



SABER

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



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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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All My Senior Leaders That Were Vietnam Veterans, Sometimes, it's hard to realize who

was running the service or the country when I joined the Army. There were a few Korean War Vets when I went to Ft. Sill in Feb 1984, but they were really old; like 50! Some of my Drill Sergeants were Vietnam Vets but, most of them didn't have a right shoulder patch, which, made most of them, volunteers (you know, NOT, DRAFTED). It was called VOLAR "Volunteer Army." I am a Desert Storm Veteran, so I know what it's like to be a "Tweener" by the way YOU ARE important, you are just in between. I am not even sure between is even a proper way to end a sentence. An improper use of a preposition! Who knows what a preposition is?

If you are reading this, there is a good chance you are a Vietnam Veteran, and you are reading a paper copy! First, Welcome Home! We can never show enough appreciation for the journey our Vietnam Vets endured! Personally, I want to thank you for the knowledge and experience you provided me during my time in the Army. I cannot imagine where the many lessons of life would have come from if not for the Vietnam Veterans who were the stewards of our military during the 70's, 80's and 90's. How can the Veterans who came in the next generation better serve the Soldiers of today? Both during their time in the service as well as after transition?

Being retired Army, I receive the ECHOES newsletter every quarter from Retirement Services <<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/>>. On the front page of the current edition is an article by COL David Grant, Director, Soldier for Life Office, titled "Once a Soldier, Always a Soldier... A Soldier for Life!" Within this article there is a program called the ETS-Sponsorship Program <<https://etssponsorship.com>> established by the VA and DOD to assist transition service members back to civilian life. Often, it is much easier said than done. Please consider helping one service member across the transition bridge.

The 1CDA Reunion is nearly upon us, (6-10 July 2022). You can still sign up at <www.1cda.org/annual-reunion>.

I hope to see many turn out for great connections and camaraderie. I also ask that you provide feedback to a few questions: What does the 1st Cavalry Division Association mean to you? How can the Association better Serve its' membership? What activities and events would increase the likelihood of you attending the reunions? This is the Member's Association. Please, we want to hear from YOU. Help us shape the future of the Association in a way that is meaningful to the changing culture and expectation...God Bless You All...Let's Ride! First Team!

Scott Sjule Hey ya'll, it is time to get up and get involved!

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

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Happy Mother's, Gaga's, Grandma's, Gigi's, Granny's, Mama's, Nana's, Aunt's, Auntie's, Titi's Day! This includes those who are called by any other name not mentioned. We here at the office hope your day was very special.

Reunion time is right around the corner. If you have not registered and plan on attending, do it before 1 June or your registration fee will double (\$40). An additional reminder, 1 June is also the deadline for refunds if you are unable to attend.

There are no more rooms available at the Radisson. Please contact the Marriott at University of Dayton (937) 223-1000. Price for rooms is the same as the Radisson at \$109. There are a couple of hotels that are closer to the Radisson however, they are more expensive, so keep that in mind.

BIG SURPRISE: I will have 50 tickets for a MiLB game on 8 July 2022 @705pm. The cost per ticket is \$14 and will go on sale starting 6 July, 0900 hours. Who is playing you ask? Why the **Dayton Dragons** are playing the West Michigan Whitecaps. The Dragons are a Minor League Baseball team of the Midwest League and the High-A affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds.

There is lots to do in and around the city of Dayton so make your trip a vacation. See y'all soon.

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HORSE DETACHMENT by CPT Abby Edwards, Commander

Howdy all, it is the season of change once again for the 1st Cavalry Division with many Change of Command and Change of Responsibility ceremonies coming up for the summer. You will have a chance to see our amazing Troopers and Horses as we support the 1CD in these ceremonies. For the battalion level events we provide a mounted flower delivery during the ceremony and for brigade level events we conduct a cavalry charge. We will also be conducting our cavalry charge as a part of the summer retirement ceremony. It is a great CAV tradition to see if you have



SGT Long, 1SG V, & SSG Jenkins show off their belt buckles

a chance to come out and watch.

We had a chance to connect with our sister mounted unit, 11th ACR Horse Detachment, after the Regional Cavalry Competition in April. It was a terrific opportunity to build relationships between the Troopers and the two organizations as well as a chance to show off our individual mounted demonstrations and skills. At the Cavalry Competition

our SSG Jenkins and Shoemaker won 3rd place in the Combat Horsemanship section of the competition. Major congratulations are in order for our newest A Groupers who tested in April. 1SG Villarreal, SSG Jenkins, and SGT Long distinguished themselves as elite horseman and earned their A Group belt buckle. We have also started our next training cycle to bring in new members of the Detachment and June will allow current C Groupers a chance to earn their spurs and become B Groupers.

We hope you had a chance to see us perform our mounted demonstration during the Killeen Rodeo in May. The HCD also participated in the Rabbit Fest Parade in Copperas Cove. There is still plenty of opportunities to see us on the road during the Brown County Rodeo on 02 June, the Llano Parade on 03 June, and the Audie Murphy Day Parade in Farmersville, Tx on 18 June. For the latest and greatest of our upcoming events please check out our Facebook page.

The Horse Cavalry Detachment is fully open to the public! Please 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 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



SGT Evans and Krueger carrying the Guidon during the demo for the National Mounted Warrior Museum

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 wonderful things our Troopers are doing. HOT TO TROT!

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	13 th Annual Veterans Day in Washington, D.C.
June 14-18, 2023	75 th Annual 1CDA Reunion, Louisville, KY
Nov 9-11, 2023	14 th Annual Veterans Day in Washington, D.C.
June 18-22, 2024	76 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 \$ _____
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☐ 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.

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ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Original, clear copies, typed or printed are accepted via e-mail at Programs@1CDA.org.
Articles should be received at National Headquarters no later than the 1st of every odd month. Any article received after the 1st of the month will be put in on a space available basis.
Opinions expressed are the writers and not necessarily those of the *Saber* or the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To be considered for publication, letters should not exceed 300 words and should be of general interest and in good taste. Letters express the writer's opinion, not that of the *Saber* or the 1st Cavalry Division Association.
Political endorsement and poetry cannot be used. Form letters or third-party letters are not acceptable. Letters which contain libelous or obviously untrue statements will be automatically rejected.
All letters must be signed with addresses and telephone numbers included. Names will be used with the letters but addresses and phone numbers may be omitted. Letters also may be edited for length or clarification.
We reserve the right to reject for publication any letter received. Unused letters will not be acknowledged.

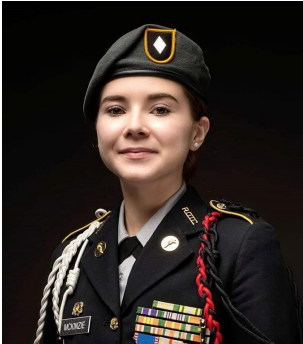
LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

To the 1st Cavalry Division Association,
Thank you for supporting my education and career goals. I am thankful for your willing support as I near the end of my school career. I am getting very close to receiving my bachelors in Biochemistry and a minor in Environmental Science and Recourse Management, and you guys have helped me along the way through every semester. School is very challenging, and it requires most of my time and energy, but I know that the work is worth it and I am grateful for the opportunity to work, learn, and expand my scope of knowledge and understanding. I hope to do meaningful work with the knowledge I acquire. I do not know what field I would like to enter as of right now, but what I do know is that I love what I learn and that I feel fulfilled by the work I do. Being at the university, I have also been pursuing love for music. I have joined the ensemble at school playing the alto saxophone which has been a real joy.
Once again thank you for your continued support as I push my boundaries into greater heights. I often think of the bravery my grandfather had in service for his country. His bravery is an inspiration, and it reminds me to push myself farther and farther.
Sincerely, Dan Fisher



Since the age of 4 years old I wanted to become a nurse. This may be cliché, but I've always wanted to help others, and that feeling grew even more when I was 6 years old and diagnosed with type 1 Diabetes. To this day, I am making it my goal to become a nurse. I want to help as many people as I can and let them know that they are not alone and there are others like them with disabilities, illnesses and that you can still do what you want. This fund has helped me already reach my first step which is becoming a CNA. I am now a CNA working at an assisted living facility. The goal with the rest of this fund will help me pay for books and more classes toward nursing. I am very grateful for the opportunity to use this fund.
Chloe Lavender

To Whom it May Concern:
Thank you for your generosity with helping me pay for school. My dream is to become a pilot in the Air Force and your scholarship will help me achieve my dream.
CDT Major Angela McKinzie



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.

Trooper's Tale



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

SGT DAYNA FYFFE written by Tina Wilgeroth

If you attended the 2021 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion in conjunction with Cav Week and Centennial Celebration in Killeen/Fort Hood, then it is likely you had the opportunity to meet and talk with SGT Dayna Fyffe. She graciously volunteered many hours of her personal time at our reunion.

Dayna truly enjoyed socializing with our Vietnam Veterans giving them her undivided attention. She jumped at the opportunity to serve meals to them at our Reunion Banquet. It was obvious how she made an everlasting impact on our members.



Dayna serving at Reunion BBQ



The Association had the pleasure of attending the Permanent Change of Station (PCS) and Awards Ceremony for SGT Dayna Fyffe on 30 March 2022. MG John B. Richardson IV led with remarks and then presented her with several awards.

The Meritorious Service Medal was presented to SGT Dayna Fyffe for *exceptionally meritorious service as the Commanding General's driver. SGT Fyffe's leadership, commitment to excellence and professionalism contributed tremendously to the successful accomplishment of the unit's mission. Her actions reflect distinct credit on her, the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion,*

the 1st Cavalry Division and the United States Army.

SGT Dayna Fyffe was selected as the 1st Cavalry Division Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. She volunteered with the BOSS Program, the Food Bank, the Ronald McDonald House, 1st Cavalry Division Association, Santa's Workshop, and the Remembrance Boot Display for Survivor Outreach Service.

Dayna Fyffe's next duty station is to Molesworth, United Kingdom for a 3-year tour. She has been accepted to Stanford University for the master's graduate degree program in International Policy.



Tina Wilgeroth (Programs Director), SGT Dayna Fyffe, Karleen Maloney (Scholarships Director)

VIETNAM VETERANS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Hi First Team members, my name is Bob L'Ecuyer. I was in C Co 1-8 Cav in the Gun Squad as a machine gunner. Although it has been over 50 years, my group of Vietnam Veterans keep our memory alive by teaching high school kids how we lived during the war. We all belong to the Vietnam Veterans for the Community. There is a Memorial in Worcester, Massachusetts with over 3,000 names of heroes who died from Massachusetts on it. Our group will meet these kids at the Memorial and tell them all about the Vietnam War. They come up in buses mostly on field trips from the school. The schools that can't afford the buses, we will go to their school and show them a slide show of the Memorial and slides of pictures of Vietnam.

We are mostly from different units in Vietnam, but a few of us were in the 1st Cav. The teachers at the schools really like our presentation and invite us back every couple of years to their schools. There is very little about the Vietnam War in their books that they read in history. The war was roughly 20 years long, but we were forgotten for some reason. They say that we lost the war even though we killed over a million enemy while losing over 58,000 of our brothers. That's politics for you.

SGT Bob L'Ecuyer, C Co 1-8 Cav, 1969

TROOPER'S TALE COLUMN

was created for our members to share your photos or long lost 1CD war stories.

Please consider sharing yours!

Send to Programs@1CDA.org

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion OIF / OEF VETERANS

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This column is a collection of stories submitted from 1BSTB Soldiers that served during OIF / OEF.

This story was submitted, and the names were changed due to respect of the Soldiers involved.



On June 22, 2007, I set out on a journey that shocked the innermost part of me. For on this day, I was privileged enough to go on a ride like no other. Picture an entire route clearing convoy led by an elite woman Warrior. Hard to believe that in the most powerful army, that a Warrior team would be led by a female. On June 22, 2017, at around 1500 hours, I would not only go out of the wire, but I also had the rare opportunity to be led by a female NCO. She hardly ever talks to me about her missions. I guess she figures I know all that goes down in the unit since I work within the battalion TOC. Nonetheless, from the second I stepped foot near the mine clearing team my Battle was taking action and indeed in charge.

At first to see the Thunder Soldiers being led by my Battle was like me coming in first thing in the morning into my nice, air-conditioned office and taking charge of my Soldiers and putting out the daily duties and scope. However, the difference was that my Battle was about to take these Thunder Soldiers onto the most dangerous roads on the planet to date, not knowing if they were coming back.

I proceeded to mount on what is known as the Buffalo (mine clearing vehicle). My Battle's squad consisted of what I became to know as some of the youngest Soldiers in our unit, a couple of Privates and a Specialist. At first sight I was like well these guys go out a lot so they should know what to expect. As time progressed, we later linked up with the escort convoy. It consisted of some senior NCO's and an additional squad of Soldiers all of whom my Battle would be in charge of but who belonged to another unit all together as I came to find out. Quite amazing considering that my battle is a female and only a Sergeant.

Shortly thereafter we were on our way to link up. At the link up site while we waited for the escort team to get ready, my Battle was joking with her Soldiers, to include the one in the Husky (Vehicle Mounted Mine Detector-VMMD) vehicle, through the radio. It was all so surreal. Then Battle began to do radio checks with the battalion TOC and did more checks with the rest of the convoy before rolling out the gate. We came to cross the thin red line as they call it, yes, the line of fire. However, in this war the line can't always be seen.

This is where the TFIC (Task Force Iron Claw) team comes to play. Once we left the gate there was total silence and my Battle and her crew placed their heads up against the Buffalo windows and I wondered at first why she was bored so fast after just crossing the gate. To my dismay they were looking for today's different kind of enemy. The dreadful IED's. At first, we stopped a couple of times to dig holes and then dug some more holes and the whole process seemed so long to me. I began to think how boring this was and if it had been worth me going out the wire at all. I had to beg and ask permission from five different higher ups to go out of the wire.

We finally reached our turnaround point when all of a sudden, boom, a huge blast took place right in front of the Buffalo and a large cloud of dust shot straight into the air with tons of rubber hitting and falling all around the Buffalo and as it came to be the Husky disappeared right in front of our very eyes. As we were all in shock at this point my Battle shouted over the radio "Husky got hit, Husky got hit" as she radioed to the battalion TOC and to the escort team. Then she yelled "Husky are you ok" and nothing and again she yelled "Husky are you ok" then out of nowhere she comes over the radio "I love this job" in a loud thundering voice. She asked if she could come out of her vehicle and Battle said no not until we secure the area. And oh, what a site right in front of us the entire road had been blown away! The escort team waited for orders from Battle, and no sooner did she give her commands we were all, but the driver, out pulling security.

To this very day, I still can't believe the Husky driver came out of this horrific event unscratched even though the hole in the road was big enough to cover the entire crew!



Soldiers inside the hole, notice the vehicle wheels at top right

LRRP/Ranger News



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It has been a long time since I first thought about my need to write about the exploits and accomplishments of the heroic men (many were still teenagers) I had the honor to serve with and lead in Vietnam. I was always amazed at their fearlessness, selflessness, their sacrifices for our Country, for our way of life, the Vietnamese people, and most importantly the love and respect we had for one another. I have thought and continue to think that the drill of putting things down on paper might exorcise the demons that still exist for me and the more I connect with Brother Rangers I see that same need for many who lived the hell on earth that was Vietnam. In the last issue I talked about the strong bond that existed between the Rangers and our aviation support – the 1/9th in particular.

In this issue I want to provide an example of the bond that existed between the members of E/52nd/H Company (and I am sure other Ranger units) and felt the best way to do that was to include a note from Ranger/Brother **Scott Hancock** about Ranger/Brother Felix Leon who never made it back.

“During a period spanning 1967-68 I was in Viet Nam. I was a Soldier with and doing missions for the 1st Air Cav Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol. I got to know several fine folks by working those missions with them. When you are just six men dropped off in hostile territory for weeks at a time with the task surreptitiously traveling around spying out the land, you learn a lot about each other very quickly. Your lives are very much in each other’s hands.

One of those fine individuals was Felix Leon, and once, while on a mission, Felix and I sat quietly talking at great length about the war, how we each came to be sitting together on that Central Highlands hillside. He told me all about his family, and of an older brother, and how he had joined because he wanted his family to be so proud of him, especially his older brother of whom he himself was very proud (his brother had been accepted into the Catholic priesthood I think).

We then spoke of this dangerous place and our separate decisions that resulted in us sitting together there in the hills of a country that was so far from our respective homes - hills where death stalked. Felix turned to me then and told me that our team, code named One Delta, our Long-Range Patrol Team, and each person on it, were as close to him, and were as important to him now, as his own brother and family was to him back home. We were his family here in Nam and that he knew each of us would do whatever was called for, take any action regardless of risk, to protect the rest of the team members, - because we were brothers in battle. He told me he had heard of such a thing before, but had never really understood it, never appreciated what it meant, till he had come to Viet Nam. And then he turned to me and made me swear, that as a brother, should he ever fall, that I should see that his family be told three things. Three simple things.

First, I should tell them that he loved them and that he would be looking at them with love from Heaven, and the second thing was that they should not dwell too sorrowfully on his death but see it as a good thing. That his death was not a waste or tragedy for he had come to Vietnam by his own decision, had found brothers here for which he gladly fought and risked all to protect. And the third thing I was to tell them, the third thing was the truth...that I should tell them that he had lived and died with honor, and that they had great reason to be proud of what he had done.

