quite a surprise for everyone and gratifying having to provide a small taste of home! The next day we returned the meat clever to papasan. It was back to C's and mess tent food thereafter! Not complaining!

My Life in Vietnam by J. Edward Cannon, C Co 1-8 CAV

During the morning of an early October day in 1969, the thirty-two men of 2nd Plt, C Co 1-8 Cav were assigned a mission to clear an NVA bunker complex in northern Bo Duc District, South Vietnam. The bunkers were about 6 klicks (six thousand meters) south of the Cambodian border and 15 klicks northeast of the big artillery and air base at Quan Loi. The bunkers had been bombed and strafed by our jets and shelled by the 105mm howitzers from our FSB (fire support base) during the previous three days. The jets, F-100 Super Sabers, we called Huns, had accurately dropped numerous 500-pound high explosive bombs on the bunkers and fired hundreds of rounds from their 20mm Gatling guns into the targeted area. Earlier bomb damage assessments found no enemy soldiers remaining in the bunker complex, however those observations were from a low flying scout helicopter, not a soldier on the ground. Some well concealed NVA soldiers may have stayed behind in underground bunkers or tunnels to protect their wounded or equipment.

We were to meet a platoon from 1-5 Cav, coming from our west, and join them to search for remaining NVA soldiers and other bunkers or cache sites in the area. At our FSB earlier that morning, we received enough C-Rations for one day, which we loaded into our packs with our usual load of combat field equipment, water and ammunition. About half of the platoon would go to the landing zone near the bunker complex in the first wave and the helicopters would then return to the FSB for the remaining Soldiers. Three Huey UH-1 helicopters arrived and two rifle squads with a machine gun team took positions on the helicopters, each of which could carry six combat Soldiers. The noise of the helicopter engine and blades, with the rush of wind through the open doors, prevented conversation between Soldiers but did allow us quiet time to prepare ourselves mentally for the combat assault. The artillery squadron at our FSB had fired a predetermined number of 105 mm high explosive shells into the landing zone before we landed, hopefully to eliminate a waiting enemy threat. A single white phosphorus-marking round was the final shell that exploded and signaled the end of the artillery barrage. An AH-1Cobra attack helicopter and an OH-6 LOH scout helicopter escorted

Continued to pg 22

LRRP/Ranger News



Pete Dencker
234 Sontag Dr
Franklin, TN 37064
615-202-4804
pdencker@outlook.com



Greetings from the Volunteer State of Tennessee. Hope this finds everyone well – given the continuing COVID issues and now the concern about what’s happening in Ukraine and the involvement of our Troops in Eastern Europe.

Last summer I attended the Ranger Rendezvous at Ft Benning, where the highlight of the week was the induction of new Ranger Hall of Fame members. One of the other notable highlights was the closing dinner that featured a great guest speaker.

His name was Tom McGurn. Tom retired after a 40-year career that included both the military and working in the police community. After retiring he put pen to paper in sharing stories about his life, he talked of the intense time he fought in the Vietnam War in 1969 and 1970, along with his recall to active duty to fly Blackhawks in Iraq in 2004 and 2005. “You learn very fast,” McGurn says of his time flying Huey helicopters for the Army while running missions to provide transport for ranger infils and exfils, for shipborne operations, combat assaults, and assisting the SEALs.



“I’m “That Guy” who had to travel 9,000 miles to the Vietnam Conflict/War to learn about the Rangers, specifically the 75th Rangers, their bravery, their skills, their commitment. I am “That Guy!” who would have to take those Ranger/LRRP teams out into the mountains and drop them into triple canopy jungle and believe me those Hills were crawling with the enemy.

I’ve seen the enemy from the air and thank GOD I was a pilot. To put some perspective on this, Army helicopters back then were the manned drones of their day; and now I’m delivering our Rangers. I would have to peek back at their faces as they sat in my cargo compartment, you just had to look, only now they were in my precious cargo compartment. They all bore heavy rucksacks and always plenty of ammunition. Their war faces were sometimes painted wearing do rags or soft caps.

Every team member had that 1000-mile stare. Not the 1000-mile stare from battle fatigue, but the 1000-mile stare of total concentration on the mission that was coming, the mission that they had to complete, they were a team, and they are America’s team. And! I am “That same Guy!” that would have to go back into those mountains and pick those teams up. Sometimes the mission was a planned extraction, sometimes it was not.

Now I can guarantee when our Nation is facing a military situation that the Joint Chiefs of Staff when discussing the immediacy protocol of action enabling them time to organize, they will have one quality, one word that will guide their decision and that word is “DEPENDABLE!” When you absolutely cannot fail you want DEPENDABLE. That is why they will choose the 75th Rangers, their best light Infantry. Highly trained, abundantly motivated, AMERICAN SPARTANS! Bravest of the brave.

I really want to let Tom in on a little secret. Us Grunts, Rangers, and those of us who spent our time in the field, look at the pilots that risked their lives to pick us up out in the middle of nowhere, sometimes under fire, as the bravest of the brave. To this day when I hear the distinctive sound of a Huey, it immediately takes me back 50 years. The memories are not just of a ride out of the jungle to a firebase or another LZ, but of the medevac pilots that sometimes risked it all to ensure our WIA’s made it back to a hospital facility, the gunship pilots that kept us on the winning side of a firefight, the 1/9th pilots that would hover while taking fire as a Ranger Team hooked up on a McGuire Rig, no matter how long it took. I can go on, but I think you get the message.

I still remember some of the names: John Shields, Ron Timberlake, Chris Sautter, getting old and the memory is not what it used to be, but those names stay with me. At the same time, I also have to especially recognize the 1/9th Blues who more times than I can remember, pulled us out of situations that would have otherwise turned out ugly. I guess it’s great to be recognized, but at the end of the day, we recognize that it was a Team effort, so to all the members of the 1st Cav Team... Thank You! From H Company, 75th/E Company 52nd, without your support many of us would not be here today. (Tom’s Book is “Check Ride” which can be ordered anywhere online).

This is a short entry, so I’m hoping some of you will get back in touch with some stories/memories of our time supporting one another in RVN.

Thanks – Pete
RLTW...

For those who’ve fought for it – life has a flavor the protected will never know



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

Combat Infantrymen

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

Combat Infantrymen’s Association

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

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

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

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

1CDA supports four scholarships for qualified applicants:

ACTIVE DUTY SCHOLARSHIP

Soldier has to be a member of 1CDA & assigned to 1CD. This grant is offered to the Soldier and spouse.

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

100% Offered to the child/children of 1CDA members with a 100% disability rating, that were assigned to 1CD.

KIA To be used by child/children of Troopers killed in action while assigned to 1CD.

IA DRANG SCHOLARSHIP

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

SUPPORT THE FUTURE, DONATE TODAY!
NOT available online

BY MAKING A SCHOLARSHIP DONATION, YOUR NAME WILL
APPEAR UNDER HONOR ROLL ON PAGE 23.

Active Duty	Foundation	Ia Drang
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Form of Payment:

☐Cash ☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Credit Card (Service Charges Apply)

Credit Card # _____

Exp Date: _____ CVV on back: _____ Total Amt: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature _____

Phone # _____

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.



5th CAV News

Harold P. "Doc" Truitt

4584 50th St W
Rosamond, CA 93560
661-810-5971

rr3-6bandaid@antelecom.net



Hello again to all of you who read this column! It has been a while since I had occasion to thank folks for feedback. I just received a call from **James Embrey**, of Owensboro, KY, and an email from **Marc "Doc" Levy**. Doc Levy was assigned to Delta 1/7 and while there became friends with a medic from Charlie 1/5 when they met in Quan Loi. His friend's name is Roger Byer of Grenada who has had an impressive life since returning and has written of his time in country. I found him on google and so can you if you would like to check out his story.

I want to examine the kinds of people who form our military and some of the things that recur to trouble us from time to time. That is not necessarily an easy job, but one I think worth discussing. First, who are we and what do we have in common.

We are citizens of this country taken from the general population but screened in several ways. First, we are to a great degree self-screened. That is, we tend to believe in the country and what it stands for. We are all patriots. The same self-screening also leaves us as a fraction that tends to be a bit more courageous and a bit more disciplined. Secondly, the military screens out, as best they can, people that have issues that might make them less favorable candidates. Thirdly, the training we must go through screens a few more and improves the discipline, the physical fitness and training usually augments the courage by giving a better understanding of the jobs and the reasons for them. The process in this paragraph leaves us with a group of people with significantly more discipline and courage than found in the rest of the population, taken as a group. After that, our differences cover the entire range of what is out there for the most part.

Our motivation varies in about the same way but departs from many in the group outside in a way, and that is we do not pursue military service to wealth which also sets us apart. Other motives are more complex, varied, and harder to track. So, I will leave that to you.

Personality types are about as varied as they can be with the note that the military works hard enough to ensure certain types would either be exceedingly rare are nonexistent. Psychopaths being an example of that. Sociopaths are tougher to screen but my guess is that they too are screened out to a great degree, both by the process and possibly because some of those might not see the military as an advantage to them. I am no psychiatrist and having acknowledged that I will move on.

Our Civil War, because of the size of the Armies and the fact that the above-mentioned screening was far in the future, is an interesting place to look for personality types. Many who would make the history books ranged from highly educated to little formal education at all, and from both military oriented schools and families and secular schools and families that would not ordinarily be involved in warfare. For the Union, Army units of Volunteers far outnumbered Regulars as a result. While courage was quite high, it is not hard to find examples where discipline was lacking, training was not always adequate, and units sometimes embarrassed themselves. Nevertheless, personalities ranged in both enlisted and commissioned ranks from, say Judson Kilpatrick, to George Thomas, which is to say from near selfless to vain, ambitious, and devious. Thomas being very unselfish, in all accounts I have come across. Both men were trained at West Point, and a little reading about that war can bring mention of either. As it turns out, George Thomas, while listed in places as the first Commander of the 5th Cav, after it was redesignated at the beginning of the war, was transferred elsewhere as the war began. He left quite a record of accomplishments not the least of which was the fact that he usually won, and his victories came with fewer casualties in relative terms from any other general officers. Often, he often was not as well equipped as he would have liked.

The Civil War, because of the size of the Armies involved is the first to give a glimpse of the problems Vets face. From a few sources that I have come across, (though I am sure there are others) primarily comments from Shermans autobiography and offhand comments in places about drifters being increased by and after the war, it seems probable that some things never change. It was certainly worse after that conflict as it happened here and around the homes of many who were involved leaving more than the usual number with loss of family for several reasons. Vets seem, even then to be the best source of help for other Vets and it is not hard to see that the war left the entire population worn out. Celebrations passed quickly where they happened, and people tried to forget or were busy trying to punish the South. Few reflected on the fact that the actual differences between the people on either side were far smaller than the violence of the war would seem to indicate. People who did the fighting often had little and nowhere to go. As in every conflict up to and including Vietnam, the military was cut back to a very tiny organization in the aftermath. Only a comparative few were able to remain in the service and many of them would continue to fight natives in the west so there was little time off.

One needs to be careful where I am headed next with this. I am not trying to be critical as we need all the help we can get, but while we do often get help from large groups or companies not directly connected to us. We need to recognize that wherever business will capitalize on their efforts for monetary gain. That is ok but tempers the warm fuzzy feeling I might otherwise get. Occasionally there are even scammers whose plan is to get more out than they put in. I am not too proud to accept help. And I am also grateful enough to say a heartfelt thank you. I just try to understand how things really work.

Rich Sherwood recently brought me a story that represents the issue well and the participation was no fraud. Here is Rich's story as he wrote it.

"Before I retired, I was a consultant to one of the Pentagon offices of the Navy. Part of my job was getting feedback from various managers on how well my company was operating. To do that, I met with Navy managers monthly. To be effective and to get the most candid comments, I needed to get to know my clients. It was no trouble at all to come to know Gene. He, like me, had been an infantry soldier in VN. He was with the 101st in the same AO I had been in a year before him. I learned that, when wounded Soldiers began coming back from Iraq & Afghanistan, Gene became a volunteer at Walter Reed Hospital, dealing with recent amputees.

"During our lunches together, Gene would talk about his problems dealing with severely wounded patients. One day he approached me to help him with a task he had taken on for himself. He had repeatedly noticed the same families walking around the hospital grounds during visits with their Soldiers undergoing long rehabilitation. He thought that they might like to do something outside the hospital campus and that they were unsure about getting around and about the response their Soldiers would receive from the public. Gene called the Washington Redskins to ask whether they would be willing to provide tickets for wounded Soldiers and their families. In a few days he received a return call from the team owner Dan Snyder's office. Would the Soldiers be interested in seeing the game from the Redskins' box? Yes, he said, they would.

"The next step was to arrange transportation. Gene was able to get a bus that had a lift and wide aisles, but he needed a driver. He asked me whether I could arrange to get a driver from my church. Yes, I could. The following Sunday, Gene, his Soldiers, and their families were driven to the stadium where they were treated to a game, hotdogs & beer, and a salute from the crowd. Gene continued this for the next few games. Before the end of the season, the Redskins and some other large corporations began arranging transportation, so his services were not needed anymore.

"Why couldn't Gene drive the bus himself? Why was it difficult for him to talk to the Soldiers at Walter Reed? Gene is a double amputee. His is one of the very few names engraved on the Wall in error because he had been removed from the field and reported as dead after tripping a land mine. His wounds and trauma led him to spend a lot of time angry and driven. Then one day Gene realized that he had served "a twenty-year sentence, with no time off for good behavior," and he resolved to volunteer to help other Veterans and amputees. Serving others was his path to healing.

"I've told this story many times, and I'm usually told in reply that Gene is a hero for his efforts to help wounded Soldiers at Walter Reed and for his own wounds themselves. I always agree that he is a hero, but not for those reasons. Yes, I say, Gene is a hero because every day he gets up, straps on his legs, and goes to work to provide for his children and his wife. He gets up every day to serve others and to reflect his gratitude for the life he has."

Gratitude will make every day of our lives better. And that applies no matter what the motives of our source of assistance. It will also put us in a better frame of mind for helping ourselves and others. No one owes us in the strictest sense because we do our duty, and many will see it that way. Personally, I owe every one of you and many or most of you will feel the same way. We are more acquainted with the facts of life in the service than anyone who never served.

Some types of assistance can be very frustrating to access. Take the VA, and service-connected issues. I am grateful for the VA but make no mistake some will struggle hard with them before everything is settled. For instance, if you are ever deployed in a way that means you function as a small team and find yourself in a highly contaminated environment, with smoke and fumes to deal with and the number of people exposed is small. With little documentation on what is there and what you are exposed to, about anything can happen. The military does not intend for such things to happen, and they (we) try to take care of our people. Even so, I know of instances where exposure to heavy metal fumes certainly resulted in health issues that did not present immediately, and the circumstances make it hard to prove how it is connected to the mission. We know when we take the oath, that we have signed a blank check. Like the amputees above, however things we cannot imagine can happen. Sometimes they happen to others, but we might know things that could help. Sometimes they happen to us. When they do, we have a choice to make about how we face things and carry on.

The carrying on part means all of us. Whether we have a large personal sacrifice like Gene in the story above or got through the things we faced looking and feeling about the same as going in, we still need to carry on and hopefully in a way that can help our brothers and sisters that could be less fortunate. That should extend from active duty right on out to grandfathers like myself. I met a young Medical Corpsman from the 5th Cav last September as I flew out of Killeen for the ICDA Reunion. She was well trained and highly motivated. Such people want to be prepared to assist those around them in any way they can. I hope those around her do the same for her. Looking out for each other does not start somewhere off in the future. It starts as soon as we get the picture. Thanks for reading this if you are still there!

The 74th 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion information and registration form can be found on pages 12 and 13 of this *Saber*. Hope you can join the First Team in Dayton, Ohio, July 6-10, 2022.

Drop a note, an email or call to let me know if I am off base or if you have something to say. I would like to hear from you!

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY MARCH 25

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.

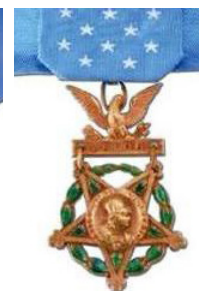
Since its creation, there have been 3,468 Medals of Honor awarded to the country's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.



AIR FORCE



NAVY



ARMY

12th CAV News

Thomas Lon Crabtree
195 Buzz Street # 18
Branson, MO 65616
432-853-4851
MMCTL3@aol.com
www.12thCav.US



Salute-Semper Paratus! Tuesday, 2/22/22, temperature 30 degrees and rapidly falling. At 0500 I was drinking coffee on the front porch at 54 degrees. Weathercaster projects for the week low 20s, nighttime temperatures low teens with rain, sleet, snow, and ice. Our Vietnam anthem song *"We Gotta Get Outta of This Place"* rolls in my head. Aside from the bizarre weather 2022 has been good to Maggie and me.

23-25 January we were at Ft Benning, GA, National Infantry Museum with 13 D Co 1-12 brothers and spouses. COL (R) John G. Gergulis and LTC (R) Chuck Rose, of D Co, 1-12 (Airborne 1965-66), arranged a ceremony with the National Infantry Association to present the "Order of Saint Maurice Medallion" to thus named Troopers:

Centurion-Kirk Knight; Legionnaires-Alex Barber, David Corcoran, Thomas Crabtree, Tom Kjos, Eddie Moon, Luther Nixon, Robert Ruiz, Jr., Don Trotter, Doug Warden, Walter Wilcak. Other Troopers inducted into the Order but not present were Frank Crary, Jerry Fell, Bob March, Mike Van Kirk, Julian Ynostra.

All Troopers, except (Crabtree, Kjos, Warden) were members of D Co 1-12 (Airborne) 1965-66 and members of 11th Airborne directly involved in Training and Development of the Airmobile Concept at Ft Benning 1963-65. They debarked from Savannah, GA, August 1965 on the USNS Geiger, arriving at Qui Nhon Port Vietnam September 1965 and were first 'Boots on the Ground.' Crabtree with 75 other Troopers left Ft Benning, GA, from Jump School July 1966, assigned to 1-12 Cavalry (Airborne), departed from Travis Air Force Base, Oakland, CA, via C-141 military transport. Doug Warden was the last Airborne Trooper assigned to 1-12 May 1967. Tom Kjos was assigned to D Co November 1967. Crabtree and Warden served their tours with C Company.

Tuesday 25 January after the presentation ceremony at the Vietnam Wall Replica on museum grounds, by CSM Charles Lewis, we were given an informative tour of the National Infantry Museum, by Brian Nelson, Chapter Liaison Columbus, GA, National Infantry Association. Later Chelsea Gradzik and CSM Gradzik provided us a good lunch in a reserved room. In the evening we convened at Mark's Bar-B-Que for drinks, food, and levity then back to the motel for a few fireballs. Wednesday 26th Troopers moved out to home bases. Maggie and I headed to Florida, spent 12 days there. We discovered a place in the Villages we liked, made an offer, and will become FL homesteaders end of March.



