

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
1ST CAV DIVISION



SABER

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
1ST CAV DIVISION



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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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As I write this column the last of the U.S. Troops are leaving Afghanistan. What we all hoped would be an orderly withdrawal and

successful transfer of fighting duties to Afghanistan forces was not to be. Who would've thought that Afghan forces trained and equipped by the U.S. would collapse so quickly? The results, a tragic ending to 20 years of war. Thirteen U.S. service members and numerous Afghan civilians killed by a suicide bomber and the return of the Taliban to power. It's times like these that remind me that we must continue to support the men and women, our brothers and sisters, who wear the uniform. I know, I'm preaching to the choir!

This is my last column as Association President. By the time many of you get this issue of the *Saber* our 73rd reunion will be over and Mr. Scott Sjule will be Association President. The transition will take place at the reunion banquet on September 25. Scott served with the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood and during the Gulf War. He joined the Board of Governors in 2008 and has been a member of the Executive Committee since 2014. He is a member of the Association's Health Care Committee and is very active in programs that rehabilitate wounded Soldiers.

I want to thank the members of the Board of Governors, the Executive Committee, and the Finance and Budget Committee for their support. A special thanks to Executive Director Dara Wydler and her team (Tina Wilgeroth and Karleen Maloney) for their support and patience.

It has been an amazing experience and an incredible honor to serve as President of the 1st Cavalry Division Association and representing the finest group of Veterans of absolutely the best Division in the U.S. Army.

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

Four Seven, out.

Allen (TrailSpike 47)

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

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I have been reading about the 13 service members who lost their lives in the last few days we were in Afghanistan.....11 Marines, 1 Navy Corpsman, and 1 Soldier. Eleven men and two women, from all walks of life, doing their jobs in

a foreign country, supporting a non-combat operation. I ask our members to keep the families of these 13 souls in your prayers.

"Hero's take on many forms, but anyone who served their country with pride and distinction is without a doubt a hero. May they never be forgotten." author unknown.

As a Veteran, we know what they are going through now and later when the dust begins to settle. The names and dates never fade: SPC Zandra Walker, August 15, 2007, A Co, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cav Brigade, Taji, Iraq. I know where I was and what I was doing on that fateful day. On that day, by nightfall, our problem had been eradicated. Unfortunately for these families there will never be closure.

I hope that those members who were able to attend the 73rd annual reunion in Killeen, TX, enjoyed it thoroughly. It is always a joy to see our Veterans. Even more so this year since we missed out on having the Louisville Reunion. We want to thank everyone who came out to support the reunion: Crossed Saber's Chapter, Shilo Inn, Let Us Do the Cooking, Big Hoss BBQ, the Killeen Civic and Conference Center, and Vive Les Arts. More importantly, I want to thank the 1st Cavalry Division and its Troopers. With out your support these home reunions would not be successful.

Next up: Veterans Day in Washington D.C. Yes, there will be ceremonies this year, with wreath laying! The guest speaker for our dinner is MG John H. Tilelli, Jr., Division Commander 1990-1992 during the Gulf War.

There is an incredible amount of work that goes with planning our reunions and we start our processes just after it hits the Association's calendar. As one reunion ends, final preparations are being made for the next one. Hope to see everyone in Dayton, OH in 2022.

Lastly, we want to thank Allen Norris on a spectacular job as Association President. Some of you may remember, just after the 2016 reunion in Las Vegas, NV, Allen was asked to step-up to the position and replace Scott Smith. Allen not only completed an 18-month tour as President but ran again and remained in position. He should have come out of office at the 2020 reunion, where we were going to Louisville, KY, instead we were involved in a world-wide lockdown because of COVID-19. At the Banquet dinner, Allen did a gavel hand-off to Scott Sjule, who I am sure will be just as CAV-tastic as Allen. Welcome to the team Scott!

HORSE DETACHMENT by CPT Siddiq Hasan, Commander

The Horse Cavalry Detachment is fully open to the public! Please come visit us at our barn for a barn tour or our Thursday 1000 demonstration at 69007 Trooper Loop, Fort Hood, TX.

September is a busy month for the horse detachment as we travel around central Texas and participate in division ceremonies. Starting on September 3rd in Hamilton, TX for the Heritage Days Rodeo where we will provide the color guard and mounted drill and ceremony. On September 13th we will be represented at the 1st Cavalry Division birthday cake cutting ceremony on Cooper Field. We will run split operations on September 15th as we charge across Cooper Field for the Division retirement ceremony, and our color guard represents the division in South Padre Island for the 20th anniversary of the causeway collapse. On September 18th we have the privilege of participating in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets March-in before the football game against New Mexico University. Then 20-26 September we will be fully supporting the CAV 100 with a demonstration for 1CD Association members and ending the week with a charge with an ACB flyover on the 24th. The last B Group test for the fiscal year will be on the 28th of September.

Things continue to heat up as we transition into a cooler October and new commander. On October 1st, the Horse Cavalry Detachment will bid farewell to CPT Siddiq Hasan and welcome CPT Abigail 'Abby' Edwards as the new commander of the Horse Cavalry Detachment. You will see trucks and trailers crisscrossing the state in October. Come see our great Troopers and mounts at the Heart O' Texas Fair and Rodeo in Waco on October 9th. A Group testing takes place from the 11th to the 13th with 15 riders taking the written test. On October 15th we are headed north to Cleburn, TX for the Arlington Mounted Police Graduation. We have the honor of participating the Temple Veterans Affairs Tailgate with a Hero event on 16 October. On October 30th a special Retiree Appreciation demonstration will be held at the horse detachment stables.

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

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



SGT James Long conducts a Yesterday and Today presentation.

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ADDRESS CHANGE

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

Last 4 #'s of your SSN _____

Tel: (____) _____

Rank and Name: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

SNOWBIRDS

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

Rank and Name: _____

LAST 4#s SSN: _____ DOB _____

1: Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____

2: Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____

1CDA EVENT CALENDAR

Sept 22-26, 2021	73 rd Annual 1CDA Reunion, Killeen TX
Nov 9-11, 2021	12 th Annual Veterans Day in Washington D.C.
July 6-10, 2022	74 th Annual 1CDA Reunion, Dayton, OH
June 14-18, 2023	75 th Annual 1CDA Reunion, Louisville, KY

SABER RENEWAL / DONATION FORM

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

LAST 4 NUMBERS OF SSN _____ DOB _____

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City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

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

Consider donating today.

SABER

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

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

OTHER REUNIONS

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

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

D CO 1-12 Cav, 27-30 Sept 2021. South Point Casino Hotel & Spa Las Vegas, NV. Reservations 702-797-8901; POC: Tom Kjos 480-352-2583 or Fred MacLennan 347-853-1281.

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

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

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

TAPS:

BASKIN, SFC (RET) Claud, B Co, 1-9 CAV, 1963. 7 August 2021.
BEAN, Trooper Jim, A Btry, 1-30 FA, 1969-70. 19 July 2021.
BRADLEY, SP4 Aron, 1-77FA, 1965-66. 30 March 2021.
BREIDENBACH, Trooper Donald, 1CD, 1950. 6 August 2021.
BUTLER, COL (RET) Douthard, 229 AVN, 1965 & ARTY, 1962. 10 July 2021.
BUTORYAK, T-3 Frank, HHB 99FA, 1943. 23 June 2021.
CLARK, SGT Richard E., F Co, 5 CAV, 1950-51. 24 July 2021.
CRESPI, SFC (RET) John J., 2-7 CAV, 1960; HSC 15th MED, 1967-68. 06 July 2021.
DUMAIS, SGT Richard R., B Co, 228 AVN & 362 AVN, 1970-71. 25 July 2020.
GALLOWAY, Mr. Joseph L., War Correspondent. 28 August 2021. (Advisory Council)
JOHNSON, CPT Scott, C Co, 1-7 CAV, 1968. 13 Aug 2021.
KELLY, CPL Alan B., 16 RECON, 1952. 3 August 2021.
LAINE, SP-4 Russell B., D Co, 2-5 CAV, 1970-71. 6 August 2021.
MARRS, SGT Everett, 1-7 CAV, 1968. 29 June 2021.
MARSHALL, CPT Robert A., B Trp., 1-9th CAV, 1968-69. 8 May 2021.
MAUZY, SP-4 Don A., D Co, 1-7 CAV, 1966-67. 31 May 2021.
MCKINLEY, SSG (RET) Robert B., 17 AVN, 1964; HSC 15th MED, 1967-68. 18 August 2021.
RIDGE, SGT Francis X., HHC, 2BDE, 1968. 26 July 2021.
SHEATHELM, SGT Glenn H., HHB 2-19 FA, 1966; D Co 1-8 CAV, 1967. August 2021.
SIZEMORE, SP-4 James J., A Co, 15 MED, 1962-63. 22 August 2021.
WRIGHT, PFC Jeffrey, A Co 2-5 CAV, 1968. 9 August 2021.

ACTIVE DUTY TAPS:

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



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

PVT DALE D. SASENBERRY, C CO 7 CAV, 1951-53

My name is Parks Schmidt, I am the caretaker of a Korean War-era uniform and was able to identify the service member utilizing digital databases, unit histories, primary sources, and historical texts, and more. I was able to write this article on the Soldier who wore the uniform, PVT Dale D. Sassenberry, C Co 7 CAV, 1951-53. My article combines my love of history of the Korean War with my passion for collecting military memorabilia. I am a high school junior in Virginia Beach, Virginia and I am an avid student of the Korean War. I am actively involved with Veteran issues in my hometown and the curating of military memorabilia.

Parks Schmidt (757)-837-3886 <militarycurator@gmail.com>

Hill 287: Fire in the Hole by Parks Schmidt

Frozen earth flies upwards as the thundering sound of boots trod against it. A torrent of grenades, mortars, and small arms fire strike everywhere within the company line as men charge forward, the sound of Gary Owen echoing on the slope. The young rifleman fires a round from his rifle, smoke puffing out as he continues to charge before a grenade explodes nearby. The calls of "medic!" fill the air as Dale Sassenberry lays on the ground, groaning with hot steel lodged in his body.

Dale Damon Sassenberry was born on March 15, 1928, in Martin, South Dakota but soon moved to sunny Stockton, CA early in his youth. The tang of fresh citrus fruit and the kiss of a warm west coast sun did little to prepare him for the conflict in Korea. The Second World War had ended when he was a sophomore in high school so when the trumpets of war beckoned men of the United States to arms, he answered the call.

PVT Sassenberry arrived in Korea just before the Chinese Spring Offensive of 1951 while the 1st Cavalry Division was in reserve around Seoul in a defensive position. The rest did the Troopers well, filling them with a spirit of optimism against the encroaching communist armies. Throughout April, almost 800 officers and enlisted men rotated back to the States, leaving a twinge of sadness in the hearts of the remaining Soldiers and the notable lack of experienced field grade and non-commissioned officers. This resulted in many of the fresh recruits taking crash-courses to attain skills to help their new comrades.

Almost as soon as the 1st Cavalry was ready for combat, the first wave of Chinese forces hit the UN lines. 350,000 communist troops smashed against the bulwark of democracy, focusing tremendous amounts of men towards Seoul. Reaction from the Cavalry was swift as the 5th Cavalry Regimental Combat Team (RCT) (5th Cavalry Regiment, 61st Field Artillery, and A Company, 70th Tank Battalion) would prove to be "the decisive element needed to halt the red penetration." Quickly, more incursions on, and through, the line by the Peoples Volunteer Army (PVA) forces occurred, spurring the entire division to prepare for combat quicker. During the mobilization of the Division, American casualties were kept at a minimum while enemy losses grew rapidly.

By April 26th, Sassenberry and the 7th Cavalry Regiment supported by the 77th and 82nd Field Artillery Battalions were deployed to augment the 3rd Infantry Division, which had suffered heavy attacks from PVA forces during the beginning of the offensive. Two days later, I Corps ordered the First Team in its entirety to the front to defend the spiritually, strategically, and psychologically important capital city of Seoul. The Division relieved the 3rd US Infantry and 1st Republic of Korea Infantry Divisions on Line Golden, a mere 15 miles north of Seoul. As Sassenberry sat on the line, the echoes of communist howitzers clashing with their American counterparts hung like death in the air. The Troopers double and triple checked their rifles as they waited.

The Division's official history portrays the ROK Troops in a much more positive light than most contemporary sources during these opening-days of the new offensive. They excelled in preparing the division logistics with new roads built in record speed and topographic maps produced with great accuracy. In the closing days of April, Sassenberry would learn what the men just a few years older than himself had seen in World War II: American artillery.

Nearly 4,000 rounds were fired, and 39 airstrikes called in just in two days: an impressive array of firepower to the beholder. Sassenberry and his Division were issued three days' worth of ammo and double the amount of heavy machine guns.

April brought a sudden decrease in Chinese engagements. Heavy casualties, overstretched supply lines, and poor organization forced the Chinese into a state of torpor. This worked in the favor of the Troopers as they strengthened their defenses, preparing for the Chinese to hit the defensive line once again. The Troopers were met with mild weather as they began a new phase in their defense of Seoul. Each regiment was deployed from Line Golden to patrol bases a little over five miles south of the village of Uijongbu to continue the advance from Seoul. The new objective for the 1st Cavalry was to engage the Reds north towards Tok Chong on Line Topeka and then advance to Line Kansas. The 7th Cavalry would set up closest to Uijongbu and probe the Chinese forward positions; the proverbial "poking the giant." On May 18th, the Chinese renewed their offensive further down the line. The 7th was ordered 1,000 yards back to properly prepare for the Chinese advance, which would occur the next day.

Well-placed machinegun emplacements and a constant stream of reinforcements and ammunition whittled away the Chinese onslaught. This bulwark of yellow



Uniform of Dale Sassenberry. Note the theatre made ribbons and custom tailoring.

shields and black horse heads completely crippled the enemy units in the sector, creating a hole in the line. Now, the race began as they moved north to Line Topeka, eight miles away. With bravery and determination, the line was captured and secured in five days. This was no time to get comfortable however as orders to continue the advance came through division command and so they moved on again, bloodied as they race towards the next line: Line Kansas.

Now securing the line by May 25th, the men threatened the enemy supply lines with the ability to launch patrols north of the 38th.

For the rest of May and into June, the division would be engaged in the infamous Iron Triangle, named for its geographic location formed by Chorwon, Kumwha, and Pyongyang. The next engagement began on June 4th, with an eleven-mile push to Line Wyoming which provided breathing space while Line Kansas was fortified. The Troopers met little resistance and began fortifying Line Wyoming, constantly reminded that the enemy was creeping at every nook and cranny.

Now a seasoned combat Veteran, Sassenberry remained on Line Wyoming while peace talks dragged on. It would not be until early July 1951 when the Chinese once again engaged with the Division, launching a small incursion on July 7th with 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment. Seven days later, the 2nd battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment would be pulled from the line to act as guards for the peace talks but would return on the 18th. Starting on July 15th, the Cavalry would be moved into reserves to undergo training and regrouping.

On August 1st, the entire Division returned to Line Wyoming. Sassenberry would move with the 7th Cavalry Regiment to replace the 24th Infantry Regiment, 7th US Infantry Division on the front. August brought the rainy season to Korea, with heavy downpours affecting friends and foes alike. The runoff also affected logistics as it created dangerous flash flooding on the rural road network of the Hermit Kingdom.

Unfavorable weather did not stop the Chinese forces from engaging the line frequently. L and K Companies of the 7th Cavalry Regiment engaged the Chinese, only stopping due to extremely well-entrenched enemies.

September would be marked with increased hostility on both sides, with extensive probing and an increased volume of Chinese artillery. On September 17th, B Company, 7th Cavalry Regiment received sustained Chinese artillery fire as they advanced up the line to a new position, sustaining 90 shells in two hours.

On the night of September 21st and the early hours of the 22nd, 2nd and 3rd battalions of the 7th Cavalry were engaged by enemy artillery and ground attacks. Through the late days of the month, the Cavalry took a significant hit from the communists, taking the brunt of multiple engagements. Following these attacks would be the next UN offensive: Operation Commando.

Operation Commando was devised by Eighth Army and I Corps to prevent stagnation on the Western front of Korea. It was a limited offensive to push further north to Line Jamestown, the Chinese main line of resistance. Of note would be fighting around Yonchon and Chorwon, both formidable Chinese strongpoints. US patrols maintained their usual routine of probing the enemy lines to establish hardpoints and assess Chinese numbers. The Chinese were dug in extremely well with a complex web of trenches and bunkers. The Reds were also well supplied and equipped with ammunition, firearms, and most importantly morale.

"The savage resistance that was soon to face the advancing Cavalrymen came by no means wholly as a surprise, although in its intensity it did exceed expectations" reads the unit history and it accurately sums up the assault.

At 6:00 am on October 3rd, Operation Commando commenced. The 7th Cavalry was deployed on the right flank with Sassenberry moving towards the objective of Hill 287, a fortified behemoth of a hill. The enemy reacted savagely, throwing their whole weight on C Company. Wave after wave of cavalrymen were beaten back by the Chinese throughout the 3rd and into the 4th. It would be during one of these charges on Hill 287 that Sassenberry would be hit with shrapnel to the hand by an enemy grenade. He would be evacuated to a field hospital and eventually a hospital in Japan, out of the fight until the 14th of November.

During his recuperation, he would miss bloody fighting all along the front, with the 7th Cavalry being severely depleted in manpower. Between October 6th and 7th, the 7th Cavalry Regiment would capture and occupy Hill 287, the beginning of successes during the operation. The left flank was still a jumbled mess of small arms and howitzers but by the time of Sassenberry's return to the front, cracks were forming in the Red line and significant ground was made. He would rejoin C Company sometime during the end of November help secure and build up the newly captured held territory.



Dale Sassenberry circa. 1947

The Division remained in intense and hard fighting for sixteen straight days in some of the worst fighting of the entire war. No rest would be received by the weary as they would engage in building even more defenses on the line, now known as Operation Stonewall, throughout the end of October. Supply routes needed to be created, trenches dug, bunkers repaired, and so on. Besides building defenses, cavalrymen moved to further secure their positions by establishing forward bases, securing numerous hills. For the 7th Cavalry, they would secure Hills 199 & 200 after fierce combat.

Sassenberry & 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry would mount up on another engagement: the capture of Hill 200 in conjunction with 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry. Small arms fire was heavy, and explosions filled the air with smoke and dirt. From 2:30 am until past noon the men fought until finally securing Hill 200. This battle would produce a Medal of Honor recipient, 1LT Lloyd Burke. October would conclude with Line Jamestown firmly in friendly hands. In December, the 1st Cavalry would finally rotate to Japan after two years of combat in Korea.

Sassenberry would return to his beloved California and live happily, eventually being married to his loving wife Yolanda. He would enjoy his golden years golfing, camping, and fishing. Surprisingly, he would gain notoriety for building an 18-foot mahogany run-about by hand. He was quoted by the Press-Tribune as pushing 3,000 hours on the project. Sadly, Sassenberry would pass on October 18th, 2019, at the age of 91.

Another Trooper's Tale on page 14!

LRRP/Ranger News



Ken White
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Hello from the nation's capital. I'm happy to report that I was able to visit the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir shortly after it reopened its doors to the public on June 14, 2021. You might remember that the original opening date was June 2020, which marked the 245th birthday of the Army. That date had to be changed due to the suspension of construction work inside the museum because of Covid-19 virus. The new opening date was then set for November 12, 2020, Veterans Day, with a virtual opening, which incidentally was very impressive. (You can view it at a number of websites, just search for "Opening of the National Museum of the United States Army"). Then on December 11, 2020, it was announced that the museum would temporarily close, again due to the Covid-19 virus. And finally, on May 14th, it was announced that the museum would reopen on June 14, 2021, which marked the 246th birthday of the U.S. Army. Of course, by this time, everyone was totally confused as to whether it was open or closed and decided to push out their plans to visit it to a later date.



Nat'l Museum of the U.S. Army, Ft Belvoir, VA

According to the welcome brochure, the main objectives of the museum are to honor America's Soldiers, preserve Army history, and educate the public about the Army's role in the history of American. The core of the museum is the six main galleries located on the first floor: *Founding the Nation*, *Preserving the Nation*, *Nation Overseas*, *Global War*, *Cold War*, and *Changing World*. They are arranged chronologically, and each has a theme. "They are intended to

show visitors what it means to be a Soldier in times of both war and peace."

The size of the galleries was determined by the number of service members who served in the Army during that period. For example, the *Global War Gallery* which includes the *World War I* and *World War II* sub-galleries is one of the largest galleries. You would expect that I guess. The *Cold War Gallery*, which includes the *Korean War* and *Vietnam War* sub-galleries, and a few smaller ones, is also large.

There are a number of displays in the *Cold War Gallery* commemorating 1st Cav battles, including that of Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley in November 1965. There is also a display of the December 26-27, 1966, attack on Landing Zone Bird in the Kim Son Valley, Binh Dinh Province, II Corps. It shows one of the 105mm howitzers from the 2/19th Artillery (105mm Howitzer) that was used in the battle to fire 'beehive' rounds to halt the North Vietnamese attack. There is also a map that shows the location of Bird in the center of the valley adjacent to the Kim Son River, and a photo of LT John T. Piper, 2/19th Artillery. The display, however, is labeled 'Fire Base' Bird and not Landing Zone Bird, and the map showing the location of Bird is upside down – straight out of the S.L.A. Marshall book *Bird*, where it is also upside down. (By the way, Marshall's book is an excellent read.)