I was to see to it his family was told these three things - but I never have. And then we also agreed that should one of us fall and the other survive, that one day the survivor would visit the grave of his fallen brother and lay a single rose upon it. That lead to a lot of kidding about what color the rose should be. I first suggested a red rose, but he said maybe not as red roses were a symbol of passion, and although he knew we cared a great deal for each other, it wasn’t in ‘that’ way and he didn’t want anyone to get the wrong idea, to which I told him, passion yes, but a passion and a love for doing and fighting for the right things. Then he suggested a yellow rose, as he said he liked the song, and he started singing it, but then he stopped and said no, that was a lot about passion too, but he said that since I had grown up in Texas that a yellow rose might be all right. And then I suggested a white rose, that white roses symbolized purity, and that I thought he was so pure in intentions and spirit that white might be best. And at that he got a bit embarrassed and said he was not that pure in spirit, adding that his family might be able to tell me about some of the escapades he had gotten

into back in his hometown of San Juan. We kidded each other a bit further about whether it should be a red rose, a yellow rose, or a white rose, but we never came to choosing one over the other.

I made these promises to Felix back in Vietnam and not long after he was shot and killed by a sniper while running a mission with another team. Shot in the head by a sniper. I was not there to protect him or cover his back, and I will always feel guilty about that even though I had no control over who went on which mission with whom. And I’ve put off visiting the grave for decades, so you’d think I’ve had plenty of time to plan it out, but every time I’ve thought of him, I’d get choked up and I’d find a reason to put off again and at the same time making definite future plans to travel to Puerto Rico, telling myself, next month maybe, then it was next spring or next fall. Years passed and decades passed. I have grown older, and other friends are ailing or have passed away, and the promises made so long ago to my friend who now lay in a grave in a far-away cemetery, began looming large in my heart. I knew I could not pass away myself - without at least saying goodbye to him as I promised him I would. And so, we took a cruise recently, and one of the stops on that cruise had us spending a few hours docking in San Juan. I found myself standing at his gravesite, mid-morning of 6 February 2022. A Sunday. That seemed fitting. As I had not known if I would be able to acquire three roses of those colors on my way to the cemetery and so I brought with me three artificial roses I purchased before beginning my travel. Real roses would have been better, but I did not think Felix would mind.

I had a communication that I had thought contained Leon’s home address once, which later turned out to be wrong, as I had once planned to travel to his home in Puerto Rico after I left Nam myself. I was going to take the message to his family as promised. I had even commissioned at some expense a very large ornate Bible, in Spanish, with a commemorative flyleaf page in it, honoring Leon. I was going to deliver it in person to his brother. I wanted it to become their family bible so that generations later, Leon would still be remembered. But - - I never did. Life got in the way. There was always something a bit more important to do it seemed than to travel to Puerto Rico just then. I carted that giant Bible around for decades, till one day a Mexican American lady visiting our home saw it, was greatly impressed and enamored of it and asked about it, and in the end, I realized I had lost Leon’s address and it seemed increasingly impossible I would ever travel there, so impulsively I gave that Bible to my visitor instead of seeing it get to where it should have gone. And now I wished I had not given it away, for who knows, I might find members of his family yet. But I was in San Juan for only a few hours.

Thanks to VA’s on-line gravesite locator at http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1

I learned that Leon is buried in Site 97, Section E of the Puerto Rico National Cemetery at Bayamon, in Puerto Rico. I would have liked to try to find his family when I was there, but I will only be in Puerto Rico only a few short hours. One day though I would still like to deliver the message to his family if I can just find them.

And to you, you who have read this, this far... know this well - that we all, every one of us, lost a true treasure when Leon was killed. Those who were lucky to have met him quickly came to recognize his great kind heart (he drove us crazy asking us to write home asking for our families to send us children’s toys which he then collected from us and carried to an orphanage not far from our fire base there in Vietnam), and most all who knew him found themselves somewhat in awe of his shining soul of honor. And all those who knew him, miss him still.”

Thanks Scott - for capturing the commitment we had for one another back in the day – and for ensuring the bond that existed then – continues.

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



Scott Hancock , Strawberry Fields Forever



L to R, Rangers Ramey, Leon, Easter, and Hancock

WANTED

CAMP STRATHPINE, WWII, FRED ‘PINK’ MARTIN

I am hoping to get in contact with the family of the late Fred ‘Pink’ Martin, who was a pilot in the 1st Cav Div in WWII. I am researching the Artillery Air Section while at Camp Strathpine in Australia, June – Dec 1943, and would like to find out more about Fred’s service at that time. I actually live on the site of the camp. If any member can assist in making contact that would be much appreciated. David Beazley <db2aero@hotmail.com> 20 Sandringham Ct, Bray Park, Queensland, 4500 Australia

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





5th CAV News

Harold P. "Doc" Truitt

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The world can be a scary place, and would be more so without the 1st Cav. So many things are going on these days one can barely keep up, and my guess is that all members of our armed forces are watching things with great interest. Stay here and wait. Go there and wait.

As individuals it looks like it is a bit less common than in times past, but it still happens. As units it also happens but either way, we must stay sharp. Nothing new in that, it is our everyday job. I am supposed to stay sharp as well, but for some reason this cycle has left me rubbing my chin, so to speak. So, before we get any farther into this piece, I had better acknowledge correspondence from some folks.

Steve Ellis was part of 1/9 in September of 1970 and was asking about the accuracy of a recollection. He recalled hearing a reference to 2-5 Cav and wondered if there was such a unit. Our battalions have been referred to in ways like this, and having been a member of B Co., 2nd Bn 5th Cav U.S. Cavalry, I assured him there was, and is such a unit.

James H. Kurtz contacted Eugene Russell to find and get pictures of two Cav Troopers that were KIA in Vietnam, and Gene passed the question to me. If any of you have information, and especially pictures, please go to this link and see if you can help:

<<https://www.historynet.com/researcher-seeks-help-finding-last-photos-for-vietnam-wall-of-faces-memorial/>> The Troopers are Juan Antonio Lopez-Colon, Co A 2-5 Cav, KIA February 17, 1966, and Raul Pena-Class, HHC 2-5 Cav, KIA March 13, 1968. If you can help, contact the above link.

The volunteer that is mentioned in the above link, Janna Hoehn is appealing to the public to help put faces to 18 names of the fallen who served in Vietnam. She welcomes members of the public to submit any photos or information to her at <neverforgotten2014@gmail.com>.

Thanks for waiting! Throughout time, military conflicts that happen entirely as a surprise are much rarer than ones that are preceded by a period of anticipation and/or uncertainty. It follows, then that both any actual conflict that took place as well as many that never did, have come and gone, after Soldiers and civilians alike waited anxiously. Sometimes the period of anticipation was used to prepare and sometimes it was not. I have often referred to our Civil War as an example of one thing or another, and it lends itself to that here as well. The Union did not want the war, and for several reasons did not prepare as it, should have.

However, people in the south (at least some key ones), did in fact, prepare. In this case, it seems to me, the results of an aggressive preparation by the North, could have had mixed results since it was still hoping to resolve the matter without war. Even so for both units and Soldiers, staying sharp would have been the right thing to do. Soldiers and units of Soldiers training would not in most cases provoke a war by itself. And for the individual Soldier, the right mind set, and preparation could save their lives, as well as the lives of some folks around them.

Our opponents often take many of their cues from us and can easily be encouraged to move to war simply by an impression that we are not ready. Consequently, it is in our interest to be in a good state of mind and well prepared to have the best chance to avoid conflict.

The 1st Cav is an elite unit. Our esprit de corps, equipment, leadership, training, and quality personnel make us so. Our history makes the point clear. This fact does not make us immune to waiting. There are, however, many kinds of waiting that are far worse than those to which I have been alluding. A prisoner of war for instance can have not only an exceptionally long wait, but one that is commonly uncomfortable to say the least. Those who are gravely wounded have a different kind of wait, and one that is not to be envied, and for which cannot really be prepared.

Many who know me well would laugh if they caught me advocating patience, so instead I offer encouragement, both to our Troops and to their families. In keeping with my view of what I want to accomplish with my use of this column, which is to support and encourage, for some reason this cycle was just not coming together. As I sometimes do, I discussed the problem with my friend Rich Sherwood, whose time in 2-5 overlapped mine. It is his suggestion to talk about the waiting we do. I also got him to offer up a sort of anecdote on the subject and that follows. **Rich Sherwood** starts out....

I started waiting on war when I was 19. I had found and started my first job, but I knew there was a particularly good chance that I would be drafted regardless of what I told the director or myself. There were a few close calls while the draft board and I took the measure of each other, but eventually I was inducted a few months after my twentieth birthday. Induction got my attention, and the war was a little more though still over the horizon and out of the hemisphere.

All new Soldiers waited from induction to assignment in Vietnam. Of course, we did not notice it much because they kept us busy with training. I got the opportunity to train for an entire year before I went overseas. That was a kind of waiting, I suppose. A series of demands on my body followed by time in the civilian world, a world then turning increasingly strange to me. I told myself that each new assignment meant I was closer to ETS, but also to deployment.

I remember waiting on leave for my flight to Oakland. All I wanted to do was physically relax and be mentally quiet, but I got little chance for that. I was no longer integrated with my neighborhood and friends. Separated by the distance I had traveled and the time I had left before deployment, they had no idea how to deal with me. I received every reaction on my last leave, including hatred. I was not much closer to war, but I was getting further from peace. It was a relief to join my buddies in Oakland.

A few days of exploring San Francisco, then some hands in an endless poker game where the lifers were much better than I was, but I got on a streak and managed to leave with enough money for a steak dinner in Jack London Square. The meal was good. I wore my uniform because I was required to, but the Californians thought I was making a political statement and one they did not like. It seemed strange to wear their country's uniform and bear their personal derision. Further yet from peace.

The flight took us first to Honolulu then Clark then Bien Hoa. After we arrived,

we were still waiting. Our separation from the real Army was obvious by our lack of arms, but we were close to our appointment with war. The distance to combat was measured first in a ride to the replacement detachment. For the last time I got KP, this time as the NCO for a bunch of cook's helpers. A mundane duty that served to distance me from war at the same time it used up wait time.

There was a concentrated burst of training around Bien Hoa which seemed to ad distance as well as time to our wait. I got sun poisoning sitting in the stands for a lecture on helicopters, adding mental distance to the war. How could I have a beach disease in the combat zone?

At the grenade range I was nearly blown up by a clerk who dropped an armed grenade at my feet. I suppose they wanted to keep us busy while we were shuffled and dealt to one unit or the other. Not much shuffling for us. Of the seven or eight of us that had been together since AIT all but one of us went to the Cav. Three of us to the same battalion. "Wait here for your name to be called." Another shortening of distance and erosion of time, but still waiting.

We got a nice ride on a C130 to An Khe. Unlike many rides thereafter we got to sit on seats. The plane was loud and suddenly cold after the time we had just spent in the sun. Trucks waited for us for a trip to one story yellow wooden barracks with roofs so low I could touch them. I could see the hills and measure the distance to where they told me the perimeter was. More time to be waited while battalion and company assignments were made. Another trip, this time by helicopter to camp Evans. A day or two at Evans was more time at not-war while our distance from combat lessened.

From Evans we went to battalion trains at LZ Jane. I remember meeting the first sergeant, clerk, and armorer (an old friend of mine from basic and a welcome surprise). I was loaded on a helicopter one evening for my trip to the field. My waiting was over. (Thanks Rich)

The stories of waiting will of course be different for everyone. I have known Rich for some time now and can say without doubt he managed to stay sharp. Wherever you go and whatever takes place try to stay in the moment so to speak and do not spend much time worrying. We have all been there, and it all turns out in the end.

77th FA News

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Greetings to all. Information on the 2022 Reunion (September 14-18, in Colorado Springs) can be found on the website for the 77th Field Artillery Association. If you have not checked out our revamped website, you should, <www.77FA.org>. Our Webmaster, Bob "Doc" Bosma, has done a fantastic job in updating it.

Last month the second battalion of the 77th FA Regiment commemorated the 55th Anniversary of the Battle of Suoi Tre. The following is taken from a story by SGT Matthew Rabahy, 14th Public Affairs Detachment at Ft Carson.

Fort Carson, Colo. — Veterans of the Vietnam Battle of Suoi Tre were recognized and honored during a memorial ceremony held by the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, at the 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment company operating facility on March 18, 2022.

The battle began on March 19, 1967 and culminated 2 days later. On March 21, 350 U.S. Soldiers and Airmen fought against 2,600 enemy soldiers for four hours until reinforcements came, allowing them to push the enemy back and ultimately achieve victory.

Soldiers from 2nd SBCT, 2nd Bn, 77th FA Regt, and 2nd Bn, 12th Infantry Regt, played pivotal roles in the battle: the former holding ground during the heat of the fighting, and the latter being one of the main reinforcement units. The victory came with a heavy price. Fifty-one Americans were killed and more than 200 were wounded in the action.

According to LTC Thomas Carroll, commander of 2nd Bn, 12th Inf Regt, 2nd SBCT, 4th Inf Div, winning the Battle of Suoi Tre was vital, as it allowed U.S. forces to establish Fire Support Base Gold which in turn facilitated key search-and-destroy missions throughout Operation Junction City later on in the war.

One Veteran of the battle present at the ceremony, Errol Paige Lanier, who served with the 2nd Bn, 77th FA Regt, as a munitions officer, said the ceremony held great importance for his fellow Veterans and himself, as it allowed them to pay their respects to all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

"We look to it as a memorial service; it's not something to really celebrate," Lanier said. "We all feel very much for our Soldiers that we lost, and we also remember all the Soldiers we have lost since then. Whenever we do these, we always go back and remember all the Soldiers from the World Wars and Korea, and the young Soldiers today who served in Afghanistan and the Middle East."

As important as it is to remember those who came before us, these ceremonies also perform another important function. Carroll believes opportunities for face-to-face interaction between Veterans and Soldiers serving today help preserve the Army's history and traditions.

"The biggest takeaway that we can gain from today is not only remembering the legacy of Vietnam as a whole, and this battle was obviously a piece of it, but it's important for young Soldiers, especially those that were not caught up in the Global War on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, to have an opportunity to speak to the Veterans to understand what they went through," Carroll said.

Lanier, who still is involved with Army organizations as a civilian, takes great satisfaction in the time he spends with young Soldiers. "I enjoyed being here with the active-duty Soldiers today," Lanier said. "I try to spend as much time as I can with them." LTC Adam Ropelewski, commander of 2nd Bn, 77th FA Regt, 2nd SBCT, 4th Inf Div, echoed a similar sentiment regarding the importance of spending time with Veterans.

"Just being able to speak to the Veterans about the battle and get a better understanding, for me, is great but, more importantly, for my Soldiers," Ropelewski said. "Just as it was back then, it is the Soldier who can overcome any adversity who can become victorious."

That is what is so important from Suoi Tre. Because these Veterans are still alive, and our Soldiers can interact with them and ideally use that to inspire their service."

12th CAV News



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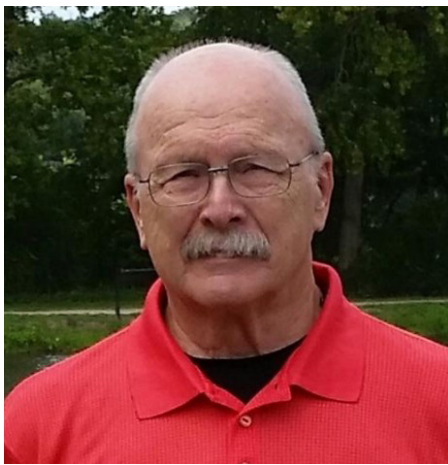
Salute-Semper Paratus!

SITUATION REPORT: Maggie and I are still landed in Branson. We thought we would be Florida homesteaders by now. Due to a difference in contract price on a newly built house in the Villages and appraiser's valuation of 39,000 less than asking price, we backed out. Went to plan B on an optional property, the inspection revealed too many hidden defects. We are now on plan C, hovering in the Ozarks until the market stabilizes and cools down from hyperinflation in the Florida Shangri-La, while we ask the chief chopper pilot if there is a different AO to insert us in. With Veterans activities busy season May-November coming on, we will be here until end of September. As it is, we are 'Always Ready' to carry on.

12 Cavalry Reunion 7-11 September 2022 Branson, MO. Hotel reservation information and reunion registration forms are on the web site. You can download the form to register, fill out and mail to Thomas "Bullitt" Paoli, D Co, 2-12, 1970-71. At the 'Saturday Night Live' Banquet, the baton for the 12 Cavalry Reunion will be officially handed from Thomas Crabtree to Fred Wilson, D Co, 2-12, 1969-70 and "Bullitt" D Company, 2-12 1970-71 - "Boot to Boot" Brothers!

DEPARTED TROOPER:

Kenneth G. Howser, Jr. headed to Fiddlers' Green 20 March 2022 after a long battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS-Lou Gehrig's Disease). Ken served with A Company, 2-12 Cavalry 1969-70. Ken was a member of Chapter 304 Vietnam Veterans of America, 7th Cavalry and 12th Cavalry Associations. He served as Secretary for 12th Cavalry Association 2006-2017. He graduated Damascus High School, Damascus, MD where he excelled in Track and Field and attended Montgomery Junior College and Frostburg State University. On discharge from the Army, he went to work for the U.S. Postal Service, retiring after 34 years. Ken was a devoted servant as an Honor Guard and represented the 12th Cavalry at numerous services for 1st Cavalry Division Troopers. He leaves behind his wife Karen, three daughters and nine grandchildren. As an ever-ready presence at the reunions, Ken was a purveyor of camaraderie and 'esprit de corps.' He will be missed by all who knew him-Slow Hand Salute Brother Ken-condolences to the family.