Front L to R-John Gergulis, Alex Barber, Luther Nixon: Standing L to R-Chuck Rose, Kirk Knight, Doug Warden, Walter Wilczak, Tom Kjos, Thomas Crabtree, Eddie Moon, Don Trotter, Robert Ruiz, Jr.

My thanks to COL Gergulis and LTC Chuck Rose for their sponsorship of me to receive this honor and the challenging work they put into this. Even though I had been to Benning in 2006 and 2017 at C Company Reunions this trip was reenergizing for Maggie and me. It was a convenient time for us to head onto FL, recon the area and determine if we wanted to locate there. We left Benning with some spring in our steps. It turns out, we found the place to spend our remaining days such as the "Chief Chopper Pilot" (Good Lord) allots us.

During the festivities, I found myself thinking of the brothers I trained with in AIT, Jump School, went to Nam with, and the many brothers of 12th Cavalry, should be here. We can enlist them, that, they may enjoy the honor in the future. 'Our mission is not finished until we report to Fiddlers' Green for our next duty assignment.' For me this connected the circle from July 1966 when we received our Jump Wings to now. To all the 12th Cavalry brothers, know that- "the circle is not unbroken"-we keep it intact with the reunions.

COL Gergulis was inducted into The Saint Maurice Order as a Doughboy in 2020. LTC Chuck Rose was inducted as Centurion in 2021-Salute- Boot to Boot!

We hear many stories about going over to Vietnam. Some say, "Getting there was harder than making it through the year." Since this article is about originals 1963-1966, this story, by a 2-12th Trooper, **Raymond Welch, MAJ (R)**, 1LT at the time, C Co, 2-12, is an interesting read. The war began as we, "Moved Out to the Railhead."

Humidity hung over us like damp bath towels. Sad goodbyes were said between Soldiers, friends and families assuring them we were okay and not to worry. That was not the case as our bodies' nervous systems worked overtime. I had my brave face on to show the Soldiers I was ready to lead in battle. Could not I lead in hostile situations since I had taken a platoon to the Congo earlier in the year to protect a U.S. Compound from rebel forces trying to overthrow the Congolese Government.

As Move out orders were shouted it was time for the families to return home.

CPT Childs and 1SG Tippins formed up C Co, took reports and Childs marched us from C Co area to Sand Hills Railhead.

Nearing the railhead, I saw the line of train cars as the overhead light cast shadows over the scene. Meaning of the shadow did not hit me until now as I write this. Guides directed us into railcars, one car per platoon. As the cars loaded with sweaty men the air stagnated. Windows opened quickly, damp humid night air mixed with sweat from the march, anxiety of the journey we embarked on, surged when the train did not move. Mouths of inexperienced Soldiers shouting bravado was all that moved. Experienced combat Soldiers were deep in memories of long-ago days they wished not to recall. Suddenly, a jerk and another, a wisp of fresh air rushed in the car, mixing with stagnant air it became contaminated. We knew not where we were going except to Southeast Asia.

Heading to port train speed increased in the Georgia countryside. Wheels click clacking on steel rails had a calming effect and some of the men dosed. Increased speed brought fresh night air into the interior and reduced the stagnated air now mixed with tobacco smoke. In the day smoking was vogue, accepted, and encouraged. Some started the habit for several reasons, one was to calm nerves. You understand why nerves were strained; before year's end they would be stretched unbelievable.

The trip planners thought of everything. Knowing we would be traveling at breakfast hour; sack lunch meals were provided. I remember that meal, ham-cheese between two bread slices, some fruit, a pint of milk to wash down that delicious home style meal. These wonderful treats were discovered as we left the railhead and consumed quickly with no thought given to it being breakfast nor to the milk being warm. Three activities emerged as the ride continued, sleeping, talking, card playing.

We rode into early morning, no idea where we were going, other than our ultimate destination. The sun rose to spread its warming ray's temperature rose in the cars. Bodies perspired again to make those starched khakis we left Benning in, rumpled, and crumpled as if hot bacon grease was poured over lettuce. Sleeping Soldiers awake, talking Soldiers quiet, card players still at it, the train slowed. Looking out the window I saw we were in a densely populated industrial area; everything was painted gray and nautical.

We had arrived at Port of Charleston, SC. Word came to unload and form a column. We marched toward a docked ship, encountering Red Cross workers with carts of coffee and doughnuts. A welcomed site since last we ate was before midnight. They were charging for their wares, most had little or no money since they had left it with their families at Benning. Fortunately, a bit down the pier, Salvation Army folks served free coffee and doughnuts. Soon we walked the gangplanks one by one to board Simon B. Buckner, our home for the next month. I heard commotion behind me, a C Co member yelled he was not going. The disturbance grew louder as a voice from top of the gangplank yelled, "Get him up here then he's, my problem." A scuffle occurred, two armed men forcibly escorted him up the gangplank and to the Ship's Brig.

It took several hours to load two brigades: 3,500 men. Officers and NCOs were assigned to stateroom sleeping quarters, Soldiers to below deck sleeping areas. We were briefed about safety procedures to adhere to once the ship was underway. We settled into our quarters and learned our way around the ship. Thinking "an idle mind is the devil's workshop," assignments were created for 2D Lieutenants to serve as assistant mess officers. During specified meals, they observed meal servings and ate in the lower enlisted mess facility. An officer present was good for morale and discipline. Officers and NCOs were divided into three groups, assigned specific times and tables for meals. Tables were set with glasses, dishes, silverware-not so in the cafeteria style enlisted mess.

During the night, the ship moved indicating it was no longer docked. Early morning light came, we looked out and saw only water. It seemed unreal we were on a ship headed to Vietnam. Once underway we kept busy with physical training and various classes. Official uniform was unstarched fatigues and gym shoes.

Once underway the rumor mill went live. I discovered men are worse than women in this department. First one was, "We aren't going to Vietnam, but to Cuba." After Bay of Pigs 1962 Operation, Cubans who opposed Fidel Castro escaped to the U.S. and were allowed to join the Armed Forces. We had a fair number of Cubans on the Buckner. The rumor was discussed daily until we arrived at the entrance to the Panama Canal. Rumor two emerged, "We would disembark the ship in Panama to train for our attack on Cuba." We entered the first lock and a canal pilot boarded ship. Rumor three circulated, "We were going to the west side of the canal to start our training." Around dusk we reached the western side of the canal, the pilot bid us farewell. The Buckner turned right heading northward along the Mexico Coast.

Leaving Benning most units bought transoceanic radios to hear U.S. broadcasts. We heard about the Watts Riots. Rumor four buzzed, "We were going to use our riot control skills learned in the 2D Infantry Division to quell the riots then return to Panama and prepare to attack Cuba." Night fell, we docked at Long Beach Pier, the loudspeaker informed us the ship would be re-provisioned, no one was allowed to leave the ship.

Navy Shore Patrol neared the pier, placed barricades, and announced we could off load but to stay in the barricaded area. Fortunately, there were pay phone booths, the lines formed quickly, some callers were in and out in short manner. As men returned aboard, their facial expressions told many stories. Having one last conversation with loved ones the men walked up the plank with looks of joy, tears, sadness, and worry. Due to the time differences, 9:30 pm in Long Beach, 0030 hrs. East coast time. One NCO called home and was greeted by his best friend. We made constant watch over him all the way to Qui Nhon until his boots were on the ground.

Dawn broke, Simon B. Buckner slipped its moorings and moved westward into the Great Pacific Ocean. Rumors of Watts Riots and attacks on Cuba ended. As I watched the coastline disappear, all I could see was ocean and the NCO's face who was greeted by his best friend. It occurred to me; my life would change forever no matter what. I surmised that- "War is Hell"-but-we were in 'SEMPER PARATUS' mode, anxious to meet our Southeast Asian hosts. (Part II-continued in the May/June 2022) TLC!

If you have not visited the National Infantry Museum-make a point to DO IT! Until next time- "Soar with the Chief Chopper Pilot, walk with the Head Point Man, Roll with the Lead Tanker."

CRABTREE OUT!

7th CAV News



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



Welcome to my first column of my new life! I want to thank Bob Anderson for stepping in and writing last *Saber's* column when I was incapacitated. And I also want to thank all of those who sent me their thoughts and prayers during my recovery which, by the way, is still continuing. You see, I suffered acute respiratory failure as a result of lung reduction procedure. I had the procedure performed on Veterans Day, November 11th, and was to get out of the hospital to finish recovery at home on November 16th. But the day before that, my left lung collapsed. So, we did all that was required to stabilize it and a week later I went home to share Thanksgiving Day with my family.

The day after Thanksgiving I had a great deal of difficulty in breathing; my lung was collapsing again! I could feel that same inability to breathe that I had felt just 10 days prior. We called for an ambulance. I was rushed to the Emergency Department, where it was found that my chest cavity was filled with blood. After putting a chest tube in to drain the blood and air from my chest the ED staff did their best to stabilize me, but I was in a very bad way, so they airlifted me to another hospital about 50 miles away. Then, back to another Emergency Department. Things were still not going well for me as it was determined that I also had pneumonia and sepsis. I'm told that ED crew worked very hard to keep me alive, but sometime during that night I died. It was my good fortune that some very good doctors were working that night; they were able to get my tired old heart to work again!

I'm giving this to you second hand because I do not remember any of it. I remember being wheeled into the ambulance at my house but nothing after that. What I know of my experience comes from accounts from the medical staff and the clinical reports that are now part of my medical record. The next thing I do remember was waking up in a hospital room, looking at a calendar, and seeing that it was December 1st. I remained in the ICU of that hospital until the 14th of December, when I finally returned home. I am a changed man today because of the care and concern of some really fantastic people.

And now, for something different. As you may be aware, Marc Levy is one of my favorite authors. His way of recounting the war in Vietnam crosses over the defining lines of what we typically read – most authors tell us of their own experiences while Marc gives us a look into lives beyond that war. I guess you could say that he writes about all war experiences; his forte is the blending of time in his writings. Marc has given me permission to include in this missive a story he wrote several years ago:

The Quiet Time

Imagine this: after a blistering hot day marching up and down mud slicked hills, or tramping wide open fields, or steamy jungle, imagine setting out booby traps on enemy trails, laying in wait, then ever so carefully, breaking them down.

At dusk, after planting trips and Claymores round the NDP, after finding a spot for your pack and gear, after eating tinned C-rations of beans and franks, imagine curling up on the cold wet ground.

Now, fast asleep, being woken twice in the night by a man gently tapping your resting arm. "Your guard," he whispers, for the first of two one-hour shifts.

Leaving that foxhole the second time, grenades, machine gun, Claymore detonators all in place, imagine two hours sleep, rising at dawn, shrugging off bugs and wet bamboo, rubbing rheumy eyes, brushing sticky teeth.

Before the grueling day begins, there is the welcoming taste of GI coffee. Here is how to make it:

Seated crossed legged, take a chunk of C-4 the size of a thumbnail, shape it into a ball, set it carefully down. Tear open the packet of instant coffee saved from last night's C-ration meal. Pour it into a canteen cup half-filled with water. Tap the brown powder over the cup, stir with a C-ration white plastic spoon.

Strike a GI match and light the C4. Do not breathe in the white smoke; the fumes, it is said, are harmful. Hold the canteen cup over the burning explosive until the water boils, about thirty seconds. Remove the cup from the bright yellow flames. Let the C-4 burn itself out. Those who step on it risk losing a foot.

Tear open and pour in one or two packets of non-dairy creamer. Repeat with sugar. Use the white plastic spoon to mix and stir. With eyes closed, inhale the savory vapors; cup to your lips, feel the hot inky brew flood your mouth, scourge your tongue, roll down your willing gullet. The taste is awful, but it will do.

Grunts savor this quiet time, before every inch of our bodies is salty with sweat. This quiet time before seething mosquitoes, snapping ants, creeping leeches bite or sting or drink our blood.

This quiet time before sudden shots fill us with dread that is always new. This quiet time before the shrieking air sings of the wounded, smells of the dead.

It is the all too fleeting quiet time, which ends with the softly echoed 'zero two,' followed by the dim rustling of one hundred packs, helmets, weapons reluctantly lifted, slung, shifted to place. See how the flock of helmeted cranes slouch against



Delta 1-7 Sgt Reyna stands with his morning cup of coffee. Tay Ninh, 1970. photo-Marc Levy

their rifles, feel how the sweat drips down narrow cheeks, collects at the chin, free falls, forming small dark spots on half bent knees.

Listen, as moments after the hushed command, one hundred grudging Soldiers, one by one, reluctantly trudge forward, into the grim unwinnable jaws of Vietnam.

For those interested in more of Marc's work, check out his website, <medicinethegreentime.com>.

We are witnessing a real change in the complexion of the 7th US Cavalry Association; younger leadership is no longer on the horizon, it is here. Both our new president and our vice president are warriors from a time other than Vietnam. The association numbers are beginning to grow, thanks to an influx of younger Troopers, which is as it should be. The past always gives way to the future; change is often for the better.

Many of you already know our new president Mike Campbell and vice president Tim Hodge but for those of us who may not, here's a bit of their backgrounds and their ties to the 7th US Cavalry.

Mike Campbell first served with E Company, 227th Aviation Regiment in 1987 and 1988. At the end of 1988, he was transferred to HHT, 1st of the 7th and remained with that unit until he left active duty. Mike then transferred into the Reserves. Tim started his service in 1989 when he enlisted in the Army.

Tim Hodge recently sent me this and has allowed me to share it with you. I was sent to 2/41 Infantry 2AD in their HHC Scout platoon. I was there until May 1990 when the Division started to deactivate and all of us scouts from around the Division were shipped to 2/1 Cav which we were Div Cav. At that point, we began deactivating until the famous day in August of 1990. We were quickly alerted and had to get our affairs in order. We had 2 ground Troops of Bradley's and 3 chopper Troops that were officially attached to 1/7 Cav to fulfill a full Squadron of ground and Air to deploy to Saudi and then Iraq. We arrived in county late September and early October. Once we received our vehicles, we set up a camp and began to start training for combat desert style. We were there for roughly 6-7 months.

It's been a crazy couple of years and we're all ready for a return to normal, whatever that will be in the future. Something that I'm looking forward to is the 2022 Annual Reunion, to be held in Dayton, Ohio during the first full week of July. Look for further information on pages 12 and 13 of this newspaper. I'm beginning to feel a little more vulnerable than I used to, so attendance at this upcoming reunion is something I can't pass up. I hope to see you there! And maybe while we're there, you can share some of your stories with me so that we can publish them here. Again, in this issue we're a bit short of personal accounts. Please do not hesitate to send them my way! We all would be interested in reading them!

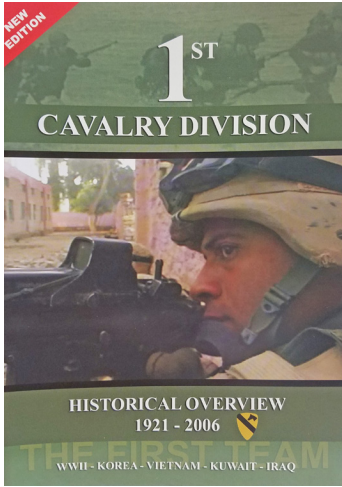
So, until next time, Garryowen brothers and sisters, and may you enjoy life as much as I do!

**1ST CAVALRY DIVISION
HISTORICAL OVERVIEW DVD
1921-2006**



NOW

The 1st Cavalry Division is the most lethal and powerful division in the U.S. Army. The Soldiers of this distinguished Division are recognized around the world for their courage, honor and bravery. Travel through time and witness legendary battles as Troopers share their combat experiences. Over 30 interviews combined with real Army war footage, their stories come to life. 89minutes.



DOCUMENTARY DVD

Historical Overview 1921-2006

Quantity _____ Amount Due: \$ _____

Form of Payment:

☐ Cash ☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Credit Card (Service Charges Apply)

Credit Card # _____

Exp Date: _____ CVV on back: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Phone #: _____

Address: _____

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

**SHIPPING
IS FREE**

8th CAV News



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



Hello, my brothers and sisters, yet another edition of the *Saber* is here. Our President Tommy Harris seems like he is doing better with his health issues. Folks, I would really like to hear from you. I need some names to look for, announcements, human interest or war stories, people who may be in need of something....anything. My e-mail, phone number, and address are listed on this page so help me out.

Flight 157

I was reading my newly arrived Walking Point newsletter, and something really grabbed my attention. It was a notice for a Memorial Ceremony to be held at the Vietnam Memorial Wall in D.C. for the 34 Soldiers who were lost in the Chinook United Flight 157 crash near Long Thanh on May 10, 1972. I've been in touch with Wolf Kutter who is working tirelessly with a team to put together this memorial. Wolf was Angry Skipper S/X from September 1971 until March 1972. We all have a chance to take part in a ceremony to honor these 34 fallen Angry Skippers. Wolf has sent me a lot of information about this wonderful event, so I have included the part of the letter from Wolf explaining the ceremony below along with hotel information. You can e-mail Wolf at: <wolf.kutter@isfmt.com> to find out more information as it becomes available if you are interested in attending. I plan on attending and hope that many of you will too.

Information from Wolf Kutter

Per your request, here is the read-ahead, the Angry Skipper Memorial Outline of the May 9-10, 2022 scheduled events for the "Never Forgotten 34" Soldiers that died in the CH-47 Crash in Vietnam on 10 May 1972. In this case, we are honoring the fellow combat Soldiers of Skull Platoon, as well as the others on the helicopter that were all doing their part in countering the North Vietnamese during the Tet 1972 offensive. This is our fifth commemoration of Angry Skipper Soldiers who died in the 1970-1972 era.

A "Never Forgotten 34 Committee" has been working very hard to secure excellent hotels, at discounted room prices (lowest rate is \$159 per night plus tax) and has initiated contact with the surviving families of the Soldiers who perished on that fateful day - 10 May 1972. And, we have reached out to the members of the 2nd Battalion 8th Cavalry's supporting organizations, who were there in Vietnam on Firebase Melanie, the Bien Hoa Rear, and the Long Thanh Crash Site for their recollection of the CH-47 crash.

Special Websites are being finalized and will be made available next week. They will have more detailed information, especially on rapidly making your hotel reservations, at the two hotels we have selected in the Arlington, VA area that are close to the Metro underground stations and the Vietnam Memorial. Once you see the Memorial outline, you will note that the currently scheduled Angry Skipper and fallen families gathering will be starting at 5pm on the 9th. It will be the beginning of the planned Angry Skipper events. And, that we have arranged for two busses to take us the next day to drive from hotels to the Vietnam Wall and back. The next day, Tuesday the 10th of May, we will be at the Vietnam Memorial Wall Knoll, just above the Memorial site beginning at 9:30 am. The ceremony itself is featured in the events outline. The bugler will sound the commemorative Taps exactly 50 years to the day -to the hour at 10:25 am - when we, our families, together with other Veterans, and the families of the fallen Soldiers will salute them at the Black Wall.