Plaques lining entrance way to museum



Pith Helmet, AK-47 Rifle and photo of LT Piper

The point of the display as I understand it is that the battle of Bird marked the first time in the Vietnam War that beehive rounds were used to halt an enemy human-wave attack. Apparently, the rounds worked because two under-strength platoons of C Co, 1/12th Cav and a battery of artillery men from the 2/19th Artillery, not only halted the attack but with the help of a ready reaction force – a platoon from D Troop, 1/9th Cav – drove two battalions of the Quyet Tam Regiment (22nd NVA Regiment), the second of the three regiments of the North Vietnamese Sao Vang Division, off the LZ and back into the jungle.

There are also a number of major exhibition facilities located on the first floor just off the main lobby, such as the *Soldiers' Stories Gallery* and the *Army and Society Gallery*. A *Special Exhibition Gallery* is located on the second floor, and a *Veterans' Hall* and a *Medal of Honor Garden* are located on the third floor.

The *Soldiers Stories Gallery* has some fascinating stories. For example, CSM Bennie G. Adkinn who at the time was a Sergeant First Class serving as an Intelligence Sergeant with Detachment A-102, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces, A Shau Valley, March 9-12, 1966. When the camp was attacked by the North Vietnamese on March 9, 1966, SFC Adkinn rushed through intense enemy fire to man a mortar position and fired mortars on the attacking enemy continually adjusting the mortar as needed, despite incurring wounds as the mortar pit received several direct hits from incoming enemy mortars. Upon learning that several Soldiers were wounded near the center of camp, he



Claymore Mine Display

temporarily turned the mortar over to another Soldier, ran through exploding mortar rounds and dragged several comrades to safety. As the hostile fire subsided, SFC Adkinn exposed himself to sporadic sniper fire while carrying his wounded comrades to the camp dispensary. When SFC Adkinn and his group of defenders came under heavy small arms fire from members of the CIDG who had defected to fight with the North Vietnamese, SFC Adkinn began using a recoilless rifle to fire on enemy positions destroying them, and when a resupply air drop landed outside of the camp perimeter, SFC Adkinn, maneuvered outside the camp walls to retrieve the much-needed supplies and pull them inside the camp. It was estimated that SFC Adkinn killed between 135 and 175 enemy soldiers while sustaining eighteen different wounds to his body. For his actions that day, SFC Adkinn was awarded the Medal of Honor. By the way, the A Shau Valley Special Forces camp was located less than five kilometers southwest of Signal Hill where a platoon of LRRP/Rangers battled the North Vietnamese on April 20-21, 1968.

Another interesting story is that of Yogi Berra, the 18-time All Star catcher with the New York Yankees MLB team. Yogi did not serve in the Army, but he did serve in the Navy. He was a gunner on a Navy landing craft that participated in the allied assault on the beaches of Normandy, France at 0600 hours on June 6, 1944, D-Day. He was 19 years old.

Long before he won 10 World Series titles and three American League Most Valuable Player Awards as a catcher for the Yankees, he was a distinguished and decorated member of the U.S. military.

According to Tom Verducci, *Sports Illustrated*, "Yogi Berra was Seaman Second Class Berra and served on a small landing craft support missile boat, which attacked the coast of Normandy during the massive D-Day invasion. When the battle commenced at 0630 hours, the landing craft support boat (LCS) sprayed bullets and rockets across the heavily fortified beach fronts before the Troops landed. Yogi manned a machine gun mounted on a ball turret in his LCS and stood tall with a boy's wonder -- too busy marveling at the tremendous explosions of lights and sound to consider the danger that would end the lives of 2,500 of his fellow Americans. Only the steel walls of the boat and the grace of God stood between him and death."

Berra earned a Purple Heart, a Distinguished Unit Citation, two battle stars, and a European Theatre of Operations ribbon during the war and in 2009 was awarded the Navy's Lone Sailor Award. In 2013, he received the first Bob Feller Act of Valor Award, inspired by the late Hall of Fame pitcher for the Cleveland Indians, who also put his baseball career on hold to serve in the military for four years after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The National Museum of the United States Army occupies 84 acres on the grounds of Fort Belvoir. However, it is not accessible from Fort Belvoir. You must exit the post and enter the museum campus via the Fairfax County Parkway, just north of where it ends at the intersection of U.S. Route 1. It is not necessary to get a pass to enter the post in order to visit the museum unless you plan to visit the post afterwards, but you will need a ticket to enter the museum. They are available online at no cost.

On a different note, the following email was received from LTC Jim Wright (1967): "It may be interesting to see how they correlate the battle of Gettysburg with modern day tactical, operational and strategic leadership lessons. Many of us quickly learned in Vietnam that one's perspective changes dramatically depending on the level of leadership or command levels and how far one is removed from day-to-day direct combat operations. By the time each layer of command embellished their perspective the truth often got lost in the translation. MG Putnam, Commanding General, 1st Cavalry Division, Vietnam 1970-1971, recognized this problem and would periodically extract a company commander unannounced from direct combat and fly him to the division headquarters for a day of staff briefings and dinner with the CG. This was commonly referred to as "King for a Day." However, I soon realized that what he was really seeking was the unvarnished front-line perspective. There was no time or opportunity to develop Power Point slides and we had no way of knowing what would be asked. We were grateful to have our day in court and left believing the commanding general had a better appreciation for the combat situation at the small unit level, and he also had our backs."

"Many of us have also walked the Gettysburg battlefield and realized that being on the ground at all levels impacted decisions and perspective. Jim <jewrightjr@cox.net>."

The following email was received from Pete Dencker (1970-71): "Some of the folks at the Ranger Rendezvous were asking about the return of H Co (and the other "Letter" companies) following Vietnam. I'm guessing that some of you may have been part of that transition and remained with the new unit for a period of time."

"If so, please get back to me with how that all went down. I've heard that H Co became part of the 2nd Bat, but again I'm not really sure and we are trying to piece together that part of history. Those of you who left then and possibly returned with the unit – please get back to me." Thanks, Pete. <pdencker@outlook.com>

The following email was also received from Jim Wright: "In late July 2021, MG John Richardson became commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division, a command once held by his grandfather, LTG Robert Richardson Jr. If he was still with us today, he would tell us unequivocally that the highlight and greatest honor of his 28-year career was that he rode with the First Team. LTG Richardson Jr. assumed command of the division in 1940. He retired in 1946 and died in 1954."

"What to Watch: As he assumed command, MG Richardson wore a combat patch belonging to his grandfather. The pride of wearing my grandfather's patch is that he wore it when he was in the Division. Now I have the opportunity to walk in his footsteps and in the footsteps of all the great Soldiers who have served in this Division for the last 100 years. The sense of pride I feel is overwhelming."

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY.



5th CAV News

Harold P. "Doc" Truitt
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This morning's reading had me viewing a story of an Italian/American group suing to have the statue of Christopher Columbus returned to Chicago. Recent years have seen a large number of monuments to men and women removed because someone found them offensive. In the early 1800's a man by the name of Georg W. F. Hegel coined a useful term to describe the way he thought how society evolves. Hegel's term is "zeitgeist." The term literally means "spirit of the times." My feeling is someone will say that Mr. Hegel is worse than irrelevant. He was a white European man who lived long ago, therefore cannot possibly have anything useful to add to today's dialog. But what did he mean? Hegel was pointing out that in every society, certain trains of thought are not just common, but often even prevalent. That we in fact influence each other and echo certain things. This tendency has been taken advantage of by people who have sought to bend the thinking and will of people for some time now and I'm sure will still be doing so long after I'm gone.

Several times, in my life "After the Cav" things have been said to me that indicated the speaker of the moment did not look at the military or particularly the cavalry as a positive influence on history, but tended to ascribe to us atrocities that in their minds were perpetrated by our predecessors. People, who like us were in fact on missions and under orders. It should be noted that their presence was commonly requested, in at least one instance by a native tribe being ravaged by Apache warriors, who of course lived under a law that prior eons ruled the entire world, that is the law of might. That age old dictum was the reason law and jurisprudence were coming into vogue, but of course even that continues to evolve. The incident above took place not far from modern day Sedona, AZ and the mission was performed by our sister unit the 6th US Cavalry.

Human beings do not always get everything right, but today it seems popular to look back 150 to 300 or more years and expect that thought at that time should reflect OUR views. Perhaps some of us are convinced that 150 years from now folks will look back and be amazed at some folks prescience. I suppose it's possible. But what would today look like if not for yesterday? If the notion is correct, and our forefathers were in fact "only" selfish and prejudiced, why does their effort present itself in a way that in fact opens opportunity for so many. Did folks come to this country from more enlightened places? Places where they enjoyed more freedom and had more opportunity to make a home? Why did our friends in France give us "The Statue of Liberty?"

I know the reasons we have all allowed ourselves to be part of our units are quite varied, but I also believe that we wanted to be a part of something bigger. To do something useful with our lives. I do not believe we are the first generation to look at it that way. Nor do I think we'll be the last. Having been around

for many decades, gives one the chance to meet lots of different folks who have done things to be admired. I feel blessed to have been a small part of 5th Cav history as well as having seen and done some other things of which I am proud. That means, as it has for some others, that perhaps someone will come along in later centuries and be offended by my accomplishments or those of my contemporaries. I hope not, but I don't get to choose what folks will think hundreds of years from now. As a matter of fact, I don't get to choose what folks think now. However it is possible (but difficult) to encourage discussion which has a chance to influence today. Some people are much better at that than "yours truly." Hope of that possibility remains however, the reason I continue to try. I would like your great grandchildren to be proud of your service, and I most certainly hope you yourself are proud of same. You should be! It is no small sacrifice you, and all of us have offered. No matter the headlines, since joy sells few papers or much airtime, please do not decide that your efforts are wasted.

Many have told me my generation wasted ours in southeast Asia. Careful examination of the evolution of our craft, in my humble opinion, always shows that no matter the emotion of the moment or the appearance of the occasion, all our efforts go to shape us today. They may be frustrating, even discouraging, but they are never entirely wasted. That is no light thing to say to a mother, father, sister, brother, or friend, but it remains true, and it is important to repeat those words since the truth remains that our nation does not exist without us. And we cannot exist in perpetual pride and bliss without the sorrow of loss. Our pride of unit and cause is the result of that sort of loss.

As mentioned previously, the military does not call its own shots, and our losses are not ours alone. Unlike armies under a Roman or Greek general of past millennia, we do not exist for conquest even if some would like to say that. The concept is born out in our history, even though some don't think we need to know what that is. We are formed under the Constitution to build an all-new country. The decisions on our use and deployment are arranged to make the Country different and more controlled or considered. The idea of a "citizen" Soldier, and that of a "citizen" politician, may have its flaws but it looks to me as though we may be stuck with them for some time, in lieu of something better. Many other things have been tried, and often end in rule by one or by the few. As a result of human flaws, we will never come to a time when every decision is correct in hindsight, and the loss of Soldiers and sailors will always be a heavy burden, but no honest effort by a Soldier himself or herself, is in my perhaps flawed opinion, ever totally wasted. I will always choose to be proud of you! One would hope that you would always be proud of your own efforts at service. Looking back, the losses of thousands of brothers and sisters to disease during times of war would seem a total waste. Learning to fight that war was also costly, but great strides have been made. The deaths by accident and friendly fire, while equally sad have added to today's efforts as well. I hope each of you live to a ripe old age. I will be sad, even though I cannot know each of you personally when I hear of casualties. But I will never think of anyone's sacrifice as a waste in our line of endeavor.

WANTED / SEARCHING FOR:

LOOKING FOR HENRY/PEABODY

Henry and I were assigned to C Battery, 1-77, in 1970 and 1971. During part of that time, we were attached to C Company, 2-12. I was a forward observer, and Henry was my RTO. Henry was his given name, but he customarily went by the nickname "Peabody." Unfortunately, I cannot recall Henry's surname. He was about 18 to 20 years old, medium build, about 5' 8" tall, with curly blond hair. I believe that he was from Pennsylvania or New York. I would appreciate contact from anyone who might have information that would lead me closer to finding Henry. Thank you for your help.

Charlie Burns <Vallejo45@comcast.net> 281-795-8500

OFFICERS and RTO's of the 1-7 BN, 1968-69

My name is Jim Hilts. I was an RTO at BN HQ for the 1-7 except for a 2-to-3-month period where I was an RTO for C Co. I am writing a book on 1-7 RTO's.

1. Anyone who served in the HHC commo section of the 1/7 battalion during 3/68 through 3/69
2. Is CPT King from the above unit still alive?
3. Anyone who served in C Company of 1/7 battalion from 3/68 - 3/69
4. Anyone who was on LZ Miguel or LZ Stud during the relief of KHE SAHN or the A SHAU Valley Campaign.
5. Any 1/7 RTOs who served from 3/68 through 3/69
6. Anyone who served in HHC or A Co of the 13th Signal Battalion.

Please contact James M. Hilts (Jim) at <jimchrishilts@verizon.net> or 412-269-0217 or mail to 1600 Ridge Avenue Coraopolis, PA 15108. Thank you very much! Jim

TERRY J. WHITLEY CO B 2/8 1ST AIR CAV 1969-70

I am looking for anyone who served with my cousin Terry J. Whitley Co B 2/8 1st Air Cavalry in 1969-70. He was one of 7 men who received a Purple Heart for wounds received in action on August 31, 1969. Contact Rod Linn with any information at <rjlinn0121@gmail.com> or 906-225-0624. Thank you.

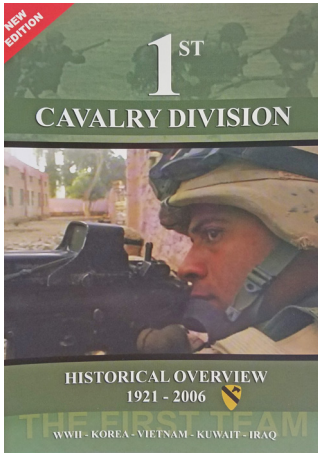
LOOKING FOR A LONG LOST
BATTLE BUDDY?

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

<Programs@1CDA.org>

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12th CAV News



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Hear Ye...Hear Ye! Our 12th Cavalry Association Officers: Honorary Commander of the Regiment (HCOR) Jim Dingeman, Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment (HSGMOR) Doug Warden, President Jim Stokely, Treasurer Gary Pezzuti, Secretary Thomas Crabtree, Website Manager(s) Fred N./Jocelyn Wilson, and All 12th Cavalry Troopers offer our condolences and prayers to “Doc” Gracie Galloway and the Joseph L. Galloway family. Joe crossed over 18 August 2021, at his home in Concord, NC with his devoted wife “Doc” Gracie by his side. His passing leaves a void in us all the Military/Veteran community, while the Celestial LZs and Fiddlers’ Green are rocking and partying hardy with his arrival.

We of the 12th Cavalry would be remiss to not pay tribute to Joe Galloway even though his primary connection to the 1st Cavalry centered on the 7th Cavalry and the infamous Ia Drang Valley, Joe was a beacon of light for all Veterans of all Branches. After Vietnam, Joe’s primary mission was to tell the truth about Vietnam and counter act the negative character assassination of Vietnam Veterans perpetrated in the mainstream media establishment of the time. Joe liked to drive home the point that “America turned its back on the Vietnam Veterans and in doing so, shot itself in the foot.” Statements such as this made Joe controversial because he did not write for approval of ‘Ivory Towered Elitists or Self-Appointed Proper Society’ in the words of GEN H. Norman Schwarzkopf (Stormin’ Norman). Joe was the “finest combat correspondent of our generation, a Soldier’s reporter and a Soldier’s friend.”

From the Vietnam War’s official end (30 April 1975) Joe kept contact with Hal Moore and 7th Troopers. He was a constant presence at Division Reunions and made a point to know as many 1st Cav Troopers as possible, forming friendships with 5th...8th...9th...12th Cav Soldiers. 12th Cavalry Association President Jim Stokely says, “Joe is one of our own.” Allen Lynch, D Company, 1-12, 1967-1968 and Medal of Honor Awardee December 1967, had this to say, “Joseph L. Galloway is a great gentleman, a patriot and down to earth guy. I was most impressed by the unbreakable bond between Joe, and Hal Moore I observed at a Memorial Ceremony at Ft. Benning. This kind of connection cannot be bought for any amount of money. Joe had that same bond with all 1st Cavalry Troopers he encountered. I am honored to have known such a man.” Coming from a Trooper of Allen Lynch’s quality, it probably cannot be said any better.

Unbeknownst to Joe, he was the weighing factor on my decision to enter the service. I graduated high school May 1965 at 17 years old. Many of my school cohorts were headed to college come September. Aware of the heating up of Vietnam, I told myself that when I turned 18 joining the Army might be a good option since my shot at going to school on scholarship fell by the wayside. Spring 64, saddled with the responsibility to support myself last half of my junior year and during my senior year. Coach who was mentoring me also taught English/English Lit. I was an A student in that class for obvious reasons. Something had to give, unfortunately sports were out, and grades descended to a C level. At 17, May 65, I headed to the Oilfields, a prospect I did not like. Fortunately, I had a side job on my days off at a local newspaper, The Hobbs Flare in Hobbs, NM. Worked as a printer’s assistant doing press set up, typesetting layout and occasionally wrote a blurb. Early December an Ia Drang Valley story came to us. I was assigned the task of type setting the article on a keypunch, spin wheel, ticker tape printout machine. In a 4 x 4 dimly lighted room I punched letters, sipping on a half-pint of Old Crow. The more I punched, the higher the adrenaline soared. Two days later I was at the local recruiting office signing up. As a football player, figured what’s more athletic than Airborne Infantry. Signed the papers, headed to Ft Bliss Basic Training January 1966, arrived in Vietnam August 1966.

Thought I might come across Joe. Never did until Veterans Week 2005 in Washington D.C., 40th year Ia Drang Valley Commemorative gathering. Pur-

chased one of his books, had a 5-minute talk with him, at parting it seemed I had known him all my life. From 2005 on had 8 other encounters with Joe at Ft. Hood, Midland, TX. September 2012, Joe and “Doc” Gracie were our guests at the 7th Annual 12th Cavalry Reunion. Most of our 12th Cavalry Troopers were honored to have them and came away with a better outlook and recognition of what it means to be in that “Band of Brothers” circle. Yes, each battalion has its own unique stories and history that energizes ‘esprit de’ corps.’ When we all come together in gatherings at Ft. Hood and D.C., under the Division umbrella we all are ‘The Cavalry,’ we earned the privilege in midst of chaos and death to call each other Brother, an honor that cannot be bought with money, and only a few know and understand.

Three other occasions I was with Joe, 2013/2014 for the TX State Capitol 3417 Commemoration. In 2013 Veterans from across TX conducted a full roll call of TX Veterans fallen in Vietnam, at the LBJ School of Public Policy, UT Austin. In 2014, the Memorial statue was unveiled on Capitol grounds, Joe of course was the featured speaker. In September 2015, I was interviewed by Joe, in Dallas for the 50th year Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Project. In 2017, several of our 12th Cavalry Troopers spent some time with him at Ft. Hood. Last time I saw Joe was 2018 at the Charleston, WV 1CDA Reunion, spent 20 minutes with him and walked away with a sense that something is over the horizon. That was the effect that Joe Galloway had on many people.

When the movie “*We were Soldiers*” debuted, the door was opened to the truth of the most unpopular and misunderstood war in America’s history. Although, focused on the 7th Cavalry in the Ia Drang, the book and movie reached far beyond that one battle and brought together all Veterans of all branches who saw the possibility of healing and reconciliation with a country that shunned them. Joe was fond of saying, “Americas best went and served in Vietnam” and “We may not be the greatest generation, but we are the greatest of our generation.”

Joseph L. Galloway, you helped restore the darkened souls of many lost warriors, returned dignity and respect to 58,479 Fallen Brothers, made death in defense of our country an honorable sacrifice, instilled pride in service to those of us fortunate enough to return. We of the 12th Cavalry, render you a ‘Slow Hand Salute,’ bid you peace and happiness at the Celestial LZ Fiddlers’ Green. We will see you there when our time comes. SEMPER PARATUS!

In the early years of Vietnam 1965-1966, 12th Cavalry had its own embedded reporter, Charlie Black of Columbus, GA. I am sure he and Joe are comparing stories and arguing about which battalion was the better, 7th or the 12th. all in the interest of camaraderie, no doubt it is rockin’ in the hinterlands. And let us not forget our own accomplished and published writers still with us: Doug Warden, Basil ‘Baz’ Clark, Gary DeRigne, COL Charles Kron, Jerry D. McClain. All men who strive to present the truth as it was/is for them and their companies within the 12th Cavalry and never forget we served with the best units the 1st Cavalry has ever known and our story is still being told as we gather in the various reunion spots assuring our fellow Troopers that service to our country is an honorable profession.

Received some correspondence from **Jack Billups**, B Co, 1-12 1969-1970. He has recently published a book titled “*My Vietnam: A Gift to My Daughter*,” visit his website <<https://myvietnambook.com>>.

Interested in serving the 12th Cavalry Association, give President Jim Stokely a call 724-992-8358 or Secretary-Scribe Thomas Crabtree 432-853-4851.

New website is now up. Visit <www.12thcav.us>, we will be making refinements to the sight and updating as we progress. Access is now open. When you visit, leave Fred and Jocelyn a note thanking them for their hard work on this updated site.