CORRECTIONS TO MARCH/APRIL COLUMN: Photo of Saint Maurice Award Ceremony, wrongly identified Trooper to left of Thomas Crabtree stated as Eddie Moon-is Dave Corcoran -my apologies to Dave for this error. COL John Gergulis was awarded the Doughboy Medallion in 2019-not 2020. LTC Chuck Rose was designated a Centurion Aug 2021. These discrepancies were brought to my attention by Tom Kjos standing to my right in the photo-Thanks Tom for the heads up.

RECENT AWARD MARCH 2022: MAJ (R) Raymond Welch, Jr, C Company, 2-12 Cavalry 1965-66, was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award by KY 13th Region Sports Association of Broadcasters, Newspaper Journalists and Photographers for his commitment to high school sports

photography and support of student athletes, since 1991, in the 13th region which encompasses Whitley, Clay, Bell, Knox, Harlem, and Laurel counties in the state of Kentucky. Congratulations to MAJ Ray! He also enjoys taking great snapshots of the Division and 1st Cavalry activities at the reunions. Check out his top-notch work!



12 CAV VETERANS ASSIST NVA VETERANS, LZ BIRD: September 2017 we initiated audio-video recordings for a 12 Cavalry Vietnam Documentary. From some of the interviews, Bob March of D Co, 1-12, 1965-66, pieced together a film clip of Delta Troopers in the 1965-66 time period. He posted the film to YouTube; it caught the attention of Vietnamese veterans and a historian named Alexia from Binh Dinh Province. Alexia had coordinated Veterans in the area who had shared their stories and contacted Bob March with interest in the shared stories of both sides of the Vietnam War.

On 10 January 2022, Bob received an email from, Dang Ha Thuy, MAJ (R), Gold Star Sao Vang Division.

"My name is Dang Ha Thuy, I am a former soldier in Binh Dinh Province. I am looking for information about the mass grave of my comrades buried by U.S. Military. When our unit ambushed the Xuan Son-LZ artillery base at dawn on December 26, 1966, many comrades were sacrificed. I am older and have been looking for this job for many years. All information is valuable.

This has spiritual significance for Vietnamese people, 1-12 battalion defended this base and directly participated in the battle. I apologize if this bothers you. Our veterans look forward to helping American Veterans. Regards!"



MAJ Thuy



Linh at Dig

memories, we offered our views of where the burial site was, interacting with the detail supervisor, active-duty MAJ Phan Than Tan.

Some remains were gathered along with shoes, packs, and assorted other materials. A memorial to the fallen NVA troops was constructed and a ceremony planned. We were invited to attend the ceremony but unable to due to time constraints. During the link up sessions, Linh did brief interviews with those of us linked in to use in a future documentary. His vision-to produce a documentary about LZ Bird from both the 22d NVA soldiers' perspectives and C Co, 1-12 Troopers, who were in this battle. Steve Hassert of C Co, 1-5 joined us briefly on March 22. After the major thrust of the fight, Troops from C 1-5 and 1-9 came onto the LZ as support and to help gather the bodies for burial as well as evacuating our own casualties. A dozer was brought in by crane chopper and the decision as to where to dig for burial was made by Comar Johnson, C Co, 1-12, 3d Platoon Sergeant.



Dig at Bird

This project has been the buzz throughout Vietnam since January. When we first got together my immediate thought was, I should be there, knowing that we could be of greater help in person. It is not yet complete, and another ceremony is planned for the whole Province of Binh Dinh, which we have been invited to attend if possible.

Much has been written about LZ Bird by many who were not even close and some written by those of us who were there. LZ Bird will be a controversial story among military historians a hundred years from now, just as it has been amongst those of us who were there, for the past 55 years. Should Linh's documentary come about, it will be a resolution to one of the most misunderstood battles of the Vietnam War. It behooves those of us who remain (which are few) from that battle, to do everything possible to contribute our stories along with the enemy we faced. For 55 years, I have always thought it would be an interesting and enlightening experience to sit down with those we faced in battle with a few 'Bau Moi Baus' and compare our views from then and now. I think we would discover we have more in common with our former, tough, and capable enemy soldiers, than we do with most of our 'baby boomer' acquaintances and former school mates.

For those who are not familiar with the Battle of LZ Bird, it was a short lived but significant fight with a well-trained and competent enemy-9th, 8th, and 7th Battalions of the 22D NVA Regiment. At 0105 hrs, 27 December 1966, they overran LZ Bird. Charlie Co, 1-12 had been dispatched to perimeter duty at Bird after the Battle at 506 Valley, 16-17 December 1966. In 506 Valley major casualties accrued to Charlie and Delta Company. Delta Company remnants had been placed on Pony after 506. With 112, B Co, 2-19th Artillerymen at Bird and 84 C Co, 1-12 Troopers, we outnumbered by 750 PAVN Soldiers. After the battle, with dispatched patrols brought in, C Co had only 24 men remaining. 29 KIAs and WIA ratio of 5 to 1 was the toll for this 'Stand at Bird.' Numerous medals for Valor were awarded to American Troops for their stand. The first Medal of Honor to a 1-12 Cavalry Trooper was awarded to SSG Delbert O. Jennings.

Earlier, I mentioned the adrenaline rush that came when Bob March first contacted me, and it has been surging during this write up. I think of the possibilities in Linh's proposed documentary and how it plays into our own project we started in September 2017. I encourage ALL to view the news clips Linh has produced for this link up. They can be accessed on Delta Company 1-12 web site at <www.cattrack6india.com>. You can read Bob March's outstanding article about LZ Bird and our link up with Linh and crew in Boot to Boot, Delta Company Newsletter on the site.

Look for more about the progress of this project and the LZ Bird story in July/August, September/October, and November/December issues. See you all in Dayton, OH in July and Branson, MO in September.

Until then- "Soar with the Chief Chopper Pilot, Walk Lightly with the Head Point Man, Roll with the Lead Tanker!"

CRABTREE OUT

7th CAV News



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Time is flying by these days! It seems like just a day ago that I was writing the last column for the 7th US Cavalry. Thanks to all of you who sent me well wishes in my recovery over the past few months! It has been a long row to hoe, but I am finally now getting my second wind and am feeling good about life again. I am hoping to see many of you at the reunion in Dayton just a couple of months from now – July 6th through 10th.

Book Review by Bob Anderson -- In keeping with my appetite for reading, I am always looking for good books in which I can immerse myself. Our president emeritus offers this review of a book that is not in the mainstream of books written about our struggles in Vietnam. Thanks Bob!!

Another wonderful book is titled *Last Night I Dreamed Of Peace* by Dang Thuy Tram. This is the journal of a young and idealistic North Vietnamese female surgeon. After graduation from medical school in Hanoi, she traveled to South Vietnam and began utilizing her training in Field Hospitals and while on patrol, tending to the wounds of her comrades. Along the way she was journaling her thoughts about the inhumanity of war and the affect it was having on her. While on a final Patrol, they were ambushed, and she was killed in June of 1970. Somehow her journal survived, and some almost 40 years later it was returned to her mother in Hanoi by the Soldier who was there when she died. I found it fascinating reading and remarkable how similar her thoughts were to many of the ones that I and many of us now feel. Her symptoms of PTSD are not unique but do show that our enemies had similar feelings. You will not be disappointed. You can find it on Amazon for about \$16.00.

From LTC Brennan Speakes, commander of 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry: GARRYOWEN Troopers, Families, and Veterans:

As always, it is a privilege to correspond with you as the 1-7 CAV Commander. The Squadron continues to grow and change as we progress through our training timeline. We are nearly complete with modernization and have drawn the M1A2 SEPv3, the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (replaces the HMMWV), the M17 pistol (replaces the M9 Beretta), a new Squad Designated Marksmanship Rifle, and the Army's latest communication platform the Joint Battle Command-Platform. Needless to say, the motor pool is packed.

The Division Cavalry Pilot Program is still in the planning phases. The Division is taking a deliberate effort towards ensuring the Division is postured to absorb the changes to the supporting Brigades, so the change will likely take place in FY 23. Regardless, we will still support 1st CAV as the DIVCAV Squadron in the spring during their Warfighter Exercise.

The Squadron is participating in two experimental events this Summer and Fall. We are going to serve as the test formation for the Next Generation Combat Vehicle and will get to operate their three variants in July at Ft Hood, and then again in September/October at Ft Irwin, California. I have the utmost confidence that our Troopers will be adaptive and will fully explore the capabilities of these systems.

This summer there are two great training events for folks to be a part of: May 12-13 we have our Spur Ride, and you are all invited to participate in the Spur Ceremony on 13 May at 1300 at the 1st CAV Horse Detachment Stables. The second event is the Veteran's Reunion in Killeen that Tony "Combat" Cole is leading the charge on wrangling 29-30 July here in Killeen. Both will be good, family events for the Team.

Do not hesitate to reach out if you need more information or want to reconnect with the Squadron. You can follow us on Facebook @1stSquadron, 7th Cavalry "Garryowen." CSM Laconico and I also hold a Facebook Live session every other Thursdays at 1700 CST. GARRYOWEN!

Here is one for the ages. About 3 weeks ago, my phone rang with one of those numbers I had never seen before. In the past I would just hang up on the caller – my way of dealing with spam and robocalls. However, since taking over as scribe I now realize that I am going to sometimes get calls regarding the 7th Cavalry or the column. So, I answered the call. At the other end was a Tennessean by the name of Tom Phillips who had been in Echo Company, 1/7 at the end of my tour. Now Tom is not a member of the 1st Cav Division Association, but he found my name and phone number in the Vietnam Veterans of America magazine. I had put a blurb in it about our upcoming reunion hoping to attract folks from that organization. So anyway, Tom's been looking for me for years – 52 to be exact - and he said he about had a heart attack when he saw my name. It seems that as I was getting ready to head back to the states, I was looking to unload a pretty good radio and tape player combination that I'd been lugging around country trying to keep it dry and clean on the off chance I'd either get a tape from home or we would be near enough to a big city to catch a radio broadcast. Tom wanted it, so I sold it to him on the spot! As was the case with most of us, Tom had almost all his money sent home and just kept enough to buy the occasional Coke or bottle of Ba Muoi Ba and my price was more than he had, so we set up a payment plan – so much each month until it was paid off.

So, I left Vietnam before the payment plan was completed and forgot all about it. But Tom did not, and when he saw my name and number in the VVA newspaper he called me right away. As he related the story to me, I only had a vague remembrance of the whole thing. Next thing I know is that I am getting a check in the mail from him for the balance of what he owed me! That debt had been bothering him for 52 years and now he finally was able to close the book on it. This vignette reinforces for me the quality of the Troopers I fought with during our war – those brave and honest men who just months before the war had been boys. Thank you, Tom Phillips, for your courage and your integrity!

Seen on Amazon. A phone case with the 7th Cavalry OIF logo. Cases available for iPhones and Samsung. For those of you who appreciate the subtleties of "branding" these phone cases may just fit your bill.



phone case

Also available for Veterans of the Vietnam war. Who knows? Maybe one of these days you will be able to get one of these from the Crossed Sabers Gift Shop.

Richard J. Hunkeler, of Pleasant Prairie, WI, died Friday, April 8, 2022, at Froedtert South Pleasant Prairie, surrounded by his loving family. Dick was born on July 23, 1930, to the late Julius and Esther (McCosky) Hunkeler in Kenosha, WI. He was educated in local schools and graduated from Kenosha High School in 1948.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Rosemary (DeSantis) Hunkeler; three children; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He took pride in his military service during the Korean conflict. He enlisted in the Army in 1952 and served in Korea with Fox Company, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He was a member of the Korean War Veterans. If you look closely at the picture, you will see that Dick was wearing a 1st Cavalry Division lapel pin on his right lapel. Dick worked for 40 years at Johnson Motors of Outboard Marine Corporation in Waukegan, starting as a toolmaker, and retiring as Manager of Machining Operations.



Dogface Soldiers uphold cavalry tradition in rare division spur ride

Dogface Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division participated in a combined spur ride at Fort Stewart, Georgia. The cavalry regiment assigned to the Division – 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, collaborated to make the first 3rd ID spur ride in recent memory. Two hundred forty-six out of 313 Soldiers completed the spur ride at an approximately 79% success rate. A Soldier earning their spurs is a tradition that reaches back to the beginnings of the U.S. Army cavalry in the 19th century. In modern times, a Soldier earns their spurs when they have proven their level of expertise and determination by completing a physically and mentally demanding test over the course of one to two days.



"A spur ride is a time-honored cavalry tradition that tests and validates a Soldier's ability to perform basic Soldier tasks under pressure," said MG Charles D. Costanza, commanding general of 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield. "Spur rides are a way to induct Soldiers into the legacy of the U.S. Army Cavalry through shared

hardship and training, all while they learn more about the storied history of the cavalry regiments represented in our Division. I am extremely proud of all the candidates who earned their spurs."

The spur ride, a 30-hour event, pushed the Soldiers, referred to as spur candidates, to their physical and mental limits by testing their ability to operate as part of a team under high levels of stress and fatigue throughout both day and night conditions. The spur candidates were placed into 12 teams, each with a spur holder, or spur guide, who rigorously coached the candidates through the spur ride.

Heartiest congratulations to this newest group of 7th U.S. Cavalry Regiment spur recipients! Carry the tradition well!

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the reunion in Dayton in July! It is always good to renew old friendships and to make new ones, too. Time continues to move on, one of these days it will leave us all in the dust. Do not let time take your friends away without seeing them at least one more time. Be well, be safe, and Garryowen, my friends.

TAPS

We were notified of the following deaths:

ABBOTT, SGT William M., Co H, 75INF, 1969-70. 28 February 2022.
BECKER, LTG (RET) Quinn H., HSC, 15 MED, 1970. 13 March 2022.
CASSIDY, CPT Charles "Mike", C Co, 1-9 CAV, 1963-64; HHC, DISCOM, 1967-68. 24 April 2022.
HENRY, SGT Alfred C., C Co, 1-7 CAV, 1967 & HHC 5-7 CAV, 1968. 22 December 2021.
HOWSER, SGT Kenneth G., HHC & A Co, 2-12 CAV, 1969-70. 20 March 2022.
HUNKELER, Trooper Richard J., F Co, 7 CAV, 1952. 8 April 2022.
JONES, CW2 Walker A., C Co 1-9 CAV, 1970. 8 April 2022.
LANINGA, CW4 (RET) David, HHC 1-227 AVN, LYDAY, CPT Travis Q., 26 CHEM, 1971-72. 15 February 2022.
MC GATH, SGT James R., B 1-8 CAV & HHC, PIO, 1CD, 1966-67. 21 October 2021. (Illustrator for the Air Cavalier)
MCGUIRE, SSG Paul H., HMS, 27th MNT, 1968-70. 5 January 2022.
WELLS, MSG Bernard J., Co E, 52INF, 1967-68. 20 February 2022.

ACTIVE-DUTY TAPS

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

8th CAV News



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My brothers and sisters of the Cav, here I am again. Summer is on us again. I hope everyone is well. Thank you, readers, I am getting more input from you all. Keep the letters coming.

May 10, 2022, was hopefully a great day for the Never Forgotten 34 Memorial in D.C. It was a wonderful idea, and I was really looking forward to attending. But my back and legs are shot. It is a struggle walking out of my house and getting in my car. If anyone went, please send me some comments of how it went.

Illingworth

"I want my boys to get as many Cokes, C's, and other supplies than the system would normally allow," said Lee Velta. Lee was with D 2/8. He made it through 12 months as a grunt. He got a \$1,000 wound, aka a Purple Heart. Meaning not to send him home. Lee got a job in the HQ company as supply sergeant. He was not overly excited about his new job at a firebase, but he upped his odds of getting to go home. Lee said it was a crap hole upon seeing the firebase for the first time. He called it something else, but we will leave it at crap hole. It was dirty, hot, uncomfortable and had mosquitoes by the millions. Still, it was in what is known as "The Rear." Things were pretty lax most of the time. No complete uniforms had to be worn, no steel pots and no inspections. He hooked up with another couple of Troopers and spent time cutting down trees, dragging the logs to their bunker, filling sandbags and ammo boxes. Their bunker stood out as being # 1. The 1SG decided to put a .50 cal on their position. Think about it, what did Charlie want to knock out first? After the pissing and moaning, 1SG said, by the way, the gun was broken. They worked all day March 31, got her up running, or firing should I say? Ready to go? God, they hoped so. At the close of March 31, 1970, they had that spooky feeling that something was coming. One old Texas boy said, "It feels like we're at a good old country fair, but we ain't the shooters."

Fast forward to the 1990's and Larry Hempfling hosted an Angry Skipper reunion in St Louis, Missouri. Some of the Troopers had worked so hard putting this together, I will not mention any names. This is the first time most of us had seen each other in forty years. You knew some guys there and met some new ones. That is when we all met SGT Lee Velta. He had a connection with a couple of men there. I met and talked to him several times and enjoyed our conversations. He was with D 2/8 19 in 1969/1970. I was there in 1968 so our paths never crossed. After the banquet Saturday night, the hotel provided us with a room to hear talk about his tour. He had boo-koo pictures showing us the firebase. He was a great speaker and we all thanked him for sharing, which we all know can be hard to do. This is the rest of his story while he was at firebase Illingworth:

In the early morning hours of April 1, 1970, approximately 400 NVA soldiers tried to over run the base. They did not do it on that terrible day. The 1st Cav lost 25 KIA and 54 WIA brave American men who fought for this great country of ours. Thank them and God bless them. I know they rest in peace, knowing they fought the good fight. Remember them in your prayer.