NOTE: Following is hotel information, the detailed events outline could not be printed due to space restrictions. If you would like the whole document or more information, please contact Wolf at <wolf.kutter@isfmt.com>.

Hotels: Two choices, depending on length of stay and price:

Option #1: Arrive and stay at the Hyatt Place, Arlington/Courthouse, Arlington, VA, 2401 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA

Phone number 703-243-2494

We have an Angry Skipper room block for 40 rooms from 8-11 May at the rate of \$170 plus tax. Code name for the group is "ANG." (room block has mix of kings and queen beds).

This hotel is next to the AUSA Conference Center where we will have the Angry Skippers and fallen families gathering on evening of 9 May.

Parking - Angry Skipper parking rate is \$15 per day.

Hotel is 2 blocks from the Arlington Court House Metro Station and near a number of restaurants.

Option #2: Homewood Suites Hotel, Rosslyn, VA, 1900 Quinn Street

The address is right off of I-66, 2 miles from the National Vietnam Memorial, and 4 miles from the Reagan International Airport. (Taxi ride to Hotel from Reagan Airport- approximately \$20.)

Phone number 703-348-2828

Parking - special Hotel parking rate is \$15 per night.

Angry Skippers have 3 types of special, discounted room rates set aside from 6 May through the night of 11 May, starting at the rate of \$159. This permits, for those who want to, take advantage of sightseeing the nation's capital during the weekend of 7-8 May and on Monday the 9th.

Events will begin at 5 pm on the 9th and end at 5 pm on the 10th.

Shirts

Our Quartermaster Larry Hempfling has advised me that we have several reunion shirts left over from past reunions.

They're really nice shirts at a reduced price. If interested, you can reach Larry at 314-229-7701. Let's buy these up. At the reunion in June, we will be discussing shirts for the 2023 reunion. Things such as do we want to order some, what color, logos on the shirts? I would like to thank Larry for his hard work over the years in obtaining some fine articles for us over the years. Keep up the great work brother, everyone loves the caps!

Website

As most of you know we don't have a website for the 8th Cavalry Association. The one we had at one time was compromised and not usable anymore. After weeks of searching, President Tommy Harris is on the verge of obtaining one

for us. He was advised that a typical website will take 14 weeks from start to launch: 3 weeks discovery, 6 weeks of design and 5 weeks of initial development and modification. Looks like a lot of work so let's get behind Smiley and try to help any way we can.

Saying Goodbye to a Great Friend

On November 18, 2021, my longtime buddy Bob passed away. Bobby was a stand-up person. He was in the Marines between Korea and Vietnam, but we adopted him as a Cav guy. He supported the Cav in many ways, especially by going to many of the reunions I attended. He had a Cav sticker on his vehicle, and I had a Marine sticker on mine. Bob was a proud Marine until the end. Farewell my brother, from your "MoFo."

Robert Letson: June 10, 1941- November 18, 2021

1/8 Cav

Jumping Mustangs have a new president, Wayne Volk. He took over January 1, 2022. His email is <lois.reihard@midco.net> and his phone number is 701-527-1262. I'm sure he will do a great job so get in touch with him and say hello. The 8th Cav wants to extend congratulations Wayne and if you ever need us to print or write something for you just give me a holler.

The Jumping Mustangs are having a reunion September 15-17 at the Crown Plaza Burr Ridge. Come see some old friends and meet some new ones.

On a personal note, Jerry Prater told me he was able to locate one of his dearest friends. They met at Tiger Land at Ft. Polk. They served in the 1st Platoon of Company A 1/8 Cav from May '67 to '68. Jerry had not seen Ed House since they landed at Ft. Lewis Washington on May 24, 1968, but has been searching for him off and on for almost 50 years. He finally found him on Facebook last year and they corresponded several times by text and phone. He drove to Ed's house in Memphis, and they had 3 wonderful days together renewing their friendship. That goes to show you, don't give up. Reach out and maybe the person you are searching for is also searching for you.

Note from Thomas DeYoung

I noticed an error on my DD-214 many years ago. I decided to try and get it corrected as a couple of my awards were missing. I filed the DD-215 along with the supporting documentation about 2 years ago. I received a medal with the correct number of oak leaves on it about a month ago and the corrected DD-215 last week. The delay was partly caused by my move to Florida as the application had my two-year old address on it. I know they must get a huge number of requests, but if you find an error and can support your claim, a corrected DD-215 can be obtained. Go to <<https://archives.gov/personnel-records-center/vso/record-corrections>> for information on submitting your claim.

Thunder and Lightning

I was readying myself to write my humble article for the *Saber*, sitting at my kitchen table and pondering my words, when a loud (and I mean LOUD) thunderclap went off right over my roof. You can imagine how startled I was. More thunder and lightning followed, then it starts raining. I haven't seen rain like that since the Nam. Of course, my memories flashed back, a lot of sadness crept in. Then, almost immediately, a warm and fuzzy feeling came over me. Why you ask? The thought was "I don't have to go out in that shit anymore."

Thank You Card

While sitting in a waiting room at the doctor's office a fellow sat down next to me. We nodded at each other and then went back to the cellphone and magazine we each had. I had a cap on with a Veteran and CIB logo on it. He asked if I was indeed a Veteran to which I replied that yes, I was. Small talk followed about which year I was in, what unit, and how long I was in the service. He then asked if he could give me something, to which I again replied yes. He reached in his wallet and handed me a card. As he did so, he had tears in his eyes. I couldn't see his entire face due to the masks we were wearing. He told me he had suffered a loss over 50 years ago, I didn't ask what it was. He was retired as a postal worker in a mail distribution facility and a number of workers there were Vietnam Vets. He teared up because these Veterans were all hard workers, took pride in their jobs, were outstanding Americans and he would have been proud to serve with these men anywhere, anytime, and as long as it took. I know in recent years we've heard "Welcome Home" and "Thank you for your service" more and those are nice



Back of Thank You card

Know that your sacrifices
are not forgotten
and that your
sweat, blood and tears
are the binder for the
foundation of our freedom.



This
Veteran's Honor™ Rose
is to
Thank You
for your service
to your country.

Front of Thank You card

remarks and nice to hear. But for a non-Veteran to exclaim his gratitude in such a way to a Veteran who fought the good fight, and to be able to tell that Vet in person was special.

In closing, I hope you all stay safe, healthy, and have some warm and fuzzy feelings of your own.

Honor and Courage

9th CAV News

Jim Kurtz
91 Professional Drive
Hardy, Virginia 24101-1400
202-316-6916
kurtzjh@gmail.com

**WANTED: STORIES FROM THE POST-VIETNAM 9TH CAVALRY.**

Because guests were present at a recent “virtual” meeting of the William A. Richardson National Capital Region Chapter, the members went from square to square in Zoom, introducing ourselves. One of our regulars, Carol Dandy, the daughter of William A. Richardson, in whose honor the National Capital Region Chapter is named. She related how what would eventually become the Division Association was formed during World War II when her dad and a few of his fellow Troopers resolved that if they lived through the war, they would stay in touch to preserve the close ties they had formed.

Carol’s words hit home with me, because I had recently moved a couple hundred miles away from the National Capital Region and was already contemplating the likelihood that once the Chapter goes back to in-person meetings, I won’t be seeing my friends. Thinking to quote her dad in this issue of the *Saber*, I asked Carol if she could elaborate on what he told her about staying in touch. She responded as follows:

While dad was serving in the Admiralty Islands, his group experienced many deaths and casualties. The CO of B Troop, the man who replaced him as CO of B Troop, and one of their lieutenants, plus the CO of G Troop, were all close friends of dad’s, were killed within a few days. That may have been on his mind when he and 4 or 5 of his fellow Soldiers/buddies decided that if they survived the war, they should keep in touch and check in with each other at least once a year. They did survive, and they did keep in touch once they returned to the States. That was the start of what became the 1st Cav Division Association, a group near and dear to daddy’s heart for the rest of his life. Over those many decades, he and mom never missed a single annual reunion except once when they were overseas and once after daddy got cancer. They loved all the many friends they kept up with through the years and would see again at each reunion.

Dad, by the way, felt VERY strongly that the Association needed to recruit younger members. You can definitely see the need for that at the reunions where nearly everyone is of Vietnam Veteran age. Whenever Dad met a young Soldier, he always tried to encourage him or her to consider membership in the Association.

In the first 9th Cav News column I submitted (Jan/Feb 2019), I observed how at every 9th Cav gathering I ever attended, the mutual respect between fellow Veterans of a distinguished unit quickly turns strangers into old and valued friends, even if they served in different Troops at different times. That column noted how the 4th and 6th of the 9th were squadrons, with “Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition” as part of their names, and the old 1st Squadron had become the 1st Battalion, further identified as a “Combined Arms Battalion.” Noting how little Vietnam-era Troopers were likely to know about the new units, I invited readers who had served in the 9th Cav more recently to share their stories. In the three years since, more mail has arrived from Veterans of the pre-Vietnam 9th Cavalry in Korea than from those who served in Iraq or Afghanistan. Younger 9th Cav Veterans are either not reading the *Saber* or are reluctant to share their experiences in Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, the Baltic States, and the other places where the squadrons/battalions have served since Vietnam.

RELUCTANCE TO OPEN UP IS NORMAL.

Keeping painful memories locked up inside is not unusual. After my tour in the 1-9 Cav in Vietnam, I went back to my basic branch, commanding an artillery battery in Germany. As a “Category B” aviator, I had to fly a certain number of hours and missions if I wanted flight pay (and I did). The fastest, least disruptive way to accumulate hours quickly was to take the monthly “pay run,” flying Class A agents to visit the Soldiers attending schools in Vilseck and Oberammergau. Two Cat B’s would typically pair up and sit cheek-to-cheek in the cockpit of an OH-58 for six or seven hours of flight time in one day.

I flew at least two such day-long pay runs with Kit Beaton, who commanded a tank company in the same kaserne. Though each had a Cav patch on our right shoulder, I do not recall our ever discovering that we had both been in Apache Troop, at different times. It just wasn’t something we talked about. Years later, after I’d finally connected with other Apache Troopers, I received an email informing me of Kit Beaton’s passing. I can’t say if our mutual reticence was unusual, but I do know there are still Vietnam Veterans who will not talk about their wartime experience.

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS WHO’VE BEEN THERE AND DONE THAT CAN BE A GOOD THING.

It is one thing to try to explain to someone who has never been to war what it’s like to be filled with fear, or how it feels to see a friend killed or wounded. It is a different thing to talk about such things with someone who has experienced them himself. Say the words and you see in his eyes that he understands. In very short order, you can find yourself in the company of people with whom it is easy to talk about events you have kept bottled up for years, and even decades.

KEEPING PAINFUL MEMORIES SUPPRESSED MAY BE HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH.

A recent Military.com article with the headline “Nearly 4,000 More 9/11 Vets Have Died in the Past 20 Years than Anticipated” reported on a study that reviewed the records of more than 2.5 million post-9/11 Veterans to catalog their long-term health outcomes. The research found that Veterans who have served since 9/11 are dying at higher rates than Americans overall, particularly through accidents, suicide, and homicide. The numbers are even higher for Veterans who have suffered a traumatic brain injury. The study found the excess deaths were concentrated among younger Veterans, ages 18 to 44, and those who had suffered a TBI, with suicide and accidental deaths accounting for the bulk of the deaths. The professor who led the study said, “The takeaway is that having these exposures puts individuals at greater risk for a variety of outcomes, so what we need to be focused on . . . is supporting individuals who served our country and doing everything we can to help them transition from military service to civilian life.”

Who better to help a Veteran make that transition than another Veteran who has made the transition already?

Another recent article in Stars and Stripes reports how, faced with a significant

increase in Soldier suicides in Alaska last year, US Army Alaska has mandated wellness checks with behavioral health counselors for Soldiers stationed in the state. The commander calls it Mission 100, “a campaign to connect 100% of our Soldiers—leaders connected with the Soldiers and the Soldiers connected with each other.” That worthy goal would be just as worthy as a campaign to connect former Soldiers.

HAIFA STREET

At the end of January, an email from LTC Adam Dials brought word that “We’ve recently lost SSG Armando Salazar, SSG Marshall Gulley, and SSG David Henderson.” (See “In Memoriam” below.)

I was struck by the way LTC Dials, who in 2004-05 was a platoon leader in A Co, 1-9 Cav, described all three as “Veterans of Haifa Street.” It seemed clear that “Haifa Street” means a whole lot more to those who were there than just the name of a place, the same way that Ia Drang or the A Shau Valley or Snoul conjures up way more in the minds of those who fought in those places than just another name for a set of grid coordinates.

In trying to learn more about Haifa Street, I found a 28-minute video that shows 1-9 Cav in action on 22 September 2004. (Search YouTube for “US & Iraqi Soldiers Battle Insurgents on Haifa Street, Baghdad.”) The video provides a glimpse at what combat was like on Haifa Street, but it doesn’t capture many of the memories and feelings that the name causes to rise in those who were there.

Veterans of Haifa Street 2004-05 are asked to share your memories of that place and time. Please mail or email them to the addresses at the head of this column.

MOTTS MUSEUM.

Former C Troop Scout Crew Chief (1970) Nate Shaffer has a great suggestion for Troopers planning to attend the 74th Annual 1st Cavalry Division Association in Dayton, Ohio July 6-10, 2022: add an extra day to your travel plans so you can visit the Motts Military Museum in Groveport, Ohio, about 80 miles from Dayton. The 1CDA Reunion includes a tour of the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson, so be sure to take that in, but try to get to Motts as well because it has extensive memorabilia from the 1-9 Cav, include Nate Shaffer’s wartime Loach, in Charlie Troop colors. More about Motts in the next issue.

IN MEMORIAM.

SSG David Jay Henderson, 50, of Florence, Alabama died at his residence September 2, 2021. He was a Veteran of Haifa Street in 2004-05, having served as a Bradley section leader in A Co, 1-9 Cavalry.

**SSG David Henderson**

SFC Armando “Sal” Salazar of Cedar Park, Texas, died September 5, 2021, at age 53. After enlisting in 1989, he completed Basic Training, Infantry AIT, and Airborne School and joined the 82nd Airborne Division. He later trained and served as a Bradley Fighting Vehicle Master Gunner. His 20 years in uniform included service in operations Able Sentry in Macedonia; Intrinsic Action in Kuwait; and Iraqi Freedom, where he was a Bradley platoon sergeant on Haifa Street in 2004-05. He went back to Iraq for a second rotation in 2006-08 before retiring in 2009. After Sal’s death, his family wrote that—*War had its price, but Armando found through love, compassion, faith, trust and most importantly God, the ability to find beauty in the ashes and finally peace. Armando’s love for his battle brothers was immeasurable. He was a man of giving and helping others and he spent countless days and hours at Heroes Night Out supporting Veterans in a way only Armando could.*

**SFC Armando “Sal” Salazar****SSG Marshall Gulley**

Army’s Special Air Mission, flying members of Congress and ranking officers. Next was Vietnam where he served two tours. In 1962-63 he was assigned to the Utility Tactical Transport Helicopter Company, flying helicopter gunships. There he led his platoon at the Battle of Ap Bac. In 1965, he deployed with 1-9 Cavalry, and spent a year as Bullwhip 8, overseeing the maintenance of the squadron’s 92 helicopters. Upon retiring in 1981 with 27 years of active service, he spent another 14 years as a consultant to the Army in the field of aircraft maintenance, serving as a corporate director of studies and analyses.

LTC Stephen Guy Beardsley Jr., of Shelton, Connecticut, passed away at age 91 on November 2, 2021. Guy graduated from Norwich University and entered the Army as an armor officer, serving in the Korean War as a tank platoon leader. He later became aviation-qualified, first in fixed-wing aircraft and later in helicopters, and he served two more combat tours in Vietnam, including as Commander of A Trp, 1-9 Cav in 1965-66.

William Albert Byrd of Odessa, Texas, passed away February 5, 2022, at age 77. His comrades in Charlie Troop, where he spent a tour as a combat medic, knew him as “Doc.” After Vietnam, he spent another seven years in Germany as a medic. His on-line obituary says he loved sharing crazy stories with the family and keeping up with his buddies from the Army. Charlie Troop reunion organizer Patrick Bieneman (see 9th CAV News in the Sept/Oct 2020 *Saber*) reports Doc called him once to report he was very sick and wouldn’t be able to make any reunions, but he did tell Patrick how much he loved Charlie Troop and the Troopers he served with.

REST IN PEACE, BROTHERS



1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

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



IN MEMORIAM



LAWRENCE N. BROOKS
SEPTEMBER 12, 1909 – JANUARY 5, 2022

IN MEMORY OF LAWRENCE BROOKS (1909-2022)

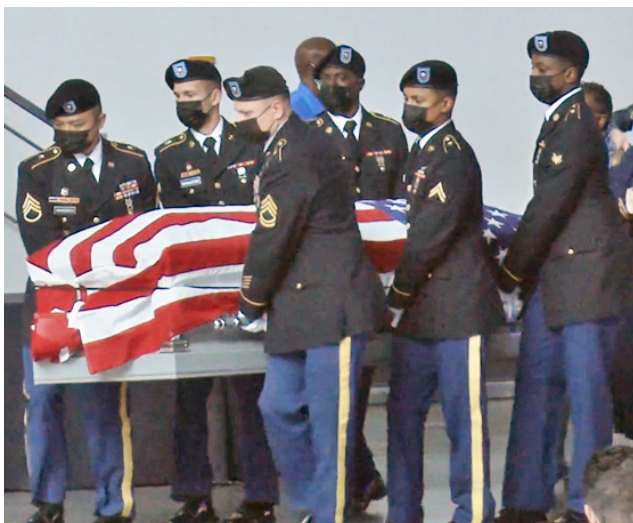
Lawrence Brooks, who was the oldest known living U.S. World War II Veteran, passed away on 5 January 2022 in New Orleans at the age of 112. In my Sept-Oct 2021 column, I discussed Mr. Brooks' 112th birthday on 12 Sept 2021.

In my Sept-Oct 2020 column, I presented the story of Lawrence Brooks and traced how the unit with which he served in WWII, the 91st Engineer Battalion, became a part of the 1st Cavalry Division in 1992. The 91st BEB (Brigade Engineer Battalion), 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team (Ironhorse) has claimed Mr. Brooks as one of its own.

