

# Dinner

## REMARKS

- Saturday - final event  
Sep 14 - HI

GEN WEYAND

GEN BRAMLETT

INVITED GUESTS

SOLDIERS OF THE 25 INFANTRY DIVISION

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THIS IS CLEARLY A GREAT DAY FOR ALL OF US WHO HAVE SERVED IN OR SUPPORTED THE TROPIC LIGHTNING DIVISION. WHAT YOU WILL SOON SEE UNVEILED ARE THE THREE ADDITIONAL SOLDIERS JOINING A FOURTH IN GAZING AT THE BOOTS, RIFLE AND HELMET OF A FALLEN COMRADE. THIS DISPLAY OF AN UPTURNED RIFLE WITH BAYONET, TOPPED BY A HELMET IS A TRADITIONAL DISPLAY USED BY COMBAT UNITS TO HONOR THEIR FALLEN AT A BATTLEFIELD MEMORIAL SERVICE. THIS REMINDS ME OF THE MEMORIAL SERVICE I CONDUCTED HONORING 18 MEN I LOST IN THE BATTLE OF BEN CUI THIS MONTH 38 YEARS AGO. THE 18 UPTURNED WEAPONS WITH A HELMET PLACED THEREON BY SURVIVING COMRADES AND FORMING A LARGE CROSS WAS ONE OF THE MOST EMOTIONAL AND SADDEST DAYS OF MY LIFE. SO YOU SEE THE SYMBOLISM OF THIS DISPLAY IS FOREVER BURNED INTO THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR FELLOW COMRADES IN COMBAT.

OUR SCULPTOR, LYNN LIVERTON HAS DONE A REMARKABLE JOB IN CAPTURING THE FACIAL EXPRESSIONS AND PERIOD UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT OF TROPIC LIGHTNING SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN WW II, KOREA, VIETNAM, AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ. IN EACH OF THE FOUR FIGURES YOU CAN SENSE THE LOSS REFLECTED IN THEIR FACES. SO WE OWE LYNN A DEBT OF GRATITUDE FOR HER SUPERB INTERPRETATION OF SOLDIERS OF THE TROPIC LIGHTNING DIVISION, PAST AND PRESENT.

I NOW HAVE THE GOOD FORTUNE TO INTRODUCE GENERAL WEYAND. IF THERE IS SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL KNOWN AS THE GUARDIAN ANGEL OF OUR 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND OF THIS MEMORIAL PROJECT, THAT WOULD BE GENERAL FRED WEYAND WHO NOT ONLY LEAD OUR DIVISION IN VIETNAM BUT ALSO WENT ON TO BE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY. I HAVE KNOWN AND SERVED WITH MANY GENERAL OFFICERS AND GENERAL WEYAND IS CLEARLY MY FAVORITE. AND I HOPE HE IS ALSO YOURS.

GENERAL WEYAND.

REMARKS SATURDAY NIGHT

BEFORE I TURN OVER THE GAVEL TO YOUR NEW PRESIDENT, I WOULD COMMENT ON THREE MAJOR PROJECTS LAUNCHED DURING MY TWO YEARS AS YOUR PRESIDENT.

FIRST AND FOREMOST IS THE UNVEILING OF THE MEMORIAL MONUMENT YOU WITNESSED YESTERDAY. WITH THE DEDICATION AND PERSEVERANCE OF YOUR CO-CHAIRMEN, DAVE GARROD AND TOM JONES AND THE PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT BEYOND OUR WILDEST DREAMS OF GENERAL FRED WEYAND, THIS MEMORIAL WENT FROM AN IDEA TO REALITY IN MUCH LESS TIME THAN INITIALLY IMAGINED. SO WE OWE A DEEP DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO OUR CHARMING AND TALENTED SCULPTOR LYNN LIVERTON, GENERAL WEYAND, DAVE GARROD AND TOM JONES FOR THIS SPLENDID ACCOMPLISHMENT.