Lee was an opera singer from New York as of the reunion. I have tried to reach him several times to no avail. So Lee, if you see this, I would so much love to talk to you and see how you are doing.

Honor and Courage

Father Boyle

I know some of you remember the Catholic priest, Father Boyle. He came out to the field quite often. The men out there that were waiting for the dark saw the last chopped that landed on Illingworth. Off came Father Boyle and his dog, No Nuts. One of the Troops asked the father why the dog had that name. "Why son, he is so named because he has no nuts." It was the last time they would laugh for a while. Father Boyle came to an Angry Skipper reunion in Chicago. At the time he was in his 80's and sharp as a tack. He still remembered that awful night.

Looking for a Vet

Got an email from a brother, **Joel Saavedra**. Joel was in country in 1972. He was assigned to Company B 2BN 8th Air Cav. Also serving with him was Trooper Ronald "Ron" Keller, aka "Babyson." He was primary assigned as his "6" and Joel humped the PRC 25. I have received a couple of calls and emails from Joel. He is trying to contact Ron. Joel said if he could reach Ron, it would be so welcome and be a relief in helping him get rid of his demons. Let us try to remember and check our memories to help Joel make this connection. If anyone knows anything about Ron, please send any info to <JMSNIS@gmail.com> or me, James Dotson at <airmobile68@gmail.com>. Please help & thank you. Honor and Courage.

Hijacked! By SP4 Chuck Pettijohn, D 1/12 1st Cav Div, Vietnam '71- '72

In late May 1972 I was assigned to Delta Co 1/12 located in Pleiku providing security for units standing down in that area. Our battalion reenlistment NCO got his hooks in me, and I took another burst of three. I got thirty-day reenlistment leave and flew home to Phoenix, AZ. I had a wonderful leave and dreaded going back.

On July 2nd I boarded a completely full Pan Am 747 out of San Francisco back to my previous life. When we arrived in Honolulu, we were allowed to roam around the gate area but nowhere else.

Several hours later we arrived in Guam but were not allowed to exit the aircraft. Then on to Manila in the Philippines, with the plane only about 60% full. I was on the port side in the last compartment in the rear of the aircraft and could only see 12-15 people. I got up to go to the head in the rear of the plane but was re-directed by aircrew to the forward lavatory. I had noticed that a Vietnamese man was sitting in the very last row on the same side of the plane as my seat with a stewardess sitting with him. Lucky bastard was what came to mind. Upon my return I noticed that the Vietnamese woman who 'had' been sitting in the row behind me was now sitting in my row. She and the 'round eyed' woman in the row in front of me were the only other people in my entire section of seats... except the Vietnamese man and stew in the last row behind us. Hmmm.

I returned to my seat but because of turbulence my new seatmate got seriously

airsick and had the only barf bag. Since I did not want her to feel bad, I sympathetically began blowing chunks too. We were both covered in vomit, so I pressed the call button, with no response. Finally, the pilot came on the intercom and stated that we did not have enough but one to reach our destination. Now everything made sense and we were in serious trouble.

We continued flying with only the sound of the engines in the airplane. After an eternity I saw green beneath us... LAND! But it was covered in shell holes filled with water, so we kept flying. Then I noticed an airport with American aircraft. We were over Saigon and landing at Than San Knut when the fun began.

We had barely touched down when the curtains blocking off the front of the plane flew open and what seemed like a company of Troops came running in and towards that last row. Almost immediately I hear someone shout, "Kill him!" A shot then, 'Kill the SOB' I recall hearing a total of six shots. However, after that first shot the same aisle that moments ago was filled with men running to get this guy was now filled with bodies low crawling trying to get the hell outta Dodge!

While this was going on the aircrew began prepping the aircraft for evacuation. I crawled to the exit and waited for the round-eyed woman and the Vietnamese woman who had been seated next to me to exit. Before I knew what was happening someone pushed me down the slide and I was then able to make it safely to the edge of the runway. I saw the round-eyed woman on the tarmac face down being blown along the tarmac by the blast of the engines which were still running. I got her to the edge of the runway where we were intercepted by a very large contingent of security forces inquiring about our status. They transported us to Camp Alpha.

Pam Am was very accommodating offering to pay for our phone calls to loved ones informing them, we were safe. As I was with the Cav at Bien Hoa's rear area this little inconvenience caused me to miss the only shuttle from Saigon to Bien Hoa. The next day I reported to the orderly room of the newly formed Task Force Gary Owen. While I was home on leave the Cav stood down and I now had orders taking me to Fort Hood. FTR, my dreams of becoming a Cav sandwich were dashed at Ft Hood as they assigned me to the 2nd AD.

I was then back to Saigon and ultimately CONUS. When my mother heard from me just five days after having left, she wanted to know where the hell I was right now. When I replied, "San Francisco" she blurted out, "You were on THAT plane weren't you?" I confirmed and told her I was now home for good and being reassigned to Ft Hood.

In closing the hijacker was a Vietnamese man who had what I was told were two oranges wrapped in aluminum foil he claimed was a bomb. He had taken a stewardess hostage and his intended destination was Hanoi. We had an air marshal on board who was armed. When the passengers stormed the hijacker/hostage he was held spread eagle in the aisle as he was shot, and hit, five of the six times the gun was discharged. It was reported that after the plane was evacuated the pilot, from Scottsdale a suburb of Phoenix, went to the hijacker's body grabbing him by the scruff of his neck and threw his lifeless body out the very exit I used to leave that aircraft. It is my understanding there were 137 passengers and crew aboard that day. There were no fatalities other than the hijacker.

About 1 1/2 years ago I submitted an "In Search Of" request with DAV magazine and got what I thought was three responses but was actually four. Two were from Air Force guys who got delayed but were originally scheduled to be on the plane. The third was a private investigator wanting to know if I needed help locating anyone else on that plane. I was young, dumb, and foolish and could not remember flight details etc. So, I did not require his services. The fourth I had forgotten as it came many months after my submission.

When this guy called the conversation was strange as he really did not seem interested in the hijack story and he was not involved in it in any way. What was the purpose of the call? He asked if I had any memorabilia from my service as he 'collected' patches, hats, uniforms, unit crests anything worn by service members in Vietnam. As the conversation progressed, he specifically wanted combat used items as I had offered to send him some extra unit crests from my stint with the 3rd AD. That is when he told me he had severe PTSD and by wearing these items/garments he could relive those experiences and it helped him. This man needs help and I hope others do not regard me as I do this man.

OTHER REUNIONS

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

7 Cav Veterans Reunion, 29-30 July 2022. Sandy's Lone Star Event Center, FM 439 in Nolanville, TX. POC: Tony Cole 205-275-2123 or <olesarge19D@outlook.com>.

C Troop 1-9 Cav, 19-21 Aug 2022. Branson, MO. POC: Pat Bieneman, <pcbnamin@verizon.net> or (859) 771-6342.

12 CAV Reunion, 7-11 Sept 2022. Branson, MO. POC: Thomas Paoli 630-802-1950 or <TomPaoli@yahoo.com>.

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.

A Troop 1-9 Cav, 29 Sep - 2 Oct 2022. Tempe, AZ. POC: Mike Lentino, <mikelentino@cox.net>.

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

Want to see your name under Honor Roll section?

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. Please Consider!

9th CAV News

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HAIFA STREET.

The Mar/Apr column noted the deaths of three men who had served in the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry in Iraq in 2004-05. All were dubbed "Veterans of Haifa Street." That title suggested to me that the term "Haifa Street" means more to those who fought there than just the name of a place – the same way that "La Drang" and "the Chup Rubber" are far more than just names for a set of grid coordinates to those who spent time there.

Hoping to forge bonds between 9th Cavalry generations, I invited Veterans of Haifa Street in 2004-2005 to share their memories of that place and time.

To date nobody has responded. C'mon guys – the invitation remains open.

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS.

The last column also described how some of us kept Vietnam to ourselves, to the extent that in the mid-70s, another "Cat B" aviator and I flew side-by-side for hours at a time to qualify for flight pay, yet never once discovered we would both been in Apache Troop in Vietnam.

For me that reluctance to open up about Vietnam changed in the late 1990s, after I retired from the Army. One day I spotted the name Hilbert Chole among the addressees in an email I received at work. I had known a MAJ Hilbert Chole as the squadron XO in Vietnam, so I clicked on the name and sent a note asking if he had ever been in the 1-9 Cav. Bert replied right away, saying it was great to hear from me and inviting me to join the "Bullwhip Squadron Association." I had never heard of the Association, but Bert's invite was enough to cause me to attend a reunion in Alabama.

Though our association in 1-9 Cav had been limited, Bert – God rest his soul – greeted me like a long-lost brother and introduced me around. I was thrilled to see Jack Kilcrease (God rest his soul, too), my flight school roommate. As a SGT in the B Troop Blues, Jack had been gravely wounded in the "Hospital Fight" that preceded the 1-7 Cav's battle at LZ X-Ray. I did not see anyone else I knew at the reunion, and I felt a little intimidated because Bullwhip had been formed by those who deployed under LTC Stockton (Bullwhip 6) in 1965, and some members seemed to frown on new guys. Despite my misgivings, I joined Bullwhip, and to this day my only regret is that the organization disbanded after the last squadron-level reunion in 2015.

Not long afterward, I attended a Medal of Honor ceremony for CPT Jon Swanson, a B Trooper killed in Cambodia in 1971, whose remains had only recently been recovered. At the ceremony, I met the man who showed me how to embrace my service in Vietnam and celebrate it with others, especially those from the 1-9 Cav. That man was Walker Jones.

The day after the MOH ceremony, CPT Swanson and his gunner, SSG Larry Harrison, were laid to rest in a common grave at Arlington. Afterward, Walker told me about his efforts to connect with those he had known in Charlie Troop, and the satisfaction that all seemed to feel when they were able to get together and share memories.

Among Vietnam Veterans, it is a cliché to say "Welcome home" when shaking hands for the first time. When Walker Jones told me "Welcome home," it felt like I really had returned to a place that felt like home. My life became richer when I took his advice.

Sadly, Walker Jones died on April 8 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Rest in peace, Walker.

In the days since word came out of his passing, many Veterans of C Troop have weighed in by email to say Walker Jones had the same effect on them that he had on me. Most recently, I learned that Walker had not always been an outspoken proponent of getting together. He too had to learn that reunions are good for the soul.

In June 2015, Walker posted a "Summary of C Troop Reunions" that contained the following thoughts:

Charlie Troop has had MANY reunions – way more than the other Troops. Nate Shaffer started with the first couple of reunions, with guys he somehow tracked

down from his (and mine) era: 1970.

I was still under my rock and never thought about Vietnam much, or of getting together. Back 15 years ago or so, I had an epiphany after reading Matt Brennan's books. First person I ever spoke with that was connected to Charlie Troop was Julie Kink, who early-on was using the WWW to try and find guys who had known her brother. Something Julie turned me on to was called the Vietnam Helicopter Flight Crew Network, I was finally getting back to "Vietnam." I spent many a slurred night reading posts from pilots and crews from many different units. And sobbing at 2 am at the pent-up emotion I never knew had been inside me.

Over the past 15 years or more, I have made it a point to look up former C Troopers wherever I was travelling to. Several guys, most from my days, used to meet in the DC area whenever I had to go to my HQ. Plus, I have met old and new friends at many other places where I travelled for work. It has been a

damn wonderful journey. I do not know anyone around me that has what I have. I was a member of C/1-9 Cavalry in Vietnam. And I have friends that have my back, who may not even know me. That awareness has put pride in my feet and made me walk with my chin up and shoulders back for the past 15 years. And I am so grateful for the experience.

Walker, those of us with whom you shared that experience are grateful to you. **STIRRING THE BRAIN SLUDGE.**

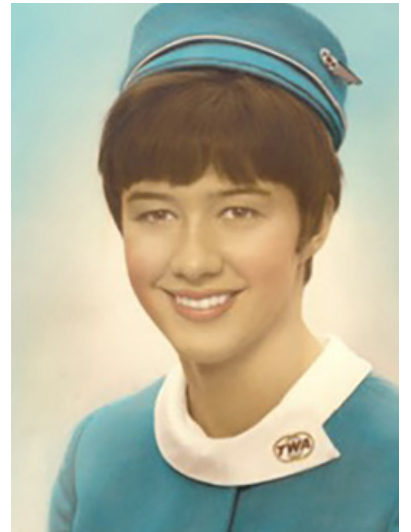
When I began attending reunions, my wife Diane accompanied me, and she observed a phenomenon that caused her to coin a term. Sitting quietly next to me at a table, surrounded by other wives sitting quietly next to their Cav Veterans, she saw how we often would struggle to remember a person, place, or event. Memories long suppressed or submerged are hard to dredge up.

At a reunion, it becomes a group effort, and you can see people around the table squint and grimace as they struggle to find the answer. When the effort pays off, the one who found the memory often says a word or two aloud that conjures up whatever it was the rest were trying to remember. That causes a sudden look of recognition to appear on the faces of the others, and sometimes even slapping of foreheads. Simply hearing the right word or two causes others around the table to rediscover their own memories. Diane likened that to bubbles full of memories that suddenly come up from the sludge at the bottom of our brains, and brain sludge came to be an apt description of where old memories hang out.

My Diane died on April 25 from complications associated with Parkinson's Disease. Writing this column so soon after she passed away caused me to think about Diane's and my life together in the context of the Cav, and true to form, some good memories came bubbling up.

The first was how we met. My parents moved to Las Vegas, and Diane and I met at their house-warming party. I had just completed flight training at Fort Rucker and went to Vegas on a 3-day pass. Diane was a TWA flight attendant based in San Francisco and came to the party with my sister, her roommate. They met my flight at the gate, and I was immediately smitten. When I learned Diane did not have to be back in SFO right away, I called the orderly room at Rucker and told them to either change my Pass to Ordinary Leave or mark me down as AWOL because I was not going to be back on Monday. I was about to PCS to Fort Bragg, so had no assigned duties at Rucker, and the Officer Student Company changed my status to Leave.

Three and a half months after we met, Diane and I were married. A few days before our wedding I received orders for Vietnam, with a supply course at Fort Eustis and a Cobra transition in Savannah en route. We loaded all our worldly possessions in the back of my Chevy El Camino and drove across the country, and she never once complained.



Diane Kurtz

I went to Vietnam and Apache Troop, and Diane went back to rooming with my sister in San Francisco. In those days, flight attendants could not be married, so she did not go back to TWA. She volunteered as a hostess in the USO Lounge at San Francisco Airport, and when she learned in a letter from me about our black Stetsons, she started interrogating every GI who entered wearing a Cav Hat, asking did they know me. The only one who ever said he did was Bill Frazer, Apache 15.

I was blessed to have 52 wonderful years with Diane, and good memories like those recounted above help ease the pain of losing her. Good memories really do beget good memories, which is why probing the brain sludge with old Army buddies can be such a rewarding experience.



Diane Kurtz

MOTTS MILITARY MUSEUM.

Charlie Troop's Nate Shaffer reminded me to remind Troopers planning to attend the Division Association reunion in July (6th – 10th) that the Motts Military Museum is a suburb of Columbus, about 80-miles from the reunion site in Dayton. If your drive to the reunion takes you through or near Columbus, think about stopping at the museum, which is believed to hold more 1-9 Cavalry items than any other museum in the country. Nate assures us we will not regret seeing the items the museum has on display – one of which is the OH-6 that Nate himself crewed in Vietnam!

Museum hours are 9-5 Tuesday thru Saturday and 12-5 on Sunday. The museum is ordinarily closed Mondays, but Warren Motts and his daughter Lori will open the doors on Monday, 11 July, if Cavalry Troopers are interested. So that Nate can let the museum know, please call him at (419) 234-3388 or email <nates1970@woh.rr.com> if you plan to visit the museum on Monday.

The Motts Military Museum is located at 5075 South Hamilton Road in Groveport, Ohio, about 80-miles from the Association reunion. You will have to get there on your own, but carpools are welcome, and Nate says he can take 3 or 4 to Motts on Saturday or Sunday and bring them back to Dayton.

Phone number to the Motts Military Museum is (614) 836-1500.

UPCOMING 9TH CAV REUNIONS.

C Troop, 1-9 Cav. 19-21 Aug 2022, Branson, MO. Contact Pat Bieneman, <pcbnamin@verizon.net> or (859) 771-6342.

A Troop, 1-9 Cav. 29 Sep - 2 Oct 2022, Tempe, AZ. Contact Mike Lentino, <mikelentino@cox.net>.

Jim Kurtz
Apache 03, 1970-71



1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

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



A frequent question that I get is, “How many of our 1CDA Members served in each of the various conflicts in which the 1st Cav was involved?”
Below is a breakdown of our membership by conflict as of April 2022:

WW II	477
Korean War	1,352
Vietnam War	8,980
Gulf War	696
Iraq/Afghanistan	2,798
Total in Wartime	14,303
Other	12,972
GRAND TOTAL	27,275

Listed are numbers of living 1CDA members. A total of about 14,300 served in the 1st Cav during wartime, and a total of about 13,000, listed as “War era with unit other than 1st CAV”.