As discussed in my Sept-Oct 2020 column, at his 110th birthday party at the World War II Museum in New Orleans, Mr. Brooks was presented with a plaque by LTC John Ordonio, CSM James Johnson, and PVT Julian Price: at that time, Battalion Commander, Battalion Sergeant Major, and youngest member of the 91st BEB respectively. The oldest Veteran of the 91st Engineer Battalion thus got to meet the youngest member at that time!

At the time of Mr. Brooks' passing, the 91st BEB offered to serve as the Honor Guard for his funeral service. Several other units also applied for that privilege, but the 91st BEB was selected as Honor Guard. A group of 17 Soldiers from the 91st BEB departed from Fort Hood on the evening of 14 January and drove 600 miles through the night to arrive at the World War II Museum for Mr. Brooks' Memorial Service at 1000 hrs on Saturday, 15 January.

Six 91st BEB Troopers served as pall bearers, carrying the casket into and out of the museum for the Memorial Service and accompanying the horse-drawn funeral caisson with the casket to the Mount Olivet Cemetery about 5 miles from the museum. Battalion Commander LTC Patrick Sullivan and Battalion Sergeant Major CSM Michael Arroyo followed behind the caisson from the Museum to the cemetery.



To watch a video of the Memorial Service, go to <youtube.com> and search for "Lawrence Brooks: Funeral for man who was oldest living WW2 Veteran." The service begins at 05:47 and terminates at 01:06:28 on the video.

A moving tribute to Mr. Brooks, which included the reading of a letter from President Biden, was given by Mr. Cedric Richmond, Senior Advisor to President Biden and Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement (49:59-54:50 on the video).



LTC Patrick Sullivan delivering tribute at Mr. Brooks' Memorial Service

The final speaker at the Memorial Service was LTC Patrick Sullivan, commander of the 91st BEB, who delivered an inspiring and eloquent tribute to Mr. Brooks (55:22-1:01:43 on the video).

The service for Mr. Brooks was altogether very fitting and memorable! Immediately after the service, the 91st BEB Troopers headed back to Fort Hood to resume their duties there.

An excellent story about the service for Mr. Brooks can be read in the *Army Times* at <www.ArmyTimes.com> under the Military Honor tab.

ACCESSING SABER ARCHIVES

A recent question from a member was, "How is it possible to access old issues of *Saber*?" The current issue and the very first issue of *Saber*, which was November 1951 is readily accessible to anyone (general public-no membership in 1CDA required) on <www.1CDA.org>. Just go to the website, scroll down to "Saber" and click on "Read More," then on "Current Issue" or "First Issue of *Saber* October 1951." The *Saber* Archives are currently posted back to the Nov-Dec 2011 issue. The intent is to keep approximately 10 years of back issues accessible on the website. To access those archived issues requires log-in to the website, which requires a username and password assigned by 1CDA, which requires membership in 1CDA (Life, Annual Associate, or Life Associate).

When 1CDA established its present website in 2017, emails were sent to members who had an email on file at the time advising them of their assigned username and password for logging into the website. I received my email in December of 2017. The password was a 12-character mixture of random letters, numbers, and punctuation marks. If you are a member of 1CDA and don't have an assigned username and password, possibly you never received the email, it went into your spam folder, or it just got lost. Whatever the case, if you don't have a username and password, contact 1CDA at 254-547-6537 or <FirstCav@1CDA.org> and request them.

If you know what issue you want to see, you can put in a request to the 1CDA. Keep in mind not all back issues are in a digital format, and some may not be in newsprint. Members are welcome to come to the office and look through what is available. Just call or email 1CDA for an appointment.

The other part of the website requiring login is the Member Directory. Virtually everything else on the website is public information. A future Historian's Column will cover the utilization of the Member Directory.

EPILOG TO "HOW MANY VIETNAM VETERANS ARE STILL LIVING?"

A bit of bitter irony. Eugene R. Curtis, PFC, C/1/7th Cav, 1971-72 asked the question "How many Vietnam Veterans are still living?" in a call to me on 10 September 2021 that triggered the writing of "How Many Vietnam Veterans are Still Living?" in my Nov-Dec 2021 and Jan-Feb 2022 columns.

I sent Eugene an email on 15 January 2022 advising him that "How Many Vietnam Veterans are Still Living? - Part 2" would be in my column in the Jan-Feb 2022 *Saber* in response to his question and thanking him for a question that led to a good column topic. Sadly, I received an email from his daughter the following day informing me that Eugene had passed away on 8 Nov 2021.



PFC Eugene R. Curtis

Eugene did not remember the precise dates of his time with C/1/7th, but it ended in 1972 around the time of the final 1st Cav withdrawal from Vietnam. LZ's and Fire Support Bases he remembers being at were Mace, Crossed Sabers, and Grant.

Eugene mentioned that he had previously served with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea. I had intended to get more information from him on that, but regrettably never got that done.

Eugene lived in Massachusetts. Here is a photo of him from Vietnam. Did anyone serve with him? Please contact me if you did. His family would like to hear from you! Thanks!

77th FA News

John Moran
1013 Willowdale Ave.
Kettering, OH 45429-4732
(937) 361-1333
JohnJanMoran@woh.rr.com

The 2022 77th FA Reunion is scheduled for September 14-18, 2022, in Colorado Springs, CO. We will be at a new hotel, the Radisson (the Elegante was sold and is being converted into condos or something).

At any rate, our new hotel is the Radisson Hotel Colorado Springs Airport, 1645 N. Newport Rd, Colorado Springs. The reservation phone number is 719-597-7000. The rates are: \$139 for 2 queens, \$159 for 1 king, \$179 for a premium queen and \$199 for a premium king. If we get a contract number, I'll send that out then.

I read in the FA Journal, issue 1, 2022, that the 1/77th FA participated in Fires Shock. This was a series of precision fires exercises and modernization events, over 4 months, that bolstered personnel and systems interoperability between US European Command partners and allies. It also demonstrated the US's commitment to European and African allies and partners. It involved 6 countries, on 2 continents, ranging from Estonia to Morocco.

Alpha Btry went to Bulgaria in May, and Morocco in June. They had a PLT of HIMARS (High Mobility Rocket System) on loan from the Army Prepositioned Stock 2, Europe to execute HIMARS Rapid Infiltration operations for the European theater. Bravo Btry went to Estonia in May and worked with both Estonian Troops and UK paratroopers. Also included in that exercise were US paratroopers from the 4/319th FAR of the 173rd ABN BDE.

I also saw in this issue of the FA Journal that the United States Field Artillery Association has established a Field Artillery Hall of Fame.

Among its initial inductees is GEN Carl E Vuono. Most of us know GEN Vuono from his time commanding the 1/77th FA in 1970-71 in Vietnam. He later became the DIVARTY Commander for the 82nd Airborne and was Army Chief of Staff from 1987-1991. None of us who had the privilege of serving under him are surprised at this latest honor. Congratulations, Sir!

1st AIR CAV BRIGADE
DOCUMENTARY
THE LONGEST MONTH



You may remember back to the May/June 2019 *Saber*; we reported that a film crew was at the 1CDA Headquarters office. They were recording interviewees stories and recollections for an upcoming documentary of their days in and around Baghdad in early 2007.

The time finally has arrived! *The Longest Month* premiered on Sunday, February 27, 2022, at the Isis Theater in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Longest Month has been awarded the AWARD OF MERIT winner in the Accolade Global Film Competition, March 2022!

“*The Longest Month*” is a documentary film dedicated to telling the story of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade Soldiers that participated in the events during “The Surge” in OIF 06-08.

The Longest Month is an unscripted documentary, covering events that took place in Iraq during February of 2007 at the beginning of what is commonly known as “The Surge.”

This documentary examines the actions undertaken by members of the 1st and 4th Battalions, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, as described by the Soldiers involved in these events. More helicopters were shot down in Iraq during this time period than any time since the Vietnam War. The Longest Month chronicles four events that exemplify the challenges faced by these individuals to not only complete their missions but survive the unprecedented 15-month deployment.

Produced by: Dan McClinton and Directed and Edited by: Kenn Christenson

If you wish to read the story behind this documentary:

<<https://www.hollywoodintoto.com/longest-month-movie-us-veterans/>>

Check out their website <dngrpig.com> to see other items available!

1st AIR CAV BRIGADE DOCUMENTARY
THE LONGEST MONTH



BLU RAY DVD

131-minutes

includes promotional trailers & additional scenes

Price: \$26

Quantity: _____

Amount Due: \$ _____

Form of Payment:

☐ Cash ☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Credit Card (Service Charges Apply)

Credit Card # _____

Exp Date: _____ CVV on back: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Phone #: _____

Address: _____

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

SHIPPING
IS FREE

NEW MEMBERS

SPC AHAO, TENG TX 1CD
CSM ALVARADO, ESTEBAN JR TX 1CD
SGT ALVAREZ, MANUEL JR. TX D 1-227ACB
CPT ANDON, JOHN MA 1CD
MR. BEAZLEY, DAVID AU 1440 ASSOC
SP-4 BOWERMAN, JOHN F. NC B 2- 42ARTY
1SG (RET) BROOKS, LAWRENCE WV B 1-8C
SFC (RET) BROWN, HARRY L. JR. SC CSC 1-12C
CPL CASTILLO, RAYMOND TX 2- 5C
MR. CHRYSLER, ERNIE ON 1439 ASSOC
LTC CLAROS, JOSEPH NV B 8ENG
SGT COLLINS, DONLAD R. MO 1CD
SSG COX, MIKE AL A 1-91ENG
1LT CUJE, WALTER NJ C 1-8E
1LT DOE, DAVID MA D 2-12C
SP-4 EGER, DAVID NC H1 1-21ARTY
SGT FRANIS, MICHAEL AZ HQ 3BDE
E-5 GARCIA, JOSE JR. TX 2-12C
SFC GONZALEZ, GABRIEL TX C 2-7C
CW4 GREEN, THOMAS TX HHC 227ACB
COL (RET) HAUGH, JEFFREY MD HHC 1-31INF
SGT JONES, BRYAN TX HHC 1CD
MAJ KISTLER, PHILIP TX 1CD
SPC KRIEGER, ROBERT VA HQ 15MED
MSG LANE, SCOTT J. SD 452 ORD
SGT MILLER, KEITH TX 2ABCT
MR. MOULDER, RANDY IN 1438 ASSOC
SGT OTT, EDWARD NY HHC 2-8C
SGT OTTO, IRVIN NJ D 2-5C
SGT PAGAN, DANIEL M. TX D 1-227ARB
E-3 PALMER, DAVID TN 545MP
CW4 SAXTON, WILLIAM MI B 1-229AHB
SP-5 SMITH, DAVID W. JR. TN B 2-17ARTY
MAJ TODD, JOE L. OK 11AVNGP
MR. VALENZUELA, GEOFFREY SC 165 L-ASSOC
E-5 VAUGHAN, ED FL 2-5C
E-4 VOGT, JARRED GA HHC 2-8C

WELCOME to the 1CDA TEAM!



Anyone who served within the
1st Cavalry Division
YOU earned the right to be a part of the
elite
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION
ASSOCIATION!
Are your battle buddies members?

THANK YOU VETERANS

The following was sent in by the Columbia-Willamette Chapter. This letter is written by a Korean immigrant that is telling her love of freedom and gratitude to America and the Allies of WWII and the Korean Conflict. She immigrated, married an American and raised a family in the States. Retired, widowed, and elderly, she now resides in a residential setting with the parents of one of our Chapter, the father of which was himself a Veteran of the Korean Conflict (since deceased). She addressed this letter to her dear friends and fellow residents at this center. The text is not edited.

Dear Veterans,

Every Veterans Day, I feel obligated to say something to all of Veterans as one of Korean. It was my great honor and pleasure to meet you and talk in person during my lifetime. I was so overwhelmed that lost my wisdom to speak to everyone how to express my sincere appreciation.

You gave us freedom from Japanese after 36 years occupation. On 15th of August 1945, on the day Japanese surrendered, my mother showed me a Korean Flag pulling out from deeply hidden in her chest and showed me saying “My dear, this is our own country Korean Flag” and gave me big hug with tears.

We together kneeled down and holding our hands and prayed “Thank you God and please Bless America.” My mother added, “We shouldn’t forget those Americans forever who gave us our freedom. ”

Now we can speak our own language and can use our own names which have been prohibited.

Unfortunately, soon after on May 16, 1950, in dawn again, we were invaded by heavily armed North Korea. Immediately we were occupied by North Communism and the freedom was taken away. We experienced how essential freedom in our human life was. We felt that we would rather die if not freedom.

Again, the American landed Inchon and saved us by even sacrificing their own lives. Without your help, I can’t even think of how we would have been. I wish I could find any better words than “Thank you.”

One thing I believe is that God must bless this country and praised what they have done and protect this country forever. I love America and each of our Veterans.

Mary P., Resident

DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Continued from pg. 1

- Army GEN Ann Dunwoody – First woman four-star General.
- Air Force COL Eileen Collins – First woman Space Shuttle Commander.
- SGT Leigh Ann Hester – First woman to be awarded a Silver Star since WWII.
- Loretta Perfectus Walsh – First American active-duty Navy enlisted woman, and first woman allowed to serve in any of the United States Armed Forces (albeit only as a nurse).

Totally unrelated to Women’s History Month is the upcoming 74th Reunion in Dayton, OH. You will find all the information you need in this edition of the *Saber*, pages 12-13. Should your *Saber* arrive compromised (i.e., missing its middle), feel free to contact the Association. See ya’ll soon in Dayton.

74th ANNUAL REUNION OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION DAYTON, OH 6-10 JULY 2022

The 1st Cavalry Division Association invites you to join the rest of the First Team Family in Dayton, OH for the 74th Annual Reunion from **6-10 July 2022**. All Life and Associate Members, Gold Star Families and Widows are all welcome to attend this special event.

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. 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 June 01, 2022, deadline. Cancellations must be received by 5pm Friday June 01 in our office (254-547-6537) for a refund.

Hotel Information

We will be utilizing the Radisson Dayton as the headquarters hotel. The Radisson has guaranteed a room rate of \$109 per night plus tax and there is no charge for parking. Make sure that you identify yourself as attending the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion. The Radisson Dayton provides a free shuttle service from the Dayton International Airport and rental cars are available at the airport.

Radisson Dayton (HQ Hotel) 33 E 5 th St, Dayton, OH 45402	1-866-247-5162	\$109
--	----------------	-------

Guests can call 1-866-247-5162 and identify themselves with the “1st Cavalry Division Association” for the group rate.

A link to ONLINE Radisson Hotel reservations are available on our website, www.1CDA.org

- Go to Annual Reunion Tab
- Scroll down to Information
- Click the Radisson Hotel link
- Populate the check in and check out date. (Please note the rate will only be available for the date(s) listed on the agreement.)
- Click the drop-down arrow where it says, “Special Rates” and scroll down to “Promotional Codes”
- Type “CDA” and click check availability.

Marriott at the Univ. of Dayton 1414 S Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH 45409	(937) 223-1000	\$109
--	----------------	-------

Additional hotels for our members to consider:

Fairfield Inn and Suites 305 E Monument Ave, Dayton, OH 45402	(937) 331-9330
---	----------------

Holiday Inn Express 2140 S Edwin C. Moses Blvd., Dayton, OH 45417	(937) 250-6400
---	----------------

Reunion Event Overview

This year’s Ladies Tea will be held at Carillon Historical Park (lunch included). Carillon Historical Park is a 65-acre open-air history museum, that serves as the main campus for Dayton History. They share the amazing stories of how Dayton changed the world!

The Association has planned for transportation to visit the Air Force Museum adjacent to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Members will have all day Friday, 8 July, to peruse the Museum at their own speed and time. Additionally, our Banquet Dinner will be held in the AF Museum on Saturday evening.

All our planned events will be held in the Dayton Convention Center (adjacent to the Radisson Dayton): War Era Lunches, Unit Lunches, Purple Heart Breakfast. The Group Breakfasts and Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, 10 July, in the Radisson Dayton. We will have all meetings for the Chapter Presidents, Foundation Trustees, the Board of Governors, and our General Membership meeting at the Convention Center. During our General Membership meeting on Saturday morning, we will hold elections for the Association’s Board.

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 Radisson Dayton (Salon A) for you to gather and enjoy yourselves. 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 Souvenir Shop (McKinley Room) 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 Dayton in 2022!

OFFICIAL NOTICE
ELECTION OF OFFICERS – REUNION 2022

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 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 9 July 2022:

- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- 3rd Vice President
- One Executive Trustee
- Three Foundation Trustees
- 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, 2022 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 30 April 2022 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 **74th Annual Reunion of the Association on Saturday 9 July 2022 in Dayton, OH.** Nominations from the floor will be accepted. A Life Member making such nomination will be expected to provide the information outlined above on the nominee and in addition provide assurance that the nominee is either present at the General Membership meeting or has agreed to accept nomination to the specified office.

CUT OFF DATE TO PRE-ORDER YOUR SHIRT IS
15 APRIL 2022

74th Annual 1st Cav Assn Reunion T-shirts

Pre-order
YOURS today!!

Adult Sizes Only

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> S | Please indicate quantities in boxes. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> M | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> L | |

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> XL | \$23.95 each |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL | +S/H= Total |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL | _____ |



Description:

Black shirt with logo on the left chest as well as full-color imprint on the back.

Shipping Chart:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1 Shirt @ \$9.50 | *To have the merchandise shipped, please use the chart to determine rates. No shipping for merchandise picked up at the reunion. |
| 2-8 Shirts @ \$16.50 | |
| 9+ @ \$21.50 | |

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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Reunion T-shirts will NOT ship prior to 15 June 2022.

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

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

Please mail order form to:
Crossed Sabers Souvenir Shop
302 N. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

74th ANNUAL 1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION, JULY 6-10, 2022, in DAYTON, OHIO

WEDNESDAY JULY 6

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

THURSDAY JULY 7

0900-1000 Chapter Presidents Mtg
0900-1800 Registration Desk Open
0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
1100-1300 War Era Luncheons
1100-1400 Ladies Tea
1330-1530 Board of Governor’s Mtg
2000-2200 Welcome Mixer

FRIDAY JULY 8

0900-UTC Tour AF Museum (FREE)
0900-1800 Registration Desk Open
0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
1500-1600 Veterans Benefits Briefing

SATURDAY JULY 9

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

1100-1300 Unit Luncheons
1745-1845 Cocktails (Cash Bar)
1900-2230 Association Banquet

SUNDAY JULY 10

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

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 74th ANNUAL REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Mail to:

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSN. REUNION, 302 N. MAIN, COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522-1703

The 1st Cavalry Division Association 74th Annual Reunion is at the **Radisson Dayton, 33 E. 5th St, Dayton, OH (937) 224-0800**, July 6-10, 2022.
Cancellations must be received by 5:00pm June 1, 2022, in our office (254-547-6537) for a refund. ****Cancellations are non-refundable after the June 1, 2022, deadline.**
*Registration fee is required for Lifetime and Association Member only (Widows and Gold Star Family members pay no fee).
*Registration fee includes Name Tags, Reunion Booklet, Reunion Pin, and an information packet.