LETS HEAR IT FOR THESE MOVERS AND SHAKERS.

NOW LEST WE FORGET, WE ARE A LONG WAY OFF FROM PAYING IN FULL THE \$450,000 BILL FOR THE MONUMENT. SO WE REALLY NEED YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT AND ESPECIALLY YOUR DONATIONS BEFORE WE CAN SAY "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED" YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF DEDICATING ANOTHER STATUE AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY. WE OWN AND RETAIN THE MOLDS FOR THE MEMORIAL SO THIS IS A VIABLE PROJECT FOR THE FUTURE. BUT THIS INITIATIVE CANNOT BE UNDERTAKEN UNTIL WE CLOSE THE BOOKS (MARKED PAID IN FULL) ON THE MEMORIAL AT SCHOFIELD BARRACKS.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT PROJECT HAS BEEN OUR SUPPORT AND VISITS TO MEDICAL FACILITIES AS OUR WOUNDED FROM IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN ARE RETURNED TO THE STATES. WALTER REED MEDICAL CENTER AND THE BETHESDA NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER AND OTHER MEDICAL FACILITIES HAVE BEEN VISITED BY MEMBERS OF OUR TROPIC LIGHTNING ASSOCIATION. JOE FINCH HAS LED THIS EFFORT AND HAS BEEN UNFLAGGING IN HIS ZEAL TO SUPPORT OUR SEVERELY WOUNDED SOLDIERS. THOSE OF US WHO LIVE WITHIN SEVERAL HOURS OF THESE LOCATIONS ARE READY TO RESUME OUR VISITS SINCE WE AGAIN HAVE A BRIGADE DEPLOYED IN IRAQ.

IN OUR VISITS WE FIND THAT OFTEN THE PATIENT DOES NOT WANT TO SEE JUST ANYONE, ESPECIALLY UNSCHEDULED VISITORS. HOWEVER, WHEN WE MENTION OUR 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION OUR WOUNDED SOLDIER WILL TELL THE WARD STAFF TO LET US SEE THEM. IT CLEARLY SHOWS THE CAMARADERIE OF SERVING IN THE SAME COMBAT UNIT THAT SPANS GENERATION GAPS AND THAT IS AS IT SHOULD BE.

I WOULD ALSO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO VICKI OLSON, WIFE OF GENERAL OLSON WHO IS HERE THIS EVENING. SHE HAS SEEN OUR SOLDIERS OFF TO COMBAT IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ AND MET EVERY PLANE CARRYING OUR CASUALTIES BACK TO HAWAII. SHE HAS BECOME SO WELL KNOWN AND APPRECIATED BY THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN COMMUNITIES THAT I TOLD HER AT GENERAL OLSON'S CHANGE OF COMMAND TO GENERAL MIXON, THAT SHE WILL NEVER BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE ISLAND. VICKI, PLEASE STAND.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR VICKI OLSON. SHE CONTINUES TO SERVE AS HER HUSBAND MANAGED TO ESCAPE TO IRAQ WHERE I AM SURE HE PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN THE FUTURE OF THAT COUNTRY.

THE THIRD MAJOR PROJECT WAS AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH CLOSE COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE VETERANS OF THE 12TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL. THIS WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO SEE COME TO FRUITION. THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THIS UNIT TREATED MORE THAN 37,000 WOUNDED SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS IN THE FOUR YEARS THEY SUPPORTED THE 25TH DIVISION AT CU CHI. AS A BENEFICIARY OF THEIR EXPERT MEDICAL CARE, I CAN RECALL TRYING TO SEE WHO WAS HOLDING MY HAND WHEN I CAME TO AFTER RETURNING FROM THE OPERATING ROOM. BUT MY EYES WERE COVERED WITH ALUMINUM SHIELDS SO I COULD NOT SEE WHO IT WAS AND SINCE THE HAND WAS SMALL AND SOFT IT HAD TO BE A NURSE AND NOT THAT OF MY SERGEANT MAJOR. WELL I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR THAT NURSE EVER SINCE. AND WITH THIS JOINT REUNION, I HAVE FOUND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR.