We are working to preserve and sustain the 12th Cavalry Association for current and future Troopers who served in a 12th Cavalry Unit in Gulf War/Bosnia/OEF/OIF or any other period. Interested call Jim Stokely or Thomas Crabtree at the above numbers.

I am ‘outta’ here, until next issue “Soar with the Chief Chopper Pilot...Roll with the Lead Tanker...Walk Lightly with the Head Point Man”

Perhaps we will meet in Washington D.C. November 2021.

NEW MEMBERS

SGT ABENDSCHOEN, TYR PA B 3-8C
MR. ADKINS, PHILIP TX C1-5C
CSM ALLISON, SEAN TX HQ 3-8C
CW4 AUGUR, ROBERT SC HHC 1CDH
E-4 AYERS, HAROLD TX HHC 2ENG
SGT BROADHEAD, DAVID TX D 6-9C
SGT CARTER, STEVEN CA B 1-5C
MSG (RET) CHARLESON, BRIAN PA A 28SIG
SP-4 CORRAL, JAMES R. CA HHC 1CDH
E-5 CROSBY, SPAULDING T. MD HHC 8ENG
CSM CUMMINGS, KEYON TX A 91ENG
CPT DELGADO, JORGE TX 1CDH
SPC DIXON, HUNTER P. NV D 6-9C
E-4 DRAKE, CHRISTOPHER J. MI 545MP
LTC DUENAS, GERLAD J. TX 1CDH
CW5 DURRER, SCOTT TX HHC 1ACB
MS. EVANS, MAXINE WA 1433 ASSOC
SFC (RET) FINDLEY, DANIEL B. FL D 227AVN
CSM FUENTES, EDGAR TX 2-82FA
SGT GAGNON, GEORGE VA HHT 1-9C
SPC GAMBOA-DIAZ, ROBERTO TX B 3-8C
SFC GOODWIN, DERRICK AR HHC 1-82FA
SSG GOULD, BRANDON TX HHC 2-8C
SPC GOULD, JESSE GA HHC 6-9C
MAJ GUCKEMUS, STEPHEN TX 1-1CDH
SP-5 HAGEDORN, ROBERT CT A 1-9C
SFC HALL, SAMUEL NY B 3-8
CPT HALLAND, ADRIENN TX HSC 516ASB
SPC HARTMAN, EDWARD KY E 1-5C
MAJ HEIDL, CHET GA 2-5C
SGT HERNANDEZ, JULIO TX HHC 1CD
SGT HOLMES, MERLE F. IA N 1-13SIG



CW3 HOPKINS, BRAD AZ DISCOM
E-9 HUCKLEBY, JACOB TX 1CDH
MS. HURTT, TRACY MD DISCOM
E-5 HUTCHISON, JAMES CO HQ 2BDE
SP-5 JUAREZ, NIS TX A 1-9C
SGT KLEINWACHTER, JEFFREY TX HQ 1CDH
MAJ LITTL, TEREZ M. MD CDH
SGT LOZYNSKY, JOHN CA E 82FA
SPC MCCORMICK, WILLIS FL 1-7C
CSM MCLANE, RYAN M. TX A 1-9C
E-4 MC MILLEN, DANNY MI 229AVN
SSG MIDDLETON, WADE TX B 1-7C
SGT MILLER, GREGORY E. CA D 2-5C
LTC MINEAR, MATTHEW TX 1-227ACB
MAJ MOSELE RANDY LA B 2-8C
MAJ OLSEN, BO TX HHT 1-7C
MR. OSLER, BOYD MA 1434 ASSOC
MG RICHARDSON, JOHN B. IV TX CDR 1CDH
MSG ROBERTS, DARRELL MS HHC 1-7C
SGT SAMUEL, MILES KS A 1BSTB
MR. SCHMIDT, PARKS VA 164 L-ASSOC
LTC SHUGART, SHARI TX 1CDH
SP-4 SOLCHENBERGER, KARL WI HHB 1-82FA
SGT SOUTH, JOHN TX1-81ARM
MR. STEIDLER, RONALD NJ D 1-12C
CPL STRAUSE, LAVERN IA C 1-7C
SSG TEICH, BERNARD S. TX B 2-91ENG
SGT TERAGOUCI, EIJI TX HHC 1-5C
LTC TORRES, JORGE L. TX 1CDH
MAJ WEATHERS, MATTHEW TX 1CDH
LTC WOODINGTON, LILLIAN TX 1CDH
SGT WOOLEY, JAMES MS B 228AHB
MSG YODER, PAUL TX HHC 3BDE

7th CAV News



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I'm sure you've heard; Joe Galloway passed and went to Fiddler's Green on 18 August 2021. For those of us in the 7th Cavalry he was a most special person. I can honestly say that I have never heard a Trooper speak ill of Joe. We may not have agreed with his political views (he hammered both sides equally) but we all agree that he knew what it was like to be in battle.

Joe was a photojournalist in Vietnam, spending a total of four tours there as a war correspondent. But that was not his only war. He covered the India-Pakistan War in 1971, along with at least a half dozen other combat operations. In 1990-1991, he covered Desert Shield and Desert Storm, embedded with the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) on its march into Iraq. General H. Norman Schwarzkopf has called Galloway "the finest combat correspondent of our generation, a Soldier's reporter and a Soldier's friend." During his appointment as Secretary of State, General Colin Powell asked Joe to be a special assistant at the State Department.

I've received many emails in the past two weeks regarding Joe. There have been a multitude of remembrances on social media recounting when people met Joe, or how he signed a copy of the book *"We Were Soldiers Once....and Young"* for them. In all of it, there was never a cross word spoken. Joe was universally accepted by Soldiers around the world as "one of us." In 1998, Joe was awarded a Bronze Star with V device for his actions during the battle of Ia Drang Valley. He was the only civilian to receive an award for valor during the Vietnam Conflict. Galloway found himself with 500 Troops of the Army's 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, during the first and one of the most savage battles of the Vietnam War – the Battle of Ia Drang. Outnumbered seven to one by North Vietnamese regular forces, the unit fought almost non-stop from Nov 14 to 16, with 79 killed in action and 121 wounded. Although a non-combatant, Galloway repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to aid and rescue wounded Soldiers. We all remember that part of the book and the movie in which Joe met Jimmy Nakayama, and then later found him a victim of friendly fire by napalm.

I last saw Joe at the 2018 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion in Charleston, WV. He was older, a bit arthritic, but his mind was as spry as always. Even though he and I had been in Vietnam at different times, in different roles, it was



as if we had been there together. It is not often that we Soldiers meet a civilian who understands what our war was like. That was not the case with Joe, he was there in the thick of things. He stood his ground with the men of the 1st Battalion 7th Cavalry in that bloody battle that cost 80 Troopers their lives over the course of 3

days. He was a reporter who knew the truth and did not have to manufacture it for the benefit of his job and readers. Joe Galloway was truly a giant, although unassuming, and knew what war was about.

U.S. 7th Cavalry Association President Emeritus **Bob Anderson** submitted the following for publication: I first became aware of Joe Galloway at the 1st Cav Reunion in 1990 at Columbus, GA, which was the 25th anniversary of the Cav going to Vietnam. Were it not for him and General Moore writing their book, scores of folks, other than the participants, most likely would never have heard of LZ's X-Ray and Albany. The true test of the use of helicopters in up close Infantry combat. Over the years I heard him speak with that marvelous voice about my (our) war. Joe never forgot the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines that he served with and wrote about. As your scribe for many years, he was always complementary of my columns that were written for and about you. Once he visited Grand Rapids, MI for a speech at the Gerald Ford Library. Afterward, I presented him with a Bronze Star challenge coin, a replica of the medal he earned at X-Ray. His words will live on as a testament to those who fought and died in November of 1965. He lived the life he was born to live as a son of Texas! Garryowen my friend and we will meet again in Fiddler's Green!

I would also like to recognize a long overdue congratulation to CSM (Ret) David Clemons, who takes over the role of the 7th Cavalry Honorary Regimental Sergeant Major. Dave had a long and illustrious Army career, with like so many of our current warriors', multiple deployments to Iraq! Thank you, Dave, for your service to our Army and our Nation and for the honor of being selected as the Honorary SGM by the Cavalry Branch of the Army. Bob Anderson, President Emeritus

An update on a story from the last issue. You remember the saga of George Wilson's lost ring? The ring has been returned to the family, but to get replacement medals from the Department of the Army, the family had to have George's

social security account number and it appeared nowhere on any of the decades-old paperwork the family still had. Then, an email from the U.S. 7th Cavalry Association President Emeritus Bob Anderson. While searching the Coffelt Database, he had found a set of orders awarding George the Bronze Star posthumously. Bob sent a copy of the orders to me, and I forwarded them to the family. Finally, their search is complete, and they can now treasure the awards and decorations that were rightfully George's. In addition, I received an email from Fred Bourjaily, National Commander of the Combat Infantrymen's Association, offering to send the family a Combat Infantryman Badge in honor of George's sacrifice. Isn't it great how things come together? By the way, if you are interested in joining the Combat Infantrymen's Association, then please just go to their website at <<https://www.cibassoc.com>> and become a member. The only requirement is that you have received a CIB.

Bob Orkland, one of our favorite authors, has written his first novel, which will be published Nov 7 by Casemate Publishers of London. In 2019, Bob co-authored with COL Chan Duryea, (CO, C/2/7, '66-'67) *"Misfire: The Tragic Failure of the M16 in Vietnam."* Bob's novel takes place in Cold War Berlin and is titled *"The Spandau Complication."* It's listed on Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites. Bob has a sequel in the works, *"The Saigon Sayonara,"* when his protagonist is reassigned to USARV. My bet is that both books will be well worth the time!

And another of our favorite authors, Marc Levy, continues to add more stories to his website, <medicinthegreentime.com>, sent me this: New on the site is the Post War section. Thanks to all who contributed. Submissions by VN Vets to the Tanks project are open and welcome. I've just published the second edition of *"How Stevie Nearly Lost the War and Other Postwar Stories."* The revised book contains four new stories. Marc's work has been well received by many, including authors, critics, and just plain readers like myself.

So, you may have noticed that this issue is shorter than most. Yes, it is. And it's because I don't have your story to tell! Please, send them in. What do you want to share about your life as a 7th Cavalry Trooper? What bone do you want to pick? What complaint do you have with the column? As you can see, I'm open to hearing anything from you, if it is civil enough to put into print. COVID scared me away from this year's reunion so I was unable to get those stories first-hand but I'm already looking forward to the 2022 reunion in Dayton. Hope you are, too! Garryowen, my friends!

THE DOCTOR'S REPORT

COL (Ret) James Noel
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Good day Troopers! Cancer, autoimmune diseases such as Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Inflammatory Bowel diseases, irritable bowel syndrome and depression are not uncommon diseases in our current world. The prevalence of these illnesses has progressively increased since the 1950's. In fact, the incidence of each of these groups of disease has increased each decade over the previous decade. Ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, obesity, type 1 and type 2 diabetes, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis, colorectal cancer, breast cancer, pancreatic cancer, systemic lupus erythematosus, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, rheumatic arthritis, depression, and asthma has each in multiple studies shown increasing incidence over the past 40 years and the increase has been linked to dietary habits and bowel flora changes independent of smoking and alcohol consumption. Several environmental and dietary factors have contributed to the increased presence of these illnesses in our communities.

There are three factors which have been consistently present in each study that has investigated this increasing disease burden. The first is the consumption of red meats, the second is the change of our intestinal bacteria, and the third is the decrease in our fruit and vegetable consumption. All three of these are interconnected. In an adult male there are 3×10^{13} (30 trillion) human cells in a 70kg and the total number of bacterial cells in the gut of a 70kg reference adult man is 3.8×10^{13} ...to 3×10^{14} that's 38 trillion to 300 trillion bacteria. This means bacteria composes 50 to 90% of the cells in our body. Another way of saying this is we are 50-90% bacteria and 10-50% human cells. It makes sense that if the bacteria in our gut are friendly there will be less inflammation in our gastrointestinal tract. Over thousand of years our diet was 80% fruits and vegetables, and this resulted in bowel flora that were Firmicutes, Alistipes, Bilophila, Bacteroides, Roseburia, Eubacterium rectale, and Ruminococcus bromii. These bacteria have over thousands of years developed a symbiotic relationship with our immune system and have assisted with digestion and with vitamin absorption.

When we consume a diet high in red meats and sugars, we promote the growth and predominance of bacteria like Pseudomonas, Acinetobacter, Klebsiella and pathogenic E. coli. These bacteria cause sepsis and can make us deathly ill if they cross the intestinal lining and gain access to the blood stream resulting in sepsis. So, the intestinal immune system is in a high state of readiness and constantly on alert trying to keep these bacteria from gaining access to the blood stream. This constant state of alertness can result in our immune system making mistakes resulting in autoimmune disease, neurosensory disease such as irritable bowel and decrease in cancer surveillance.

Eating a diet high in vegetables, legumes, beans, fruits, and vegetables results in consumption of the nutrients for a healthy microbiome. They are high in fiber, which your body can't digest. However, certain bacteria in your gut can digest fiber, which stimulates their growth and a healthy gut environment. Fermented foods are foods that have undergone fermentation breaking down the sugars they contain with yeast or bacteria that promote healthy gut bacteria. Fermented foods are yogurt with active cultures, kimchi, sauerkraut, kefir, kombucha, and tempeh. Interestingly when we begin to consume a healthier diet our bowel flora completely changes in three days.

The three interconnected factors which have been linked to the increasing disease burden mentioned above can be altered by decreasing our red meat consumption and increasing our fruit and vegetable consumption thus changing our bowel flora. As I tell my bride, we eat vegetables all week so we can have a nice steak on Saturday night.

Again, if there is a question we can answer, if there is someone has a contributor who would like to discuss a topic that will help the health of our active duty and former Soldiers, please feel free to contact myself or Doc Shock through the *Saber*. Doc out!

8th CAV News



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Hello to all my 8th Cav brothers and sisters. Hope everyone had a good summer, it was hot in the Southeast. In the Northwest, we had some reports of our 8th Cav Family losing property, and in some cases their homes, in the wildfires. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Anyone who's trying to reach these folks, or who wants to report their own losses, can contact me.

This issue probably won't reach everyone before our reunion in September, so here's hoping we had a great time! I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the 2022 reunion.

Afghanistan

I'm deeply disturbed by the events in Afghanistan. For the past 50-plus years I have questioned the meaning of my service or whether it was worth the sacrifice that I, and my fellow Soldiers, made in the Vietnam War. The distress about this issue brings back a lot of memories, and thoughts of how many of our brothers lost their lives. I'm feeling frustrated, sad, and helpless, as I'm sure many Vietnam Vets are. I will not watch or listen to reminders from the media, those self-righteous bastards. Pardon my language. Most Vets I talk to are really taking this hard and personal. I don't know of any Veteran who is not bothered by this. I'm not going to get political with this. It's not up to me to point a finger and blame anyone. My main concern is how we handle this situation, so we may find some way to be at peace with ourselves. Spend time with people who give you a sense of calm, who best understand what we're going through.

Reaction from an Afghanistan Veteran

When Trooper Bill Wilson heard about the Taliban taking back control of the Afghan capitol, he said "I started to grieve. I'm sad for the people who lost their lives." He was also sad for the people who still had to live there. Most Vets said they knew it was coming and that the Taliban would take over again. "We're disappointed the government collapsed with little to no resistance." Bill's uncle, a Vietnam Vet, said the end in Afghanistan would echo the end in Vietnam. I feel so bad for these men and women, who served their country bravely and sacrificed so much. Let's give thanks to them for their service. Vietnam Veterans know how you feel.

Taps

I got a message from Russ Stanton recently. He regretfully informed me of the death of Glenn Sheathelm, who passed away unexpectedly a couple of weeks ago. Russ and Glenn served on the Muskegon Pistol and Rifle Club Board of Directors. Glenn was a great help to me getting my column ready for the *Saber*. Rest in Peace, brother.

If any of my readers know of any news about one of our brothers, good or bad, please let me know.

My Pride and Joy

The Gang of 6: Billy "Ben Colder" Lewis, George "Big George" Thaler, Larry "The Saint" Hempfling, Johnny "Duck" Mays, Tommy "Smiley" Harris & James "Top Gun" Dotson (aka Gus). When the NVA heard we were in the area, their mothers would start crying and screaming. Sons would change their names and snipers would ask for early retirement. We were feared by one and all, except when, as a group, we were all trying to get under the same log. This gnarly group served in Nam together in 1968. All but Big George was in Wildcat Platoon D 2/8. We all staggered in country at different times. We were surrounded by some of the best Troops this country has ever produced. A bond between us that could never be broken, then or now.

Let's go forward 50 years from then into the future. Through the modern age of communication, those of us who had lost touch were united once more. Once again, mothers were screaming, the police department had to start a second shift and Lurch started knocking down trees bare handed. After the second St. Louis reunion hosted by the Saint, Ben Colder said we needed to come down to Tennessee in the fall, said it was beautiful in October. We all agreed we'd come down on Columbus Day. Since we were all still working, a 3-day weekend was perfect. Ben lived just outside of Monterey, TN on Hanging Limb Highway (I kid you not), on the side of a mountain from the top of which you could see 3 states. Reminded us of being up North in Vietnam. We had a wonderful time, lots of memories, lots of laughter and some tears. Parting, we agreed to do it again. We were all jacked up the following year. Guys meeting up and visiting each other at their homes. Mini reunions all over the U.S. from Oregon to Florida, Texas to New England.



Smiley, Duck, Larry, Billy, TopGun

Someone suggested that Fall was nice in Kentucky where I lived. Wanting to keep them off the streets, I agreed. We set up in a little campground owned by my childhood friend Brad. We slept on the ground, in trucks and an old rusty trailer I kept there. Smiley cussed about the lack of everything we didn't have, said he would fix that by the next year... and he did! Two years later we moved to a bigger campground, five years after that to an even bigger one. All the places we stayed treated us like Kings, thanked us every day for our service. And we never slept on the ground again but in nice warm double wide trailers and cabins.



L to R: Top Gun, Smiley, The Saint, Duck, Big George

We've had up to 50 guys attend at any given time, from all branches except the Coast Guard. We've had grunts, door gunners, helicopter pilots, crew chiefs, artillery, artillery forward observers, and engineers. Veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, and the first Gulf War. Ranks from a Private E-1 to a 2 Star General. Even a guy I think was from the CIA. I've been proud as can be to get to know all these great men, they're all my heroes. We've lost some of them over the years, but who hasn't? God rest their souls; may they rest in peace.

Now here we are in the Fall of 2021. We've seen a lot of changes in the world over the last couple of years. It's time to rest our old bones, sit around a campfire, eat, drink, talk about anything we want to, and enjoy each other's company again. So, my brothers, the Gang of 6 (minus 1, sadly, we lost Big George) invites you to the famous Kentucky Kampout, held now in Buchanan, Tennessee. Everything will be set up and ready for you. You don't have to make hotel reservations, don't have to worry about food, we've got that covered. You're welcome to bring your wife or travelling buddy if you don't travel alone. Just let me know you're coming, by email, phone call or text.

We have cabins, one- or two-men's dorm-style rooms and motel rooms. They're all very clean and well taken care of. We're right next door, walking distance, to the local AmVets Post 45 where they have a club room. On Wednesday night the Ladies Auxiliary provides us with our meal and on Friday the Post has a Fish Fry for us. Two convenience stores and a restaurant are right across the street, but we have lunch at our pavilion and breakfast at the AmVets post. At the end of the stay, we add up all the bills and split them evenly. In the 20-plus years we've been doing this we have never spent over \$300 per man. The motel gives us a great rate of \$60 per room a night, which is \$30 a night if you share the room. The cabins can be a little higher depending on the size and how many stay, but it's still usually around \$30 per person. Come and join us, stay all or part of the week. I guarantee if you come once, you'll want to come back again.

Dates are **October 12 through October 16, 2021**. Let me know and I'll set you up.

In Closing

Brothers, we have a huge problem. No one is coming forward to take up the leadership roles in the 8th Cavalry Association. To add to the problem, the membership numbers are quickly going down. Please, someone step up and help keep the history of the 8th Cavalry alive. We date back to the Indian Wars and every war thereafter. It bothers me deeply that our history could be lost. Again, please help.

Everyone stay safe, healthy, and always remember:
Honor and Courage



The Best Brothers You Can Have.... "Living the Legend"

9th CAV News

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RCN IS FOR RECON

This column in the July/August issue included photos of this odd-looking patch. The design is common to all armored divisions but there is no "Old Ironsides" or other tab at the bottom and the letters "RCN" are embroidered across the top. Experts from the American Society of Military Insignia Collectors reported it had been worn by the 1-9 Cav in the 1950s and early 60s when the squadron was 1st Cav Division's reconnaissance element in Korea.

Soon after the July/August issue hit people's mailboxes, I received an email from **Charles M. (Mike) Cassidy**:

Regarding the "RCN" Armor patches mentioned in the recent *Saber* issue, they were worn by 1-9 Cav in Korea, when I served my first assignment as 1st Platoon Leader in Charlie Troop, Nov 1963 - Dec. 1964.



Mike sent this photo of himself wearing the Cav patch on the left shoulder of his starched fatigues and the "RCN" patch on his chest. Also note the White Nametag, the Yellow-on-Black U.S. Army, the Brass Belt Buckle, and the Armor Branch Scarf. And notice the stereo on the shelf next to him. Ahh, those were the Good Ol' Days!