Are you a member of 1CDA? Yes No

Is this your first 1CDA Reunion? Yes No

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone #: _____
Email: _____

Unit(s): #1 _____
Year(s): #1 _____
Unit(s): #2 _____
Year(s): #2 _____

Nickname: _____
Guest/Spouse/Other: _____
#1: _____
#2: _____
#3: _____
#4: _____
#5: _____
#6: _____

Method of Payment: (circle one)

Credit Card Check: # _____

CC#: _____
Exp Date: _____
CVV#: _____

Signature: _____

Registration Fee (Members): 1 \$20.00 \$ _____

After June 1, 2022: 1 \$40.00 \$ _____
Active-Duty w/ID: 1 \$10.00 \$ _____

THURSDAY JULY 7

War Lunch (**Circle one**) _____ \$35.00 \$ _____
 Korea Vietnam GWOT
Ladies Tea (includes lunch at Carillon Historical Park) _____ \$40.00 \$ _____
Welcome Mixer (**Cash Bar**) _____ \$35.00 \$ _____

SATURDAY JULY 9

Purple Heart Breakfast _____ \$25.00 \$ _____
Unit Lunch (**Circle one**) _____ \$35.00 \$ _____
 5C 7C 8C 9C 12C
 W ARTY HQ LRRP ENG
Assoc Banquet (**Circle one**) _____ \$48.00 \$ _____
 5C 7C 8C 9C 12C
 W ARTY HQ LRRP ENG

SUNDAY JULY 10

Group Breakfast _____ \$25.00 \$ _____
LRRP Breakfast _____ \$25.00 \$ _____
Donation (Reunion) _____ \$ _____
Saber Newspaper Renewal **\$10 PER YEAR** \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

SEATING AT SOME FUNCTIONS IS LIMITED.

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 **Monday, May 2, 2022.** Please send to Memberships@1CDA.org or mail to 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522.

COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE CHAPTER

At our December meeting, we rejoiced for the healing of our treasurer, Mike Carter, who suffered the perils of Covid, an ICU experience, and long recovery. Jacquetta, Mike's wife, barred from visiting in the hospital, endured the long ordeal with the anxiety of treatment options, worsening reports, improvement, and a long convalescence. May Mike live long to rob our treasury and gamble away our savings. We also rejoice for the healing of Tony (Al)



Mike Carter

Hartley (not pictured) who also suffered with Covid and survived. Thanks be to God. Dan Regester CPDT, was our guest for our January Meeting. Dan from K9 Kavalry.org, presented their program for dog-owning Veterans with combat stress, PTSD, mTBI, and other physiological reactions to war. The program teaches the disabled Veteran, who is committed to their own recovery,

how to train their own dog (or next dog) to be their therapy dog. The dog becomes the Veteran's situational awareness sensing their anxiety and depression, hypervigilance, reactivity, social interactions, and public phobias. It is a local non-profit serving the northwest and has a training facility in Woodland, Wa.

They hope that they can help serve the Veteran community with what they offer. Even though their big thing is dog training, Veterans don't have to actually have one to join. Planning to get one or having interest in getting one is good enough. The pack welcomes brothers and sisters in arms from all eras as long as they uphold the intention of the program, which is to receive from and provide for the pack with honor. It's 100% free to qualified Veterans. For more information you can go to their website <K9Kavalry.org> or to their Facebook at <www.facebook.com/k9kav>. Anyone interested in applying for the program can go to <www.k9kavalry.org/join>. Dan Regester, Founder K9 Kavalry, 503-703-5445, <Dan@K9Kavalry.org>

The chapter is grateful to their joining us to explain their program for helping Veterans, mainly Vietnam Veterans, in our Northwest region. Maybe at our next meeting we can pass-the-hat to help support these efforts for fellow Veterans and their dogs.



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



Our Chapter will meet **April 16, 1:00** at the **Manchester American Legion**, Manchester CT. All members, their guests and prospective members are welcome. We had an impromptu lunch. L-R: Bob Waz C 1/7, Al Johnson B 15 TC Battalion, Keith Moyer B 1/5. For further information contact President Keith Moyer, **860-885-4330**, <kpmoyerco@hotmail.com>.

CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER



Photo caption: PVT Reese Myers, Co. A, 1-5th CAV, receives her Division Patch on 23 February 2022. Newly assigned Troopers are "Patched" by their leadership after going through orientation with Pegasus Troop for 8 days.

I have been attending weekly briefings of newly arrived Troopers and explaining the benefits of membership in the Association and really appreciate the opportunity that is provided to me by the Division Command. We are starting to see fruit as membership is growing and we are seeing more customers in the Souvenir Shop now located in the Association Headquarters in Copperas Cove.

We hope to see many of you at the Reunion in Dayton, Ohio in July. First Team! Dennis Webster, President (254) 220-2164.

FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST CHAPTER



February was travel month for us as we accepted Jeff Lay's request to visit St. Augustine FL. If not already in your hometown, it's coming, that is a cafeteria at a car dealership.

We tip our hat to Bozard Ford just off I 95 at SR 16 in St. Augustine. Jeff is second from the right and in proper uniform.

A week later we traveled all the way to downtown Jacksonville to attend the Vets4Vets conference. All in uniform, we attracted attention and our secretary, Ray Skipper signed up four new applicant Vets that saw us and hastened to apply.

Ray is second from the left in the picture. And we found two speakers for our next meetings. Thanks, Johnny Michael, for showing our flag, literally. Johnny is third from the right. Unfortunately, by the time you are reading this, time will have slipped into the future as the song was once sung.

So, if you live in Palatka, Bostwick, Yulee, MacLennan, Vilano or even Hastings, call **904-534-8899** to get onto the meeting notification list.

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY CHAPTER



With a sad heart, I announce the passing of Ronald Stokes. Ronald J. Stokes died at home in Roselle on February 15, 2022. Ronald retired from the Army as Lieutenant Colonel. He worked for BASF Chemical Company before moving to Exxon mobile, where he served as a Hazardous Material Transport Advisor until his retirement in 2011. LTC Stokes still performed Hazardous Materials training and consulting. He also was a member of the chemical transporting Advisory Committee

(CTAC) for the US Coast Guard.

In early March, a select committee will meet to determine the course the chapter will take in the upcoming year.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

As we closely monitor world events and the pandemic, we, the 1st Cavalry Division Association, Northwest Chapter are planning events for 2022. If you are interested in attending any of our events, joining our Chapter, please visit our Facebook page, <<https://www.facebook.com/1CDANW>>.

Our bi-monthly meeting is on the 1st Saturday of April, June, August (Membership Appreciation BBQ), October & December (Christmas Dinner). Note: Until further notice and other than the events listed, we are conducting our meetings virtually. For more information or send us an email:

President: Gail Porter <blueplate545@gmail.com>; VP: Clayton Waldron <claytonwaldron@msn.com>; Treasurer/newsletter: W. Al Jackson <williamal-jackson1cdanw@outlook.com>

WALTER WESTMAN NORTHLAND CHAPTER

The Fall meeting was held at VFW Post # 4847 St. Cloud Mn with a business meeting and lunch. The group then moved to the St. Cloud Regional Airport for a special tour and visit to the home base of B Company 1st General Support Aviation Battalion, Minnesota Army National Guard. CW5 Jason Wright gave the group an informative and closeup look of the UH 60 Black Hawk and CH 47 Chinook Inventory and support mission overview of deployment to Kuwait and Iraq. CW5 Wright is the son of the Northland Treasurer Jim Wright.

Lance Carlson, Secretary

Are you tied into one of our Chapters?
We encourage you to link into your
nearest chapter!

Reach out to the president and meet new
Cav brothers/sisters!

CHAPTER INDEX

**ALMOST HEAVEN
WEST VIRGINIA**
POC: Jim Hays
P.O. Box 97
French Creek, WV 26218-0097
(304) 924-6380
Email: purplehays_05@yahoo.com
Facebook: Almost Heaven Chapter 1st
Cavalry Division Association- West
Virginia
Meets 2pm 1st Sat Feb thru Sept at
Shoney's Restaurant, Flatwoods, WV.

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

COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE
Pres: Terry Low
16560 S Harding Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045-9679
(503) 210-5558
Email: tangolima2505@comcast.net
Website: www.Hood2Hood1stCav.
webs.com
Meets 1200 2nd Thurs of ea mos at
the Kings Omelets Restaurant, 10711
NE Halsey St, Portland, OR. No
meeting in Dec.

CONNECTICUT
Pres: Keith Moyer
48 Boretz Rd.
Colchester, CT 06415-1009
(860) 885-4330
Email: kpmoyerco@hotmail.com
Facebook: CTCAV
We meet quarterly. Email me for
info. All new & prospective members
welcome.

CROSSED SABERS
Pres: Dennis Webster
(254) 220-2164
Email: Dennis.webster7@gmail.com
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division Asso-
ciation Crossed Saber Chapter
Gen membership mtgs Mar & Oct.
Stable Calls: 4th Thurs of ea mos, 6pm,
except Nov, Dec and the month of the
Assn Reunion. Stable Calls at various
locations in Cen TX area.

FLORIDA
VP: Gil Harris
(407) 296-2413
Facebook: Florida Chapter 1st Cavalry
Division Association
Meets 1300 2nd Tues of ea mos at
VFW Post 2093, 4444 Edgewater
Dr, Orlando

FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST
Pres: Jesse Crimm
4445 Silverwood Ln
Jacksonville, FL 32207-6241
904-534-8899
Email: thecrimms@gmail.com
Meets at noon on 3rd Tues of every
mos. Locations alternate between
westside & southside Jacksonville.
Call 904-534-8899 to be notified &
placed on mailing list.

**FLORIDA TROOP E
"BLACK HAT"**
Pres: Juan Kellogg
607 SE 47th St., Apt. 7
Cape Coral, FL 33904-5506
Email: juankellogg@embarqmail.
com
POC: Johnny Robertson
1109 Highland Ave
Lehigh Acres, FL 33972
(239) 265-1509
Email: Robertson.johnny06@gmail.
com
Website: www.seahog.org/cav/index.
html
Meets 4th Sat ea mos from Sept.-May
1:00 pm at Mission BBQ, 12984 S.
Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33907

FORT KNOX AREA
Pres: Thomas Ken O'Barr
12210 Valley Dr.
Louisville, KY 40026-9501
(502) 228-8032
Email: ko42@bellsouth.net
POC: Larry A. Whelan
2103 Winston Ave.
Louisville, KY 40205-2535
(502) 439-6454
Email: whelan1@outlook.com
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Div Fort Knox
Area Chapter
Meets 3rd Sat of mos at 1100 at the
Masonic Lodge, 1158 N. Dixie Hwy,
Radcliff, KY.

**JAMES H. UNRUH
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**
Pres: Michael T. Mazzaro
2600 Willow St. Pike North
PMB 231
Willow Street, PA 17584
(717) 389-1000
Email: cenpenn1cda@gmail.com
Meets 1800 2nd Tues of ea mos,
except Nov, Dec, and Jan,
Lititz VFW Post 1463, 14 N. Spruce
St., Lititz, PA 17543

**JAMES J. MASON
WEST MICHIGAN**
POC: Bob Anderson
9030 Conservancy Dr. NE
Ada, MI 49301-8822
(616) 682-5446
Email: rj.anderson2243@comcast.net
Website: jjmwmc1cd.com
Meets on 3rd Thurs of Feb, Apr, Jun,
Aug, Oct, and Dec, at 7pm, at the
Grand Valley Armory in Wyoming,
MI.

JUMPING MUSTANGS 1-8 Cav
Pres: Rick Wagner
13950 Lake Mahogany Blvd #1212
Ft. Myers, FL 33907
(239) 337-2557
E-mail: bwagner@wyoming.com
POC: James C. Knafel
5510E - 500 South
Columbia City, IN 46725-7621
(260) 244-3864
Email: jjknafel@gmail.com
Website: www.JumpingMustangs.
com

KETTLE MORaine
Pres: Gordon Weidner
1219 Cleveland Ave.
Racine, WI 53405-2929
(262) 637-3835
POC: A. Michael Lorber
4819 Longwood Dr., Mt. Pleasant,
WI 53403-9769
(262) 554-8310
We meet quarterly on 2nd Sat of Mar,
Jun, Sept at 12pm at the Bunker in
Waterford, WI. Election of officers
are the 2nd Sat of Dec at 12pm at
Meyers Restaurant in Greenfield, WI.

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

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

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

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

NORTHWEST
Pres: Gail Porter
6791 Jasper PL SE
Port Orchard, WA 98367-9038
(360) 265-6216
Email: Blueplate545@gmail.com
POC: William Al Jackson
9703 Vantage Terrace CT SE
Olympia, WA 98513
(360) 539-8110
Email: williamaljackson@comcast.
net
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division As-
sociation-Northwest Chapter
We currently meet online due to
Covid-19. We will resume after the
pandemic on the 1st Sat of even
months, 12pm at Carr's Restaurant,
11006 Bridgeport Way SW, Lake-
wood, WA, except Christmas dinner,
TBA

SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY
(Greater Chicago Area)
Pres: Don Smolinski 630-841-1452
POC: Terry Hodous
3718 W 114th Place
Chicago, IL 60655-3414
(773) 445-1213
Email: us67-hodo@outlook.com
Website: www.sheridansfirstcav.com
Facebook: Sheridan's Chapter 1st
Cavalry Division
2022 Meeting dates: Mar 12 /May
14/ Picnic Aug 6 / Oct 8 / Christmas
Party Dec 3.
Meetings and events held at Roselle
American Legion Post #1084, 322
East Maple Ave., Roselle, IL 60172.

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

**WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON
NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION**
Pres: Gene Russell
9056 Belvoir Pkwy
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-2702
(703) 220-5322
Email: enrussell@msn.com
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division Nat'l
Capitol Region
Meets 3rd Sat in Jan-May off Jun-Aug.
Meets again Sept-Dec. Nov meeting
held in conjunction with 1CDA
Veterans Day gathering.



Send us **YOUR** Chapter photo,
So it can appear in the next issue!

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION - ALUMNI OF THE FIRST TEAM

CROSSED SABERS GIFT SHOP

302 N. Main St Copperas Cove, TX 76544
Phone: 254-532-2075

Shop Hours:

Mon - Fri 0900 - 1600

Online Catalog Visit: shop.1CDA.org

E-mail: 1stcavgiftshop@gmail.com

The Crossed Sabers Gift Shop is a Non-Profit Organization. Net income is distributed to the Association for the Scholarship Program and to the Soldier Travel Fund, which allows active duty Soldiers of the Division to attend away Reunions as guests of the Association.

*We accept telephone orders with payment by **MASTERCARD, VISA, DISCOVER** or **AMERICAN EXPRESS** or you can order online at **shop.1CDA.org** using your credit card.*

Printed Catalogs Are Available For Purchase!

Send \$5.00 to the **ASSOCIATION** located at: **302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.**
Make your check out to 1st Cavalry Division Association.

**CROSSED SABERS GIFT SHOP IS NOW SET UP AND OPEN FOR BUSINESS AT 1CDA HQ
NO LONGER AT THE MUSEUM ON POST**

Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Gift Shop

20% OFF COUPON

Telephone Orders Only

Mention coupon code **063022** to receive your discount.

1 per person

Expires: **June 30, 2022**

Excludes Stetsons & Consignment items

GOT CAVALRY HISTORICAL QUESTIONS?

Did you know we have a 1CDA Historian?

Reach out to **Terry A. McCarl** with any questions,
or information regarding 1st Cavalry Division history!

TerryAMcCarl@gmail.com or **402-296-3150**

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.”

As of 1 January 2022
ALL BOUNCED CHECKS WILL INCUR A \$25 FEE.

CREDIT CARD SERVICE CHARGES NOW APPLY

We have upgraded our credit card machine. A service charge will now be applied to all credit card transactions managed through the Association Office (calls & mail ins). This does not affect website transactions.

In the past, 1CDA has absorbed all customer service charges.

USEFUL VETERAN ASSISTANCE INFO:

<<https://www.archives.gov/>> National Archives & Records Administration, Veteran service records

<<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center>> Central repository of personnel-related records for both the military and civil services of the United States Government. 314-801-0800

<<https://www.veteranmedals.army.mil/>> U.S. Army Veteran Medals

<<https://nvf.org/>> National Veterans Foundation: crisis management, information and referral needs of all U.S. Veterans and their families. 310-642-0255
Vet-to-Vet toll-free helpline: 888-777-4443

<<https://nationalresourcedirectory.gov/>> Dept of Veteran Affairs, The National Resource Directory is a searchable database of resources vetted for Service members, Veterans, family members and caregivers. 800-342-9647

<<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>> Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-8255

<<https://www.dav.org/>> Disabled American Vets is a non-profit charity that provides a lifetime of support for Veterans of all generations and their families. 877-426-2838

SPECIFICALLY FOR TEXAS VETERANS

<www.TVC.texas.gov> Texas Veterans Commission advocates for all Texas Veterans, assisting with: VA Claims, Employment, Education, Entrepreneurship, and VA Healthcare Advocacy. 254-238-7124

<<https://www.texvet.org/>> Informative resource guide for Texas Veterans and family members. 512-341-4924

HELP US RECRUIT,
make sure those that you served with in the Division
are also members of the
1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION!

The next *Saber* newspaper is the
May/June 2022 edition.
Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is
Monday, May 2, 2022.
Please email to Programs@1CDA.org

2022 CALENDAR DONATIONS

Hope everyone is enjoying YOUR new calendar!

Thank you to our following members who have donated \$100 or more towards our 2022 calendar:

BG (RET) BILO, Bill	\$100
MAJ DANZEISER, David A.	\$100
E-4 HESTER, Robert	\$100
CPT HUEBNER, Robert E.	\$150
E-4 JENNINGS, Bennie R.	\$100

Consider Donating Today!

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

Thank you to all our members that support this program!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT & GENEROSITY!