WOULD ALL OF THE VETERANS OF THE 12TH EVAC PLEASE STAND. LET'S HEAR IT FOR THESE DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS WHO SAVED SO MANY LIVES. THEIR UNIT INSIGNIA MOTTO IS SKILLED AND RESOLUTE. IN MY VIEW, THEY HAVE CERTAINLY LIVED UP TO THAT MOTTO.

NOW BEFORE I PASS THE GAVEL, I WANT TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT DURING MY WATCH THE PAST TWO YEARS

FRED DEVERSE

DAVE GARROD

TOM JONES

DAVE NELSON

GARY DITMER

AND LASTLY, WE ALL OWE BUTCH SINCOCK AND HIS ABLE ASSISTANT AND ASSOCIATION SECRETARY, GLENDA ELLIS MANY THANKS..

PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER FOR THESE FOLKS.

PRESIDENTS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS COME AND GO BUT BUTCH AND GLENDA PROVIDE THE CONTINUITY AND ARE THE GLUE THAT KEEPS OUR GREAT ASSOCIATION ALIVE AND WELL.

IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO HAVE SERVED AS YOUR PRESIDENT. AND I THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THESE EXCITING AND CHALLENGING TIMES. GOD BLESS AND KEEP ALL OF YOU AS TOGETHER WE CONTINUE TO SERVE THE 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION AND OUR NATION.



Garth Holmes and daughter Zan Johnston chat with reunion goers Friday night. Garth organized the 12<sup>th</sup> Evac banquet.

Ann Cunningham, Barbara (Boehmer) Dewey and Carolyn McLeavy look at pictures from Vietnam.



Bill McDill and Donna (Perlinger) Johnson catch up on the news at the banquet.

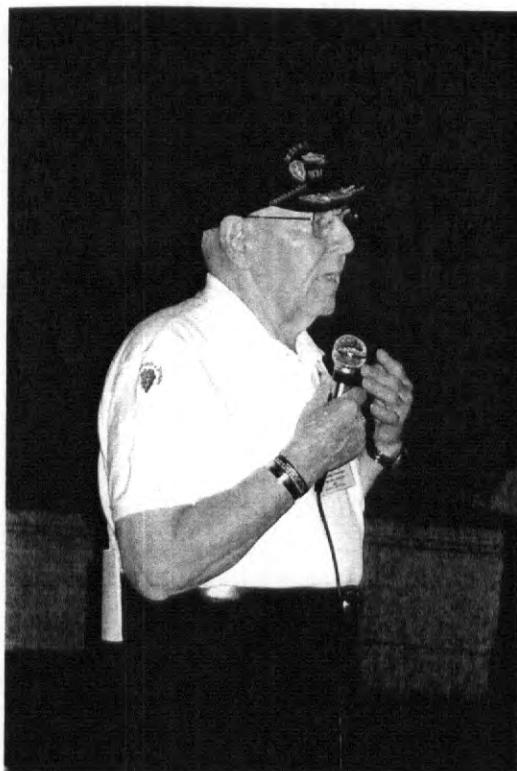
Dick Harder presents MG (Ret.) Andy Anderson with a framed photo of Jim Nelson's oil painting, 12<sup>th</sup> Evac, Cu Chi, RVN, 1966-1970.



Photos by Beth



Bob Hysko explains the 12<sup>th</sup> Evac guidon and the symbolism related to various campaigns.



MG (Ret.) Andy Anderson thanks the 12<sup>th</sup> Evac for saving his life and for all the medical support.



Ann Cunningham unveils the statue of the Vietnam soldier in Lynn Liverton's sculpture, *United by Sacrifice*.