Mike's email continued:

The Squadron Commander at that time was LTC William (Bill) Lynch, who later commanded a brigade of the 1st Cav in Vietnam. The Bravo Troop commander was then-CPT Lewis E. Beasley, doing his ground tour, who later commanded B Troop again in Vietnam. Our then-MAJ Glenn K. Otis, who later commanded

Squadron Executive Officer was the 11th ACR in Vietnam, and ultimately became Commander, U.S. Army Europe, and NATO's Central Army Group. I was in pretty good company.

Mike went on to say that members of the Squadron also wore "Tanker Jackets" in lieu of issue field jackets, and tanker boots with straps, both locally sourced, whenever they were north of the Imjin River.

Mike says the picture on the right was on deck of the 1/9 Cav officers' club overlooking Freedom Bridge and the Imjin River. His class ring from Ole Miss "is somewhere over the edge, lost in some late-night frolic." A grandson of his is rotating back from Korea in October, and Mike says he asked him to search for it.



After redeploying from Korea in 1964, Mike spent a couple of years with the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood and completed the Career Course. He went back to the 1st Cav in Vietnam for 1967-68 and hoped to rejoin the 1-9 Cav, as some armored cavalry officers were able to do, but he learned upon arrival that a new MOS (0694, Air Movement Control Specialist) had been added to his file following the Career Course at Fort Eustis. That led to his being assigned to command a small detachment that oversaw sling-out and fixed-wing (when available) operations at LZ English and Hammond, and LZ's Uplift, Kontum, Baldy and Camp Evans, in that order. He seldom saw An Khe - "only on rare over-nighters, and departure." His Forward Service & Supply Element was a sub-unit of DISCOM (Division Support Command), and as such worked with aircraft, somewhat like Pathfinders, just moving more bulk. Each team of one CPT, one E-6 or E-7, and a couple of E-4s and 5s generally moved with a brigade, and nearly all his time was spent with the 3rd Brigade.

Mike attended a couple of reunions at Fort Hood and Fort Bragg and sat with 9th Cav group but met up with one of his guys from the Movement Control Group, and now two more are planning to meet at Fort Hood. If you see a guy in a Tanker Jacket with a Cav Patch on each shoulder and a strange "RCN" patch on his chest, be sure to thank him for sharing his story and give him best regards on behalf of us all.

SAIGON, KABUL, AND COMING TO GRIPS WITH IT

The photographs of Chinooks evacuating American citizens and Afghans who had worked for and with the U.S. forces in Afghanistan brought back painful memories for those who served in the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry in Vietnam from 1965 to 1972. Likely the images triggered equally painful feelings for those who served in the 1st, 4th, and 9th Battalions/Squadrons in Afghanistan over the past 20 years.

I happened to be re-reading the late Bert Chole's book *Flashing Sabers* when Kabul fell to the Taliban and news sources hammered home the similarity to the fall of Saigon in 1975. In his next-to-last chapter, Bert reflected on his two tours in the 1st of the 9th Cav, and on the way the Vietnam War ended:

In the years that have passed since that first year in Vietnam, I have tried to reconcile all that killing and loss of life with some noble cause. We did not free a nation from the oppression and yoke of Communism. We were unable to prevent the atrocities that occurred in Cambodia after our departure, and to this day, Vietnam Veterans are still reviled by many in our own country. What was our noble cause? Trying to compare the outcome of the Vietnam War to any other recent American war is pointless. There simply is no comparison. The Veterans of

World War II had achieved unconditional victory; the Korean War Veterans, while ignored during and after the war, were able at least to fight their way to a draw.

In December of 1961, three thousand United States military advisors and support personnel arrived in Vietnam and started the American commitment to Vietnam. In the early-morning hours of April 30, 1975, the last Marine guards boarded a helicopter on top of the United States Embassy in Saigon and flew to their waiting ship, thus ending the American commitment and the support pledged to the Vietnamese people. Over three million men and women served in our armed forces in Vietnam; 58,000 of our service personnel were killed, over one thousand were reported Missing in Action, and 150,000 were seriously wounded. Nearly a million North Vietnamese and Vietcong soldiers and nearly 250,000 South Vietnamese soldiers died in that war. This does not count the thousands of civilians that were killed by the North Vietnamese, South Vietnamese, the Americans, and our allies that fought with us.

The American Soldiers and the Vietnamese people we had pledged to defend were abandoned, cast aside by a political and media process that judged the American commitment not worthy of continued effort. I sat in my family room in Alexandria, Virginia, on April 30, 1975, watching this nationally televised "final scene" play out with tears streaming down my face. I listened as Walter Cronkite and Harry Reasoner (network news anchors with high ratings at that time) explained "why we should never have gotten involved" and "this was the best solution," and praised the efforts of all those reporters that had gone to Vietnam, etc. While I knew this end was the one that had been scripted in the White House and the Pentagon, I felt betrayed and unfulfilled.

Bert titled his last chapter "Coming to Grips with It" and I hope the advice he provided will serve the Afghanistan generation as much as it served us Vietnam Veterans. Here's what he told us:

In 1990, my wife and I were living in Butzbach, Germany. On 13 November, I decided I would call as many people from Bravo Troop as I could locate to remind everyone how fortunate we were to have survived this day in 1967 and still be alive. I called Larry Brown first and got several phone numbers from him and started down the list. I called George Burrow [Saber 6 on 13 Nov 67] next. His wife Ruth answered the phone, and after we chatted, she gave me his office phone number. When I identified myself and told him I was calling from Germany (he worked in San Antonio, Texas), George asked me why I was calling. I replied, "It's the thirteenth of November, a day to remember." There was a pause, and he said, "What the hell does that mean? I responded, "Don't you remember this day in 1967 when we all got shot down, and you spent the night on the ground in a rice paddy?" "Bert," he said, "you son of a bitch! You're calling me from Germany to remind me of the worst day and night in my life?" I started laughing; and before I knew it, the intervening years vanished, and it was as if we were sitting in the operations tent again, and that old familiar banter started. It was a very warm and wonderful feeling to talk with him again. I spent several more hours on the phone that day, calling about fifteen other members of the Troop, and have tried to do the same thing every year since then. It was a wonderfully warm and satisfying feeling to touch one another's life once again even if it is only for a few minutes. . . .

After John Flanagan and I ran into each other at Leavenworth, we kept in touch, and John tried to get me to join the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA). I resisted his efforts because I had this vision of a bunch of disgruntled Vets walking around in field jackets, talking about how Vietnam had screwed them up. John kept after me; and soon I had Larry Brown, Bob Zahn, Lou Rochat, and others encouraging me to join and attend one of the conventions that are always held over the Fourth of July weekend.

We were still in Germany in 1994 when they finally convinced Eileen and me to come back and attend the VHPA convention being held that year in Philadelphia. As we boarded the plane in Frankfurt, I was carrying my Cav Hat in my hand.

When we arrived at the hotel, the lobby was packed with pilots, their wives, and some older children. The bar was going full blast, and people were gathered in groups, either sitting down or standing. Occasionally you would hear a whoop as someone recognized a person they hadn't seen since Vietnam. I uttered a few of them myself during the reunion as Jim Pratt, Bob Zahn, Steve Ellis, Tom Maehrelein, Bob Lackey, Barry McAlpine, Mike Covey, John Flanagan, Lou Rochat, Al DeMalo, Joe Armeline, and even Charlie Rayl, my old flight-school buddy, reappeared from the past. Joyous pandemonium is the best way to describe the feeling that surrounded us. . . .

We plunged into the crowd and soon found the Bravo and Echo Troop comrades gathered around a coffee table near the bar. As we talked, the years melted away, and we once again were reliving all those harrowing and hazardous missions. It was as if we had just returned from some of those missions. It was a wonderful feeling, being with these faithful, brave, and aging warriors. We laughed, cried a little bit, drank a lot of beer and bourbon, and went out for dinner. I was overwhelmed.

Sitting in a nearby restaurant, we laughed, ate the meal, told more stories, and drank a lot more. As I gazed around our group, I had this overwhelming feeling of fulfillment wash over me. This was the first time since Vietnam that I had felt so close to these men and those memories. And why wouldn't I? These were the guys that had put it on the line every day in Vietnam. They were the ones who would have given their life for me, or I would have given my life for them. There was no pretense, there couldn't be. We relied on one another in the absolute toughest of times and had never been disappointed. . . .

Anyone passing by our tables would have thought, "Here's a bunch of people who work together and are out for a night on the town," never realizing that the men sitting there were true warriors, that every one of them was an honest-to-God hero, and that everyone there had killed a substantial number of the enemy in Vietnam and had a substantial number of the enemy try to kill them. Here was a group of survivors with a shared background, and that background had forged a link between us that was stronger than any family tie. In that group was a wine broker, an airline pilot, a general contractor, a chiropractor, an accountant, two simulation managers, a helicopter-company manager, a photographer, and two guys that loved to sail. We were as far from the television depiction of a Vietnam Veteran as you could get.

Waking up the next morning, it was the Fourth of July. That evening, as is the custom at every VHPA reunion, we donned coat and tie for the banquet. We had arranged to have Bravo and Echo Troops seated at adjacent tables, and we were

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A fond farewell to the late Joseph Lee Galloway, Jr.

November 13, 1941 - August 18, 2021

In Loving Memory of a Dear Friend

Joseph L. Galloway, Jr., loving husband, father, and grandfather, passed away in Concord, NC on August 18, 2021.

Joe was born November 13, 1941, to the late Joseph L. Galloway and Marian Dewvall Galloway. He was also preceded in death by his brother Michael.

He grew up in south Texas before pursuing a journalism career. At the age of 17, Joe and his mother were on their way to the enlistment center, when driving past the Victoria Advocate, she said, "But Joe, what about your writing?" "Good call Mom" Joe said... and that is where it all began.

As written on the NY Times website, Joe Galloway, a war correspondent whose wrenching account of the first major battle of the Vietnam War was the basis for the book, *"We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young,"* which became a best seller and the basis of a hit movie, died at the age of 79. His wife, Dr. Grace Liem, said the cause was complications of a heart attack.

Mr. Galloway started in journalism at 17 and worked for 22 years as a war correspondent and bureau chief for United Press International. He was the only civilian awarded a medal of valor by the Army for combat action in the Vietnam War.

He later wrote for U.S. News & World Report and for the Knight-Ridder newspaper chain. He played a vital role in the skeptical reporting by the chain's Washington bureau about the George W. Bush administration's claims that Iraq had stockpiled weapons of mass destruction, claims the administration used to justify the American invasion of Iraq in 2003.

"He hates war, and he loves Soldiers," Lewis Lord, a former colleague at U.S. News, told the Military Writers and Editors Association when it honored Mr. Galloway in 2006 on his return to his home in Texas from his reporting base in Washington.

In the foreword to *"We Are Soldiers Still,"* a sequel to *"We Were Soldiers,"* General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who led allied forces during the 1991 Persian Gulf war, called Mr. Galloway "the finest combat correspondent of our generation — a Soldier's reporter and a Soldier's friend."

Mr. Galloway, who carried a weapon while covering the Vietnam War as a U.P.I. correspondent, was embedded with American Troops during the four-day battle of Ia Drang, in the jungle of the Central Highlands, which began a day after his 24th birthday in 1965. He was awarded a Bronze Star Medal with the "V" device, denoting heroism, for rescuing wounded Soldiers under fire during the engagement.

Both sides claimed victory, with the United States convinced it could win a war of attrition and North Vietnam confident it could withstand whatever technological advantage the Americans wielded over Vietnamese guerrillas.

The U.S. Troops were commanded by Harold G. Moore, then a lieutenant colonel and later a lieutenant general, with whom Mr. Galloway would collaborate on *"We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young."* The book was published in 1992 and adapted 10 years later into the Randall Wallace film *"We Were Soldiers,"* starring Mel Gibson, in which Barry Pepper played Mr. Galloway.

Nicholas Proffitt wrote in The New York Times Book Review that *"We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young"* was "a car crash of a book; you are horrified by what you're seeing, but you can't take your eyes off it."

Mr. Galloway and LTG Moore published *"We Are Soldiers Still: A Journey Back to the Battlefields of Vietnam"* in 2008. Articles by Mr. Galloway reconstructing the battle, which became the basis of the first book, won a National Magazine Award for U.S. News & World Report in 1991.

As a result of Mr. Galloway's critical coverage of the run-up to the Iraq war, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld summoned him to a meeting with high-ranking officers and accused him of relying on sources who were retired and out of the loop. As John Walcott, a colleague of his at U.S. News, Knight Ridder and McClatchy (which bought Knight Ridder), recalled, Mr. Galloway startled the group by declaring that some of his sources "might even be in this room." He later admitted that he only said that to rattle the assembled military brass, and that "it was fun watching 'em sweat."



Mr. Galloway was an author, along with other U.S. News staff members, of *"Triumph Without Victory: The Unreported History of the Persian Gulf War"* (1992). His coverage of the later Persian Gulf conflict was portrayed in Rob Reiner's film *"Shock and Awe"* (2017), in which Tommy Lee Jones played Mr. Galloway.

Joseph Lee Galloway Jr. was born on Nov. 13, 1941, in Refugio, Texas, to Joseph Galloway Sr. and Marian (Dewvall) Galloway. His father worked for Humble Oil. Less than a month after he was born, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Four of his mother's brothers went to war; so, did his father and five of his brothers.

"I did not meet my father until the end of 1945, when he came home from the service," Mr. Galloway said in an interview seen on C-SPAN. "My earliest memories," he added,

"are of living in houses full of frightened women looking out the window for the telegraph boy." He was so affected by the war, he said, that he decided to become a war correspondent.

He was hired by The Advocate in Victoria, Texas, when he was 17, joined U.P.I. at 19 and was bureau chief or regional manager in Tokyo, Jakarta, New Delhi, Singapore, Moscow, Los Angeles, and Vietnam, where he served four stints.

Mr. Galloway acknowledged that when he arrived in Vietnam, most of what he knew about war he had learned from John Wayne movies, but he understood the need for accuracy in a combat zone. "You really don't want to screw up a story about men who are armed and dangerous and who you will likely see again," he said in an interview with historynet.com.

He was also torn about reporting his doubts about American prospects for an honorable exit strategy. "I thought, 'This war we can't win, but I'm not going to say that, because I don't want to hurt my friends, the Soldiers who are fighting this war.'" he recalled. "You know the one thing about Soldiers is that if they are in combat and they are losing their friends and buddies, you can't tell them that they died for nothing. You can't say that; you wound them, you hurt them, you damage them. And that I could not do."

Still, he said, he wished he could have "written a story so powerful about that battle" that it would have driven President Lyndon B. Johnson to withdraw.

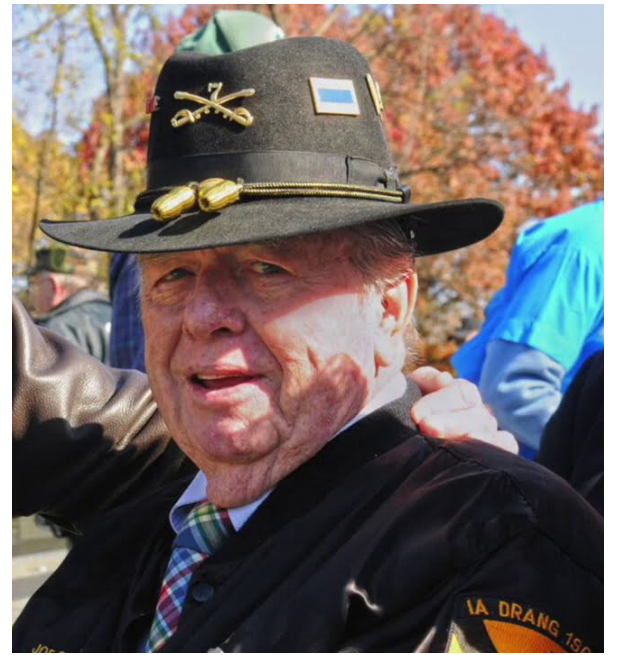
Mr. Lord, his former colleague, described Mr. Galloway as "a most unlikely antiwar activist — a big, blunt Texan, proud to bear arms, as politically incorrect as he could be, full of unprintable epithets and anecdotes." But, he added, Mr. Galloway "had a heart as big as his home state, a superb intellect that shone mischievously through smiling Irish eyes, and an openness that made it possible for him to conclude that it was an unpardonable sin to send young Americans to fight meaningless wars."

Mr. Galloway's view of war came through when he responded to criticism from the Pentagon after he profiled a retired Marine general who had critiqued Mr. Rumsfeld's conduct of the Iraq war. In an email exchange, Mr. Rumsfeld's spokesman maintained, "We're all hard at it, trying to do what's best for the country." So was he, Mr. Galloway replied, during four decades of covering America's valiant warriors.

"Someone once asked me if I had learned anything from going to war so many times," Mr. Galloway told the Pentagon spokesman. "My reply, 'Yes, I learned how to cry.'"

A memorial service was held on September 18, 2021. Joe is survived by wife Grace Liem Galloway; sons, Lee Galloway and wife Monica of Corpus Christi, TX, and Josh Galloway of Houston, TX; stepdaughter, Li Mei Gilfillan and husband Carl of Harrisburg, NC; grandchildren, Joaquin, Julian, and Jemma Galloway, and Connor and Jae Li Gilfillan.

Joe Galloway was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division Association Advisory Council. Memorials may be made to the 1st CAV Division Association / Ia Drang Scholarships. 302 North Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1799.



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

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

- A host bar will be open at 1800 and dinner will begin at 1900 hours.
- For dinner reservations please send \$65 per ticket to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.
- Full payment must be received no later than **29 October 2021**.
- We can accept all credit cards – ensure that your card number and expiration dates are written correctly and legibly.
- Provide your name, address, unit you served with and the name(s) of your guests with your payment.

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

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



1CD Honor Guard
photos from
Veterans Day
2018

12th ANNUAL VETERANS DAY DINNER
\$65 per TICKET

Thursday, 11 November 2021

NAME: _____ UNIT: _____

GUEST NAMES: _____

ADDRESS _____

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

NAME ON CARD: _____

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP DATE: _____ CVV # on back: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY & LEGIBLY

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

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

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

SHIPPING IS FREE



Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association 2019/2020 School Year Scholarship Recipients

Grandchildren of Veterans of the
IA DRANG CAMPAIGN 3-19 November 1965

Timothy James Blankenship
grandson of E-4 Clyde Densol Blankenship, A Co 1-5 Cav, Marshall University

Tyler Louise Brown
granddaughter of SP4 Hardy Devon Brown, C Co 1-7 Cav, Francis Marion University

Anna Lynn Campbell
granddaughter of Donald Dean Campbell, C Co 1-7 Cav, Jacksonville State University

Kyle Anthony Campbell
grandson of Donald Dean Campbell, A Co 1-7 Cav, Jacksonville State University

Ashley Marie Candelas
granddaughter of Harold Raul Matos-Diaz, C 1-7 Cav, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Jace Arron Essig
grandson of Don Houston St. John, HHC 2-5 Cav, Emporia State University



Caitlin Elizabeth Evans
granddaughter of 1LT Jesse L. Allee, HHC 2-7 Cav, West Chester University

Caroline Grace Evans
granddaughter of 1LT Jesse L. Allee, HHC 2-7 Cav, West Chester University



Neil Edward Fajen
grandson of 1LT Richard Lawrence Fajen, D Co 2-5 Cav, Des Moines Area Community College

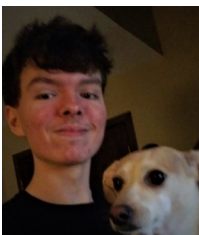
William Richard Fajen
grandson of 1LT Richard Lawrence Fajen, D Co 2-5 Cav, Des Moines Area Community College

Daniel Austin Fisher
grandson of 1LT Ralph Eugene Fisher, C Co 1-21FA, CSU Channel Islands, Sage Hall



Abigail Skyler Forsythe
granddaughter of SP-4 Robert Lee Towles, D Co 2-7 Cav, Kent State University Trambull

Joshua Tyler Forsythe
grandson of SP-4 Robert Lee Towles, D Co 2-7 Cav, Lake Erie College



Zachary Kyler Forsythe
grandson of SP-4 Robert Lee Towles, D Co 2-7 Cav, Kent State University Trambull

Katelyn Marjorie Harlow
granddaughter of COL (RET) Charles Edward Robinson, B Co 229 AVN, Virginia Commonwealth University

Avery Rushworth Hill
granddaughter of COL (RET) Blaine Thompson Fleming, A Co 229AVN, Keuka College

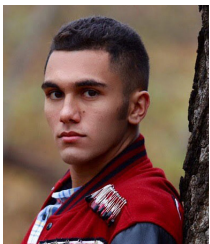


Ethan Rushworth Hill
grandson of COL (RET) Blaine Thompson Fleming, A Co 229AVN, Quinnipiac University

Amelia Marie Howard
granddaughter of John Robert Howard, 2-7 Cav, DeSales University



Joshua Ryan Lehmann
grandson of William Francis McGraw, Jr., B Co 2-8 Cav, Endicott College



Anthony Christopher Martin II
grandson of PFC Roger Michael Martin, B Co 1-5 Cav, University of Wisconsin-Parkside

Mary Claire Moore
granddaughter of LTG (RET) Harold Gregory Moore, Jr. HHC 1-7 Cav CDR, University of South Alabama