President Scott Sjule’s President’s Corner column in the Nov-Dec 2021 issue of *Saber* presented some interesting observations on the breakdown of 1CDA Reunion attendees, which I assume will be like the breakdown in membership. 1SGT (Ret) Sjule served with 1CD, 1/82 FA in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm (also referred to as the “Gulf War”) in 1990-91. The first 1CDA reunion he attended was in 1991. He was one of the few Gulf War Veterans in attendance. He reported that most of the attendees at that 1991 reunion were WWII and Korean War Veterans, and there were few Vietnam Veterans.

Scott has been observing the make-up of attendees since 1991 and reports that few Vietnam Vets attended 1CDA reunions until the late 1990s. He noted that in recent years, the number of Gulf War Vets attending 1CDA reunions has been growing. In fact, since the July-August 2020 *Saber*, the number of Gulf War Vets has increased from 246 to 696.

Scott’s observations reinforced my general observation that there is a general lag time of several decades between the time of service and the time that many Vets join Veterans’ organizations, participate in reunions, re-connect with fellow Veterans with which they served and related activities.

If the youngest 1st Cav Vietnam Vets were 18 in 1972, the last year that the 1st Cav had Troops in Vietnam, they were born in 1954 and now in 2022 are 68. In about 2000 when membership in 1CDA began to rise, they were 46.

In Scott’s case, with the Gulf War which ran from 1990-1991, 1CDA is now, 32 years later, experiencing a steady increase in reunion participation. If the youngest 1st Cav Gulf War Vets were 18 in 1991, they were born in 1973 and now in 2022 are 49.

Thus, it appears that around age 50, the age at which the family “nest goes empty” and about 15 years before retirement is the time that many Veterans take a greater interest in Veterans activities and have more time to participate.

That is entirely understandable, and I suspect that is true with many Veterans to varying degrees. If you are reading this column, chances are that you are a member of 1CDA. If you know young 1CD Vets who have not joined, please encourage them to join so that they can be enjoying the camaraderie and support available to them.

HOW MANY KOREAN WAR VETERANS ARE STILL LIVING?

In the process of researching the subject of Vietnam Veteran Survival, I encountered some information about Korean War Veteran survival. According to the Veterans Affairs National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (hereafter referred to as the “VA”), 6.8 mil (million) U.S. Military Personnel served during

the Korean War Period, defined as 1950-1955. The VA deals only with information on Korean War Period Veterans (hereafter referred to as “KWP Vets”) defined as personnel who served in the U.S. Military anywhere in the World between 1950 and 1955. The number of KWP Vets is established as 6.8 mil. In 2000, the number still living was 4 mil; in 2010- 2.6 mil; in 2020-1.1 mil; in 2030-projected to 0.1 mil; and in 2040- projected to 0.

Thus, in 2020, 1.1 mil/6.8 mil=16.2 % of KWP Veterans were still living, and in 2030, 0.1 mil/6.8 mil=1.5% are projected to be living.

The VA does not maintain records on Korean War Veterans that served in-country in Korea during the Korean War (hereafter referred to as “KW In-Country Vets.”) The number of U.S. Military Personnel who served in Korea during the Korean War was 1,780,000 according to Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_in_the_Korean_War>. To the best of my knowledge, there is no agency or organization that determines or keeps track of which KWP Vets that have passed away were KW In-Country Vets. It seems reasonable to estimate that the number of KW In-Country Vets would be 1.78 mil/6.8 mil=26% of KWP Vets.

For 2022, the estimated percentage of living KWP Vets or KW In-Country Vets is 12 %, which is 0.8 mil KWP Vets and 0.21 mil KW In-Country Vets.

REMEMBERING MG GEORGE W. CASEY AND OTHERS WHO DIED ON 7 JULY 1970

Remembering today MG George W. Casey and the six others who were killed in the crash of his Command-and-Control Helicopter on 7 July 1970. MG Casey took command of the 1st Cavalry Division in May 1970 during the Cambodian Campaign.

Several Skytroopers wounded in the Cambodian Campaign were undergoing treatment at the field hospital at Cam Ranh Bay. MG Casey wanted to fly from Phuoc Vinh to personally express his gratitude to them before they were to be evacuated to Japan and/or the U.S. Due to monsoon weather conditions, the flight required flying IFR. The helicopter crashed on a mountaintop 25 miles NW of Bao Loc in Tuyen Duc Province in the Central Highlands, and all seven aboard (four crew and three passengers) were killed.

To access the Incident Report on the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association website, go to <www.vhpa.org>, and enter “69-15138” in the search box and click on the magnifying glass symbol. Click on the first reference that comes up: “Information on Helicopter or Incident 69-15138.”

KIA’s were:

Crew Members:
Aircraft Commander: 1LT Michel, William Frederick, age 22
Pilot: MG Casey, George William, age 48
Crew Chief: SGT Fuller, Ronald Francis, age 21
Gunner: SGT Christenson, William Lee, age 21

Passengers:
MAJ Hottell, John A. III, age 27
SGT Smolik, Vernon Kenneth Jr., age 26
SGM Cooper, Kenneth William, age 46

MG Casey, MAJ Hottell, SGM Cooper and SGT Smolik were assigned to HHC, 1st Cavalry Division. 1LT Michel, SGT Fuller, and SGT Christenson were assigned to 11th Aviation Co. (GS), 11th Aviation Group, 1st Cavalry Division.

Following the Incident Report is a self-written obituary by MAJ John H. Hottell III.

On the night before departure for Cam Ranh Bay, MG Casey had drafted this letter to the Skytroopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division about their accomplishments in Cambodia:

“This is your achievement. This is yet another demonstration that you of the 1st Air Cavalry Division deserve-and have earned again-the accolade of the FIRST TEAM. It is my honor to have served alongside you during this crucial and historic period. Congratulations and best wishes to each of you!”

Slow hand salute.




MG George W. Casey in Vietnam, Circa 1970

NEW MEMBERS

SSG AGUILAR, JASON A. TX C 1-9C
SSG AYBAR, MANUEL TX D 1CDB
SFC BOUIE, MICHAEL TX HHC 1 8C
SSG BURN, S. TOMEKIA TX 1CD
SP-5 CHRISTENSON, ARTHUR MN HHC1- 5C
CPT CHUBB, MICHAEL TX HHC 3-8C
SSG CLAY, GARY L. UT A 1-7C
MR. COOK, KEN IL E 1--7C
E-4 CORPUS, VERONICA TX D1-27MSB
PV2 CRISAFIS, MICHAEL TX 1-5C
SSG CUEVAS, ALESSANDRO TX B 15BSB
MG (RET) DAVIDSON, MICHEAL W. KY H 1-75INF
SGT DAVIS, JARED TX HHC 2-5C
SGM DYER, KENNETH TX 4-9C
SP-4 EDENFIELD, DONALD E. OH B 1-9C
CPT ELLIOTT, RICHARD GA B 1- 9C
PV2 GONZALEZ, JOSHUA A. TX 1-8C
SGT GRIFFIN, WAYNE L., MI B 1-5C
PFC GUAJARDO, PAYNE TX A 1-553CSSBN
E-6 HARVEST, BRANDY TX HHC 1BSTB
SGT HASSETT, STEPHEN NY C 1-5C
MSG HILL, DAVID OH HHC 116ENG
SGT HILL, JOHN IN HQ 1-5C
LTC JOHNSON, STEPHEN TX HHC 1-89C
SPC KELLEY, KIRK TX HHC 1-8C
1LT KERRIGAN, RYAN S. TX 2-7C
SFC (RET) LANDREM, DALLAS SC HQ 2-19FA
SSG LE BAUGH, CHRISTOPHER M. TX HHT 1-7C
CW2 MAHON, NICOLE TX B 553DSSB
SPC MALONE, EDGAR MD HQ 15PSB

MR. McCLELLAND, RICHARD MI 1441 ASSOC
MR. McCONNELL, GUY RAYMOND AK H 1-75INF
MSG MONTICUE, BRANDON IN HHB 3-82FA
MR. MOWDERMILK, DAVID VA 1-545MP
SP-5 MUSSER, RICK OH B 1-227AHB
CPT NELSON, MITCHELL TX HHC 1CD
HHC NORTHROP, STEVE TX HHC 2-8C
SGT PEREZ-CORCHADO, ROBERT TX C 96TC
PFC POTTER ALICE, CORDOVA CO 1-3ABCT
WO2 PROVIENCE, PHILIP TX B 15BSB
E-5 RAISOVICH, ANDY WV 1-545MP
SP-4 RASMUSSEN, ERIK CO HHC 1-9C
2LT REYNOLDS, CALEB WA 1-227AVN
PFC RODENBAUGH, CODY L. WI B 2ABAB
MSG SCHLAFFER, JOHN TX B 1-5C
CPT SCHNARR, ROBERT TX HHC 1CD
SFC SINGLETON, TERRENCE S TX A 1-7C
SP-4 SMITH, ALAN NM A 1-7C
SP-4 SPRINGBORN, DANNY C. WI A 1-5C
SPC TIRADO, JOSPEH WA E 1-227AVN
1LT TODD, RUFUS TX C 1-82FA
E-4 WASHINGTON, HYSAY JOVAN TX B 1-4BCT

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?

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
13TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON D.C.
VETERANS DAY DINNER

The William A. Richardson National Capitol Regional Chapter in conjunction with the 1st Cavalry Division Association will host the 13th Annual First Team Veterans Day Dinner at 1900 hours on Friday evening, 11 November 2022 at the **Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport Hotel**, 1480 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia. The guest speaker is Bill Corsair, the voice of G.I. Joe! Call 703-416-1600 to get your reservations and tell them you are with the 1st Cavalry Division.

- A host bar will be open at 1800 and dinner will begin at 1900 hours.
- For dinner reservations please send \$65 per ticket to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.
- Full payment must be received no later than **31 October 2022**.
- We can accept all credit cards – ensure that your card number and expiration dates are written correctly and legibly.
- Provide your name, address, unit you served with and the name(s) of your guests with your payment.

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

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



1CD Honor Guard
photos from
Veterans Day
2018

13th ANNUAL VETERANS DAY DINNER
\$65 per TICKET

Friday, 11 November 2022

NAME: _____ UNIT: _____

GUEST NAMES: _____:

ADDRESS _____

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

NAME ON CARD: _____

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP DATE: _____ CVV # on back: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY & LEGIBLY

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

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

FIRST TEAM



DONATION BREAKDOWN

Each one of your donations to the Association has a significant importance and is beneficial to a specific area or program within this non-profit organization. Here is a breakdown:

ASSOCIATION

Supports ongoing annual programs such as the yearly historical calendar, Veterans Day, Reunions, Saber newspaper production (printing, paper, postage, labeling), as well as everyday operating costs. To help keep the cost of your yearly Saber subscription down to \$10, we rely on your donations.

IA DRANG SCHOLARSHIP

Financial support offered to the children & grandchildren of Troopers who served in the 1965 Battle of the Ia Drang Valley.

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

(Supports three separate scholarships grants)

ACTIVE DUTY: Members actively serving in 1CD. Scholarship can be used by the Trooper or their spouse.

KIA: Troopers killed in action while assigned to 1CD. Scholarship can be used by children of the Trooper.

100% DISABLED: Members that were assigned to 1CD. Scholarship can be used by children of the Trooper.

YOUR DONATIONS FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIPS
ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

MADE OF
NONSTOP
DEDICATION
SINCE
1922

Supporting veterans, and
all that you do, for nearly
a century.

USAA was founded in 1922 to insure members of the military when no one else would. But we didn't stop there. We've lifted up the military community in all we do. They inspired us to invent the first mobile deposit technology to help meet their unique needs. They are the reason we have created programs to strengthen military families and help veterans adapt to life after service. The history of our commitment runs deep, and we proudly continue it today.

Discover how USAA can support you at
[USAA.COM/1CDA](https://www.usaa.com/1CDA) or call 877-917-1CDA (1232).



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

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

RADISSON HOTEL IS FULL, THERE ARE NO MORE ROOMS

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

Additional hotels for our members to consider:

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

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

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!



73rd Annual 1CDA Reunion Killeen, TX 2021



FT HOOD CAV WEEK 2021



MOTTS MILITARY MUSEUM

For anyone touring the Dayton area, the Motts Military Museum is a suburb of Columbus, about 80-miles from the reunion site in Dayton. It is told to us from Trooper Nate Shaffer of 9 CAV that it holds more 1-9 Cavalry items than any other museum in the country. He assures us we won't regret seeing the items the museum has on display – one of which is the OH-6 that Nate himself crewed in Vietnam!

Museum hours are 9-5 Tuesday thru Saturday and 12-5 on Sunday. The museum is ordinarily closed Mondays, but Warren Motts and his daughter Lori will open the doors on Monday, 11 July, if Cavalry Troopers are interested. So that Nate can let the museum know, please call him at (419) 234-3388 or email <nates1970@woh.rr.com> if you plan to visit the museum on Monday.

The Motts Military Museum (614) 836-1500, is located at 5075 South Hamilton Road in Groveport, Ohio, about 80 miles from the Association reunion. You will have to get there on your own, but carpools are welcome, and Nate says he can take 3 or 4 to Motts on Saturday or Sunday and bring them back to Dayton.

1CDA is **NOT** providing transportation to this museum.

HOW EXCITING!
OUR SIGN WAS FINALLY INSTALLED!



Dara, Michelle, Hope, Tina, Karleen

DAYTON DRAGON BASEBALL TICKETS

(limited quantity)

Game Day: **July 8, 2022 @7:05pm**

\$14.00

Tickets will go on sale **July 6, 2022** at **Reunion Registration**

Dayton Dragons vs West Michigan Whitecaps

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	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 cont'd 1100-1300 Unit Luncheons 1745-1845 Cocktails (Cash Bar) 1900-2230 Association Banquet
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	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	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: _____	<div><div>Registration Fee (Members):</div><div>1</div><div>\$20.00</div><div>\$ _____</div></div>				
Address: _____					
City/State/Zip: _____	After June 1, 2022: 1 \$40.00 \$ _____				
Phone #: _____	Active-Duty w/ID: 1 \$10.00 \$ _____				
Email: _____					
THURSDAY JULY 7					
Unit(s): #1 _____	War Lunch (Circle one)		_____	\$35.00	\$ _____
Year(s): #1 _____	Korea Vietnam GWOT				
Unit(s): #2 _____	Ladies Tea (includes lunch at Carillon Historical Park)		_____	\$40.00	\$ _____
Year(s): #2 _____	Welcome Mixer (Cash Bar)		_____	\$35.00	\$ _____
SATURDAY JULY 9					
Nickname: _____	Purple Heart Breakfast		_____	\$25.00	\$ _____
Guest/Spouse/Other: _____	Unit Lunch (Circle one)		_____	\$35.00	\$ _____
#1: _____	5C 7C 8C 9C 12C				
#2: _____	W ARTY HQ LRRP ENG				
#3: _____	Assoc Banquet (Circle one)		_____	\$48.00	\$ _____
#4: _____	5C 7C 8C 9C 12C				
#5: _____	W ARTY HQ LRRP ENG				
#6: _____					
Method of Payment: (circle one)			SUNDAY JULY 10		
Credit Card	Check: # _____		Group Breakfast	_____	\$25.00 \$ _____
CC#: _____			LRRP Breakfast	_____	\$25.00 \$ _____
Exp Date: _____			Donation (Reunion)		\$ _____
CVV#: _____			Saber Newspaper Renewal	\$10 PER YEAR	\$ _____
Signature: _____	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 **EARLIER** due to our away reunion **Monday, June 20, 2022.** Please send to Memberships@1CDA.org

CHAPTER REMINDERS!

1. Chapter President's Meeting at the Reunion Thursday July 7, 2022 0900 - 1000
2. If you are attending the Reunion, please remember to bring your Chapter Banner to hang up in the Reunion Room.
3. Also, tax packets will be mailed the end of May. They will need to be returned to Headquarters by September 1st.

CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER

Memorial Day is coming up and honoring those who served and are no longer with us is one of most satisfying things we can do. The Long Roll Muster at our Annual Reunion is always a special time for me, and I remember COL Joseph W. McNaney reading the Vietnam War portion from past reunions. There were others, but Doc always read it with feeling.

Please plan on attending the Reunion this year in Dayton, Ohio and consider volunteering to assist the Association with registration, unit and war lunches, and the Memorial Service. Contact Dara at the Association and volunteer to assist. First Team! Dennis Webster, President.



Flags adorn Doc & OJ McNaney's graves

COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE CHAPTER

Our February meeting passed a motion to support the K9Kavalry.org with \$250.00 for the equipping and initial training of a Veteran and their dog, new to their program. This March meeting welcomed Dan Regester, K9K, back to receive our check from Michael Carter, Treasurer. Dan spoke of this money funding the intake and equipping of Cori and Paige, a Navy PO3 field surgeon, in Uncasville, CT. Our best wishes go out to Cori and Paige as they join the "Pack" and may all the benefits of life-affirming bonding between Veteran and dog spotlight the healing found within



Michael Carter, Dan Regester

the "Pack."

The Columbia-Willamette Chapter encourages other chapters to explore the K9Kavalry.org, their mission and benefit to Veterans and their dogs. They serve more than just the Northwest, having clients across the country.

the "Pack."