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

1st CAVALRY DIVISION UNIT BREAKDOWN

1st Armored Brigade Combat Team "IRONHORSE"

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

FACEBOOK: 1st ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team "BLACKJACK"

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

FACEBOOK: 2nd ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team "GREYWOLF"

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

FACEBOOK: 3rd BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

1st AIR CAVALRY BRIGADE "AIRCAV"

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

FACEBOOK: 1st AIR CAVALRY BRIGADE AIRCAV

1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade "WAGONMASTERS"

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

FACEBOOK: 1st CAVALRY DIVISION SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

1st Cavalry Division Artillery Brigade "REDTEAM"

FACEBOOK: 1st CAVALRY DIVISION ARTILLERY

Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion "MAVERICK"

FACEBOOK: 1st CAV HHBN

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

THE HICCUP - Health Care
Information Committee Report

VA AND MARIJUANA
What Veterans need to know

The Department of Veteran Affairs provides guidance on the use of marijuana in the web link - <<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/marijuana.asp>> - VHA Directive 1315

The VA is required to follow all federal laws regarding marijuana, since it is listed as a Schedule One Controlled Substance and is considered illegal. So how does it impact your care from VA? Veteran participation in state marijuana programs does not affect eligibility for VA care and services. VA providers can and do discuss marijuana use with Veterans as part of comprehensive care planning, and adjust treatment plans as necessary.

- Veterans will not be denied VA benefits because of marijuana use.
- Veterans are encouraged to discuss marijuana use with their VA providers.
- VA health care providers will record marijuana use in the Veteran’s VA medical record in order to have the information available in treatment planning. As with all clinical information, this is part of the confidential medical record and protected under patient privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations.
- VA clinicians may not recommend medical marijuana.
- VA clinicians may only prescribe medications that have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for medical use. At present most products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cannabidiol (CBD), or other cannabinoids are not approved for this purpose by the FDA.
- VA clinicians may not complete paperwork/forms required for Veteran patients to participate in state-approved marijuana programs.
- VA pharmacies may not fill prescriptions for medical marijuana.
- VA will not pay for medical marijuana prescriptions from any source.
- VA scientists may conduct research on marijuana benefits and risks, and potential for abuse, under regulatory approval.
- The use or possession of marijuana is prohibited at all VA medical centers, locations, and grounds. When you are on VA grounds it is federal law that is in force, not the laws of the state.
- Veterans who are VA employees are subject to drug testing under the terms of employment.

WOMEN VETERANS

With over 1.65 million female Veterans, the VA has developed the Center for Women Veterans (CWV). The Center for Women Veterans’ (CWV) mission is to monitor and coordinate VA’s administration of health care, benefits, services, and programs for women Veterans. They serve as an advocate for cultural transformation and to raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect. This includes an environment free from harassment. VA has introduced White Ribbon, a national call to action to eliminate sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

Women experienced unique issues in the service and has caused many not to seek the VA Benefits & Services they earned. Women Veterans can seek additional information on benefits directed toward them at VAntage Point <<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/tag/women-veterans/> and <https://www.va.gov/womenvet/>>

UPLOAD COVID RESULTS TO MYHEALTHEVET

With more and more people testing themselves at home for COVID, VA wants to make sure you’re keeping your doctor in the loop. In My HealtheVet’s Track Health feature, you can update your health record by uploading results to Labs + Tests.

Here are step-by-step directions on how to add your COVID test results.

- First, sign in to My HealtheVet
- Then, click ‘Track Health’ and next, select ‘Labs + Tests’
- Then select ‘Self-Entered Tests’ in the left navigation sidebar
- Scroll down, past your Personal Health Journal, and select ‘Add New’
- You’ll then be asked to add your test information

VETERANS CANTEEN SERVICE
<<https://shopvcs.va.gov/>>

Another place to spend your money. The Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) was established by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in 1946 under the statutory provisions of Title 38 U.S.C. VCS was created to provide articles of merchandise and services at reasonable prices to Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare, their families, VA employees, and caretakers. Since its conception, VCS’ mission continues, incorporating a strategic Veteran-centric approach emphasizing the importance of service to Veterans and supporting VA’s overall mission.

Similar to the AAFES PX system, you can shop online. They have clothing, tires, pet supplies, grooming, travel, etc. I am unclear if they charge sales tax or shipping costs. If you go to a VA Hospital, they will usually have a VCS.

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
505-889-8582

“Doc Shock” has asked Erin Stockton DMD an Albuquerque, New Mexico dentist to help us in a series of articles to improve our dental care. The following article is submitted by **Erin Stockton DMD**.

Hello again! We are in the midst of a five-part series of articles giving some good, sound dental advice through clearing up myths that many people have about their teeth. In the past two editions of *Saber* News, we addressed two common myths. Today we are clearing up a third:

Myth #3: Everyone has sensitivity to cold. It is true that a lot of people experience sensitivity to cold drinks and food, but not everyone does and not everyone has to. The first step to eliminating this sensitivity is to have an evaluation completed by your dentist. There may be habits that are contributing to the sensitivity, or you may have decay or cracks. You could have root exposure, abfractions or previous cavities that have been restored that were deep - causing residual cold sensitivity. There are treatments available for this – both over the counter and through your dental office. And your dentist may be able to coach you on dietary or habitual changes that can be made as well.

Some of the over-the-counter options to help treat sensitivity include toothpastes or mouth-rinses that are geared toward reducing sensitivity. Taking a break from bleaching your teeth can help, as well as reducing your intake of acidic beverages.

Lingering sensitivity to cold could indicate a bigger problem, especially when it is accompanied by other symptoms such as pain to chewing, spontaneous pain, or tooth mobility. If you are experiencing lingering sensitivity to cold, well after a cold stimulus such as ice cream or even tap water has been removed from your teeth, you should certainly schedule an evaluation for that tooth. You may not be due for your regular check-up, but still give your dentist a call. You can be seen for a problem-focused evaluation for a certain tooth or area that is bothering you, and relief could be right around the corner.

Most patients benefit from dental check-ups every 6 months. You and your dentist can establish what the best frequency is for you. If you are overdue for a check-up, it is important that you schedule an appointment with your dentist to have your mouth evaluated. Make sure you voice your concerns and listen carefully to any advice your healthcare providers give. Ask questions if you are confused. And most importantly, pay attention to your mouth. If something doesn’t feel right, you should have it checked.

Dr. Erin Stockton, DMD attended dental school at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL and completed a general practice residency at the University of Nebraska in Omaha, NE. She practices dentistry in Albuquerque with her husband, Dr. Seth Stockton, DMD.

ARE YOU ACTIVE DUTY?

DID YOU SERVE IN 1ST CAV DURING
GULF WAR, BOSNIA OR WAR ON TERROR?
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are looking to hear your 1CD war stories.
Our older members want to hear from our younger
generation of Troopers!

Please consider sharing your experiences with our
1st Cav Veterans!

LET YOUR STORIES BE HEARD

Share your significant memories, possibly of you
& your battle buddies in the field or down range.

LOOKING FOR ACTIVE-DUTY SOLDIERS
GULF WAR, BOSNIA &
WAR ON TERROR CAV VETERANS

Email to programs@1CDA.org today
and they will appear in an upcoming *Saber*!

Be a Saber writer
Carry on your UNIT LEGACY!
Share your stories

Email for details <programs@1CDA.org>

USAA SUPPORTS 1CDA AND OUR
VETERANS & TROOPERS
[USAA.com/1CDA](https://www.usaa.com/1CDA)
877-917-1CDA (1232)

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 received email from Don Hays<donzackhays@hotmail.com> who said, “Hi Mike, Don Hays from Company C 1966 at An Khe. I enjoyed the letter from Ron Strub. He mentioned not many people from Company C write letters. Anyways, I want Co C people to know some of us are still alive and quite well out here in the world. I live near Portland, Oregon. I really miss the guys I served with in ‘66. It has been 56 years that have gone by fast. I am 77 now, and 100% disabled because of PTSD, heart surgery this last July, and a few other things. I have made it to three reunions. Hope to get to another this year. Howdy to all 15th Med people. I was also the medical supply specialist for Co C in 1966. I learned that by O.J.T. I did send Ron Strub a note, hope he gets back to me. I salute all of you, thanks again, Don Hays.”

In the obituaries I see, not mentioned in this column: “Raymond D. Kinnard, CPT, Medical Service Corps, of Engelwood, CO passed away on 25 December 2018. Ray served as a MEDEVAC pilot with the 15th Medical Battalion in Vietnam from May 67-May 68.”

His dates were within the timeframe of Art Jacobs, so I contacted Art about him. Art replied, “Mike: Ray was my AC at LZ Sharon in February-March 1968. Ray taught me a lot, he was an excellent pilot, and unknown to me, recommended me to MAJ Goodman to be promoted to AC when Roy Land was wounded.

“MAJ Goodman came up to LZ Sharon from Camp Evans, we flew two missions together (he didn’t tell me why but had me fly from the left seat), and then landed at 18th Surg in Quang Tri to see Roy. When we landed back at LZ Sharon, he told me I was an AC!

“Ray was at the Sacramento reunion, but the last time I saw him was in Denver when my son and I were on the way to Winter Park. Ray bought us lunch. Art”

When I asked Art what Ray Kinnard’s MEDEVAC call sign was and if he ever flew with anyone with a MERCY designated call sign thinking Ray might have had one, Art replied, “Mike: All call signs were Medevac while I was there. I do not recall what Ray’s was, I would only be guessing. I never heard about ‘Mercy’ until just recently. Art”

Webmaster Ron Huether listed Raymond D. Kinnard’s call sign as “Unknown” on the MEDEVAC pilots’ call sign page by my request. I also asked Ron to list Roy Land whom I do not see there.

Other deceased members I have not mentioned are Damian “Pineapple” Vierra 68, of Statesville, NC passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday 31 Jul 19. Born on 1 Jan 51 in Waiialua, HI. In Vietnam he was a crew chief on a MEDEVAC helicopter assigned to the 15th Medical Battalion of the 1st Cavalry Division. His nickname was “Pineapple” in his army days, and then went on to be called “5.0.”

Bobby Wayne Brooks, 78, died Sunday, April 12, 2020, from heart problems related to agent orange exposure. Born in Dunlap, TN, he was a retired Combat Medic in the US Army with the 15th Medical Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, and served as a US Navy Corpsman.

John Joseph Crespi, 79, of Olathe, KS passed away on July 6, 2021. He was born on February 9, 1942, in San Francisco, California. John served in the US Army, retiring after twenty-one years of service. John before me for a brief time wrote this column and went by the name “Elk Dog.”

Robert “Bob” McKinley, 80, of Largo, MD passed away August 18, 2021, at Bay Pines, VA. Bob was born in Camden, WV, on July 1, 1941.

Bob joined the US Army in Sept 1959 and retired from service on Jan 1, 1980. His tours of duty overseas included Okinawa, Germany, and Vietnam. While in Vietnam (65, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71), he served with the 15th Medical Battalion (MEDEVAC) First Cavalry Division.

After retirement he joined the 15th Med Association as a charter member and remained active, seldom missing a reunion. In 2021 he was in Peru, IN, at the American Huey Museum 369. He was surprised to find the Vietnam helicopter #803 that he was crew chief on had been restored and was now being used for flights.

Bob served three tours in Vietnam. His first tour was with 17th Aviation, 1st Cavalry Division, a Caribou (CV-2) unit stationed at Pleiku 1965-66. His second tour was initially with the 9th Infantry Division (unit Unknown) from Feb-April 1967. He requested and received a transfer to HSC 15th Med Bn in April ‘67 and served there until his DEROS in February 1968. According to MEDEVAC crew chief Corky Walsh, Bob’s third tour was with an unknown aviation unit that flew OH-13 helicopters out of Phan Rang 1970-71.

Richard Schroder, 76, of Lenexa, Kansas passed away on November 19th, 2021. He was born on August 11th, 1945, in Topeka, Kansas. Richard enlisted in the United States Army serving four years of active duty with a year being in Vietnam.

You can read the full obituaries and all others of past members on the 15th MED Assn website, <www.15thMedBnAssociation.org>.

From the deja vu all over again department comes this homepage story: “MEDEVAC STILL HELPING... With fears still high that the Kremlin may soon launch a new invasion of Ukraine, it’s not surprising that a curious flight by a U.S. Army HH-60M, a ‘dust-off’ or air ambulance variant of the Black Hawk, to a checkpoint along the Polish-Ukrainian border 16 Feb 22 night drew significant attention on social media. For some, the scene had a clandestine Bridge of Spies feel to it. The War Zone can now confirm that this helicopter was retrieving a U.S. service member assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine who was experiencing an unspecified medical emergency.

“In an article by Joseph Trevithick, the first indications that the HH-60M in question, which has the serial number 20-21131 and was using the callsign EVAC01 at the time, was headed toward Poland’s border with Ukraine, based on data from online flight tracking websites, began to appear on social media at around 11 pm local time 16 Feb 22. The Polish Border Guard has a publicly available live camera feed showing Korczowa-Krakovets border crossing, which subsequently confirmed that the Black Hawk had landed on the road there, appearing to pick up an individual who had crossed over from the Ukrainian side. The helicopter was then tracked flying to a hospital in the Polish city of Rzeszow.”

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

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

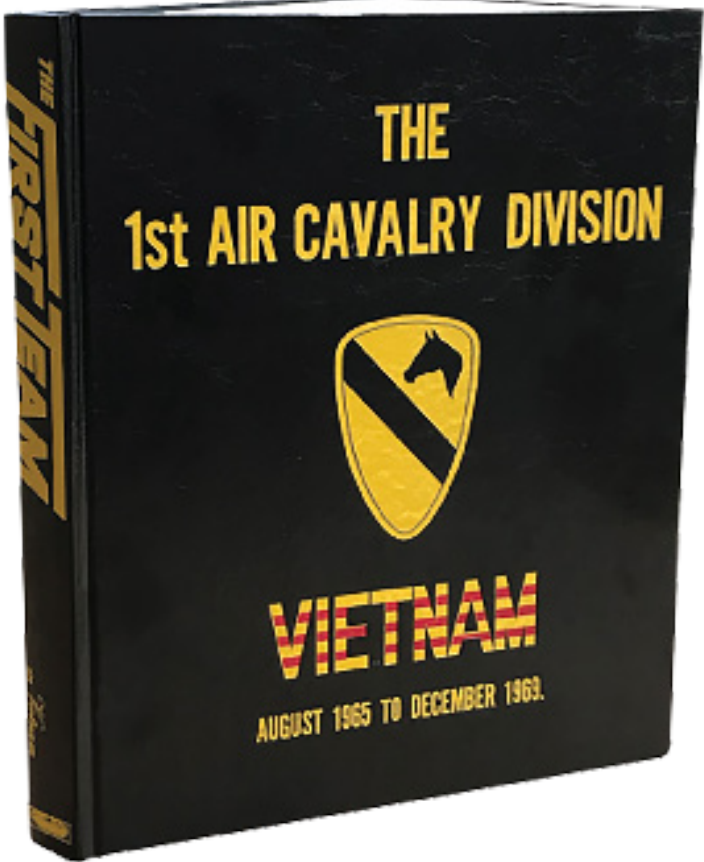
Yes! This is the same book Acclaim Press offered in the *Saber* last year (where you purchased directly from the publisher). If you missed that opportunity to pre-order, we were able to order a limited amount of copies to have available to our members. Please mail us your completed order form located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

ABOUT THE BOOK

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

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

LIMITED QUANTITIES
AVAILABLE



MEMOIRS OF THE FIRST TEAM IN
VIETNAM-SPECIAL REPRINT EDITION

Limit 1 book per member

Amount Due: \$ 85.00

Form of Payment:

☐ Cash ☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Credit Card
(Service Charges Apply)

Credit Card # _____

Exp Date: _____ CVV on back: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Phone #: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

SHIPPING IS FREE

PAST REUNION PINS

\$5.00 per pin

FREE Shipping



1990
Georgia



1991
Texas



1992
Montana



1993
Texas



1994
Florida



1995
Texas



1996
Wisconsin



1998
New York



1999
Texas



2001
Texas



2002
Colorado



2004
Wisconsin



2005
Texas



2006
Kentucky



2007
California



2008
Florida



2009
Texas



2010
Minnesota



2011
Texas



2012
Oregon



2013
Texas



2014
Illinois



2015
Texas



2016
Nevada



2017
Texas



2018
W. Virginia



2019
Texas



2021
Texas

SOLD OUT:
1997
2000
2003

THERE IS NO 2020 PIN

REUNION PINS ORDER FORM

\$5.00 PER PIN

Please list, or circle the pins you want & be sure to return the ad with your order form.

Requested Pins: _____

Please list the years.

Total # of pins: _____ Amount Due: \$ _____

Form of Payment:

☐ Cash

☐ Check Enclosed

Credit Card
(Service Charges Apply)

Credit Card # _____

Exp Date: _____ CVV on back: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Phone #: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

SHIPPING IS FREE

PURCHASE YOUR AIR ASSAULT BADGE PINS

through our Crossed Sabers Gift Shop

254-532-2075



Vietnam War Style

Air Assault Badge-Vietnam War Style
Stock #1342

\$6.75

Color: Oxidized silver plated
Size: 1 7/8 " x 1 1/8"

Air Assault Badge
available in two sizes!

Small is 7/8" x 1/2"
Stock #1431

\$4.50

Large is 1.25" x 3/4"
Color: Bright nickel plated
Stock #2604

\$4.95



SHIPPING
CHARGES
APPLY

QTY	S/H
1-5	\$5.50
6-10	\$6.00
10+	\$9.45

ORDER YOUR AIR ASSAULT PIN TODAY!

CHECK OUT OTHER ITEMS
AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE!

https://shop.1CDA.org/



\$20

Call to Order

254-547-6537

Due to limited quantities, if you purchased a coin at the reunion, you may not purchase another one.



LIMITED QUANTITIES

Commemorative Air Assault Coin

LIMITED TO ONLY ONE PER MEMBER

WHO RECEIVED THEIR

1CDA AIR ASSAULT CERTIFICATE

(Your name will be checked against our master list)

Due to limited quantities, if you purchased a coin at the reunion, you may not purchase another one.

We have been accepting Air Assault Applications since April 2021. Thank you for your patience. We have had an overwhelming response. We mailed out over 1500 Honorary Air Assault certificates.

Our deadline has passed on 1 August.

We are NO LONGER ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS.

Call to place your order!

254-547-6537

ENGINEER News



Steve Richey
P.O. Box 250
Wildomar, CA 92595-0250
(714) 931-3123
D9Dozer@verizon.net

submitting a six-part article from Martin Suydam. He built LZ English. He had help of course, but he was in charge.

WE WERE ENGINEERS.

Engineers build and in the 8th Engineers, we did a lot of it. We were always building an LZ somewhere. There was a process we often followed.

We had three basic types of LZ's with a specific list of the materials we would need to build each type. The materials were wood, perimeter wire, sandbags, shelter halves, and PSP. We would organize our supplies at the airstrip in Phuoc Vinh. We also had a list of equipment it would take, and of course, men to build the LZ. The combat assault would take place first to secure the area, and then the helicopters would begin bringing our men, our materials, and our equipment in.