Sarah Josefa Moore
granddaughter of LTG (RET) Harold G. Moore, Jr. HHC 1-7 Cav CDR, University of South Alabama

Alexis Montana Nadal
granddaughter of Ramon Antonio Nadal II, 1-7 Cav, HHC 2-7 Cav, Hastings College

Andrea Marie Podobnik
granddaughter of Thomas Robert Podobnik, A Co 1-8 Cav, University of Mount Union

Stephen Callahan Rainey
grandson of MG Harold G. Moore, Jr., HHC 1-7 Cav CDR, Front Range Community College

Justin Andrew Sagerhorn
grandson of SGT James Raymond Sagerhorn, C Co 2-7 Cav, University of Minnesota at Morris

Justin Edward Soltis
grandson of PFC Edward Francis Soltis, A & B Co 1-5 Cav, Southern Illinois University Carbondale



Dylan Patrick Stamper
grandson of Donald Edward Stamper, C Co 1-5 Cav, University of Delaware

Allison Lee Whidden
granddaughter of Jack David Whidden, C Co 229AVN, University of North Georgia-Gainesville Campus



Kira Rain Wilder
granddaughter of William Bruce Wilder, A Co 2-20FA ARA, Bowling Green State University

Caroline Elizabeth Wilson
granddaughter of SP-4 Dennis Lane Wilson, A Co 2-7 Cav, Providence College

Emily Harper Wilson
granddaughter of SP-4 Dennis Lane Wilson, A Co 2-7 Cav, New York University

100% DISABLED Scholarship Recipients



Mattie Elizabeth Alexander
daughter of AJ Clinton Douglas Alexander, HHC 1BDE, Troy University

Isaiah Joseph Crockett
son of Thomas Charles Crockett, A 3-8 Cav 2005, Central Texas College



Marion-Joan Marie Douglas
daughter of SP-5 Robert Hartley, 1-7 Cav 1967, Mount Allison University

Clarissa Analise Fernandez
daughter of 1SG (RET) Fernando Fernandez HHC 4BCT 2012, 1CDH, 1ACB 2001-2010, Temple College

Brianna Danyelle Fernandez
daughter of 1SG (RET) Fernando Fernandez, HHC 4BCT 2012, 1CDH, 1ACB 2001-2010, Texas A&M University

Michael Raymond Goudeau
son of LTC (RET) Michael Jay Goudeau, HHC 2-227AVN 2002, Texas Southern University



Mya Elizabeth Goudeau
daughter of LTC (RET) Michael Jay Goudeau, HHC 2-227AVN 2002, University of Texas at San Antonio

Jacob Timothy Joseph Hurley
son of Coy Edward Hurley, B Co 615th ASB, Marine Military Academy

David Oliver Murrell
son of SFC (RET) Dion Robert Murrell 1-3BCT, Savannah State University

Nathan James Parker
son of SP-5 Claude Oscar Parker, 8 ENG, Florida Institute of Technology

Jonah David Parker
son of SP-5 Claude Oscar Parker, 8 ENG, Florida Gulf Coast University

Devan Keali'I Patten
son of E-4 Marvin Alvin Patten, Jr., 13 Sig, 227AVN, Kent State University

Isaiah Wayne Rhodes
son of 1SG Daryl Wayne Rhodes, D Co 2-8 Cav, Central Texas College

Tyler Wayne Teeter
son of SSG Shane Ryan Teeter, A 3-8 Cav 2000, Tarleton State University

Shelby Leann Teich
daughter of SSG Bernard Scott Teich, 91st ENG, San Antonio College

Hunter Lee Thomas
son of CPT Jason Michael Thomas, HHC 2-5Cav 2005, Bethel University



Jacob Dylan Wilgeroth
son of 1SG (RET) Joseph D. Wilgeroth, 1ACB 2005-2012, Central Texas College

Jarrett Dalyn Wilgeroth
son of 1SG (RET) Joseph D. Wilgeroth, 1ACB 2005-2012, Central Texas College

I am very grateful for the grant provided to me by the Foundation on the 1st Cavalry Division Association. My future in schooling as far as college and beyond is still very clouded to me. One thing I know, however, is this grant isn't just money; it is a huge steppingstone form me and my scholastic future. This grant has given me a place to begin my search for knowledge and renewed faith in finding what to pursue in life and to be successful.

This grant not only helps me with my academic needs, but also by helping me be more independent and self-efficient. There is not always going to be someone there to assist me, so having this grant is a tool for success. By receiving the grant, I have presented with, I can now accomplish more than I have ever imagined. I am very grateful to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association for supplying me with this grant.

Jacob Hurley

This scholarship means so much to me. Coming from a military family I've been blessed to have the G.I. Bill to help pay off part of my college tuition, but this will help so much in beginning to pay off the rest. I'm so thankful that there are people out there that have donated to me in order to further my education.

Joshua Lehmann

The 1st Cavalry Division Association scholarship program has helped me get started with college. I was unsure if I wanted to go to college due to how expensive it can become. With their assistance, it gave me the boost I needed to get started on the right path. I appreciate everything they have done for me and other recipients. Thank you to the Association and the countless Soldiers that have served our country.

Jarrett Wilgeroth

KIA
Scholarship Recipients

Allyssa Marie Bourdon
daughter of Elvis Bourdon, KIA C 1-9 Cav 09/06/2004, Texas State University

Ty Jackson Rosenbaum
son of SGT Thomas Chad Rosenbaum, KIA 2004, Arkansas Tech University

ACTIVE DUTY
Scholarship Recipient



1SG Joshua C. Johnson
HHC 2-12 Cav, Fort Hays State University

I am studying Agribusiness at Fort

Hays State University in Hays Kansas. This grant is going to ensure that I stay on track of taking 18 credits a year, by covering the gaps of Army TA.

Josh Johnson
HHC 2-12 CAV

Thank you for this scholarship as it will help fund my future and my education. My papa served in the Vietnam War and was a helicopter pilot. I've heard stories of his bravery and sacrifices many times. In movies I've seen what everything looked like, and it gave me more perspective on what they experienced. Being able to receive this grant in his honor is truly incredible and I am grateful to be able to continue growing as a person because of it.

Ethan Hill

FOUNDATION OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION OVERVIEW

The Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association was established for the purpose of providing financial assistance in the form of scholarship grants towards the pursuit of an advanced education. These grants are reserved for children of those Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division who died or were totally and permanently disabled from wounds received or disease contracted while serving with the 1st Cavalry Division in any armed conflict. Additionally, children of members of the Association who die while serving with the 1st Cavalry Division in peacetime and active-duty Soldiers currently assigned or attached to the 1st Cavalry Division and their spouses are eligible to receive scholarship grants.

The Foundation also administers a separate program for descendants of Soldiers who served in designated qualifying units that were involved in the battles of the Ia Drang Valley during the period 3 through 19 November 1965.

The Foundation is a tax-exempt charitable organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all donations are tax-deductible.

BACKGROUND

The scholarship program was initiated by the Association in 1967 during the Vietnam War in response to requests from the Sergeants Major of the Division who committed their support to perpetuation of the program.

A trust agreement was signed on 16 August 1968 establishing the Foundation. Since that time, no child of a Trooper that has been killed or disabled has been turned away for lack of funds. Between the generous donations of Association Members and scholarship drives within the Division, the Cavalry has taken care of its own. In the 1970s, in response to a perceived downtrend in applications from the aging children of the Division’s Troopers that were killed in action from the Vietnam War, eligibility was expanded to children of Association Members killed or disabled while on active duty with the Division. This extension produced an unexpected response from Vietnam Veterans who were still producing children. In 1988, again at the behest of the Division Sergeants Major, the program was expanded further to include Active-Duty Soldiers and their spouses while assigned or attached to the Division. The Foundation assumed responsibility for the Ia Drang program in early 1994 and awarded the first grant from this program in 1997.

Since its inception, the Foundation has provided:

- Over \$964,100 to 539 children of Troopers that were killed in action or totally and permanently disabled.
- Over \$368,400 to 431 active-duty Troopers and their Family members.
- Over \$930,267 to 337 descendants of the Ia Drang battles.

Scholarships that began at \$200 per year currently provide \$1,200 per year with a maximum of \$4,800 for four years of schooling per student.

Funding for the program, less the Ia Drang element, derives primarily from the Foundation’s primary investment portfolio and random donations from the membership and those interested in providing support for education. The Association annually provides \$12,000 to satisfy projected shortfalls up to a predetermined maximum. All eligible candidates for grants who are children of deceased or 100% disabled members of the Division are funded. Active-Duty Soldiers and their spouses compete for grants and selections are made annually after the mid-year Trustee Meeting.

Funding for the Ia Drang program comes from donations specifically earmarked for this category of grant. Ia Drang funds are separately invested in a fenced program to build up investment monies which will sustain additional grants from its proceeds.

LEADERSHIP OF THE FOUNDATION

Six trustees elected by the Membership of the Association manage the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. The trustees provide oversight and direction for the Foundation by meeting twice yearly to review operations and the fiscal ability of the investments to fuel the scholarship programs. While the day-to-day operations of the Foundation are run by the Foundation Secretary and the Association office staff, the trustees set clearly defined standards of eligibility and ensure that money is available to provide grants to those who meet the criteria. The Executive Director of the Association who is a non-voting member and performs the Foundation Secretary duties.

The Trust Agreement, signed in 1968, requires that six Association members each be elected for three-year terms with one of the trustees being elected as the Executive Trustee. Each year the membership of the Association elects two trustees at the General Membership meeting of the Association conducted during the annual reunion. This provides the Foundation with continuity by ensuring a minimum of four trustees will continue service to assist the two newly elected members. The Executive Trustee of the Foundation submits a report to the Board of Governors at each of their meetings and a report to the Association at the General Membership meeting.

Current trustees and the year their current term expires are: Executive Trustee Peter Tattersall (2022), Trustees Rosemary M. Carter (2022), Starr Corbin (2022), Ronnie L. Killingsworth (2021), David A. Lutgen (2021), and Terry Maddox (2022).

APPLICATIONS

For more information or an application to register for benefits send a request to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703, or e-mail us at <firstcav@1CDA.org>. You may also print the on-line Registration Form, fill it out completely, and mail it with all required supporting documentation to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

The application forms for Association Members who are active-duty Troopers currently serving with the First Team and their Families is no longer open. You can get the information about this program on our web page at <www.1CDA.org/foundation--scholarships-.html>. Printed forms are available at the National Headquarters in Copperas Cove and at the Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Shop in the 1st Cavalry Division Museum at Fort Hood, Texas beginning on 1 April 2021.

DONATIONS

Please mail your tax-deductible donations to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703. Donations in the amount of \$25 or more will be acknowledged in the *Saber*. Donations of \$100 or more will receive a tax certificate as required by the IRS. Donations intended for the Ia Drang Fund should be made out to the Ia Drang Scholarship Fund.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

The Association conducts a golf tournament in conjunction with the annual reunion held in Texas and the proceeds from this event are donated to the Foundation. Additionally, the Association has an ongoing Brick and Paver program where all the proceeds will go to the Scholarship Fund. Brick and Pavers will eventually be installed around the 1st Cavalry Division Memorial on Cooper Field.

BUY THE COFFEE THAT BENEFITS 1CDA STUDENTS



CROSSED SABERS PATRIOT KNIFE COFFEE

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

They offer a medium dark roast that is richly aromatic, earthy, and distinctly lush. Veteran owned coffee with that cutting-edge flavor in every cup. To order, call them or refer to their website! 832-742-9724 or <www.patriotknifecoffee.com>

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SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

1CDA supports four scholarships for qualified applicants:

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

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

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

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

SUPPORT THE FUTURE, DONATE TODAY!
NOT available online

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

Active Duty	Foundation	Ia Drang
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Credit Card # _____		
Exp Date: _____ CVV on back: _____ Total Amt: _____		
Name on Card: _____		
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Phone # _____		

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

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

CHAPTER NEWS UPDATES

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

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

CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER

By the time this issue is printed the Reunion celebrating the 1st Cavalry Division's 100th Birthday will be completed. We are hoping that everyone had a great time during this special reunion. We now begin to get ready to go to Dayton in 2022.

We will have a **Stable Call** on the fourth Thursday of October at **1800 hours (October 28)**. The location will be in one of the local VFW halls which will be announced on email and on the Facebook page.

The Chapter is planning to support the Wreath preparation on November 20th and wreath placement on 27 November at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery. The entire Central Texas family really supports these events, and we hope that many of the Chapter members will be there showing their CAV Pride to make the Cemetery look great for the holidays. First Team! Chapter President, Dennis Webster.



Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery with wreaths

FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST CHAPTER

In August, Florida's First Coast Chapter again appeared in full uniform at the Vet 4 Vet Symposium at the Jacksonville Arena.

We extend our fellowship to all those other Vets who also appear representing units, branches of service, and Veteran related institutions. It's called networking.

Regular meeting information is displayed in our unit summary on the following page. For those in the North Florida area, we usually meet at places where steaks are served. The Symposium was no exception.

And a special howdy to our Occupation of Japan member, Leigh, who is still getting out and about. Thanks for the inspiration. Our handy man Johnnie built the flag display. Pretty snazzy we'd say.



NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

On **Oct 16, 2021, at 11am** the New York-New Jersey Chapter will hold our fall meeting at the **Elks Lodge** in Ridgefield Park, N.J. I will be happy to welcome all returning chapter members and friends to our event. I can assure all who attend we will follow all medical and safety procedures to have a safe meeting. Please arrive early. We may need extra help to set up.

Please follow us on our Facebook page, **New York New Jersey Cavalry**, for any meeting or chapter updates.



Chapter members lunched together at the New Jersey shore.
L-to-R Phillip Marcucci, Ken McAteer, Bob Arbasetti, and Dennis Horan

TO ALL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS & POC'S,

Gentle reminder, it is important that we receive your **COMPLETED TAX PACKETS** in the office at 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522,

NLT MONDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2021. These packets were mailed to you in June. If you need another let me know ASAP! Thank you for your cooperation!

Karleen Maloney

Trooper's Tale



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

My Story of 1st Cav in Vietnam by Mason Holmes, HHC 15 ADM PIO

I was a June 1969 college graduate who got drafted in Sep 1969. After spending basic training at Ft Dix, I was given MOS 73D20 (Finance & Accounting) and spent 6 months at the Ft Dix Post Finance Office. Upon arriving in Vietnam in early June 70, my orders were to report to the Public Information Office (PIO). Not having any experience in reporting or photography, I was a bit confused. After asking a SGT at the First Team Academy (FTA) about this, he came back and said the orders were correct.

While at FTA, we were oriented of various aspects of being in Vietnam. During one class, which was adjacent to the Bien Hoa Airbase landing strip, everybody was transfixed by a sight on the runway. It was the only time I'd seen a U-2 spy plane landing there.

When I arrived in Phuoc Vinh, then the HQ base camp of the Cav, I went to the PIO and was directed by MAJ Melvin Jones to the First Team Scholarship Gift Shop, right near the PX, and EM (Enlisted Men) Club. I was assigned as the shop's accountant, and soon took over from SGT John Letourneau. The Gift Shop sold pocketknives, Zippo-type lighters, photo albums, etc. with the Cav logo on them, to Troops both on the base and in the field. It was owned by the 1st Cavalry Division Association and run by Cav Troopers. It was designed as a morale booster to the Troops, along with its main function of raising scholarship

funds for the sons & daughters of Cav members KIA.

1LT Allan Epstein was in charge, and several enlisted men, some of whom previously served in the infantry, operated as salesmen. They included PFC Lynn White, and SP4 Bill Netzel. They went out to firebases with a trunkful of merchandise to sell. One of the main things we did was to sell the "1st (Air) Cavalry in Vietnam—1965-1969" yearbook. At first, our guys lugged a box of 10 books (about 52 lbs.) into the field. Then, we got smart, and sent them out with one copy and a receipt book, on which the Troops could write their home address.

We had a warehouse in Bien Hoa, and some books in Phuoc Vinh, and mailed them back to the states. That way, we were able to ship about 7,000+ yearbooks in my time in RVN. The Bien Hoa location was headed by CPL Greg Cormany, assisted by another Trooper.

One of my duties was to bring bank deposits to Bien Hoa. I just never thought about the \$10,000+ in Military Payment Certificates (MPC) that were in my fatigues. Over the course of 10 months, we got up to about \$6,000-\$7,000 in sales per month during my tour.

The Troopers who worked in the shop were from varying backgrounds. Some had been to college, and were older, while a few were younger. One was a 23-year-old CPA from IL, and one from Arkansas had married at 16 and had 3 kids by the time he was 21. I also met men from Wisconsin, Minnesota, California, Oregon, New York, New Jersey, etc. When off-duty, we hung out at the EM Club, and shared stories of our life with other Troopers. During my tour, there was a shop break in, so we took turns sleeping there to deter others. I was rudely awakened at 5:30 a couple of times from incoming. In fact, one evening attack (March 12, 1971) mortars were walked in toward the EM Club, and one landed in a Conex container behind the shop. Luckily, it didn't ruin much of the merchandise, as by that time, most had been transferred to Bien Hoa, as most of the division was standing down.

That Friday, March 12 attack I remembered as about 50 of us were in the EM Club at the time. The Red Cross volunteer, Tina told us to stay in place, as

Continued to pg. 19

GOT CAVALRY HISTORICAL QUESTIONS

From the Director's Desk

Office of 1CDA

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UNITED STATES ARMY

SOLDIER FOR LIFE

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."

1CDA OFFICE UPDATES

1. In preparation for the Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Gift Shop moving to 1CDA Headquarters in October 2021, catalog sales are now being run out of 1CDA Headquarters office. The current Gift Shop (inside the 1CD Museum on post) will close on or about 1 October 2021 when the 1st Cavalry Division Museum closes its doors in preparation for a move into the Mounted Warrior Museum. The current plan is to re-open the Gift Shop in Copperas Cove, 1 November 2021, just in time for the holidays. However, catalog sales will continue without interruption.
2. If you need to send anything to the Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Gift Shop please mail to 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703 (the P.O. Box will no longer be used).

BOOK of INTEREST:

Vietnam in My Rearview Memoir of a 1st Cavalry Combat Soldier, 1966-67

by Dennis D. Blessing, Sr.

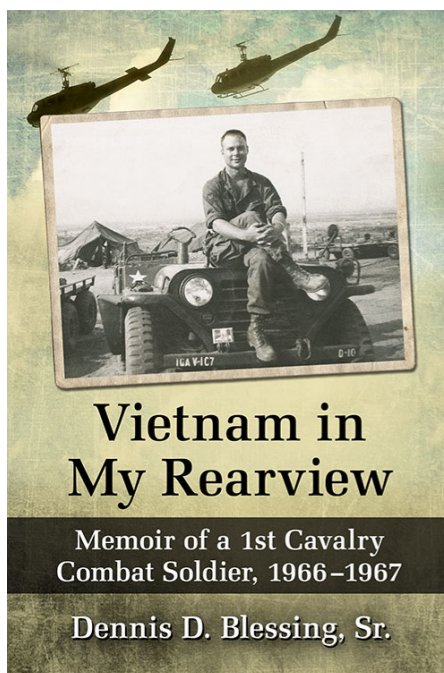
I served with B 1/7 Cav during Vietnam 1966-67 (we were the replacements for those lost in the big battles in the Ia Drang Valley).

In this heartfelt memoir, Dennis Blessing, Sr., shares his experiences as a grunt in the 1st Cavalry Division in 1966 and 1967. Blessing's story is drawn from his own remembrance and from the 212 letters that he wrote to his wife while deployed.

Among his many combat experiences was the battle of Bong Son in May 1966, in which his platoon was nearly wiped out, going from 36 to only 6 Troopers in just a few hours. Told with honesty and vulnerability, the book combines gripping combat with personal reflection, and the author hopes that his story will help other Veterans escape the shadow of the war.

The book can be bought at McFarland Publishing website, Amazon, and Google Books.

Feel free to contact Dennis Blessing <one7trooper@sti.net> or 209-966-4410



The next *Saber* newspaper is the September/October 2021 edition.

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

2022 CALENDAR STATUS

Exciting News!!

Your 2022 Calendar is at the printing company!

Consider Donating Today!

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT & GENEROSITY!

Do you have 1CD war stories you would like to share with other 1st Cav Veterans?
Send them to us and they will appear in the Trooper's Tale section in an upcoming *Saber*!

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

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

1st CAVALRY DIVISION UNIT BREAKDOWN

1st Armored Brigade Combat Team "*IRONHORSE*"

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

FACEBOOK: 1st ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team "*BLACKJACK*"

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

FACEBOOK: 2nd ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team "*GREYWOLF*"

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

FACEBOOK: 3rd BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

1st AIR CAVALRY BRIGADE "*AIRCAV*"

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

FACEBOOK: 1st AIR CAVALRY BRIGADE AIRCAV

1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade "*WAGONMASTERS*"

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

FACEBOOK: 1st CAVALRY DIVISION SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

1st Cavalry Division Artillery Brigade "*REDTEAM*"

FACEBOOK: 1st CAVALRY DIVISION ARTILLERY

Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion "*MAVERICK*"

FACEBOOK: 1st CAV HHBN

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

Update on Access to Military Installations for Service-Connected Disabled Veterans and Airborne-Related Conditions

Access to Installations

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

As part of this was allowing access to installations. I contacted the Fort Hood Visitors Center and they have made a change from 6 months to 6 years once you have verified certain information. What you need to register for access:

- Go to the installation Visitor Center.
- Present the following:
 - VA Card showing Service-Connected Disability under your picture.
 - Driver's license with the REAL ID (Outline of a Gold Star) in the top right corner.
 - For the vehicle you are driving at that time:
 - Registration.
 - Proof of Insurance.
- Your VA ID Card will be scanned into the system and will be used to allow access to any post.
- Access only last 6 months, so you have to keep up with it. NOTE: Fort Hood says for 3 years.
- Every installation has different rules for access; Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth will only allow the cardholder access to the installation. Every other place allowed anyone with the Veteran to have access with an ID card.