Cori with dog Paige

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



Brigade, Paul Marling D 1/12, Al Johnson B Co 190 AHC 15th TC, Bob Waz C 1/7, Glen Bentz C 2/8, Dave Miner HHC 2nd Brigade, Keith Moyer B 1/5, Jack Kranyak D 229

This photo is from our April meeting. Our next chapter meeting is our annual barbeque/picnic scheduled for **Friday July 22 at 1 pm** at a place to be determined. All members and prospective members are invited. Call **Keith Moyer 860-885-4330** or email kpmoyer-co@hotmail.com for info on location. Details to follow.

L-R Len Lapsis 1st Aviation

FLORIDA CHAPTER

No meetings for the summer. Call **Gilbert Harris at 585-704-2758** for info.

FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST CHAPTER

Our comradeship continues. We do not so much rehash the past as we do look to the future. We alternate our meetings Southside to Westside in Jacksonville at locations convenient to St. Augustine, Palatka, Yulee, Mayport and Macclenny. Call the listed number for which BBQ joint we will visit next.

In March, our presentation was from Chris Miller, a staff member of our Congressman, John Rutherford, and candidate for local office in his own right. Chris spoke to us on the state of the city, Jacksonville, and his vision for the same.

In April, Ron Hasty, the Veteran Outreach Coordinator for the University of Florida Health System, presented his program that addresses TBI. His wellness and recovery programs have other locations throughout the USA. They accept referrals for evaluation and treatment at 904-244-3289. All Veterans are eligible to apply for this TBI program. We continue to be represented at Veterans conferences where our distinctive gold and black Cav shirts and hats distinguish us. If you would like to order uniforms for your own Chapter, call **Lou Urso at 516-987-2898** for routing to the vendor.



JAMES H. UNRUH CHAPTER

Our chapter will meet on Tuesday, **June 14, 2022, at 6 pm** at **Lititz VFW Post 1463** located at 14 N. Spruce St. in Lititz, Pa. The meeting will be held on the lower level of the building and the entrance is adjacent to the parking lot on the north side of the building. Membership is open to anyone who ever served with or was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division and is a member of the 1st Cavalry Division Association or is a Gold Star Family member. Members will be discussing the upcoming Community Days at the airport program at the Lancaster Airport and the Wreaths Across America project among other items.

The James Unruh, Central Pennsylvania Chapter, is proud to continue its support of the Wreaths Across America project efforts to place a wreath on every Veterans grave at Christmas time. We currently support efforts at the Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. We are also looking into adopting a couple of smaller cemeteries in the Lancaster County area. If you would like to support our efforts, please go to: www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/PA0412. Wreaths are \$15.00 each and can be donated in "Memory of" or in "Honor of" any Veteran you may know.

A couple of our members will be travelling back to Vietnam in June of this year, after a 50+ year hiatus. Seventeen Vietnam Vets will be making the trip, sponsored by a local teacher who was evacuated from Vietnam as a 5-year-old child in 1975. Her story is amazing, but too long to publish here. She does love her Vietnam Vets. Several family members will accompany us on the trip, as well as a local news and film crew to document our trip.

For additional information, go to cenpenn1cda@gmail.com or call **717-389-1000** and leave a message.

KETTLE MORaine CHAPTER



The chapter also donated a bronze plaque highlighting the 1st Cav's history. Our next meeting will be held on **June 11 at The Bunker Sports Bar, 12pm.** Mike Lorber

Our chapter met on March 12, 2022, at The Bunker Sports Bar in Waterford, Wisconsin to commemorate the chapters' donation of 1st Cav decals on this Vietnam era gunship. Members standing are (L to R): Gordie Weidner (chapter president), Fred Douglas, Robert Richter, Mike Kopaczewski, Julius Miannecki, Paul Petersen, Mike Lorber, Jerry Nelson, and Thomas Butnam. Not pictured: Archie Molina, Bill Burns, Harold Bourne, Joe Bever, and Andy Sabin.

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY CHAPTER



Robin Bartlett and Bob Arbasetti

On April 31, The New York-New Jersey Chapter held its spring meeting, the last meeting that I will have as president. The chapter elected a new president, Robin Bartlett. We had a good turnout. Everyone seems happy to see each other. Once again, we were fortunate to have Meegan Wadleigh as our photographer; despite dealing with a primitive camera and crusty old Veterans, her work was outstanding.

I want to thank everyone who not only turned out this time but all who have helped and supported me through my presidential term. Thanks to the 1st

Cavalry Association and the kind people who have guided me over the past 20+ years. I also want to thank Fred Robins, Bob Heintz, and all chapter members past and present who have contributed to my success.

I want to leave everyone with the idea that it's time to share your story and tell who you were when you went to War. Don't let others tell a story that is not yours. Let them know what life was like back then, how little life experience we had. Although the war was unpopular, we served our country with pride. Tell Family and friends about all those we met along the way. Some good, some bad but all our brothers. Tell of sacrifice we share; the loss of life and explain how the War has lived in us for so many years and how it has become the filter we see the world.

Note from new president, Robin Bartlett: At the April 30 meeting of the NY/NJ Chapter a plaque was presented to outgoing President Bob Arbasetti recognizing his 22 years of service to the chapter. A new president, Robin Bartlett, was elected by unanimous vote. Robin can be contacted at rbbartlett01@gmail.com. The chapter meets quarterly at the Elks Club in Ridgefield Park. The next meeting will be held in **October.**

Continued to pg. 20



Bob's plaque

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: Wayne Volk
3106 Nebraska Drive, Unit 2
Bismarck, ND 58503
(701) 226-9929 or (701) 527-1262
E-mail: lois.reinhardt@midco.net
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: Robin B. Bartlett
63 Burlington St.
Norwood, NJ 07648-1515
(201) 856-7530
Email: RBBartlett01@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

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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 of 4% 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
July/August 2022 edition.
Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is
EARLIER due to our away reunion.
Monday, June 20, 2022.
Please email to Programs@1CDA.org

*It is with a heavy heart we must announce the passing of
SGT Kenneth Howser, Jr. Ken was a scribe for the
1st Cavalry Division Association Saber newspaper
from 2007 to 2019, writing the 12th Cav column. He was a
Vietnam War Veteran who served in A Co & HHC 2-12 Cav in 1969.
Ken passed away on March 20, 2022.
RIP Mr. Ken Howser*

2022 CALENDAR DONATIONS

Hope everyone is enjoying YOUR new calendar!

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

CSM (RET) WINDOM, David A. \$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

Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that some big changes are coming for Veterans

The VA is doing a major overhaul of its disability ratings criteria and how they evaluate mental health, and other conditions, for Veterans. VA officials stated that the changes are being made to help ensure that compensation is in line with Veterans' medical conditions.

Here's more via Military.com:

- The VA plans to update its Schedule for Rating Disabilities — its guide for determining how it evaluates and provides benefits for service-connected disabilities — for mental health conditions, to include their impact on Veterans' lives, and abolish the "0%" disability rating for any service-connected mental health diagnosis in favor of a 10% minimum, according to a notice published Tuesday in the Federal Register.
- For tinnitus, the department will get rid of its stand-alone rating and consider the condition a symptom of whatever underlying disease is its cause.
- As for sleep apnea, ratings will be assessed based on the effectiveness of treatment and the condition's impact on "earning impairment," according to the notice.

The VA hopes that by changing how they assess conditions they will be able to ensure Veterans are compensated appropriately. Ultimately once the changes go into effect, Veterans with mental health conditions will likely see higher disability ratings. But fewer will likely be able to receive compensation for other conditions, such as tinnitus and sleep apnea.

If you are a Veteran and are already receiving compensation for these conditions, the department said you will not see your ratings downgraded when the changes kick in.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN - If you have Sleep Apnea or Tinnitus and have not applied for disability, then you need to do it ASAP. Only time will tell how this all plays out.

AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND BURN PIT EXPOSURES

On April 25, 2022, VA announced that nine rare respiratory cancers are now presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposures to fine particulate matter. These cancers include:

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung

VA will process disability compensation claims for these conditions for Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990, to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria, or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001, to the present.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN - VA established this registry in 2014 to put data to work for Veterans and help us better understand the potential health effects of exposure to airborne hazards during military service. By joining the registry, you can provide information that will help VA provide better care to all Veterans. Based on the registry VA has been able to connect certain cancers with the Burn Pits. As stated in the Federal Registry, if you served and have the cancers, then it is service connected and available for compensation. The key issue for other connected disabilities, you have to show that you filed a claim within 10 years of the exposure.

BOOK of INTEREST:

Danger Close! by Phil Gioia

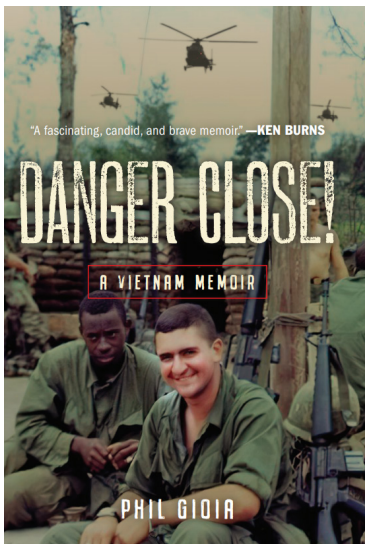
Phil Gioia grew up an army brat during the decades after World War II. Drawn to the military, he attended the Virginia Military Institute, then was commissioned in the U.S. Army, where he completed Jump School and Ranger School. Six months after college graduation, he landed in Vietnam in early 1968, in the first weeks of the Tet offensive, which marked a major escalation of the war.

Leading a platoon in the 82nd Airborne Division, Gioia and his paratroopers were part of the lifting of the siege of Hué, where death was always just around the corner and the grisly discovery of mass graves of those executed by the Vietcong during their occupation of the city. Wounded, he was sent home in April.

Released from hospital, he commanded a paratroop company in the 82nd Airborne in 1968, returning to Vietnam, he joined the hard-hitting 1st Air Cavalry Division a year later, this time leading a rucksack company of light infantry. Inserted into far-flung landing zones, Gioia and his men patrolled the rainforests and rubber plantations along the Cambodian border, looking for a furtive enemy who preferred ambushes to set-piece battles and nighttime raids to daylight attacks.

Danger Close! recounts the Vietnam War from the unique boots-on-the-ground perspective of a young officer who served two tours in two different famed combat Divisions. He tells his story thoughtfully, straightforwardly, and always vividly, from the raw emotions of unearthing massacred human beings to the terrors of fighting in the dark, with red and green tracers slicing the air. Hard to put down and hard to forget, *Danger Close!* will stand with the best of Vietnam memoirs.

Published by Stackpole Books.



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

Many publications have discussed the difficulty many Soldiers have transitioning from their active-duty careers to civilian careers. Soldiers separating from the military who have difficulty in making the transition to civilian life, have increase in alcohol addictions, becoming homeless, and committing suicide.

The unifying theme that is observed in the Soldier having a complicated transition to the civilian world is the lack of a support group. Most Soldiers making successful transitions have extensive support groups that begin with family, community, and established relationships.

However, several Soldiers enter the military from broken families, without strong local community ties, and without a network to fall back on. In the military there is extensive community support beginning with the squad, the platoon, the work unit and advancing to the company or work department, the battalion, the brigade, the division, and the local military community. Each level in a Soldier's chain of command provides opportunity for support and the military active-duty community provides resources to support the Soldier.

It has been shown that developing a civilian support community makes a dramatic difference for the Soldier that has separated from active duty to civilian life. The Veteran's Administration through the VA Medical Care system has provided some helpful resources.

The VA system can be difficult to navigate and is often better at aiding in crisis than in preventing crisis. So, what can the separating Soldier that lacks a home support system and a community support system do to develop a local support system?

In the past we often associated Veteran's organizations such as The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and AMVets as social clubs for telling stories of days gone by and had the potential to make things worse with liberal available alcohol. Each of these national organizations and many other local service organizations have developed service officers and support systems for Soldiers departing active duty.

These organizations have local meetings and offer the opportunity to meet Veterans who have made successful transitions to civilian life, Veterans who can aid in the development of the separating Soldier's resume, and many members have links in the community that can help the Soldier find employment. While I am sure some local chapters of these organizations are not well organized and might not be helpful, most do provide a support group for the Soldier separating from service. If the Soldier looks at a local chapter and fails to find the needed collegiality or potential for support, try another. Each local chapter is as unique as the separating Soldier.

The bottom line is that if the separating Soldier can establish a support base, it will enable the individual to strengthen their prospects for economic stability, enhance their ability to obtain housing, develop a new buddy system, establish a protective environment, and enable the Soldier to better master obtaining Veteran benefits. By developing a support system, the Veteran will have improved health, and reduce their risk for mental health problems, reduce the risk for developing alcohol dependence, and enable a successful transition.

So bottom line is that for the individual with an established support system in the civilian world they will do well. For the Veteran who lacks a support system in the civilian community, consider joining a Veteran's organization with local meetings, and a competent service officer that can aid the Veteran navigate the government benefits, and provide a community that will help guide one through pitfalls of civilian transition.

Please provide questions, or concerns that we can answer in future articles.
James Noel M.D. Doc Shock Jonathan Shockley



The U.S. Army was founded on June 14, 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year. The 14 June date is when Congress adopted "the American continental army" after reaching a consensus position in The Committee of the Whole.

Be a Saber writer
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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



From the 15th Medical Battalion Association website homepage, new pertinent content is by Rebecca Burgess April 05, 2022:

THE MEDICAL DEBT WE OWE TO THE VIETNAM WAR—
AND VIETNAM VETERANS

For the Vietnam War and the Korean War just prior to it, it was lessons learned there that sparked the development of civilian paramedics, modern trauma centers, helipads at hospitals, civilian air ambulance services, and MEDEVAC. In battles in Vietnam, the UH-1 Iroquois helicopter, commonly known as the “Huey,” transported the wounded to treatment faster than in any previous war, enabling doctors to discover that they could use flight crews and surgical teams in the field to stabilize the wounded during air evacuations, treating patients for hemorrhagic and traumatic shock, which drastically reduced the rate of death from battlefield injuries. To this day, triaging and “the golden hour” remain the benchmark of civilian emergency care. For the whole interesting read by Rebecca Burgess is the following:

The Medical Debt We Owe to the Vietnam War—and Vietnam Veterans

Last week the nation celebrated National Vietnam War Veterans Day, though you would be forgiven for not knowing that there is such a U.S. holiday. Legislation to mark the day, March 29th was only signed into law by President Donald Trump in 2017, though the idea had earlier origins in the 110th Congress when legislation authorizing the secretary of defense to conduct a program commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War was signed into law as the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2008. When U.S. Senators Pat Toomey (R-PA) and Joe Donnelly (D-IND) introduced the proposed legislation, they chose the anniversary date of the withdrawal of military units from South Vietnam to be the designated date of the holiday. The idea was inspired by the felt need to offer official respect to all those who had served during the Vietnam War especially those conscripted to fight in it, who were not given respect or support afterward due to the social upheavals of the 1960s and ‘70s surrounding anything at all connected with war.

The United States has six other military-centric annual observances codified into law: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, Navy Day, and Veterans Day, but National Vietnam War Veterans Day has four additional objectives alongside thanking and honoring Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service and their sacrifice. These remaining objectives highlight: “the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war; pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens; highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war; and recognize contributions by our Allies.”

It is not often that we stop to think about the medical advances made during war. As a society, we do not ever really highlight the civilian lives saved down the line because of war indeed, the very phrasing sounds suspect, if not distasteful. But there is a deeper reason for the Nurses Memorial and Section 21 within Arlington National Cemetery than the mere affiliation with the U.S. Armed Forces of the departed nurses buried there. They are uniquely honored because their service during war directly translated into new and better life-saving practices in civilian, as well as military, medicine.

For the Vietnam War and the Korean War just prior to it, it was lessons learned there that sparked the development of civilian paramedics, modern trauma centers, helipads at hospitals, civilian air ambulance services, and MEDEVAC. In battles in Vietnam, the UH-1 Iroquois helicopter, commonly known as the “Huey,” transported the wounded to treatment faster than in any previous war, enabling doctors to discover that they could use flight crews and surgical teams in the field to stabilize the wounded during air evacuations, treating patients for hemorrhagic and traumatic shock, which drastically reduced the rate of death from battlefield injuries. To this day, triaging and “the golden hour” remain the benchmark of civilian emergency care.

It is to Vietnam Veterans that we owe the field and practice of “Physician Assistant.” As corpsmen and medics were returning from the Vietnam War and in possession of a plethora of trauma skills, Duke University sought a way to ease the shortage of family practice doctors, especially in rural regions of America. Duke’s Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, began a two-year Physician Assistant training program, and its original class was comprised of four Veteran Navy corpsmen. Today, PAs are an integral part of the medical system, working in sixty-five distinct areas of medicine and surgery and growing. Notably, for those who keep track of such things, today most PAs (76 percent) are female.

Considering the origins and connections between military-connected medics and the concept of civilian medics, EMTs, and other occupations short of doctors in the medical field, it is ironic that today most Veterans with medical skills are prevented by reams of red tape from qualifying for similar medical jobs as civilians. Nationwide, and despite a severe shortage of paramedics, EMTs, and other medical staff in the United States, currently only six states (Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, and North Carolina) provide a clear pathway for EMT licensure with straightforward requirements for Veterans, according to a recent study by the Call of Duty Endowment. Ten states including California, the state with the highest percentage of Veterans and territories outright discount military connected medical experience, requiring Veteran medics and hospital corpsmen to start their training completely over and from the ground up. Meanwhile, around 50 percent of former medics and hospital corpsmen who want to work in the civilian medical profession report that they cannot find jobs in the industry, what amounts to a ready and willing workforce of 30,000 to 50,000 individuals.