The TOC, Tactical Operations Center, would be built in a large hole in the ground. We would bury most of it and make the structure out of some large wooden beams. Our backhoes would dig the hole and then our Combat Engineers, would begin to build the frame of the TOC. The work went quickly. We would usually finish the TOC within three days.

Once the heavy beams were in place for the frame for the TOC, we then could build the exterior walls with plywood, attached to the beams. As soon as the walls were built, we used our excavated dirt to backfill the structure. We would put PSP, perforated steel plates, on top of the TOC, for protection from incoming. A direct hit from a rocket or mortar could still penetrate the top of the TOC. It was a big problem. One of our 8th engineers, Wally Morken, solved the problem. To solve the problem of the incoming rounds punching holes in the top of our TOC's, we put rows of shelter halves on top of the PSP. We would then put another layer of PSP on top of the steel shelter halves, and then at least a double mat of sandbags on top of the PSP. If we took a hit from an incoming round, the top layer of the PSP and sandbags, would explode the round, and the shrapnel would then hit the second layer of the PSP and sandbags, not penetrating down inside the TOC where the operations people were. This saved a lot of lives.

We often slept in shelter halves. They were 48" corrugated pipes cut in half. We used two to build our shelter. We would overlap the culverts and then build a sandbag wall at each end, one against the culverts and the other about a foot away from the other end, so we could get in and out of our shelter half where we would sleep and eat. Often, we would set the shelter halves on a double row of sandbags or 105 Ammo boxes filled with dirt, to make the top higher and more comfortable to move around inside. We would then put a double thickness of sandbags over the sides and top.

While the backhoes were digging the TOC excavation, our Engineers were stringing perimeter wire. Usually, it was three rows. Two rows on the ground with a third row on top of the ground rows. We would then put trip flares in the wire. We also set up claymore mines on sandbags, just in front of our wire with det cord strung to the nearest perimeter fox hole. Our perimeter foxholes would have flares to light up the clear fire zone and machine guns, usually M-60's, for the men in the foxholes to use.

While that was happening, another backhoe would be digging perimeter fox holes, some defensive fox holes on the LZ, and one or more Case 450 dozers or D-6's would be pushing out the vegetation away from the perimeter wire, to make a cleared area of about three hundred feet, for a clear fire zone. We needed to see the enemy coming.

The Cat D-6 dozer bodies would come in after their tracks and blades had landed. The men would lay out the track as soon as a helicopter dropped them off. In a few minutes, the body of the dozer would be set on the tracks by a helicopter, often a CH-54 sky crane. As soon as the tracks were connected, the blade would be attached and the dozer operator would begin pushing vegetation away from the perimeter wire.

The operation was very efficient. There was a job to do and the men usually finished before dark. If they did, then the risk of staying the night on the LZ, decreased. Our new LZ had fox holes for the perimeter guards and the TOC was functional, yet to be completed. The men in the TOC could radio for help if needed. Out past the perimeter, was Charlie country. He liked to make night calls.

The equipment was parked away from our shelter half area. If Charlie showed up, they would try to blow up the equipment. It was smart to not sleep next to it. During the day, a battery of 105's would be air lifted in and set up. Artillery on an LZ was always a good thing. Often a company of infantry would arrive to help defend the LZ.

Water was often hard to come by the first night. Water blivets would be brought in, for drinking. The old hands quickly discovered how to use an entrenching tool, to liberate a helmet of water to do a washing and take a bath in. The water left in the helmet, when you finished, was usually dirtier than any mud hole in the area, but if you could get a helmet of water, you could get some of the red laterite dirt and sweat off you. The cleaner you were, the less the nighttime bugs would bother you, and in the bush, there was no limit to the bugs, and scorpions, and centipedes. It was bug heaven.

By sundown, you had created a decent place to fight from which had a lot of defensive capabilities. You also had created a big target for the enemy. Yesterday, it was just the bush, tonight it was an LZ with men and equipment the enemy did not want there. Their job was to mortar the LZ and try to overrun it to kill as many people on the LZ as they could.

It gets dark quicker in the jungle than I've ever seen, anywhere I've been. It goes from light, to fading light, to no light, in a half an hour. If you weren't on guard duty, you needed to be in your shelter half, making sure your rifle was clean, your ammo was laid out should you need it in the night, and know where on the LZ you would be fighting from. Often it would be a double row of sandbags just outside your shelter halves. It was close, you could crawl to it, and the sandbags would deflect most rifle bullets. When that was done, then you could think about fixing yourself something to eat.

We had C rations. You could choke them down, actually enjoy them if you were hungry enough, but we discovered LLRP rations. We engineers weren't

Engineers... I need you guys to send me your stories of your experiences in Viet Nam. I'm running low and if I don't get your stories, I'll have to bore you with mine. Ugly thought. AND, I hear LZ English mentioned often. I just finished

authorized to have them. Still, I was in the Army, the LLRP rations were in the Army, they were made to feed Soldiers. I was a Soldier, so I felt no guilt or remorse from "liberating" LLRP rations from someplace I wasn't authorized, before I slung out to build an LZ. You tried to heat your water before dark. Fires give your position away. You heated a canteen of water, often with a chunk of C-4, always in an open area, poured the hot water into a pouch of LLRP rations, and then waited. Since you were hungry from working all day, seldom did we have the patience to wait the recommended time.

You slept in your dirty sweaty clothes of course. Morning was always welcomed. You could see to fight if you had to, even if it was raining. If you had set your shelter half up correctly, being aware of how the ground sloped, you could still be dry, if it rained during the night. Experience or listening to someone that had been there longer would keep you dry.

When all the finishing touches to the LZ was completed, we Engineers, would fly back to our company area to work on our equipment or get ready to build another LZ.

BRIDGE REPAIR RECON

Submitted by Rich Estes, CO of B Co in Song Be



Sometime during my tenure as the S-2 of the 8th Engineer Battalion (from September to December 1969), a bridge that as best I recall was on the MSR (Main Supply Route) between the 1st Cav's HQ in Phuoc Vinh and the 2nd Brigade's HQ at FSB (Fire Support Base) Buttons got destroyed.

I think this is a picture (left) from Steve Richey on that bridge.

Steve Richey, who was a surveyor in the S-3 shop, tells me LTC

Smith, the Battalion CO, sent me, Steve, and Mike Lapsansky, another surveyor, out to measure the length of the bridge and the center part that had been blown out. I don't have any memory of surveying that bridge; but Steve sent me this picture of me taking a picture of the bridge from the door of a Huey. So, since this was before Photoshop, I think Steve is right.

I do remember LTC Smith tasking me to look for a fording site on a river, the main bridge across which had recently been damaged and was unpassable. I think it must have been the same bridge and the same river.

I had no training or experience in how to locate fording sites, so I improvised. I got a rod that was probably around 10 feet long and marked off lengths on it. I also got some oranges from the Mess Hall. I got the battalion log bird to fly me to the river.



To measure the speed of the current, I tossed an orange into the river and timed how long it took to float a certain distance. To measure the water depth - and this is where my youthful hubris and foolhardiness showed up - I got the Huey crew chief to lash me to a skid. Once we got airborne, the crew chief took this picture. You can get an idea by the Huey's shadow in that pic how high up we were.

I had the pilot hover above the river, low enough that I could stick the rod in the water to see

if I could feel the river bottom and thereby determine the water's depth. As you also can tell from the shadows in this picture, we were hovering just above the river.

In hindsight. I'm amazed that (1) I thought this was a good idea and (2) that the pilot agreed to do this. We were almost literally "sitting ducks on a pond" while he hovered over the river.

The Bottom Line: I didn't find a suitable fording site, but it was a memorable experience.



545th MP Co News
Lawrence Gardner Ketron
232 New Beason Well Rd
Kingsport, TN 37660
(423) 967-8226
LGKetron@earthlink.net

I have been asked to author a series of articles about the experiences of the men of the 545th MP Company of the 1st Cavalry Division (AIRMOBILE). I joined the company in July of 1964, shortly after its inception at Ft. Benning, GA, as the 11th MP Company of the

11th Air Assault Division (TEST). The men still alive of the original company of 1964-1966 are now in their late 70's and early 80's and wanted their stories documented while they could still remember them. This I will attempt.

My background before the Army was growing up on a cattle farm in East Tennessee, a college student studying civil engineering, and summer jobs in construction. My career after the Army was in data processing as a programmer/systems programmer in the trucking industry and later in the telecommunications industry. So please bear with my writing style.

EXPERIENCES IN MP SCHOOL

In 1964 the MP school was at Ft. Gordon, GA, which is located outside of Augusta. In the 60's a recruit was normally given a 2-week leave between basic and AIT (Advanced Individual Training). A portion of my basic training company at Ft. Gordon had to return there for the MP school. Among the subjects taught were military law (UCMJ - Uniform Code of Military Justice), traffic control, radio procedures, self-defense, driver training, all about and firing the 45-caliber automatic pistol and the M-14 rifle (some of us had trained on the M1 rifle in basic training).

MILITARY LAW (UCMJ)

A lot of time was spent on studying the UCMJ. The U.S. military was far ahead of civilian law regarding the rights of a Soldier when being questioned by the military law enforcement. An MP was required to read a Soldier his rights under the UCMJ about self-incrimination before any questioning took place. MPs did not arrest people. They apprehended them. One of the subjects was the apprehension of civilians on Federal property and the right of 'hot pursuit' when leaving the boundaries of Federal property.

TRAFFIC CONTROL

The universal hand signals were taught for directing traffic since an MP might be assigned to about anywhere word wide.

RADIO PROCEDURES

Since 1964 was before the advent of CB radios, proper radio procedures was an important subject. The use of the '10 series was emphasized, although as I remember some of my classmates were a little slow on catching on that the purpose was to reduce transmission time. For example, the desk sergeant might find the location of a patrol by saying 'ten-one four?' (10-14) which means 'what is your location.' The proper response would be 'ten-one four corner of Main and 5th Street,' not 'my ten-one four is the corner of Main and 5th Street.' Since 2-way radio communication was new to most of us, the instructors sometimes had to deal with students who liked to hear their own voice.

SELF DEFENSE

Self-defense training took place in saw dust pits. The purpose was to teach the MP how to get away from an aggressive person, particularly when grabbed from behind in a bar. How to fall when tossed over a person's head was one of the subjects. We were paired up to alternatively play the rolls of MP and aggressor. We also learned how to use the MP club as a tool. I was 5-10 weighing about 150-pounds and seems to me that I was always paired with 6-4, 200-pounder. What I discovered was that I came out better than my bigger partners did. When they threw me, I had enough time to get into position to land properly. When I tried to throw them, I could not get them high enough, so they invariably landed on their shoulder rather than slapping the ground with their free arm and bending one leg to hit the ground to absorb the impact.

One thing the instructors told us was, if you are assigned to someplace like Germany where Soldiers have a lot of beer halls to frequent, and if you are a big MP, when you walk in, some drunk GI will get in his mind 'I can whip that big MP' and will try. You little fellows will not have that problem. The drunk knows and you know that there is a good chance that he can whip you, and therefore he knows that you will even the fight by slapping him aside the head with a pistol or club.

DRIVING SCHOOL

To get a military driver license, we had to attend a driving school to learn to drive a ¼ ton truck, commonly referred to as a jeep. I thought how silly that was to go to a driving school. I had been driving a pickup truck with a floor shift on the farm (with a lot of experience with mud and manure) since I was 12 and a

column shift car since I was 15. I thought every young man knew how to drive. How else did one get around? How could a boy take a girl out? That was when I discovered that some of my classmates had never driven and had no reason to. They just walked down to the corner and caught a bus to go somewhere. Was amusing to us experienced drivers to watch them try to cross a ditch driving a vehicle with a clutch.

BOB DEAN EXPERIENCE

I went through MP School at Ft. Gordon GA in the summer of 1964. I was an acting corporal at the time. One of the classes was Driver Training wherein the skills needed to operate the Jeep were taught. During the first session the trainees were issued a military driver's license after displaying a state license. At the time, I as well as six other trainees, did not have a state license. (At that point I had never learned to drive.) We were told to go back to the barracks where we all caught up on our sleep. During the entire eight weeks we were dismissed at the start of class. When I got to Ft. Benning the fact that I did not drive was never an issue. Even in Viet Nam I was always the passenger until one night in December of 1965. At that time there was an MP post at night just inside the main gate on the base camp. It consisted of two MPs in a jeep who were there to make sure that Charlie did not hitch a ride on incoming vehicles. That night I was on from midnight - 0600. The other MP & I both went to the passenger side of the jeep parked in front of the orderly room in the 545th company area. I said, "You have to drive" & he said, "No, you have to drive, I don't drive." "Well, neither do I." We went to the CQ & told him that neither of us had a military license. He said, "So what, who's going to stop you?" His next question was "Are you telling me that neither one of you can drive that jeep?" We both said something to the effect of I do not know about him, but I cannot. The CQ had to wake up someone to chauffeur us to the detail & bring us back in the morning. The interesting thing is that there were others in the Company who went through MP School & were taught how to drive.

MIKE READ EXPERIENCE

As a 22-year-old, I was drafted on 3 Jan 64, and attended basic training at Ft. Jackson, SC, and then off to an AIT (MP School) at Ft. Gordon, GA, around March of '64. Somehow, I was selected to attend leadership training school (must have done well on one of those interviews?) for two weeks. Afterwards, I was assigned to a training company under SGT Gray, a much nicer Sergeant than in basic training. Thereupon the four of us "training Cadre" had at a meeting, and they decided that I should be the "acting platoon leader," and they would be the squad leaders. This was a rigged vote! One of the squad leaders was Dale Pruitt, a future 545er, who would later introduce me to my future wife, Carol, through "blind-date" correspondence.

MP school was a lot of classroom lectures about military law and procedures. I remember well the 25-yd firing range with a 45 pistol and learning how to clean and take it apart in the dark, and in my sleep!

Upon graduation, we were given orders to report to the 11th Air Assault in Harmony Church, at Ft. Benning, GA.

JIM KESSLER EXPERIENCE as told to the author.

When I was drafted, my fiancé, Pat, and I had already planned, arranged, and set a date of May 23 for our wedding. It worked out OK, because that was when my leave was between basic training and MP school. When it was time for me to make my appearance at Ft. Gordon, we loaded my high mileage 1960 Ford Falcon (170 cu inline 6) with our belongings (the ironing board took lot of room) and took off on US-25 from Michigan down through Kentucky and Tennessee via Cumberland Gap to Georgia. We stopped in Augusta and found an apartment in the house of a Mrs. Evans. After we unloaded our car, I went to the post to report in. I pulled up between the orderly room and the next building, whereupon a sergeant leaned out the window and told me in a vulgar manner to get that #@#@ car out of there and park it behind the Dairy Queen where you will not see it again for 8 weeks. Did not know that I was not supposed to have an automobile (or a wife) with me in AIT. I could not leave to take Pat the Falcon. I did not have the telephone number of the lady where the apartment was, and on top of that, I did not remember her name. I did remember the street name, so a young sergeant helped me look through the Augusta telephone book to find a listing on that street. I called that number and luckily it was the neighbor across the street. Pat found transportation and got the car. It was six weeks before I saw her again. (author's note: When pressed, Jim did admit that on occasion, Pat would drive onto the base where they could sit in the car and talk). When we left Ft. Gordon for Ft. Benning after graduation, we were transported via a bus. Since we did not know what our destination was, Pat in the Falcon waited at the gate and fell in behind the bus, following it to Ft. Benning.



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. Genera-

tions 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.

CROSSED SABERS PATRIOT KNIFE COFFEE

Patriot Knife Coffee Co will donate \$4 of every bag sold of Crossed Sabers Coffee to the 1st Cavalry Division Association Scholarship Fund.

They offer a medium dark roast that is richly aromatic, earthy, and distinctly lush. Veteran owned coffee with that cutting-edge flavor in every cup. Always serving those that serve us! To order, call them or refer to their website!



Patriot Knife Coffee Co.
5200 Mitchelldale Street,
Ste F23,
Houston, TX 77092
832-742-9724
www.patriotknifecoffee.com

DIVISION DOINGS

1st Cavalry Division Highlights Excellence by SSG Ashley Dotson

MG John B. Richardson IV, 1st Cavalry Division commander and CSM Shade Munday, 1st Cavalry Division command sergeant major, recognized Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, for their excellence as they received the Armor and Cavalry Leadership Award and Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment for Top Gun streamer on March 7 at Fort Hood.



5 Cav Regt command team receiving Armor & Cavalry Leadership Award

“We awarded the Draper award to Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment,” said MG John B. Richardson IV. “The Draper award is awarded to the best tank company or cavalry Troop in every division or regiment. It is a big deal that Charlie Company came out on top this year. They are graded on a number of different categories to be considered the best tank company.” The company competed head-to-head against the other units in the Division.

“What receiving the streamer means to us is that we have reached a great level of proficiency from both a tactical and weapons standpoint,” said SSG Larry Thompson, 1-5 Cavalry Regiment, master gunner. “Countless hours of training have built our teams to reach this level of cohesiveness.” Thompson said that it is very fulfilling to see the teams grow from the development that he has been providing them as the master gunner.

“To be recognized on this level, gives our guys a great sense of accomplishment,” said Thompson. “It is a great way to give them a confidence boost and to keep them motivated.” Thompson said that receiving the award will not slow them down, the battalion plans to continue training for their upcoming rotation to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin and that he is looking forward to watching as they put their skills to the test.

“It is a huge honor to be awarded the 2021 Armor Cavalry Leadership award with 1SG Donald Fermaint,” said CPT Nick Lee, commander, C Co, 1-5 Cavalry Regiment. “Even though our names are on the trophies, I would like to highlight the dedication and the hard work of the Soldiers in the company and the battalion as a whole.”

Since taking command, Richardson has brought back many traditions within the Division. He plans to continue to highlight units through streamer ceremonies and ensure that the Troopers’ stories and accomplishments are told.

Leaders Discuss Fighting on Modern Battlefield by LTC Jennifer Bocanegra, 1st Cav Div Public Affairs

As the U.S. Army modernizes and reorganizes to meet tomorrow’s challenges including sustained large-scale combat operations, 1st Cavalry Division leaders and staff participated in a two-day, on-site event, Jan. 13-14, to understand the Division’s role as the Army’s first penetration division within the Multi-Domain Operations construct, which includes simultaneous air, land, maritime, space and cyberspace operations.

The event opened with remarks from LTG Pat White and CSM Cliff Burgoyne, III Corps command team: and GEN Christopher Cavoli, U.S. Army Europe and Africa commander. Through video conferences, these commanders shared insights on current threats and potential future employment of 1st Cav Div during large scale operations. They also advised the group to change their mindset from brigade-level counterinsurgency operations to a division-centric, high-intensity, multi-domain fight.