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

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

VA To Process Disability Claims for More Airborne-Related Conditions

The Department of Veterans Affairs began processing disability claims (2 August 2021) for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas, if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

The process concluded that particulate matter pollution is associated with chronic asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis for Veterans who served 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. VA's review also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to presume that these Veterans have been exposed to particulate matter.

Bottom Line - You have to have reported to VA you had issues with asthma, rhinitis, or sinusitis within 10 years of your discharge from the military and sought care for it. If you did not go to SWA then you will not qualify for this presumptive condition.

September 13, 1921



1st Cavalry Division
was activated
at Ft Bliss

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

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

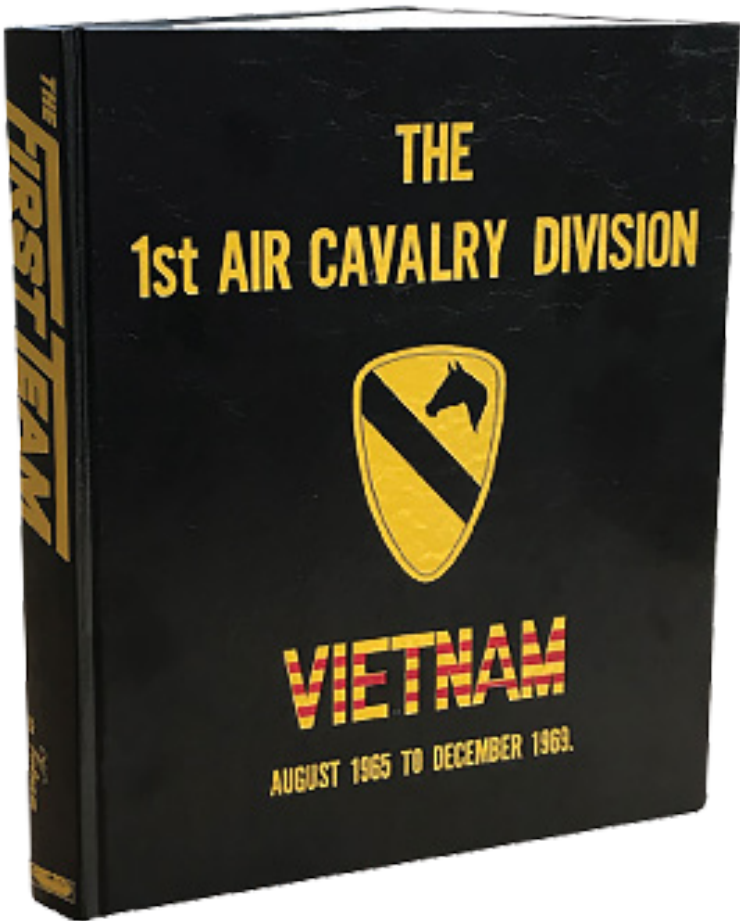
Yes! This is the same book Acclaim Press offered in the *Saber* last year (where you purchased directly from the publisher). If you missed that opportunity to pre-order, we were able to order a limited amount of copies to have available to our members. Please mail us your completed order form located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

ABOUT THE BOOK

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

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

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MEMOIRS OF THE FIRST TEAM IN
VIETNAM-SPECIAL REPRINT EDITION

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302 N. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

SHIPPING IS FREE

15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB

Mike Bodnar

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After correcting Art Jacobs' Vietnam first tour in country dates, as a MEDEVAC pilot, on the 15th MED Assn web-site-just to make sure, Art confirmed, "Yes, Dec 67 to Dec 68." Many more MEDEVAC

pilot call signs and dates with them have been updated.

I got inquisitive and asked Art about his call sign, MEDEVAC 21, because the only other MEDEVAC 21 who shows on that web page is Ray Zepp, whom I flew with a lot in 1970. Art said, "I do not know who had the call sign before or after me." Art also said, "The odd part was that '21' was my high school football, baseball, and basketball number. It's a strange world of coincidences!"

I asked Art who gave that call sign to him and he said the MEDEVAC Platoon Leader. Art said, "MAJ Goodman was the Medevac Platoon Leader. I believe it was him when I arrived." That got me more inquisitive because I saw on that web page a Goodman-with no first name nor rank- listed as MERCY 53. I thought MAJ Goodman may have been the first MEDEVAC 6-as "6" in units usually designated the CO, and some "MEDEVAC 6" call signs and individuals as MEDEVAC Platoon Leader were listed, but not him.

Because the Air Ambulance Platoon was just that size, Art added, "Yes, it was only a platoon, but because there were many Captain MSC officers flying, the slot was for a Major or senior Captain." Art also confirmed, "MAJ Goodman did use Medevac 6 - I remember hearing him on the radio!"

Until 1967, when Art Jacobs joined the Air Ambulance Platoon, all the pilots are listed with the call sign designation: "MERCY." So, I think that is when they transitioned over to the pilot call signs designated as "MEDEVAC." That is why there was no MEDEVAC 21 before Art Jacobs.

I asked Air Ambulance Platoon '66-'67 pilot Larry Hatch about that. Larry said he never transitioned from MERCY 11 during his time Nov 1966 to Nov 1967.

15th MED Assn webmaster Ron Huether updated the "MEDEVAC Pilots and Their Callsigns" page to reflect all the most recent information. 15th MED Assn and 1st Cav Historian Terry McCarl also volunteered to research a lot of blank spaces and dates, so, the list is much more accurate now. Thanks to them both because I, for one, like to refer to that page.

I had heard, or read, that U.S. Army pilots had a choice when they got to Nam if they wanted to put in for medical evacuation. I asked Ron Huether about that, and he said he wasn't given a choice, he was assigned that way. It resulted as something he did passionately.

I asked Art Jacobs if he had either of those experiences. He said, along with Jim Doran, he went through medical evacuation training before going to Vietnam. I asked if anything like that was proposed to him stateside, as a new pilot, and why he took that training course, or if he was just assigned that way.

Art said, "Toward the end of flight school in formation one day, they asked for volunteers to fly medical evacuation missions. There were eight of us from my class that volunteered. They sent us to Fort Sam Houston after flight school for the five-week course (called AMEDS - which I think stood for Aviation Medical School, but not sure). Out of the five of us, three were killed."

Art included a photo of himself, and Jim Doran taken at LZ Sharon after their compound was hit by a Russian 122mm rocket. He said, "Part of the rocket body in my hand, and Jim is holding the rocket motor housing. There are some other rocket fragments on top of the sandbags."



Thinking Art may have become an MSC Officer after flying MEDEVAC he surprised me when he said, "I was a Warrant Officer on my first tour. In between tours I was selected to be a pilot for the 10th Special Forces Group. The CO, a full bird, liked me and wanted to make me the Assistant S-3 Air, so he got me a direct commission to 1LT. I was promoted to Captain and went back to Vietnam and flew Cobras."

"Because my enlisted MOS was Field Artillery, that was my commissioned branch. I spent my first two years in the Army as an EM (served a year in Korea with an artillery battery on the DMZ and made E-5 before coming back home and applying for flight school)- 2 yrs. enlisted, - 1 yr. flight school- 2 yrs. warrant- 2 yrs. commissioned. I got out the end of 1971 and went back to college for a B.S. and an M.B.A."

I asked, "Whom did you fly Cobras for? And commented, you went from saving lives by bringing them in, to saving lives by firing support." Art replied, "I was a Platoon Leader (Gunrunner 16) with the 238th Aerial Weapons Company of the 1st Aviation Brigade. Our home base was Tuy Hoa, but we dispatched for missions all over II Corps from Ban Me Thuot, to Pleiku, to Kontum and Dak To."

"Two Purple Hearts first tour, one Purple Heart second tour. The irony was that it was safer to go looking for people to kill than to go out trying to save people. "In 1968 I flew during Tet. In 1971 our unit flew in Laos during Lam Son 719!"

I asked, "You say you flew '68 Tet. That was still MEDEVAC? I can see a break after '68 and a return in '71 if that's correct." Art answered, "Yes, '68 and '71 in Vietnam, and in between 10th Special Forces and Cobra School."

Art had emailed, "SP4 Jerry Dick was my door gunner on a hoist mission west of Camp Evans in the mountains on 24 July 1968 to rescue wounded Soldiers

from B Co 2-8 Cavalry. He was struck in the head by a bullet, and after over a year of hospitalization in critical condition he was able to be cared for at home by his family but spent the remainder of his life 100% disabled, confined to a wheelchair with TBI. Jerry lived in Riverton, Wyoming. His long battle from being wounded ended when he died on 8 April 2015.

"I visited Jerry in Wyoming several times over the years, it was always great to see his cheerful outlook on life despite his debilitating condition. I have been to see Jerry's family twice since his death, and the picture above was from the 4th of July weekend this year.

"You will notice the helicopter donated by a local



metal craftsman, and a bottle of Pepsi (Jerry's favorite drink) left by one of his nephews. It's strange how numbers can have odd coincidences; Jerry was supposed to DEROS on 15 September 1968 (my birthday), and he died on 8 April (my mother's birthday).

"We flew two more hoist missions to that location that day, and on that third one I was wounded, our engine failed from the intense ground fire, we crashed in the mountains, but were rescued by another 15th Med helicopter an hour later.

"By the way, two of my other crew members that fateful day were 1LT Stephen Beals and SP4 John Alling, both killed on 26 November 1968 along with my flight school classmate CWO James Doran.

"I have copied in two of the Soldiers from B Co who were on the ground underneath those three aircraft, Steve Bird (the company medic), and Pete Genecki (an M-60 gunner) who may care to comment on our ill-fated attempt to get the wounded out."

Peter Genecki <pcghelm1@verizon.net> wrote, "Art, Jerry Dick will always be in my prayers. I don't believe most people, including the Grunts on the ground, realize that Medevac crews are all volunteer, and that they have the option of returning to base if the conditions are too dangerous. I never saw that happen, and on July 24, 1968, Medevac 21 would have been completely justified in doing so. It was raining and extraction was in triple canopy jungle terrain. The NVA concentrated their fire on the extraction, and I could hear rounds hitting the aircraft. We had heard that one of the crew was seriously wounded. How Jerry survived is a miracle. His wonderful caring family cared for Jerry for decades until the Good Lord called him home. I did contact his relatives many years later to thank them on behalf of B 2-8.

"Medevac crews hold a special place in the hearts of we Grunts. Knowing that no matter how bad it gets on the ground, those guys would come if you were hit. It makes a big difference in the minds of the Infantry Soldier. Jerry Dick suffered a horrendous injury to help a bunch of guys he never met, or knew anything about, and that takes a very special kind of man.

"Medevac 21 came back two more times, despite the odds, and got one of our wounded back to safety. Hill 724 was a horrible place for us that day, but the efforts of those brave flight crews were a bright spot on a dark day. Take care, Pete"

Stephen "Doc" Bird <stevebird2@comcast.net>, the B 2-8 Cav medic wrote, "Mike: Art Jacobs has told me you are going to do an article on the late Jerry Dick for your column in the *Saber*. I was one of the three medics on the ground, serving as the medic for our Blackfoot Platoon, on that fateful day, throughout my life, I have never allowed the heroism of Jerry and the crew of Medevac 21, to be far from my conscious thoughts.

"At about 8:15 that morning, our company came under an intense ground attack by a regiment sized NVA force. They had skillfully used the intense jungle cover and heavy rain that was falling to maneuver right up to our perimeter. An intense firefight ensued, and we sustained several WIAs and KIAs in the first moments of the attack.

"Our Blackfoot machine gun position appeared to be the initial focus of the NVA attack. It quickly became apparent that the five Troopers in that position needed my help. "While attempting to maneuver to their position, I was caught in the open and wounded myself by an AK47 round to my left shoulder. Some of my fellow Soldiers came to my aid and got me to some cover.

"I was able to continue to function and do my job. One of the other two medics, Leonard Lewis, and I, began treating the numerous casualties. We knew that Medevac 21, with Jerry manning the right-side door gunner seat, was on the way.

"For a few moments, it appeared we had been able to repulse the initial attack. I had allowed Leonard to give me a shot of morphine, since I was confident, based on history, that the Medevac guys would soon have me on the way to a hospital."

This is where Art and Pete concurred to correct the next sequence of events described by Steve. After all, Doc Bird was wounded as well as busy taking care of casualties. Art said, "Steve: Jerry was wounded on the first mission, along with my co-pilot 1LT Stephen Beals. We never even got to a hover; the fire was so intense. With warning lights and damage to our transmission, we had to abort.

"Mission two was when we got the cable down to get that one guy out who was shot again just as he got to the skids. Again, severe damage, and warning lights, we aborted. "Mission three was even worse. I was shot, even more warning lights, and then a complete engine failure just after we departed. One helluva day, bad guys took out three of my helicopters."

Peter Genecki confirmed, "Guys, what I remember is that, as Art said, the first mission, all hell broke loose. I can't honestly say that I saw green tracers (51 cal.), we were busy trying to put out suppressive fire. "I do remember all three birds being hit because the sound of the rounds hitting the birds are distinct. We honestly didn't think the chopper would make it back.

"Second lift I saw our guy get hit, looked like hand. And, again, didn't think the ship would make it. "The third rescue attempt seemed to resemble the first. The gooks gave everything they had, and we did our best to respond, but they continued to improve their position just in case someone was crazy enough to come back.

"I was near a radio, so we knew the bird went down, and when the rescue made it to Medevac 21. I've always said that I had the hardest working guardian angel, but Art yours might be close. Take care brothers, Pete."

Art added, "Pete: Your recall of events is accurate, my friend, especially the bullets hitting our ship each time. I was so torn that day.

"I desperately wanted to lift more guys out, but finally with all the warning lights, you realize that a dead crew can rescue no one. I didn't want to leave but had to. It's a balancing act sometimes, rolling the dice and on mission three I lost the bet by lingering twenty seconds too long. It almost cost me everything. Strange, looking back, I wouldn't change a thing. Art."

Steve "Doc" Bird continued in his email to me: "As you probably know, Jerry was in a coma for months and had been eventually moved to a VA Hospital in his home State of Wyoming. His family never gave up on him, and he eventually regained consciousness and improved to the point where they could take him home. Jerry's injuries were severe, but he used what he had to make the most of what his physical limitations would allow.

"With the help of Art, I was able to keep in touch by email, with both Jerry

Continued to pg. 19



15th MED News

Continued from pg. 18

and his brother Wayne, who became Jerry’s primary care giver after the passing of their parents. When learning of Jerry’s passing several years ago, I decided that I would make all efforts I could to get Jerry’s name where it deserved to be, on the Vietnam Wall in D.C.

“I knew there was precedent for adding names when it was established that they subsequently died from wounds received in Vietnam. It was a slow slog over several years working within the bureaucracy to make any progress. I was finally contacted by a case officer, and she told me it was her job to prepare a case packet to go up the chain of command. She needed to get permission to access Jerry’s medical records. That permission could only come from Jerry’s family, so I put her in touch with Wayne.

“The family provided the permission and was fully supportive of my efforts to get Jerry’s name where it rightfully deserved to be. It seemed the case was finally moving on, but the original case worker was reassigned. Her replacement seemed to drop the ball. I couldn’t even get her to return my calls or emails when I requested updates. Out of frustration, I contacted the entire US Congressional delegation from WY. Jerry’s family was well known in Riverton, WY and my pleas to the politicians appeared to finally bear fruit. Eventually, I was contacted by a staffer from Rep. Cheney’s Office for additional information on what had happened to date.

“Wayne Dick then received a letter from the Department of the Army that they had rejected the request to have Jerry’s name placed on the Wall. Their claim was that the cause of death reported for Jerry, heart failure, could not be directly linked to his Vietnam injuries. I was incredulous to say the least! A Soldier gets shot in the head on a combat mission, is in a coma for many months, and spends the rest of his life severely physically impaired in a wheelchair, but they can’t see this as a factor in passing in his mid-sixties!

“My intent was to further appeal this finding, but Wayne thanked me for all my efforts and asked me to just let it go. It remains one of the biggest disappointments of my life that we were unable to get Jerry’s name on that wall of heroes in D.C. If I can provide any additional information for you, please don’t hesitate to ask.

“After serving a little over nine months as a Combat Medic with the 2-8th Cavalry, I had been wounded twice, and had just had a younger brother come in country with the Navy Seabees. I was determined that it was time to get me to a little safer place.

“Ironically, I got reassigned to B Co of the 15th Med in Quan Loi. I served my remaining three months there without incident. My time there gave me an even bigger appreciation for the routine heroism of guys like Jerry and all the Medevac crews. One of my biggest regrets is that I never did, as Art did several times, visit with Jerry on his home ground! I read and enjoy your *Saber* column. Thanks for giving me an opportunity to contribute to Jerry’s story! Steve (Doc) Bird.”

Just to be able to locate on my Vietnam maps all the locations mentioned, I asked Art from where he flew to the battle on 24 Aug 68. He said Charlie Med at Camp Evans. That’s when I started to realize what I had never thought about; the 1st Cav was spread out all over I Corps. So, I asked Art where everything else was.

Art answered, “Mike: Things changed sometimes, but at that time in 1968, A Med was at LZ Sharon just south of Quang Tri. B Med was at LZ Jane between Evans and Sharon. C Med and HQ Co were at Evans. Medevac was a platoon inside HQ Co. Two crews were assigned each Med Co and rotated periodically. The crews not with one of the companies flew back haul missions, ash, and trash, were on rest, and filled in when anyone with one of the Med companies was a casualty. When our engine quit from the enemy fire on mission three, it was a crew from HQ that came out to get us because I had used up all the ships at C Med and one from HQ.”

Because of the 1st Cav I Corps presence I asked Art if he ever flew to Khe Sanh, like when they launched Operation Pegasus. Art informed me, “When I was at Sharon, I flew a couple of missions to and around Khe Sanh. We also flew many missions for the Marines in the DMZ.

“On my second tour in 1971, I found myself back at Khe Sanh for the Laotian invasion (Lam Son 719). Deja vu. “One of my biggest regrets from Vietnam was not keeping a daily journal of the missions I flew, the number of wounded, and life on an LZ. What a treasure that would be today! Lots of flights were hairy, but the night missions in the mountains were very dangerous, even without enemy fire. Art”

That type of flying was proven later when 1st Cav MG Casey and his crew were killed in 1970. Proven not to be taken lightly.

Art told me to ask the 2-8 guys for their exact location on the map. Steve Bird referred me to <<http://www.eagerarms.com/lz-carol.html>> which quite thoroughly mentions all the events then around their LZ Carol. The information contained doesn’t get better than that.

I quote from that web page at the end of the introduction: “The following information on the 22-26 July operations is based on the official 2nd Bn, 8th Cav Regt Staff Journals and accounts from former Troopers who served with B Co during this period. To set the scene, a few words about this operation are needed. Although we spent a year fighting in various regions of Vietnam, we could still recognize and appreciate the beauty of much of the countryside. But when you read the following accounts of combat operations in the mountainous jungle surrounding LZ Carol, keep in mind this poignant description by one of our Troopers - **THE ENTIRE AREA WAS JUST EVIL!**”

Steve also wrote, “Mike: “When I was fortunate enough in 2018 to be selected by the VFW for a two week all expenses paid trip to Vietnam, I took a side trip from Da Nang out to the A Shau Valley. Very different now. “The Ho Chi Minh Highway, connecting Saigon and Hanoi runs right through the valley. One of the guys with me was a Veteran of the 101st and fought in the battle for Hamburger Hill. We climbed to the top.

“The Northerners had erected a memorial to their ‘heroic victory’ over U.S. Forces there! My traveling companion found it laughable that a devastating loss of 2-3000 NVA troops to our less than 100 KIAs, was considered a heroic victory by the NVA! “I stood on the hill, realizing that LZ Carol was probably in my field of vision from that vantage point. If you are interested, I did a blog on my day-to-day activities on the trip. It includes pictures. You can view it at <www.stevesvietnamtrip.blogspot.com>. Let me know if you have difficulty locating or reading it. Doc Bird” Steve is a good writer, so his blog is a good read, and educational.

TROOPER'S TALE

Continued from pg. 14

people were trying to run to the bunker behind the club. A mortar round hit the bunker entrance, killing one and wounding two Troopers. In recent years, I met a Red Cross Donut Dolly, and asked her to look up Tina, but she was unable to do so. I wanted to thank her for being instrumental in saving lives that night. If anybody remembers that attack, and knows Tina’s last name, and her fellow Donut Dolly named Ginny, from Dallas(?), I’d like to get on touch with them to thank them personally.

On that night, 1LT Daniel Koski, in charge of the Gift Shop was running across the main parade ground adjoining the EM club and was wounded by mortar shrapnel. The irony: He was trying to get out of infantry duty with a field unit, as he’d spent 6 months at the base camp. The result: He was awarded a Purple Heart, and an early trip home.