Remembering and honoring the positive medical advances made during war does not mean that to honor those Veterans involved, we must glorify war, far from it. But acknowledging the debt can help us today find positive ways of honoring Veterans’ service by allowing them to continue to serve society through their chosen fields of industry, especially when those fields directly contribute to the health and safety of all Americans, through the health industry.

Rebecca Burgess is senior editor at American Purpose, a visiting fellow at the Independent Women’s Forum, and a 2021 FDD national security fellow.

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

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

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to our members who graciously donate to YOUR Assn!
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THE 1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION: MEMOIRS OF THE FIRST TEAM IN VIETNAM-
SPECIAL REPRINT EDITION

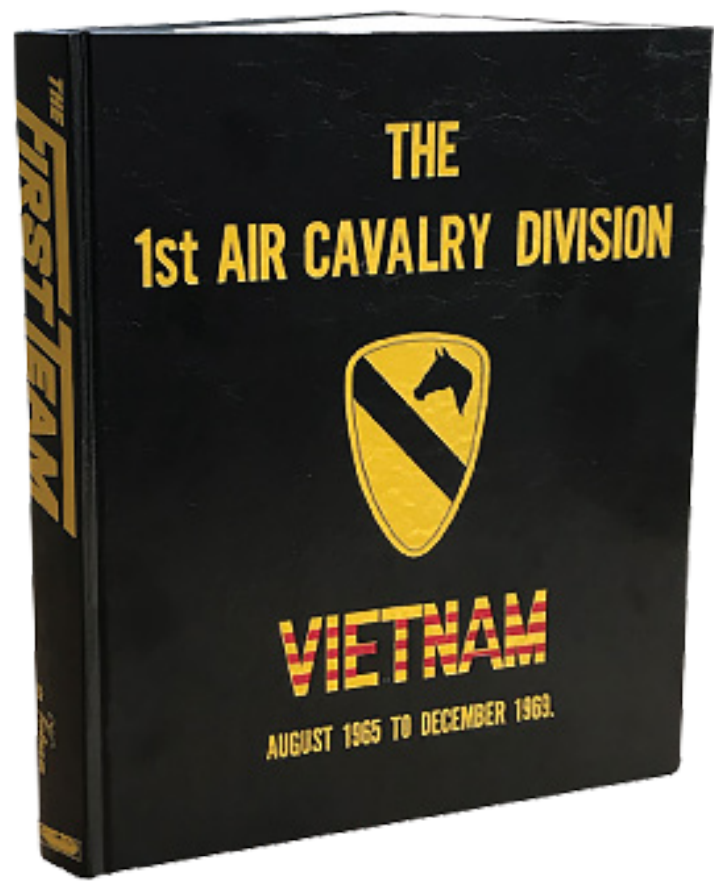
Yes! This is the same book Acclaim Press offered in the *Saber* last year (where you purchased directly from the publisher). If you missed that opportunity to pre-order, we were able to order a limited amount of copies to have available to our members. Please mail us your completed order form located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

ABOUT THE BOOK

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

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ENGINEER News



Steve Richey
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you do not care. I am reading a great, great book. Cavalry at its best. *My Experiences in the World War* by John J. Pershing. Better than any dime store novel. Incredible reading!!! I am also saying hello to Carl Buick, a bird dog pilot who called recently from Washington State.

Three articles this month are from Soldiers from the 8th. I am asking more of you fine 8th Engineers.

6-19-21 received from **David Rice** <drice@savannahluggage.com> Dave left the service and started making luggage. He then started making body armor. Here is what he experienced in his words:

On August 11 & 12, 1969 battle at LZ Becky, when the 30th lost nine men. I was there. I was in the squad of Eighth Engineers assigned to the LZ, and I vividly remember building the LZ and the two-day battle a few weeks later.

I went into the LZ shortly after the combat assault, when it was just a field of grass. All throughout that first day, many Chinooks came in with guns, concertina, equipment, supplies, etc. It started to rain in the evening, and that night I went to sleep in full gear, cradling my M-16, on an air mattress floating on 6" of water. The next few days we pushed up the berm, strung concertina, built bunkers and blew down trees so the artillery could fire out.

Early on the morning of 8/11, there was a ground assault by the enemy. They destroyed two bunkers where they came in. They had gotten through the wire using bangalore torpedoes. I heard that two new guys in one bunker and had fallen asleep, but I cannot say. The mini guns were in abundance that night which was an impressive sight. I saw about fifteen enemy bodies the next day. There were lots of satchel charges that had not exploded in the area behind the two destroyed bunkers. I was told we lost four of our men the first night.

The second night, the enemy lay back in the tree line and shelled us. Chopper pilots who provided fire said that it was the heaviest shelling they had seen since the Cav had moved to III Corps. I read the same thing again in the *Stars and Stripes* later. I recall a large explosion on the second night around the 155's and the end of a powder canister flew into our little hooch area. We all thought it was a satchel charge. Many of them had been thrown the previous night and did not explode. I have thought the 155 magazines had been hit and that is what killed the artillerymen. Several died that night.

After the heavy shelling was over, the engineers went to the berm right next to the 155's. Shortly after we got there, a lieutenant came around and asked if we were artillerymen and said that he was trying to get one of the guns going again. Then he said words that I will never forget, "The battery commander's dead, and I'm the XO, so I guess I'm the battery commander now." He said it just like it had sunk in at that moment. I would like to contact that LT if anyone knows him.

On 8/11, the mortar dump had been re-supplied with 1,300 rounds, and I was told it took a direct hit. The next day, the rounds were all over one end of the LZ. Two EOD guys came in to assess the situation. They said the rounds had two worst things that can happen to them, an explosion, and a fire. A few of them were partially buried in the ground which the EOD guys blew in place with C-4. The rest had to be picked up, and as one of two demolition men in the engineer squad, was tasked with that job. The other guy said he quit demo right then, so I started picking them up by myself. Eventually some infantry guys helped me. We must have picked up about three hundred when word came down to abandon the LZ.

The infantry left first then the artillery left. The engineers were still there. I remember the engineers leaving the LZ on a Chinook. That was the worst part for me. I just waited, as the Chinook lifted off and climbed, expecting an RPG to hit us.

If anyone knows of someone, I could contact who was there, especially the battery XO, I would appreciate it. I tried for years, but I have not been able to find anyone who was in my squad. David Rice, SP5 (RET), A Co, 8th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) Tay Ninh, RVN

A Long Day and Late Night in Bong Son

by Ronald Cook, Paul Chumbley & Art Camacho, edited by Tyus Huetter

In the fall of 1966, the combat and support units of the Division had moved to Phu Cat in the coastal highlands of South Vietnam in preparation for Operation Irving. The 8th Engineers H&H CO, S-2 section oversaw keeping updates on the conditions of the roads and bridges for all the transportation routes. The order was given to send a recon team to Bong Son, about 32 miles North of Phu Cat, to collect information on the roads then return to base before sundown. The dangers were ever present on this road through enemy territory with the jungle, the rain, and the mud. The VC owned the night and were like death's own shadow.

Our jeep set out loaded down with sandbags, radios, and a mounted M-60 machine gun manned by PFC Camacho. CPT Cook was riding shotgun giving direction, with SP4 Chumbley at the wheel. Along the route to the village, the VC had recently demolished many small bridges which the jeep had to drive around on the dirt bypasses, delaying travel. Each bypass route felt like a potential death trap they were driving right into, but they kept getting through. It was mid-afternoon when they reached the long bridge that crossed the Song Lai Giang River and entered their village destination. They spent three hours gathering the necessary topographical information then started back to where they could cross the river bridge, trying to make it back to base camp on time. As Murphy's Law would have it, the one lane route was blocked by a massive M-60 tank. The men impatiently waited as long hours passed while the tank was repaired. When they could resume their progress, the bright green jungle darkened quickly to total black, and they faded into the night. Shortly after the men crossed the river bridge, it was destroyed by the VC.

CPT Cook ordered the headlights off and to continue with only black out marker lights to attract the least amount of attention. He read the map with a flashlight to navigate the upcoming blown bridges and corresponding bypasses.

There is a new test for Covid. If you have covid you often cannot taste or smell. So, you pour a beer, smell it, and taste it, several tastes, and keep repeating this test until you are sure you do not have covid or drink enough,

With their nerves on edge and eyes wide, the team made it around the first few hazards with no issues. The jeep was going about thirty miles an hour when suddenly CPT Cook shouted "STOP!" when he saw a shadow ahead at the last second. SP4 Chumbley's quick reaction skidded the jeep to an abrupt stop. They were just a few feet away from a deep dark void when they stopped. They got out and peered down into a ten-foot drop with their flashlights and saw rubble and protruding rebar from the debris of the destroyed bridge. Probable injury and death was waiting at the bottom, but not for these GI's, not this night. The going was much slower after the close call as they traveled on in the dark, dark night.

In a few more miles we approached what looked to be a small village, out of the shadows a man approached the jeep aggressively hailing us to stop. PFC Camacho's machine gun immediately locked on to him with his finger on the trigger. Art screamed at him to back up looking down the barrel of his M-60. Not understanding the words, but sensing the immediate danger, the man froze at once. We had stumbled upon a South Korean outpost and one of their officers instantly appeared, identifying who they were in perfect English. He apologized to CPT Cook for the close call and was furious with his men for almost drawing friendly fire. His soldiers pointed out the jeep was only a few feet away from driving over a claymore mine. The mood of the encounter changed as everyone in the jeep realized if the ROC soldier had not stopped them, they might have detonated the claymore.

The incredible luck of the day left the men in complete silence the rest of the trip back to basecamp. They made it there and back through VC country, they had nearly driven into a crater, they could never have gotten out of, and might have been badly injured badly, possibly fatally, and then nearly ran over a claymore mine that had a pound and a half of C-4 and 450 ball bearings in it. They accomplished their mission. As Soldiers, at times we all were afraid of doing what was asked of us, but saddled up anyway, every day, to do our mission. That was what they were supposed to do. When we went to bed that night, it was just another day in country. We all finished our tour of duty, then came home. We have an obligation to all Soldiers who did not make it home to live our lives the best we can.

Paul, the S-2 Draftsman written by Steve Richey

We had a guy in our company in the S-2 who was a draftsman. He is now an architect. While we were in Nam, he became more and more lonely, missing his wife and family. There was no leaving Viet Nam unless you were in a body bag, got wounded so bad you were sent home, or served your time and DEROS'd. Paul would sit at his drafting table to do his work in one of the corners of the drafting room at base camp. One day he came up with the idea, he had seen on the television show, *The Twilight Zone*.

He began to draw a scene of a city street on the wall next to where he sat as if it was seen from a two-story window. Each day he added to the drawing and each day it became more and more detailed. In a few weeks, it was remarkable. When you looked at what he had drawn, it looked as if it was real. Soon, he began to name all the people on the street in his drawing. He would tell you their names, where they lived, where they were going, where they worked, how many kids were in the family, and the names of the kids. I would often come into the drafting room and find Paul staring intently through the window he had drawn looking down into the street he had drawn, watching the people go about their lives. Paul had found an escape. Daily he would leave Viet Nam in his mind and be in the city he had drawn on the wall, looking down from his window, down onto the street with the people he felt he knew, going about their daily lives.

CHAPTER NEWS

Continued from pg. 14

WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION CHAPTER



We met in January and wished each other Happy New Year and in Feb we said goodbye to COL Fred Barrett. Below is a picture of uncle Fred's daughters and son with me and Aunt Gladys.

Photo Caption: L to R: me, Kathy Peters (TX), Alice Feeley (VA) Aunt Gladys, Gale Barrow (GA), Fred III (VA)

In March, we had an excellent presentation given by

Mr. Brad Garrett, retired FBI. Brad spoke on Domestic Terrorism.

Our guest speaker in April was Christopher M. Smith, foreign service officer at the Department of State, speaking about his recently published book, *Ukraine's Revolt, Russia's Revenge*, an eyewitness account by a U.S. diplomat of Russia's brazen attempt to undo the democratic revolution in Ukraine. Chris is currently a student at National Defense University's College of Information and Cyberspace. In

May, our speakers will be Henry "Rocky" Colavita and Carlos Collat. Rocky retired from the Army in 1983, completing 20 years. He is known for his highly successful ambush tactics as CO, D/2/8 Cav, 1968-69.

Carlos retired from the Army after a 30-year career. Carlos served in 2/8 Cav - just after Rocky's time there. Carlos also was a pilot in the 229th Assault Helo Bn, flying Combat Assaults.

Rocky will be the "main" speaker and focus on highly successful ambush tactics. Carlos will support Rock's talk with his own experiences. Both men are extremely proud to have served in 1st CAV.

We are currently working our schedule for the summer months and will announce it later. If you are interested in joining the Chapter, please feel to contact me via phone 703-220-5322 or via email, <enrussell@msn.com>.

Also, we are doing a live presentation for those who come to the American Legion and doing ZOOM for those staying home. Join us.

Gene Russell, president

545th MP Co News

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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.

HOW WE BECAME MP's

JOURNEY OF DALLAS MILLS, CSM (RET)

My journey to the 11th MP Company (later designated the 545th MP Co) was quite different from others and there is a back story that must be told to make sense of it. My desire was always to be an Airborne Infantryman and shoot up things and this attitude resulted in a little discipline and a transition to the MOS of a Food Service Specialist, better known by the derogatory term "spoon." My unit was tapped to make a unit move to Germany during the "Cold War" period and anyone familiar with that period knows it was anything but cold. We were moved to Hanau, Germany and housed in the Pioneer Kaserne. *Kaserne* is a German word simply meaning barracks. Army units in Germany did not have posts as in the U.S. but kasernes. These were very compact installations with four story barracks buildings and self-contained, each having a PX, commissary, EM & Officers Club, theatre, dental and medical clinic. It had a ten-foot fence with razor wire on top and was secure. All units ate in a consolidated mess and each unit had a specific time to be in line for each meal, miss your time, miss your meal.

I did not like it and began to look for a way out. I noticed that when the MP's came to eat, they did not wait in line but went straight to a designated table and the DRO (Dining Room Orderly) would bring their tray to them just like they did the officers. I started talking to them and asked if there was a possibility that I could join their unit as an MP. Their reply was "you cannot join us as an MP, but you could be a Security Guard. Security Guards did the policing inside the kaserne and the MP's worked the town, train station, airport, and bars.

With my newfound information, I headed to the First Sergeant's office and asked him what I had to do to transfer to the Security Guards, officially known as Unit Police. For the first time ever, I saw him break into a great big smile and say, "This is your lucky day, Mills; I have just been given a quota by Post HQs to provide one Security Guard ASAP, looks like that will be you." As did the 545th, the 709th had one platoon that was designated as the Security Platoon and did Kaserne Patrol and provided security at HQS.

All was well and I was a happy camper until the Christmas holidays came and the local German male population opined, they had enough of the GI's coming into town drinking all their beer and taking their girls. A town-wide riot broke out and we were immediately replaced by Polish workers, paired with a senior 709th MP, and sent on town patrol. We were informed that we would be placed in the Army's famous OJT (on the job training) program and become full-fledged MPs, and for the next two years or so everything was great.

I came back to the states, was discharged, could not hack being a civilian, reenlisted, and was assigned to the MP School at Fort Gordon as a student. I protested that I had been an MP for over two years and did not need to go to school. The MSG firmly advised me that I had not been awarded the MOS, and to start moving toward Georgia. Upon arrival I immediately requested an office visit with the 1SG and Commander, and after hearing my complaint, I was told you are here for the duration and will leave with the MOS, BUT we will make you the Field First and your duties will be to get the company up every morning and get them in formation, make bed check at night, and since you do have a military driver's license, you will be the company "gofer." And for the remainder of that cycle, I was the company gofer, and I did leave with a 95B MOS.

If I remember correctly there were only about 12-15 Soldiers in the unit when I arrived at what then was the 11th MP Company at Fort Benning, GA. I spent the first few weeks working with SGT Ross and later SSG Pike assigning new arrivals to their positions, issuing, and receiving equipment, and resorting to my old job as a "gofer." As they would say, "the rest is history."

JOURNEY OF JIM BARRETT

My name is Jim Barrett. I enlisted at the age of 17. My mother really didn't want to sign for me, but there were no jobs for a 17 year old kid in coal mining country in Southern Illinois in 1963. My enlistment date was 4 Aug 1963.

When given the test by the Army Recruiter, he advised me that due to my test scores, I could go to any school the Army offered. I asked what was the longest school? He said there was a radar missile school that lasted 9 months. As I really didn't care about the army, I decided that the school was not for me. I dropped out.

I took basic at Ft. Polk, LA, and was sent back there to work in a training company. I received orders to go to Korea on a passport in Sept 1964. My passport was messed up and I spent 27 days at the Oakland Army Terminal waiting for it. Things were so screwed up at that point, I spent, along with a large group of guys, a week in Tokyo at the Tokyo Hilton and the Tokyo Princess Hotels.

I finally got to Seoul, S Korea in Nov, 1964. At the transit barracks of KMAC (Korean Military Advisory Group) I met an MP S/SGT named Massey. I didn't like my current MOS and he suggested I OJT as an MP. We then were sent to Wonju, S Korea.