Following these senior leader discussions, 1st Cav Div commanding general, MG John Richardson, discussed his own warfighting philosophy based on the cavalry mindset. “As a cavalryman, my warfighting philosophy is predicated on seizing the initiative, attacking and pursuing the enemy relentlessly until it is destroyed,” Richardson said. “Cavalry is a mindset. When I think about this Division in LSCO (large-scale combat operations), I think historically about the role of cavalry on Napoleonic battlefields including the mindset and culture inside Napoleon’s army that allowed for taking prudent risk and seizing opportunities, exploiting weaknesses and executing combined arms engagements. When we look at this Division’s role in MDO, this is the type of culture we must foster through our command climate and the mindset we need to adopt.”

During an afternoon session, retired COL John Antal spoke with participants through a video conference about changes in modern warfare including the proliferation of unmanned weapons on today’s battlefield. Antal, who currently serves as a historian and leadership coach, used a case study he compiled on the recent Second Nagonmo-Karabakh War to highlight lessons military leaders should consider in preparation for future conflicts including understanding the enemy, building the capability to fight in multiple domains and employing decisive methods of engagement. Antal concluded his presentation with a call to action, “I share this information with you to raise awareness of the changing methods of warfare and impel you to study and act.”

During the second day of the event, leaders representing various war-fighting functions including aviation, fires, engineering and intelligence provided presentations on their capabilities and potential challenges with supporting sustained LSCO.

Currently, the First Team is upgrading with the most modern ground combat equipment while leaders at all echelons continue to focus on building a fit, disciplined, well-trained, cohesive team that is ready to fight and win. Over the next several years the 1st Cav Div will undergo a force redesign to man, train and equip as the first U.S. Army penetration Division. To prepare for this transition, the Division Headquarters and subordinate units will execute a series of command post and warfighting exercises at various echelons to sharpen the unit’s warfighting capability to maintain a competitive advantage over our adversaries.

TROOPER'S TALE

Continued from pg 3

the three Huey helicopters to the landing zone. They would remain in the area to provide protection for the landing and to search for enemy soldiers in or near the landing zone. The Hueys landed, the Soldiers off-loaded quickly and made their way to the relative safety of the tree line. The LZ was “green,” meaning there was no immediate enemy contact, so we found good fighting positions and waited for the rest of our platoon to arrive. They arrived on the same three Hueys that had returned to the firebase, loaded the Troops and delivered them to the now secure landing zone.

We formed a combat platoon, the platoon lieutenant set the course, and we began moving single file toward the bunker complex. The area was thick with brush, giant bamboo and taller trees but we moved quickly toward our objective about 300 meters from the LZ. There was no enemy contact. We crossed a small stream as we approached the bunkers and noticed one bomb had fallen short of the target and exploded in the center of the stream, creating an inviting pool. The point squad cautiously entered the large bunker complex first; then, the Soldiers of second platoon began their dangerous task of searching each bunker for remaining enemy soldiers, dead or alive, and any weapons, ammunition or abandoned supplies.

We also searched the surrounding area for other bunkers or burial sites and cleared the underground tunnels that linked the bunkers. We did not encounter any live soldiers. The abandoned equipment, a couple of weapons, and some small items that become war trophies, were all inventoried and that list, with other possible intelligence information, was radioed to battalion headquarters. The unusable or unwanted enemy equipment was taken to the bunkers to be destroyed or buried by the demolition later.

The LZ where we first landed was cleared and secured and the Soldiers from the 1/5th, were helicoptered back to their FSB. A defensive perimeter was set up at the bunker complex and we waited for the demolition team to arrive with the explosives to “blow” the enemy equipment and bunkers. The collapsed earthen bunkers would also provide a final resting place for the dead enemy soldiers. The demolition team was not available until the next morning, so our new orders were to continue to search and secure the area and await the team’s arrival.

Being resourceful Soldiers, we returned to the stream, one squad at a time, established security, and each of us took a little time to bathe and briefly soak in the pool created by the errant bomb. Only a theme park hydraulics engineer with earth moving equipment could have created a better pool or gift for a combat infantryman. We ate our C-Rations, dug foxholes or used the now empty enemy fighting positions to secure our area, made one man poncho tents, inflated air mattresses and prepared a relatively dry and peaceful night.

The enemy soldiers had wisely left the area after the intense bombing, but we maintained strict light and sound discipline with half the men on watch at all times during the night in case they returned. We were issued only one day’s rations while we were at the FSB and now that we would stay another day, we would need rations for that day. We radioed our night location information and artillery coordinates to battalion HQ along with a request for more C-Rations. There was no enemy contact that night.

A Huey helicopter arrived at first light the next morning with a sling attached underneath and quickly and carefully lowered it to our eager hands. The sling contained boxes of C-4 explosive, blasting caps, and detonation cord to link the explosives throughout the complex. It also contained enough C-Rations for two days for each Soldier and a large cardboard box containing sixty-four individually wrapped large Army biscuits, each stuffed with a boiled egg. Someone told the cooks we did not have rations for that morning, so with extra effort during their already busy morning, they made this unexpected gift for us. From one of the damaged packs of C-4, we cut small blocks, the size of sugar cubes, to burn under our aluminum canteen cups and heat water for coffee or hot chocolate and ate an unusually good field breakfast. We returned to the stream to wash and to fill our canteens with the clear, cool upstream water, mixed Kool-Aid from single packets, received in our letters from home, in some of the canteens to mask the taste of the bromide purification tablets we sometimes used. We drank stream water often, without much regard to possible contaminants or parasites. We did not know then that the chemicals sprayed over the jungle to defoliate the trees and brush had already seeped into our water supply and would eventually cause more injury to many of us than combat wounds or natural contaminants.

The demo team arrived and rigged explosives throughout the complex that now numbered at least fifteen bunkers, some linked by tunnels or trenches, and several well-camouflaged bamboo hooches. It was not until early afternoon that the task was completed, the timers set, and our combat platoon moved out toward the map coordinates where we would join the rest of our company. We moved quickly and we were a safe distance away when the explosives did their job. After a tiring but uneventful march, which required cutting our way through brush and bamboo, we rejoined the rest of our company at our night location just over two thousand meters away. There was no enemy contact and no serious casualties.

WANTED:

HQ & HQ 1st BDE, APO 24

My name is Michael Orris. I was stationed in the 1st Cav in Korea when President Kennedy was killed. I don’t recall too much of that tour, but I was wondering if anyone has any information on record of HQ & HQ 1st BDE, APO 24. Our compound was in a box canyon called Blue Lancer Canyon where maybe a Marine Detachment was killed. I do not know if this was true. I was and still am proud to have served with the 1st Cav.

Thank you, SSG (Ret) Michael Orris, (386) 673-3170

BILL PORTER

I am looking for any information on Bill Porter. I ran into at Camp Radcliffe in late 1965 or early 1966. He was in the back of a radio jeep. He may have been a RTO. We went to school together from grammar school thru high school in Orange County California. My email is <gro6504@yahoo.com>.

If you have been searching unsuccessfully for someone that you served with within 1st Cav, try posting it here. Submit requests for the Saber!



HONOR ROLL



Thank you for the generous donations from our following Troopers:

1LT AMMONS, Hal	\$20	CPT HALL, Sanci	\$50	SP-4 ROBB, Albert J.	\$25
MAJ (RET) ARMER, Raymond B.	\$50	SP-4 HAMILTON, Larry L.	\$50	IMO Mortar Plt. C 1/12, 1966	
IMO Co A 2nd BN 8th CAV 68-70		LTC (RET) HARBISON, James W.	\$100	E-5 ROY, Claude	\$100
LTC (RET) BARKER, Robert	\$200	IMO ISG Richard W. Lewis, died 12/12/21		IMO Joseph Galloway and Roger Martin	
CPT BARRY, Ann	\$100	MAJ (RET) HOBIN, Gary P.	\$215	SFC SEBASTIAN, Ralph W.	\$30
IMO CPT Edward Barry A Co. 227AVN		PFC HOLZ, Ronald V.	\$100	CPT STAHL, Frank B., Jr.	\$25
BG (RET) BILO, Bill	\$500	SGT La PORTE, James R. II	\$25	IMO CPT Tom Jackson,	
IMO Those Vietnam Veterans Who Served in		MSG (RET) LAWRENCE, Carl H.	\$105	Office of SJA; RVN 1967-1968	
B 1/77FA and SVC-1/30FA		IMO A Co 2nd 5th CAV KIA in RVN		E-7 STOLT, Robert	\$75
SP-4 CONDROSKI, Joseph	\$25	PFC LOPEZ, Sonny	\$25	CPT VATH, Frederick J.	\$100
SGT CYRULIK, David	\$25	MRS. MARTIN, Carole A.	\$500	IMO LTC (RET) Ronald J. Stokes who	
PFC DEAN, Robert L, Jr.	\$100	IMO my Husband PFC Roger M. Martin		recently passed on 2/15/22, 27th Maint BN 1968-69	
IMO CP Charles Nichols, SGT Dave Stockman		SFC (RET) MARTIN, Norman W.	\$25	SGT YATES, Bruce R.	\$75
BG (RET) DePUE, John F.	\$100	SSG MASTRORILLI, Joseph P.	\$50	IMO Joseph Galloway	
CSM (RET) GARCIA, Raul G.	\$50	PFC MEYER, Charles J.	\$25		
SGT GASSNER, Paul	\$50	E-4 O'GRADY, Michael	\$50		
SP-5 HAGGERTY, John J.	\$50	PSG PALMER, Lessie L.	\$100		
IMO All K.I.A. at the Battle of		IMO SP-4 Roger E. Denny, I-30FA,			
The Angels Wing 03/09/69		KIA 3/11/69 RVN			

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

Edit to Jan/Feb Honor Roll:
There was a \$100 donation made IMO Parrott, Dempsey Woodrow KIA 05/04/68

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

The Only American Female POW in WWII Europe Had to Fight for Her Status Military.com | By Blake Stilwell

Reba Whittle was ready to join the Army Nurse Corps long before the United States entered World War II. She had no idea that before the war was over, she would earn a place in World War II history but never be recognized for it in her lifetime.

After graduating from college and studying at a specialty nursing school in San Antonio, she received her commission in the U.S. Army in June 1941. Now 2nd Lt. Whittle, she performed her duties stateside as the U.S. entered the war. She signed on to train as a flight nurse in 1943.

Flight nurses are the champions of medical care in the skies, especially for wounded troops returning from the front. Any soldier too wounded to stay in the theater will be loaded onto departing aircraft, prepped, and cared for by flight nurses. During World War II, flight nursing was still a young concept, but by the end of the war, it was recognized as a must-have.

There were no doctors aboard the flights, and the nurses took on duties usually reserved for doctors. Add on the idea that the plane might be attacked on the way to pick up patients, and it became a dangerous, high-pressure job.

By January 1944, Whittle was based in England, flying troops from the front lines of Europe back to the safety of the English countryside. She flew more than 40 missions aboard Douglas C-47 Skytrains between January and September 1944.

By the end of September of that year, Allied forces had liberated Belgium, and its government had returned to Antwerp from London. American troops already had reached the Siegfried Line, Germany's outer defense system, and casualties from Operation Market Garden were pouring in from the Netherlands.

On Sept. 27, Lt. Whittle's C-47 was headed for a collection point near St. Trond, Belgium. Somehow it had flown some 40 miles off course and entered the outskirts of Aachen, Germany. Her aircraft, not having landed and taken on its precious cargo of wounded soldiers, still was carrying supplies into the theater, so it was not marked as a medical flight. It was basically a lone target, flying into enemy territory.

As it approached Aachen, the skies opened up with German flak fire, riddling the aircraft with shrapnel, killing one pilot, and wounding the other. Whittle also was wounded in the attack, and the plane went down. As the wounded crew escaped the burning wreck, they were captured by German soldiers.

After being treated for their wounds, they were driven to a nearby hospital where Whittle, the lone woman on the flight and the only American woman ever captured by the enemy in the European Theater of World War II, was informed that no one really knew what to do with a female prisoner.

She was transferred to a British-run hospital at the Nazi prisoner of war camp Stalag IX-C, where her nursing skills were put to work. The International Red Cross informed the U.S. State Department about her status as a prisoner, and she eventually was released to the Allies in January 1945.

Once back with the U.S. Army, she received the Purple Heart for her wounds and an Air Medal for her service in treating wounded soldiers. She was put on convalescent leave, taken off flying status and then transferred to California, where she continued her service as an Army nurse -- and that was all. After getting married, she applied for a discharge.

The Army determined that the reason for her discharge had nothing to do with physical disabilities related to the crash, even though Whittle suffered from recurring headaches for the rest of her life. As time went on, she began to suffer the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, arthritis in her spine and the side effects of what we know today as traumatic brain injury. Whittle applied for VA benefits but was turned down.

In 1950, Whittle began the appeals process to get a military retirement. It took four years before the Veterans Administration recognized her disabilities. The sticking point was the reason she left active duty. After years of waiting, an Army Physical Disability Appeal Board finally determined her discharge was related to her injuries.

Even then, they determined her injuries, which included taking flak above a German city and surviving a plane crash before being held in a POW camp, were not combat related, so she only received back pay to the date she filed her appeal. The difference between the dates was worth \$140,000 (adjusted for inflation).

Though she made no more attempts to collect her due retirement pay and died of cancer in 1981, her husband, retired Col. Stanley Tobiason, continued to fight for her recognition as a prisoner of war.

After the Army recognized the nurses captured by the Japanese in 1983, Tobiason took up the cause once more. That same year, Whittle was given prisoner of war status and was awarded the Prisoner of War medal in 1997.

CROSSED SABERS GIFT SHOP

Located at 1CDA HQ
302 N. Main St Copperas Cove, TX 76544
Phone: 254-532-2075

HOURS:
MONDAY - FRIDAY 0900-1600

Challenge Coins, Clothing, Flags, Jewelry,
License Plates, Medals, Military Brass, Patches, Pins,
Stetson & Accessories, Ties, Unit Stickers
& Much More!

shop.1CDA.org

**GET ALL YOUR
CAV-TASTIC SOUVENIRS HERE!**

1stcavgiftshop@gmail.com

Are you Active Duty & serving in 1st Cav?

you or your spouse may qualify for a
1st Cavalry Division Association

SCHOLARSHIP

REQUIREMENTS:

- Become a member of 1st Cav Div Assn @ 1CDA.org to become a LIFE MEMBER
- Must be currently assigned to the Division for the length of scholarship
CANNOT be on orders or ETS
- Letter of recommendation from Command Team for Active Duty / employer for spouses

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS:
only 1 April - 1 Aug 2022
NOT accepting early packets
This Scholarship encompasses
FALL 2022, SPRING & SUMMER 2023 sessions

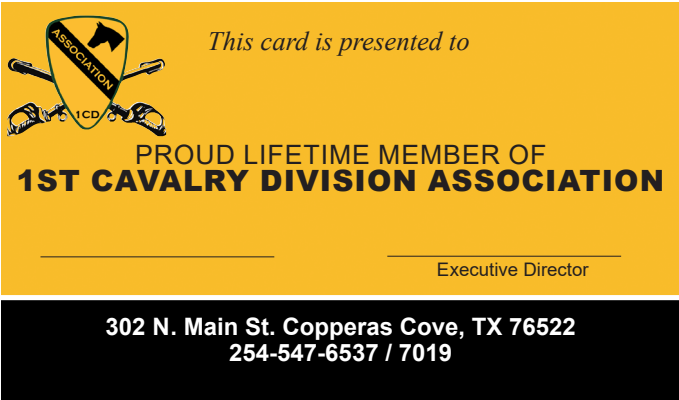


Birthday Wishes
to our Troopers turning 90+ years young!

- SSG JAMES P. SHARP
turned 90 on 3/1/2022
- 1LT FRANK F. SCHOELCH
turned 93 on 3/2/2022
- CPT (RET) GORDON SEVERSON
turned 92 on 3/5/2022
- PFC ROBERT W. STRUNK
turned 93 on 3/9/2022
- CPL WALTER G. BALLARD
turned 91 on 3/10/2022
- PVT RODRIGO G. HERNANDEZ
turned 92 3/13/2022
- PVT CHARLES E. BEEMAN
turned 90 on 3/19/2022
- CSM (RET) ROBERT M. DELIA
turned 91 on 3/20/2022
- SGM (RET) JOE G. MARQUEZ
turned 92 on 3/24/2022
- PVT RODOLFO GARCIA
turned 92 on 3/27/2022

- CPL DAVID E. EVANS
turned 98 on 3/29/2022
- SGT THOMAS HORAS
turned 92 on 3/30/2022
- T-5 WILLIAM J. BARDALAMAS
turned 94 on 3/31/2022
- CPL E. V. MC BROOM JR.
turned 92 on 4/1/2022
- 1LT (RET) CLIFFORD BENOIT
turned 93 on 4/5/2022
- BG (RET) JOHN C. BURNEY JR.
turned 98 on 4/6/2022
- PFC HOWARD O. DEAN
turned 94 on 4/10/2022
- PFC BERNARD A. HEANEY
turned 93 on 4/12/2022
- SGT DAWES D. LEE
turned 96 on 4/12/2022
- CW2 (RET) ROBERT M. JONES
turned 92 on 4/14/2022
- SSG GILBERT W. HARRIS
turned 91 on 4/16/2022
- SGM (RET) BENJAMIN MICHELS
turned 90 on 4/16/2022
- MSG (RET) JOHN C. GRADY JR.
turned 93 on 4/18/2022
- PFC FLOYD G. SPICE
turned 94 on 4/21/2022

Replacement Membership Cards



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

The new cards are NOT available for Associate Members, the new cards are only available for our Life Time Members. On the back of the card it says:

1st Cavalry Division Association is a non-political, non-profit 501(c)19 fraternity for Soldiers and Veterans currently serving or have served in 1st Cavalry Division.

The Association is a group of Soldiers and former Soldiers from Private to 4-star Generals who share a bond of service with the FIRST TEAM who are dedicated to supporting the Division and each other.

1CDA Membership Cards

Total Due: \$5.00 each

Cash: _____ Check: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Phone #: _____

Address: _____

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

FLASH SALE

ONLY \$10 each

Cleaning out the closet & we have a few shirts & sizes still available!
Sizes & Quantities are LIMITED

- VIETNAM (Short Sleeve): M, L, 2XL
- TRIBUTE (Long Sleeve): S, M, L, XL, 2XL
- TRIBUTE (Short Sleeve): M
- 1ST CAV (Short Sleeve): S & M
- 7 CAV Long Sleeve: S, M, XL
- 7 CAV Short Sleeve: S & L

Call to Order **ONLY**
First Come, First Serve
254-547-6537



VIETNAM BACK



TRIBUTE BACK



1st CAV BACK



7th CAV BACK