The last head of the Gift Shop was 1LT Tom Bromley. In March, I handed over my duties to the incoming accountant, PFC David Gunderson.

When I came in country, I heard of the previous head of PIO—MAJ J.D. Coleman, whose staff published the yearbook. About 75 Troopers who were artists, researchers, writers, and photographers contributed to the original yearbook.

I learned from a PIO staffer that MAJ Coleman was in a meeting, pitching the yearbook to the Division leadership. They asked, “How many books should we publish,” and he replied, “25,000” to which a General said, “How could we ever sell that many?” He got his wish, and the first run was eventually sold out.

The Gift Shop was a stop for reporters coming through Phuoc Vinh. While I was there, the Public Information Officer, MAJ Barry Winzeler, told how the Gift Shop provided a morale booster to the Troops.

During the time there, I met a few of the guys who were photographers and field reporters in the Public Information Office. A few of the men who contributed to the book were still in-country when I arrived. Some had served with units on which they reported from the field. One, SP4 R. Dean Sharpe has a couple photographs in the Veterans Memorial Art Museum in Chicago, IL.

I ate at the 13th Signal Mess Hall, as the one serving PIO was a far distance away. While walking toward the chow line, the man ahead of me, 1LT Tom Gerken turned and asked, “Did you go to Duke University?” I replied I had and wondered how he recognized me. He said, “I noticed your long quick stride walking here as the same I saw on campus.” He remembered my gait from up to 2 years ago, as he graduated in 1968.

During my final weeks in Vietnam, I ran across a few of the guys with whom I’d gone to Basic Training with. One fellow Buffalonian SP4 Joe Duffy, had been a mortarman (11C) with an infantry unit. Another, SP5 Dominic Portanova was in the 15th Admin Office on Bien Hoa.

About 30 years later in Chicago, I met SP5 Tom Yakowicz who may have processed me through FTA. He got me interested in the Sheridan’s Cavalry Chapter of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, to which I belonged from 2003-2019. After moving to Texas, I became a member of the Crossed Sabers Chapter.

I processed out of the Division in mid-Apr 1971, having completed 10 ½ months in country. I ETS’ed at Oakland Army Terminal, and arrived in Buffalo about 10 days later, after stopping off in various locations to visit friends and relatives. When coming in country, I estimated there were about 420,000 Troops there, and about 280,000 when I left.

Now retired, my career included stints in finance with major aerospace and defense electronics contractors. During this time, I’ve met many former members from all branches of the military. They all have incredible stories from Vietnam, the Pentagon (jokingly called the “five-sided funny farm”), and foreign and domestic bases around the world.

If you know the location of the Donut Dollies listed above, or want to share any other information, I can be reached at <masonholmes2003@yahoo.com>, or 630-835-6486.



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ENGINEER News



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More from **Martin Suydam** continued from his article, July 1966, published in the May/June 2021 *Saber*
"Welcome –You are Now in the War"
 All of our military sharpness and starched uniforms disappeared, for the rest of our tour living conditions were dominated by dust and mud, rarely anything in between. In the Division base camp at An Khe, Camp Radcliff, we lived in beat-up canvas tents surrounded by 3-4-foot-high sandbag walls with cots and mosquito netting. The Division was in a short, stand-down period to be rested and re-armed. As a new platoon leader, I had a lot of learning to cram into a few days, before we would be deployed for real in war. We had all the necessary combat training, but we had to learn other drills such as taking malaria pills (one pink one a Monday and one white pill each day) and to plan that after the pink pill you would be in the latrine several times a day. We learned to roll down our sleeves at nightfall and sleep under mosquito netting under threat of court martial. We had drills to respond to attacks, either real or for practice, of enemy penetration through the wire barriers of the very large An Khe base camp perimeter (26 km). The first couple times were a scramble, since we had no idea about communications and procedures, we had just arrived in country. You learn to get good fast.



Clean Fatigues at An Khe Base CampBase

Camp life was all about maintenance and getting ready. I couldn't wait to get out to the field. I had no intention of being a REMF (Rear-Echelon Mother F...r). In base camp, latrine sanitation was managed by multi-seat outhouses and what were called "shit burners." Shit burning became an art form, where the Soldiers detailed to perform the duty would make pyramids of the half-55-gallon drum barrels doused with diesel fuel and ignite large pyres that produced smoke that no one wanted to breathe. For a base with nearly 500 helicopters flying in an out every day, paths to dodge the smoke plumes became ingress/egress routes.

Steve Richey remembers:

"You drug them to the burn area with a long piece of rebar. You lined them up, 10 of them, in a row and added at least 3 to

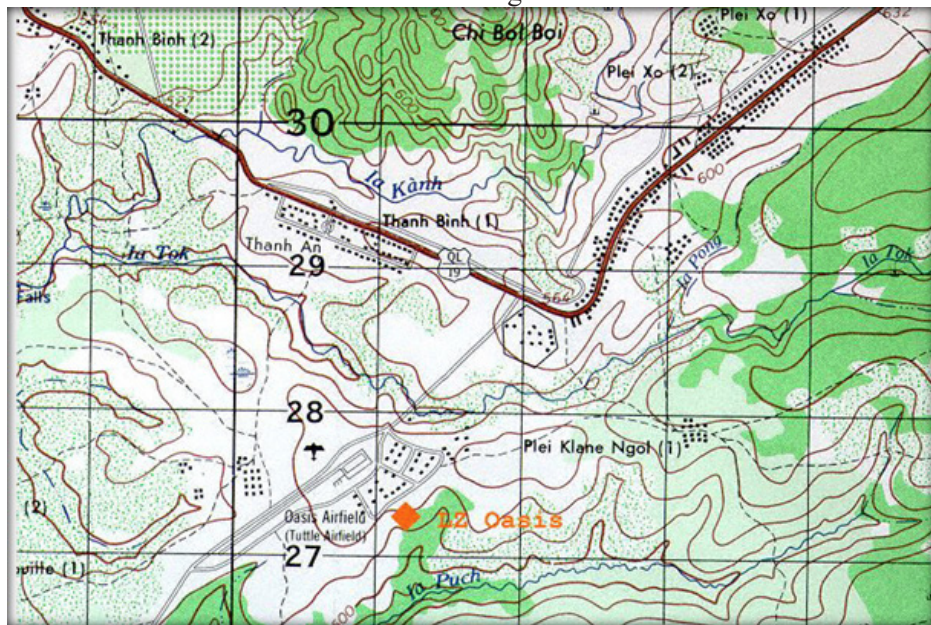
5-gallons of diesel to each, and then did a stir, was revolting, then with the rebar, you began to stack the barrels. This is where the art came in. If you did it right, you could stack them in a 10 barrel-high pyramid without spilling or slopping the mix on yourself. Then, you took one gallon of gas, and poured it in one of the barrels on the ground and lit it. Gas lit easily. As it burned it heated the diesel in the cans above it and soon the fumes caught on fire, a barrel at a time, until the whole pyramid was burning. If you did it right, and used enough diesel, all that was left was a little ash. So, you made damn sure you did it right. The next day, the man in charge of burning, would take the burned empties, and do the whole process over again."

As an engineer unit in "stand-down" we still had many inglorious projects to build in the base camp area, restoring and repairing perimeter concertina-wire barriers, digging huge garbage pits, and managing the disposal operations, and assisting in the building of Sin City (the off-base location where Soldiers could get sex). Once "mothers of America" found out about this, it was immediately shutdown. We also would have daily deployments of a few engineers and equipment supporting operations in the field, usually blasting away jungle for remote artillery fire base operations.

August 1966: Then we really went to war. As engineers, we were the lead element of Operation Paul Revere II. I had to lead a battalion convoy west from An Khe over Mang Yang pass to Pleiku.

As the only Ranger graduate, it was expected I knew all about calling in airstrikes, directing artillery fire and other support for a convoy moving in an area where helicopters were ineffective. We were lucky, the journey was without incident. However, going over Mang Yang Pass was memorable, since we could see the remains of a French Armored Regiment that was trapped and annihilated in the narrow passage with steep mountains on all sides during the French-Indo China war a decade earlier. There was one hairpin turn that was particularly difficult to get through with our trucks and trailers and road scrapers.

Most of our battalion stayed in Pleiku, but my platoon, with a battery of 105mm howitzers, was positioned near a remote rubberized-fabric airstrip named Oasis in the battlefield area of the earlier Ia Drang battle.



Oasis Airfield

Shortly after arriving we were inundated by monsoon rains (see photo to the right). LZ (Landing Zone) Oasis was being expanded to serve as a remote helicopter staging base requiring huge quantities of fuel being trucked in daily. The one-lane, lightly paved, road leading to the airfield began failing immediately with all the rain and non-stop tanker convoys, each tanker holding up to 5,000-gallons. It takes lots of fuel to keep 500 helicopters in the air in daily operations. For nearly the whole month, the job, night and day, was to build a series of parallel roads the existing roads failed each day.

Near Pleiku there was a rock quarry, but it took weeks to get it operational before we could have a road with a crushed rock base course. In the meantime, we would laydown parallel roads daily creating a 2-kilometer-wide mud-mire to depths of six feet before switching traffic to a new parallel road the next morning. Convoys only ran in the daylight, but we worked round-the-clock. During the dark, wet nights work was done without lighting so we were doing work with bulldozers, graders, and scrapers using ground guides so as not to put out light to provide targets for the enemy. This process went on for weeks, too many endless days to be able to separate one from another and count them.

We never needed to buy cigarettes, toiletries, nor beer; it was issued. We never saw tents again, henceforth we always dug in and built sandbagged bunkers with timber or pierced-steel planking (PSP) ceilings that were not only our hooches where we slept but where we fought from. The days of the local sniper VC (Viet Cong) were still there, but now we endured day-and-night rocket and mortar attacks.

We lived, worked, and slept in mud. Many nights were cold, a surprise since we thought Vietnam was a hot jungle. In the Highlands of Vietnam, it got cold, not winter cold, but when you're wet all the time, hypothermia can easily set in. I remember nights when I was so cold and tired that I didn't even take off my mud-covered boots, before crawling into my sleeping bag, mud, and all. The next day, if we were lucky, the rain could wash off our sleeping bags and maybe it wouldn't rain long enough for them to air dry. When the temperature wasn't as cold, we would snuggle into our nylon poncho liners. These were made of nylon that cleaned easily, dried fast, and were lightweight, a great American invention.

After several weeks of endless mud and cold, one morning I received a radio message that I was to assemble my platoon and move them to a cleared area with only the clothing and boots they had on and their weapons- no other equipment, no explanation. We had no idea what this was about. A CH-47, Chinook helicopter landed in the clearing near our bivouac, and we were told to load up. We flew for about 10 minutes then put down in an area that had several General Purpose (GP) Medium tents erected. We were then told to strip down bare, put our clothing in piles on pallets of shirts, trousers, underwear, boots, and socks, put our weapons in weapons racks, and head to the first tent. It was a hot shower!! We then passed out of that tent, bare-assed, and into the next tent that had a gas-fired Herman Nelson heater to get blow-dried!! We then left that tent to the next tent where we were issued freshly laundered everything. Fatigue shirts had 1st Cav patches stenciled on the left shoulder, nothing else, no rank, no U.S. Army. We then headed back to the clearing where the chopper took the whole platoon back into the mud, but we felt pretty good. We were even able to break out some of our rationed Sapporo beer (terrible tasting Japanese beer), a little in-country R&R.

September 1966: Coming in from the field after two months, my platoon looked forward to a little stand down time at the An Khe base camp. This was as close to civilization we could hope to see. We were in tents, not bunkers; there was a mess hall, and we weren't fed C-rations or meals delivered in thermal containers. We were going to be able to get a chance to clean up, get issued new uniforms, and get equipment repaired and maintained.

Since we had worked long hours and been, in general, surrounded by mud or dust, I had little chance to write my wife since arriving in country. I found out that you could call home, using ham radio connections through volunteers in the U.S., if you went to the Red Cross tent. The last letters I had from Joyce told me she had received no money from the Army and had to borrow from her folks. I was receiving \$25 per month in military script, but I really didn't need any money since there was no way to spend it with so much time in the field. The Army had just shifted to the new electronic JUMPS (Joint Uniformed Military Pay System) and everything was supposed to be flawless. It wasn't.

I waited in line, with other GIs for the process of patching a call through various telephone and ham-radio connections to the U.S. My turn came in about an hour. We were expected to use only three minutes to talk if we established a connection. Somehow, miraculously, my call went right through. Because of the radio-type connections we were expected to use the normal communication key words, such as "Over," "Roger," "Out," etc. In Vietnam the time was mid-afternoon, so in Virginia it was very early morning.

Our stand-down lasted only a couple days. We were notified that we would be the lead element of what was to become another major 1st Cav offensive, Operation Thayer, the largest air assault undertaken up until that time in the Vietnam War. Thayer lasted two weeks, followed by Operation Irving. Operation names must be important to the people running the war. For those of us doing war, it was just another day at the office. The focus of the American offensive moved east to the small mountain ranges near the coast.

Again, my platoon was the lead element of the Division into the objective area near the coast. During daylight hours, we moved from An Khe to the port city of Qui Nhon. Had a series of operational briefings, were issued the advanced technology Starlight scopes for weapons, and departed around midnight to close in on the objective area before dawn. The infantry unit supporting us was diverted immediately so we were now both engineers and infantry. We were certain the area would be heavily booby-trapped. To do a quick clearance for mines, road graders where heavily sandbagged and staged in echelon across with blades just scraping the surface to trigger any mines. Thirty minutes after arriving, the first C-130 aircraft came over the mountains carrying the lead element of a brigade of infantry out of Pleiku. LZ Hammond would become one the busiest airports in the world within a few hours.





545th MP Co News

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

On the 1st of February 1968, United States and ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) tactical units moved into Saigon and assumed control of operations against the enemy. MP patrols then were set up at strategic points in the city and the MPs also assisted in traffic control and maintaining security at US facilities and installations. Sporadic firing continued for several days. During the period from 31 January to 6 February 1968, the 716th Military Police Battalion suffered twenty-seven killed and forty-five wounded in action while serving in the Saigon area.

Another target of the TET Offensive of 1968 was Dalat. It was probably the scene of the heaviest fighting outside the Saigon area. Early in the morning on 31 January 1968, large size enemy forces began to attack Dalat. The Viet Cong soon controlled all the roads into the town. The MP villa was demolished by mortar and rocket fire. Two MPs were wounded, and communications were lost within the city. A military reaction force extracted the MPs from their villa. As heavy mortar fire continued in the city, MPs who had relocated in a medical villa came under ground attack. On 3 February 1968, the MP personnel who had been driven from the villa returned to retrieve items of equipment. They were able to recover vehicles, radios, and records which they had abandoned during the initial attack. Again, they received a small arms attack but sustained no additional casualties. As the remaining activity in the area began to center on the Dalat airfield, the MPs in the area responded to the crisis by providing reinforcements to friendly forces at that location. As fierce fighting continued 3 February, the city of Dalat became the only critical area in the II Corps tactical zone. With the airfield under Viet Cong control, the local defending elements, particularly the MPs, began to run low on ammunition. Ammunition resupply was completed by air. With an enemy battalion believed still to be in the city on 5 February 1968, additional MP replacements were flown into Dalat. Viet Cong elements continued to hold two strong points in the city until 9 February when they finally were forced to withdraw.

The Viet Cong also launched mortar and rocket attacks against the city of Kontum during the early morning hours of 31 January 1968. An estimated two-battalion-sized enemy force continued bombarding the city as the day progressed. MP elements from B Company, 504th Military Police Battalion, provided early warning of enemy infiltrators and returned sniper fire throughout the city. Sporadic action continued there during the following week, marked by small unit contacts and exchanges of small arms fire. Activity finally subsided after one week and the MPs resumed normal activities.

The city of Pleiku likewise began receiving mortar attacks during the morning of 30 January 1968. A battalion-sized enemy force launched a ground attack against the city immediately following the mortar barrages. MPs from B Company, 504th Military Police Battalion, succeeded in transferring the provost marshal's office from Pleiku to Camp Schmidt during the initial stages of the encounter. Throughout the following week numerous incidents of sniping were reported and small pockets of enemy resistance reduced. Street fighting and enemy contact ceased completely on 7 February 1968, and normal MP operations resumed.

At approximately 0300 hours on 31 January 1968, the Qui Nhon Ammunition Supply Depot at Valley F received recoilless rifle fire. This area was secured by guards from the 93d Military Police Battalion. There were no personnel casualties, but two pads of ammunition were destroyed. During the same period enemy forces attacked the city of Qui Nhon and temporarily occupied the radio and railroad stations there. The enemy was routed that same day. On the morning of 1 February 1968, the 93d Military Police Battalion cantonment area received a mortar attack. Street fighting and resistance by enemy forces continued in Qui Nhon until approximately 7 February 1968. On 3 February 1968, LT Banks from the 127th Military Police Company was fatally wounded as he attempted to flush a sniper from a building in the city. At the time, Lt. Banks was participating in Combined Police patrol activities with the Vietnamese National Police. The 93d Military Police Battalion was able to reinforce the defenses at the Valley F Supply Depot on 3 February 1968 with the addition of a 105mm Howitzer Battery. By 8 February 1968, conditions were stable in the city and refugees who had fled from there began to return. The MP carefully screened them in- order to prevent infiltration by the Viet Cong.

Enemy activity at the Ban Me Thout during TET consisted of major rocket and mortar attacks in and around the city including the local airfield. These attacks began on the morning of 31 January and continued until the 7th of February 1968. On the morning of 2 February, three MP sentry dog handlers were wounded by an explosion of unknown origin while working in the kennel area of the 981st Military Police Company.

Cam Rahn Bay experienced very little overt enemy activity during the 1968 TET period. On the morning of 31 January, a North Vietnamese Army frogman trained in demolitions

and assigned the mission of sabotaging friendly vessels was captured in the harbor. The mayor of Cam Rahn Bay immediately placed the civilian population under strict curfew and limited water traffic by Vietnamese nationals in the harbor area. During the next week, there were numerous sightings of frogman activity in the Cam Rahn Bay area. Elements of the 97th Military Police Battalion, particularly those from the 981st Military Police Company (SD) assisted in the search for infiltrators in the bay.

On the morning of 30 January 1968, the city of Nha Trang and surrounding installations began receiving mortar attacks. A ground attack followed, and large numbers of enemy troops entered the city. Street fighting was heavy, and resistance continued for the next two or three days. Several unsuccessful attempts were made by the enemy to seize the local railroad station. The element that invaded the city was estimated to be a two-battalion-sized force. One prong of the attack was directed at the 272d Military Police Company compound. By 3 February 1968, the civilian population began moving from the area. For several days, resistance was strong within the city, but it subsided gradually until approximately 7 February 1968, when operations returned to normal. The rapid reaction of the MPs during this engagement succeeded in delaying the enemy forces and diverting the direction of their ground attack.

At approximately 0300 hours, 31 January, coordinated attacks were launched on the Bien Hoa Airbase, 11 Field Force Vietnam Headquarters, the Long Binh Ammunition Supply Depot, and various other friendly installations in the local area. Following a mortar and rocket attack, the perimeter of the Bien Hoa Airbase was penetrated. The city of Bien Hoa, patrolled by elements of the 720th Military Police Battalion, also was infiltrated by large numbers of Viet Cong. All roads into and out of the city were controlled by the enemy. After the attackers had succeeded in destroying one building and two jet aircraft, friendly forces killed 101 enemy and reestablished the perimeter of the airbase. The Long Binh Ammunition Supply Depot was penetrated by a company sized unit employing sapper techniques. Bangalore torpedoes and satchel charges were planted on several pads of ammunition in the area. Two security personnel, one from the 95th Military Police Battalion and one from the 212th Military Police (Sentry Dog) Company, were killed. One pad of ammunition was blown, producing secondary explosions by two additional pads. Ammunition loss was set at \$1,677,000.00. The enemy capability for large scale attacks was quickly reduced by friendly forces using rapid ground

counterattacks and supporting artillery and air fire. However, for several days, harassing incidents including light mortar and rocket attacks continued.

By 1 February 1968, refugees were leaving the area in large numbers. It was felt that many enemy soldiers would attempt to leave the area



En-route to the objective

along with the refugees. Therefore, checkpoint operations were intensified by the local MPs. Local barge and shipping sites began to receive isolated attacks. Retreating enemy soldiers were believed to be responsible for the burning of many homes in their path. In conjunction with an attack on the Cogido Barge site, secured by the 95th Military Police Battalion, enemy forces burned the village to the ground. Friendly forces from the battalion, who were responding to the activity in the area, were ambushed. While firefights and resistance continued in the area, sweep and search operations were initiated by friendly tactical units.

On 2 February 1968, the village of Thu Duo received an enemy ground attack. When the Thu Duo highway patrol station was threatened, the 720th Military Police Battalion, equipped with M113 vehicles, reinforced the station, and established critical checkpoints in the area. By 3 February 1968, enemy activity in Long Binh/Bien Hoa had been reduced to small pockets of resistance. Attempts then were made by the 720th Military Police Battalion to resume its normal operation of escorting replacements and rotating to and from the Bien Hoa Airbase. However, the operation was postponed due to the still existing enemy threat. Facing a tremendous backlog at local docks, mail, and fuel sites, and other activities that had suspended actions during the hostilities, the 720th Military Police Battalion

then began to restore convoy operations. Shortages in fuel and ammunition made it imperative that resupply convoys return to normal operations at once. The combined police patrol, utilizing part of the 720th Military Police Battalion, the national police, and the Vietnamese military police, resumed patrol activities on highway 1A from Long Binh to Saigon. By 5 February 1968, normal operations had been reestablished in the Long Binh/Bien Hoa areas.