In April 1965 the Gulf of Tonkin incident occurred and Massey suggested we transfer to Saigon, S Vietnam. We put in our 1049's to go to Vietnam. In the meantime, I got orders to go to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. I was a happy camper. I would be 180 miles from home rather than 12,000.

Got to personnel and they advised I was going to Vietnam. I never saw Saigon. When my plane landed, I was promptly sent to An Khe and the 1st Cav and the 545th MP Co. I hadn't seen that coming on. I arrived at the Cav on 5 Dec 1965.

One good thing was, my ETS was 3 Aug 1966. No reenlistment and no 12 month tour. I stuck to that plan. From that point I experienced a lot of new things; artillery fire, mortar fire, and M-60's blasting away from time to time on

To the reader community:

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.

the perimeter.

Because of my RA prefix, the 1SG (Howard) thought I was a career Trooper. He couldn't have been more wrong. I was a short-timer the day I enlisted. The entire military experience overall was good for me. I certainly grew up and by having gone into the MP Corp, I finally found my spot in life. I did an additional 6 years in law enforcement on the civilian side. The guys I met with the 545th were a great bunch. As bad as conditions in Nam were, the people made it better.

HOW MOST OF US DRAFTEES BECAME MP's

As was stated in my first article, a major portion of the privates of the 11th/545th MP company in 1964 were draftees (66 from one MP school class). Most were 21 years old or older, up to 24 and 25. Since most of us had started in our career fields, during basic training when asked what MOS we desired, generally speaking, we asked for something related to our job experience. The author of this article was a civil engineering student and had spent the summer and fall of 1963 working with the job site engineer on a construction project. The engineers seemed to fit my job experience. Ted Wilson worked with his father running Wilson's Hill Billy Restaurant in Townsend, TN, at the southern entrance to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. His friend, the late Roy Starkey from Maryville, with whom he was drafted, was a Tennessee Walking Horse trainer and according to Ted, did not want to be an MP. The late Billy Knight from Cartersville, GA, was a heavy equipment operator in an open pit mine. The late Billy Maddox was a heavy equipment operator for a county in Florida. The late Harry Collins worked in a print shop in TN. Joe Ray worked in a machine shop in McComb, MS, rebuilding freight car wheels for the L&N railroad. Charles Allen worked in a steel mill in Birmingham, AL. Charles Adcock worked in a factory in McMinnville, TN, that made electric motors. The late Jim Tykosky was in the landscaping business in the Detroit area. Bob Stamey drove a tractor/trailer hauling electric cables from the factory in NC to customers. The late Paul Dalton worked in the logging industry around Tellico Plains, TN.

Never mind your work experience, the Army needs MP's.

THE JOURNEY OF SOME OF THE OFFICERS.

Al Rampmeier, a 2LT, entered the service as a reserve officer via the ROTC program in college. After the summer camp between junior and senior years, he decided the combat arms were not his thing, talked his way into the MP Corps, and went through some schooling somewhat like what the enlisted men went through.

Paul Lewis the company commander in 1965 (captain) entered the Army via ROTC, but as a regular Army officer. Therefore he had to serve in a combat arm for two years before entering the MP Corps.

A TRADEGY ALMOST OCCURRED IN MP SCHOOL As told by Charles Adcock

In June and July of 1964, while the group of 66 about-to-be MP's were in MP school at Ft. Gordon, that area was experiencing violent thunderstorms almost every afternoon. One afternoon while one group of us was in a driver training class, another group was attending a lecture in a set of bleachers on top of a hill. As the storm clouds gathered, the lecturer had the class file out of the bleachers and squat on the ground. Lighting hit a pole right beside the bleachers. Charles said the ground was covered by a white light and he was knocked off his feet. As I remember it, there were about 35 students hit by the lighting. A handful were taken to the hospital for observation. Charles said that he was nervous as a cat for the next 2 or 3 days. He also said that when he is fishing and storm clouds start gathering, he immediately gets off the water. The author was with the group that was driving. We were down by a lake. The instructor had us get out of the jeeps and lay on the ground in the middle of a parking lot while he stood under the tallest pine tree there. There was constant lightning playing off the lake. Never saw anything like it before or since.



DIVISION DOINGS

1st Cavalry Division Collaborates with Columbia University

by SGT Brayton Daniel

Members of the 1st Cavalry Division Cyber and Electronic Warfare team (CEMA) collaborated with a team of Columbia University engineering students to develop a prototype radio frequency shield designed to protect communications on the battlefield at Fort Hood on March 30. This visit follows a challenge members of the 1st Cavalry Division participated in last September where military members were asked to describe a problem and the Department of Defense outsources the problem to various universities.



"The Cav was lucky enough Columbia University chose our problem as one worthy of their efforts," said MAJ Matthew Williamson, cyber electronic and warfare activities chief, 1st Cavalry Division. Over the past eight months, Columbia University and the 1st Cavalry Division engaged in weekly collaboration to ensure both teams working on the project gained a shared understanding of the requirements needed by Soldiers supporting combat operations.

"What we asked the Columbia University students to do is devise a shield to limit the exposure of signals towards the enemy, therefore reducing the enemy's ability to identify 1st Cav elements as we maneuver," said Williamson. After several weeks of research, the Columbia University engineering team constructed two prototype devices with the ability to provide operational security for friendly communications. Once the prototypes were complete, students traveled to Fort Hood, TX to conduct trials on the equipment along with the 1st Cav CEMA team in a field environment.

The Cav really helped us understand this problem and have been supportive while we worked towards a solution, said Kate Majidzadeh, Columbia University engineering student. "The Cav has been incredibly supportive," said Dominic Insogna, Columbia University engineering student. "Any and every obstacle we have faced, the Cav has been quick to communicate and overcome any problems immediately."

Fort Hood Soldier Selected for Prestigious Aviation Award

by CPT Taylor Criswell

ILLESHEIM, Germany—CPL Oscar Cantu of 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade has been selected to receive the CW4 Bob Wylie Award for AH64 Apache Aircraft maintenance excellence.



The award is named after U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4(R) Bob Wylie who passed away in 2007. Wylie is widely known for his contributions and advancements in AH-64 Apache maintenance and logistical operations throughout the Army Aviation community. The award was dedicated soon after his passing and is given to one Army Apache maintainer each year that embodies the legacy of Wylie in their work.

"I love taking apart, troubleshooting, and working with such complicated equipment," said Cantu, a 15R AH-64 Apache Maintainer and Houston native. "When we start a phase on an Apache, we break it all the way down to the bare bones and rebuild it over 45 days."

Cantu has been with the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade for two years and was nominated by his chain of command to receive this high honor because of his outstanding work ethic, subject matter expertise, and leadership qualities. "As a leader in aviation maintenance, CPL Cantu's expertise and dedication set him apart from his peers," said LTC Nicholas Ryan, commander of the 615th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB). "His actions continue to have a direct impact on the combat readiness of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade while we support NATO allies across Europe."

Cantu originally joined the Army as a 12B combat engineer and said moving to the field of Apache maintenance at the rank of Specialist was not easy. Arriving to his first unit, he quickly realized that he was not at the level he wanted to be. "I had to catch up to my peers when I first switched over from combat engineer," he said. "I spent a lot of time studying by myself to get to their level."

But the extra study time prepared him well to step into his current role as squad leader and floor supervisor for his Apache phase maintenance platoon. His daily dedication to excellence continues to make a positive impact on his unit.

"CPL Cantu is beyond deserving of the CW4 Bob Wylie Award. He constantly supports his peers, subordinates, and superiors with no concern for recognition," explained 1LT Haley Duke, airframe repair platoon leader with Bravo Company, 615th ASB. "He consistently proves himself to not only be an excellent maintainer, but also a top-tier leader with influence far beyond the chain of command."

Cantu says he hopes "to establish a legacy" during the remainder of his career as someone who leads from the front and invests in the knowledge of others. "I hope to one day be able to pass down the knowledge that I will have gained over the years," said Cantu. "I want to help other people succeed while building solid relationships, comradery and trust within my team."

Cantu will receive the award at an official ceremony in May at the Boeing AH-64 Pant in Mesa, AZ.

1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade Executes the Revised ACFT

By SGT Brayton Daniel

FORT HOOD, Texas – Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade, Troopers recently executed the newly revised Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) at Fort Hood, Texas on April 5.

The key changes include implementing the ACFT as a general physical fitness test with age and gender performance scoring scales. "We have different



Ball throw

level and sustain the Army's efforts to maintain a physically fit force. "When they originally designed the ACFT they incorporated muscle groups in it that Soldiers are going to use in a combat environment," said Buys.

"Soldiers have started to focus more on a culture of fitness," said Buys. "The realization that just doing push-ups, sit ups, and running a couple of miles didn't get Soldiers to the physical fitness level that they needed to be at." The latest revisions to the ACFT maintain the Army's strong commitment to a culture of physical fitness while ensuring fairness in the transition to a new fitness test of record. "Overall, the standard is the standard," said LTC Christopher Flores, Special Troops Battalion commander. "It's been determined by people outside of this level, and we're ready to get behind it and make it our own."

genders, different ages, and people of all walks of life who enlist or commission into the United States Army," said CPT Christopher Buys, Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander. "This gives all of them a chance to demonstrate their physical fitness capabilities."

The Army announced that the leg-tuck exercise is removed from the test, while implementing the plank as the required core strength assessment. The 2.5-mile walk is also added as an alternate aerobic event. "When you look at what the purpose of physical fitness is, it's to increase Soldier's survivability," said Buys. "It's to make them more lethal on the battlefield."

By implementing this revised approach, the ACFT will provide an accurate assessment of a Soldier's physical fitness level.



Sprint, drag, carry

1st Cavalry Division Hosts Children's Spur Ride

by 2LT Kirsten Sanders

Signal, Intelligence and Sustainment Company, 1st Cavalry Division, hosted a Little Six Shooter spur ride for the First Team's children on at Fort Hood, Texas. The spur ride helped enhance our family and military relations as well as provide understanding of the significance of the U.S. Army Cavalry tradition of spur rides.

"I think that children of the military sacrifice so much without signing up for it," said CPT Briar Hughes, commander, SIS. "They sacrifice their time with their parents, and I think bringing them into it makes them feel that they are part of the team."

Spurs are no longer used by today's Troopers since the Cavalry traded in horses for M1 Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, though the Cavalry continues to carry on the tradition by testing Troopers on their proficiency of completing their warrior tasks and battle drills.

"Each child works alongside their parents and our mentors to get an understanding of what those warrior tasks and battle drills are," said Hughes. After listening to the history of the Cavalry spur rides, children were put into squads and guided by their service member to complete six stations. These stations included Nerf gun rifle qualification, water balloon grenade toss, camouflage face painting, an obstacle course, and radio and casualty care stations. The unit's goal was to get kids active and simulate actual events their parents and guardians participate in during a Spur Ride.



First Team children practice calling for medical evacuation with a military radio

"It was great to not sit around and listen to someone explain what my dad does but to get a lot of physical activity in," said 11-year-old William Trivette. The event hosted over 50 children along with their parents and guardians who were equally thrilled to have a hand in their children earning the coveted silver Spurs. During the event, smiles beamed across the children's faces as they used multiple types of manual and automatic nerf guns to hit hanging can targets, use correct posture and form to hurl their water balloon grenades at volunteers, maneuver an obstacle course as well as paint their face in the well-known, army green, brown, and tan camouflage colors.

"A spur ride for service members is a physical and mental challenge over a period of hours or days in which Troopers will demonstrate their knowledge of warrior task and battle drills at a high standard that is required to make them a proud Cavalry Trooper," said SGM Michelle Loftus, chief medial non-commissioned officer, 1st Cavalry Division.

Loftus ran two casualty lanes; one to demonstrate how to properly bandage and care for a wounded Trooper and the other lane highlighted several types of carrying techniques used to transport wounded or unconscious Troopers. In addition, there was a Meal Ready to Eat or MRE tasting station for the mini-Troopers to try the field meals that service members consume on mission. Many of the children were excited to sit down and partake in what lay waiting for them in each brown package. They were pleasantly surprised that cookies, cornbread, and spaghetti among other things could come out of these packages. Many of the mini-Troopers said that their favorite part of the MRE was the different drinks.

After completing the spur ride, in true cavalry tradition volunteers placed the Spurs on the children as they were in the front leaning rest position and distributed their certificates for completing the spur ride. Events like this help build cohesion between families and the military as well as bring awareness to the rich traditions the U.S. Army has. All children were encouraged to "Live the Legend" as all Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division do.



HONOR ROLL



Thank you for the generous donations from our following Troopers:

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Are you Active Duty &
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SCHOLARSHIP

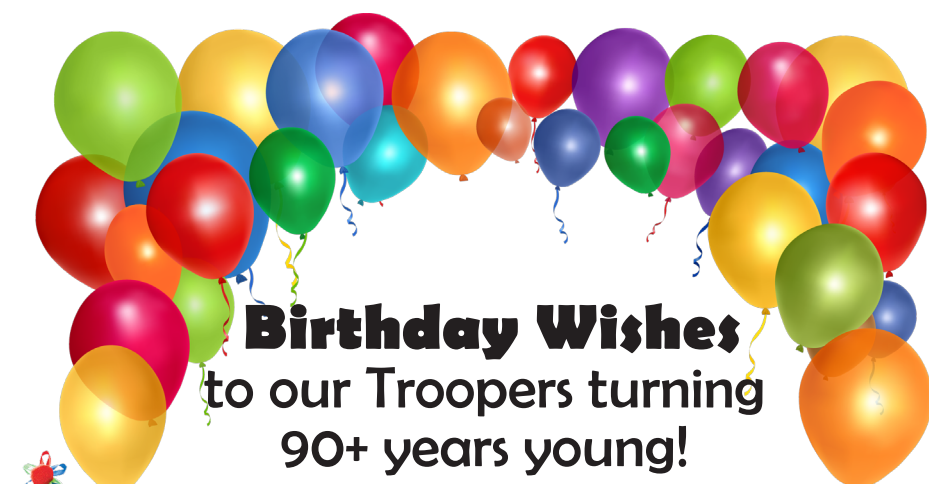
REQUIREMENTS:

- 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

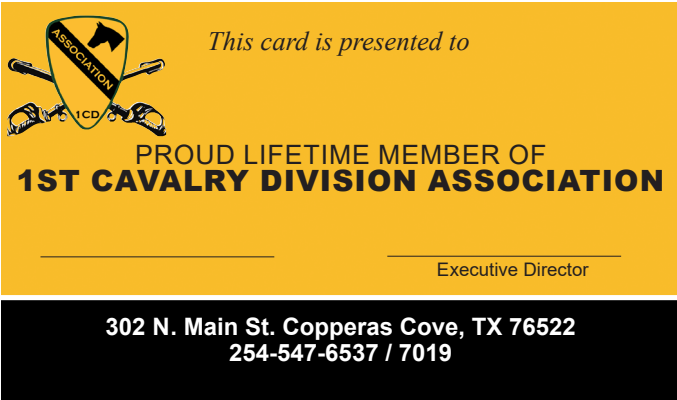
This Scholarship encompasses
FALL 2022, SPRING & SUMMER 2023 sessions



Birthday Wishes to our Troopers turning 90+ years young!

SGM (RET) JIMMY CAPSHAW SR. turned 91 on 5/2/2022	PFC JOHN R. KRULL turned 93 on 5/29/2022
SSG (RET) BENJAMIN JACKSON turned 93 on 5/2/2022	CPL WALTER L. McINTOSH turned 92 on 5/29/2022
SGT WILLIAM D. RAMBO turned 91 on 5/5/2022	SSG JOHN J. SWEENEY turned 95 on 6/1/2022
CW4 (RET) WALTER SCHRAMM turned 92 on 5/10/2022	CW4 HERMAN C. BLISS turned 92 on 6/3/2022
SFC JIMMIE L. JEFFERSON turned 91 on 5/15/2022	COL (RET) CLARK A. BURNETT turned 91 on 6/4/2022
MR. CHARLES C. CHUN turned 91 on 5/19/2022	CPL TOMMY R. MOSER turned 93 on 6/6/2022
SFC GEORGE M. BARTLEY turned 92 on 5/20/2022	SGM (RET) JAMES PEARSON turned 92 on 6/7/2022
CPL ROY E. PETERSON turned 92 on 5/20/2022	PFC EDWARD BRAD HINKER turned 94 on 6/12/2022
	COL (RET) EDWARD J. KELLY III turned 90 on 6/14/2022
	LTC TERRY W. SHROYER turned 91 on 6/18/2022
	LTC (RET) ROGER A. KNOPF turned 91 on 6/24/2022
	1SG (RET) WILLIAM STEWART turned 92 on 6/24/2022
	SFC RUSSELL S. HAYE turned 93 on 6/28/2022

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.

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1ST AIR CAV BRIGADE

DOCUMENTARY: *THE LONGEST MONTH*



You may remember back to the May/June 2019 *Saber*, a film crew was at the 1CDA Headquarters office recording interviews 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" 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 Air Cavalry Brigade, 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/>>

1ST AIR CAV BRIGADE DOCUMENTARY THE LONGEST MONTH



BLU RAY DVD

131-minutes
includes promotional trailers & additional scenes

Price: \$26

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SHIPPING IS FREE

The Longest Month has been awarded the **AWARD OF MERIT** winner in the **Accolade Global Film Competition**. It also won the **GOLD REMI AWARD** at the **Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival**. Documentary category: War Issues.