Security for civilian internees

—TO BE CONTINUED—

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



Security Patrol, Long Binh

HQ and Special Troops News



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Greetings from NW Louisiana where it is hot and humid. Climate change? No, it is always like that in Louisiana in June, July, and August. Woe unto those poor Soldiers at Fort Polk, out in the piney woods, playing “war games.” Poison ivy, rattlesnakes, wild boars, loose cattle, and heat. Did I mention the 99.440 % humidity? Are we having fun yet? I took basic training and AIT at Fort Polk from June to January. While I was somewhat “habituated to” the weather in LA, I still suffered. I even caught a bad case of poison ivy/oak/sumac and spent a week in the hospital, got “re-cycled” back three weeks and put into a new company. What fun that was. Remember the old “blouse and un-blouse commands? Some of the recruits that went in with me were issued brown boots and shoes, left over from a uniform change, and dyed to change the color to black. Now the uniform has changed back to that uniform of WWII. I guess Troops are issued black shoes and brown dye. Good luck with that spit shining. The U.S. Army never changes, it just goes around in circles. I look for the combat support battalions to be re-activated in the future. You know, the old 15th Signal, 312th MI, 525th MPs, DISCOM, 15th S&S, 15th Finance, 15th Transportation, etc. There is nothing “new” in the U.S. Armed Forces! They just “recycle” organizations and uniforms.

By the time this reaches your mailbox the 100th Anniversary celebration of the great 1st Cav will be done and over. Sue and I hope you were part of the celebration at Fort Hood. Cancellation of the reunion at Louisville last year meant there was no general membership meeting and hence the Association officers continued in place for another year. This year at the general membership meeting there will be election of officers, board members and trustees for the foundation. If you are a Gulf War, Iraq, or Afghanistan Veteran, I hope that you will consider serving in one of these positions in the Association. We need some younger members to start taking over more of the Association leadership. The Vietnam Vets have held these positions for many years and none of us are getting younger. After many years of serving as a trustee and on the board, I have relinquished my positions and hope they are filled by younger members. I am also still looking for someone who would like to take over this column. It is the voice of the majority of those who served in Combat Support units and needs to continue in the *Saber*.

Allen Norris, our Association president, commented on my last column. Alan wrote “I was reading your article in the *Saber*, and you mentioned Camp Richie and the ‘Ritchie Boys.’ I recently read a book that might interest you. *Sons and Soldiers* by Bruce Henderson, it is about the ‘Ritchie Boys.’ Great column as always.”

Well, Allen (one of my “old friends,” come to think of it, all my friends are old!), thank you for the suggestion and the kind remarks. I obtained a copy through Amazon, a paperback in good condition, for a very reasonable \$6. The front of the book describes it as “The Untold Story of the Jews Who Escaped the Nazis and Returned with the US Army to Fight Hitler.” The book does contain a little history about Camp Richie and is an excellent book about a special group of Military Intelligence (MI) Soldiers and their performance in WWII in Europe. Jews who had escaped from Europe and moved to the U.S. were later drafted. Those “native” speaking Italians, Germans and French Soldiers were selected to attend MI training at Ritchie. Most were trained as Interrogation of Prisoners of

War (IPW) while some were often cross trained in Order of Battle (OB), photo interpreters, terrain intelligence and as interpreters. Many of them spoke native German, French and some even spoke Russian. The book follows the lives of several of these Jewish Germans who returned to fight as American Soldiers in Europe. It is a very worthwhile read and will give you a good understanding of MI in WWII in Europe.

If you have read a good book lately, a book that would be of interest to members of our Association, I would be happy to print a “book review” in this column, a concise and brief review. Just send your review to me along with any advice on obtaining a copy of the book.

I received a call from **Robert Wellmaker**, a Trooper in Mount Vernon, IL, wishing me a happy birthday. Ronald served in B Co, 1/7th in ‘68 and ‘69. He was drafted at the age of 25 and was known as “Pops” in his unit. He had just arrived in country in Feb 68 and was standing on the tarmac when the famous blow up of the ammo dump occurred. He had not even been issued a weapon and having just arrived in Vietnam, was shocked and confused. After his “vacation in Vietnam,” as he calls it, he became a professional truck driver. Since my father was also a professional driver, we talked about many things we have in common. I encouraged him to attend the reunion, but he is still concerned about Covid. I was pleasantly surprised to see that people outside of the HQ and Special Troops, that is Combat Support and Combat Service Support Troopers, bother to read my column.

While surfing the internet, looking for information about the great 1st Cav, I stumbled across this website: <http://www.first-team.us/tableaux/index.html#_Table_Of_Appendices>. I had been to the site many times before, but in this case, I found a part that lists all units assigned to the 1st Cav at various times in history. Very interesting website. I warn you – you can spend hours looking around on this website and not see it all. Want to know more about a particular unit? Just click the unit on any page and you will be taken to more info about it. This page is also very interesting! <http://www.first-team.us/tableaux/apndx_03/> Check it out!

I received an email from **Mason Holmes**, formerly of IL, now living in TX. Mason wrote, “I was assigned as MOS 73D20, a finance and accounting specialist, in Vietnam. I was assigned to the Division PIO (Public Information Office). They oversaw the First Team Scholarship Gift Shop. I worked there as senior accountant and later as assistant business manager. It was owned by the 1st Cav Assoc and was manned by Troopers. We sold Cav insignia, pocketknives, photo albums and especially the 1st Air Cav Division book (Aug 65-Dec 69). The funds provided scholarship for the children of Troopers killed in action.”

Mason offered to write more about his experience in Vietnam, and when he sent it to me it was so well written and so interesting that I sent it to Tina in the Association office and suggested she run it as one of the “Trooper’s Tale.” It was too large for my column and needed to be read by more than the few who bother reading this column.

Well, Troopers and family, that’s a “wrap” for this issue. Stay safe and my advice is to get the vaccine shots. Sue and I had no adverse reactions to the shots and look forward to getting the booster. Those heading to the nation’s capital for Veterans Day should have your reservations made by now. I have attended that in the past and it is great fun. As Sue and I say “so long” for now, be sure to pray for our country and our leaders. Be sure to vote in every election. Many died to give us that right. So may God bless you and your family, the USofA, the U.S. Army, the great 1st Cav with all the active-duty Troopers, the thousands of Veterans, and the leaders of our Association, ‘til we meet again!

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.

Make sure your battle buddies you served with
in the Division are also members of the
elite 1st Cavalry Division Association!

9 CAV NEWS

Continued from pg. 9

having a great time. The president of the association called us to order and went through the normal “thank you” to the people who put all these together. He then called our attention to the vacant table adjacent to the head table. This table had a complete place setting, with no one sitting at it. He went on to explain the symbolism of a plate of food that will never be eaten, a glass of wine that will never be drunk, and that this table represented all of those who gave their lives in Vietnam. He then proposed a toast to our fallen comrades. We stood, raised our glasses, and said, “To our fallen comrades.” As I drank the glass of wine, tears welled in my eyes and I saw the smiling face of Lou Porazzo, and I silently said, “Here’s to you, Lou.”

The next day, as our Lufthansa plane was flying back to Germany, I sat in my seat with my eyes closed and thought of all those middle-aged men who had made such a difference in my life. Those warriors, those magnificent men, were absolutely beyond belief, and every one of them was larger than life itself. I was content, satisfied, at peace. Although we didn’t have the American public support while we were in Vietnam, we had one another, and in the final analysis, that’s all that matters. While history recorded Vietnam as a defeat for America, we who fought together in Vietnam had a flame of shared danger that was as white hot as the flame of an acetylene torch, and each firefight was the welding rod that melded us together.

As Bert revealed, it took many of us years to reach out and connect with Vietnam comrades. In 2000, when I’d been home from the 1-9 Cav for almost 30 years, I ran across the name Hilbert Chole among several lines of addressees in an email. Figuring there could only be one Hilbert Chole in the world, I shot him a note, asking if he was the same Bert Chole who, as XO of the 1-9 Cav, had presided over the MIA Board of my friend Larry Lilly. He was, and he persuaded me to attend a reunion at Fort Rucker of the Bullwhip Squadron Association, where I linked up with old friends just as he had done in Philadelphia with the VHPA. The rest, as they say, is history. Like Bert, I learned to savor the time spent with my own group of survivors with a shared background, a background that as he said, “forged a link between us that was stronger than any family tie.”

Troopers who served in the 1st, 4th, and 9th Battalions/Squadrons in Afghanistan over the past 20 years, you don’t have to wait for someone to invent the Internet to connect. You deployed as units rather than as individual replacements, which means you already knew each other outside the context of the war in Afghanistan. You have Facebook and other social media to keep you in touch. But you must make the effort to get connected and stay connected.

I hope you will soon learn what took us Vietnam Veterans a long time to figure out, that your shared background constitutes a link for you that, in the words of Bert Chole, is stronger than any family tie.



HONOR ROLL



Thank you for the generous donations from our following Troopers:

SP-4 AARON, John W. <i>IMO SP-4 Scott Winder A I-5</i>	\$100	SSG KIRILEY, Edward V. 1LT KERSHNER, Kenneth	\$50	<u><i>In Memory of PFC Roger Michael Martin</i></u>	
MSG ACHY, Michael	\$25	E-4 LEE, Thomas F.	\$200	MR. & MRS. ADAMOS	\$50
SP-4 ARMSTRONG, Terry	\$25	<i>IMO Gen Robert Shoemaker</i>	\$100	MS. GILLETTE, Beth Ann	\$50
COL BECHTEL, Charles	\$25	SP-4 MARTZ, James E.	\$45	MR. & MRS. LEVY	\$100
CPT (RET) BOHN, Peter	\$25	<i>IMO Troopers Lost</i>		MS. MARTIN, Bella C.	\$425
SSG CORSIAR-MC GROARTY	\$25	SP-4 McGOVERN, Gerard	\$15	MS. MARTIN, Caroll	\$280
<i>Imo SGT Ron Piatek</i>		SSG MENSING, Fred E.	\$25	MR. & MRS. MCCLUTCHY, James	\$300
SSG McGROARTY, William	\$25	PFC MEYER, Charles	\$25	McCLUTCHY FAMILY, Matthew	\$200
MR. DAMPAN, Richard	\$100	MR. MORAGA, Raymond S.	\$40	<u><i>In Memory of Joseph Galloway</i></u>	
LTC (RET) DEWITT, Clyde H.	\$50	<i>IMO LT John Frech</i>		MS. KING, Frances	\$250
CPL DUCHINSKY, Anthony J.	\$100	CPT MORENO, Daniel	\$20	MR. LAWRENCE, Jay B.	\$50
MR. EL, Albert	\$25	1LT NELSON, Edward L.	\$5,000	MR. & MRS. MASHINO	\$100
CPT ESTRADA, David E.	\$25	SFC (RET) NICKERSON, August L.	\$15	MR. WOOD, Allen J.	\$250
PFC EYER, Robert J.	\$15	MR. PRSKALO, Roger	\$100	SGT PELLINGTON, Jack	\$100
COL (RET) FOREST, Ronald P.	\$15	MRS. QURESHI, Anne	\$25	<i>Rest in Peace My Good Friend Joe Galloway</i>	
<i>IMO Tim Blake, 2LT</i>		<i>IMO My Father Clifford C. Parker, WWII</i>		MR. WOOD, Allen J.	\$250
1LT FRANCIS, Sam W.	\$25	E-5 RYS, Raymond J. Sr.	\$25		
COL (RET) GERGULIS, John G.	\$100	<i>IMO All Fallen Members</i>			
<i>IMO All Brothers KIA D Co 1st BDE, 1CD</i>		SFC (RET) SAVILLE, Douglas D.	\$50		
<i>1965-1966 ANKE RVN</i>		MRS. SCHIELD, Mary	\$250		
SP-4 GOINGS, Clayton	\$40	<i>In Loving Memory of My Husband</i>			
<i>IMO SP-4 Thomas Hutchens B 1/8 1966</i>		SSG Melvin R. Schield			
CPT HALL, Sanci	\$25	MAJ SHUEY, Richard	\$25		
CPT (RET) HARWOOD, Bruce K.	\$25	SGT SCHWARZ, Fred H.	\$15		
<i>IMO B 2/8Cav-IaDrang Valley 4-5 Nov</i>		SP-5 SPPITZ, Charles W.	\$50		
SGT HENRY, A.C.	\$200	SP-4 TAYLOR, Frederick	\$15		
<i>Imo SP-5 Oscar "Doc" Gutierrez 3/11/68</i>		<i>IMO Reggie W. Henson</i>			
<i>C Co 1st 7th Cav</i>		SGT VANDERPOOL, Eddie	\$25		
<i>IHO 1 Cav Troopers, past & present</i>		SGM (RET) WENTHE, Dennis	\$25		
COL (RET) HOLLAND, Francis	\$250	<i>All Vietnam Veterans</i>			

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Bill Ellis record distributed to 1st Cav personnel in Vietnam

ANYONE REMEMBER THE SONGS ON A RECORD BY BILL ELLIS? I recently received a call from a 1st Cavalry Division Association member asking if I had any memory of or information about a phonograph record that was distributed to members of the 1st Cav in Vietnam sometime in 1969. He had received the record at that time but

with CoA, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment and served from 1968-1970. He was drafted in late 1968 in California. He was in a rock and roll band that had just recorded its first record at the time he was drafted. He served as an 11 Bravo for his first 4 months in Vietnam until New Year's Eve 1968 when his company was standing down at Quan Loi and he performed an impromptu concert to entertain the Troops. At that time, his tremendous talent was recognized! Shortly thereafter, he was transferred to Special Services and for the remaining 8 months of his tour, he traveled throughout the 1st Cav's area of operations singing the songs he had written himself to entertain the Troops.



Bill Ellis entertaining Troops in Vietnam Circa 1969



several more sites of interest.

Besides his powerful voice, the music of Bill Ellis reflects the fact that he personally knows of what he sings- that he has personally experienced what he describes in his songs like "Firefight" and "Grunt."

I would like to contact Bill Ellis for more information. Nobody seems to know where he is but believes that he lives somewhere in California. If anyone knows his status and how he might be contacted, please email or call me. (My contact information is at the top of this column.) Thanks!

LAWRENCE BROOKS 112TH BIRTHDAY-12 SEPT 2021

This should probably have been in my previous column, since the time many of you see this column will be mid-October, after Mr. Brooks' birthday.

My Sept-Oct Column 2020 was all about Mr. Lawrence Brooks, the oldest surviving U.S. WWII Veteran. As explained in that column, Mr. Brooks' unit was the 91st Engineer Battalion which became part of the 1st Cavalry Division in 1992. The 1st Cav unit that "claims" him is the 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion (91BEB) at Fort Hood.

I recently performed a Google search for "Lawrence Brooks, Oldest U.S. WWII Veteran" and up came an article from the New Orleans Times- Picayune newspaper about him being the 20,000th individual to receive a covid vaccination by the New Orleans VA Medical Center on 8 February 2021.

Happy 112th Birthday, Mr. Brooks!

CORRECTION TO JULY-AUG 2021 HISTORIANS COLUMN

This caption to the photo was omitted. "2-20 ARA Gunship in Vietnam War. Photo by Dan Brady"

lost it many years ago. He recalled that one of the songs was entitled "Firefight." This sounded vaguely familiar to me.

I dug our family's box of LP records from the 1960s through the 1980s out of the attic, and there it was- a 7-inch diameter, 33 1/3 RPM vinyl record entitled "Impressions of a Skytrooper" by Bill Ellis. Side 1 is "1st Cav" and "Firefight" and side 2 is "Freedom Bird" and "Grunt."

I still have the Sansui amplifier and Garrard turntable that I bought in Hong Kong and shipped home on leave from Vietnam in 1969, but rather than hook them back up to play the record, I just listened to the four songs on YouTube. To access the individual songs, just go to YouTube.com and search "Bill Ellis- (name of song)." Example: "Bill Ellis-Firefight."

I don't believe that I had listened to the songs on this record since 1969. When I listened to them recently, they stirred up a lot of memories, and I found the songs to be very thought-provoking and well-done.

From internet research, I have seen several mentions that these records were produced sometime in 1969 and were given to each 1st Cav Trooper as they left country to return home. I don't recall how and when I received this record. My tour was 11/68-11/69 and I believe I received it shortly before DEROS. I did not personally have any means of playing it, but I recall that someone in my unit had access to a phonograph, and I got a chance to listen to the record in-country.

The questions that I have are: When were these records available? How were they distributed? Were they given only to departing 1st Cav Troopers as they left country? Were they given out in subsequent years like 1970, 71, and 72? Please let me know what you remember about this record.

If you want to buy the actual record to play on your phonograph, to the best of my knowledge, pre-owned records can be found for sale on Ebay.com and similar websites.

I was unable to find written lyrics for these songs anywhere, so I have transcribed them by listening to them and typing the lyrics. I can't guarantee that all the lyrics are 100% correct, but I did the best that I could. Space does not permit including the lyrics. If there is sufficient interest, let me know and I will include them in a future column or email them to you.

I did some research on the internet and found that Bill Ellis was an Infantryman



Birthday Wishes
to our Troopers turning 90+ years young!

MG (RET) CLYDE SPENCE JR.
turned 93 on 9/01/2021

CPL JAMES V. POWER
turned 93 on 9/02/2021

CPL WALLACE R. FISCHER
turned 91 on 9/02/2021

PFC HARLOW ROSBOROUGH
turned 94 on 9/03/2021

CPL JOSEPH J. BEVER
turned 92 on 9/06/2021

SFC MARION O. BURDETTE
turned 90 on 9/07/2021

SGT RONALD K. MARTYN
turned 90 on 9/07/2021

SFC CLIFFORD O. FISCHER
turned 94 on 9/12/2021

SFC (RET) FRANCIS SARNOWSKI
turned 94 on 9/12/2021

TSG VINCENT G. CORDOVA
turned 98 on 9/14/2021

CPT KENNETH N. ROBERTS
turned 98 on 9/14/2021

COL (RET) JIMMIE CHAFFIN
turned 90 on 9/14/2021

SSG SEBASTIAN RODRIGUEZ JR.
turned 90 on 9/14/2021

PFC JAMES S. HUFNALL
turned 99 on 9/15/2021

1SG (RET) ALAN S. DOCTOR
turned 91 on 9/15/2021

CPL HARRY OLSON
turned 90 on 9/16/2021

COL (RET) WILLIAM J. RICHARDSON JR.
turned 92 on 9/17/2021

CPL JAKE TORRES
turned 94 on 9/21/2021

PFC ALDO E. SAGGESE
turned 93 on 9/23/2021

SFC (RET) EARL L. PARKER
turned 92 on 9/24/2021

COL (RET) WALLACE G. HUNT
turned 91 on 10/03/2021

SGT ALBERT AIELLO
turned 101 on 10/05/2021

SGT STEPHEN VITALE
turned 92 on 10/09/2021

SGT JOHN A. GIUNCO
turned 93 on 10/10/2021

SP-3 SARGENT D. BARNETT
turned 92 on 10/13/2021

PFC ROBERT PALMER JR.
turned 91 on 10/15/2021

SSG DONALD O. SMITH
turned 90 on 10/15/2021

CPT WARREN A. SCHNEIDER
turned 91 on 10/16/2021

CPL ROBERT MASTERSON SR.
turned 92 on 10/19/2021

SSG (RET) ROBERT SMOCER
turned 94 on 10/26/2021

PSG (RET) ROBERT E. KINDER
turned 90 on 10/26/2021



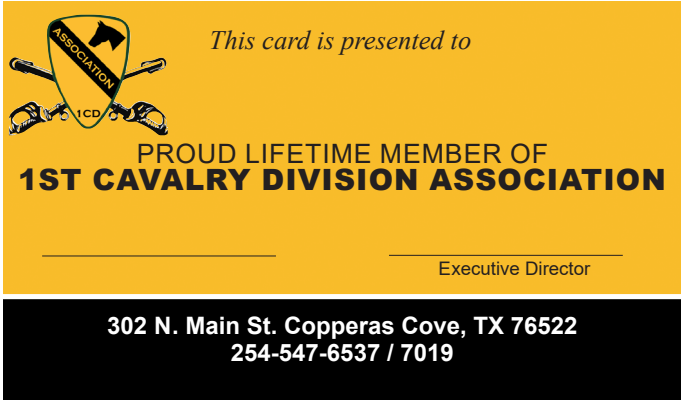
SP4 MARVIN B. ROSS 13SIG, 1966

The above picture is our three-man relay team L to R “Butch” of PA, “Hollywood” of CA and “The Rebel” of NC. This is one of several remote mountains across the central highlands we operated our relay from. Our relay was vital so the cavalry units could communicate in the mountainous terrain. We air assaulted into this area with 2-5 Cav just before Christmas 1966. As you can see there are no wire or lights. We lived with the Infantry out there, carried an M-16, secured the landing zone, ate c-rations, walked together to the valley to take a bath in the bomb craters, and prayed together at night.

Below is a photo of LZ Meade, “Crows Foot” area of the Kim Son Valley, 1966-67, south of Bong Son. (919) 776-1930



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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302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522

Thank You
SP4 Marvin Ross, 13SIG, 1966
for sharing your photos with our membership!

