

## 9th CAV News - FLYING POINT



Lou "Rocket" ROCHAT

Home: ( )

Work: ( )

Home Email:

Work Email:



**REAL CAV SIR** – So many things have been, and are, happening concerning the 1-9 CAV and the 1st Cav. Div. itself. The holiday months of Nov. and Dec. were extremely tough as I have yet to be allowed to personally visit any of the wounded personnel at Brooke Army Medical Center. Am still working on that and hope to get clearance for visits very shortly. I'll get in though, especially to see any of our Troopers there.

I did not ask for a 1-9 CAV Commander update for the last issue but I did for this article and have not received anything as it appears our 1-9 CAV Troopers have been really busy as the following known report will show. Word also has it that they will be coming home soon!

Information on our wounded and killed in action is hard to come by. I remember wanting to see visitor's while I was banged up and hospitalized for two years. Now the hospital makes it almost impossible to see our servicemen and women. But I get regular updates from Dennis at the 1st Cavalry Division Association. He has advised me that SPC William HANSEN has received the Purple Heart award (the one award that most of us who have one or more call the EMB-Enemy Marksmanship Badge. Additionally, the following information is from a Division PAO news release. I have edited it and I'm sure Dennis will do additional edits to make it fit.

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 7, 2004 - RELEASE 20041207-05

**(Nearly) All Gave Some - Task Force Awards 124th Purple Heart By Sgt. John QUEEN, 3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs**



**FORWARD OPERATING BASE INDEPENDENCE, Iraq** – The Purple Heart is a combat decoration that Soldiers of TASK FORCE 1-9 CAV of the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team have become all too familiar with during their tour of duty here in Iraq. Nine more of the medals were awarded Nov. 30 to Soldiers of the task force who were wounded during operations in their sector of Baghdad. That brings the total number Purple Heart Medals received by the unit to 124 since the beginning Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

After presenting the Purple Hearts, MG Peter CHIARELLI, the Division Commander, also awarded Army Commendation Medals and Combat Infantry Badges to Soldiers of the unit.

In a brief speech, CHIARELLI praised the 9th

CAV Troopers for the job they've done since deploying to Iraq in Mar.

"I am humble to be in the presence of this battalion," CHIARELLI said. "I thank you for what you people do everyday. You are making a tremendous difference in Baghdad and Iraq."



**SPC Matthew GREVER from Portland, OR is awarded the Purple Heart by MG Peter CHIARELLI.**

One recipient of the Purple Heart, SPC Robert GORDON, a Squad Automatic

Task Force 1-9 operates in one of the most dangerous sections of the Iraqi capital, which includes the infamous Haifa St. "Though it is not always visible from where you are," CHIARELLI continued, "you are asserting yourself in an area of Baghdad where we've had a hard time even get-

Weapons gunner for Co. C, 1-9th CAV. Regiment, said it was an honor to receive it. "I never thought I would get one," GORDON said. "I had just left the infantry line unit and went to [Headquarters Co.]." GORDON and another Soldier were wounded in a grenade attack while on a mission to recover the bodies of two Iraqi policemen who had been killed. He still has a small piece of shrapnel embedded three inches inside his body.

The Purple Heart is a medal that their platoon sergeant, SFC Orlando GARCIA, wished they didn't get. "I'm just glad the injuries were not life threatening," he said. "But, the Purple Heart is something they do deserve."

### A SAD NOTE

LTG (R) John "Jack" NORTON, who commanded the 1st Cavalry Division from May, '66 – Mar., '67 in Vietnam died on 7 Dec., '04 at the age of 86.

### MESSAGES

SMOKY, who advises the column: <e\_mckiddy@yahoo.com> writes: as many of you know that in '99 in Ft. Hood C Troop named a room after SGT Gary McKIDDY who was KIA with C Troop in Vietnam. The father is now taking care of his wife who had a stroke. I ask for prayers and those who knew him or give their best regards please call him. Read on? "SMOKY, RON again.. I will drop him an e-mail tonight. I didn't ask you in the reply e mail I sent about Mom, to maybe dad would like to get some phone calls from the guys to help him at night. He can be reached at 937-866-6610. If you could put the word out about Mom to the 9th CAV group, I am certain what prayers and phone calls or letters to Dad would be of help. Also, someone that served with Gary in Nam, sent my nephew a nice care package. A great big Thank you to whoever did it. Made his day. Ron"

BLAKE McILWAIN, CO, A Troop, 1-9 CAV, Jun., '66-Nov., '66, <blakemcilwain@yahoo.com> wishes to contact anyone he served with.

### VHPA REPORT

Online reunion registration for our next reunion in San Francisco July 2-6 2005 is now open, and includes online hotel reservations. You can access the registration system at <http://www.vhpareunion.org>.

Some highlights of the reunion include a performance by none other than Eric BURDON and The Animals ("We've Gotta Get Out of This Place"), a free cabaret party complete with entertainment, an evening 4th of July harbor cruise on a special yacht with dinner, dancing, and weather/ fog permitting front row seats while on the boat for a spectacular fireworks display. Check out the complete agenda on-line at the web page listed.

Register early! July in San Francisco is at the height of the tourist season, and our host hotel is none other than the downtown Marriott at 55 Fourth Street, a truly first class facility right in the heart of everything. Given the limited capacity for several of our special events, including the 4th of July cruise, and the Alcatraz tour, admission tickets are truly first come, first serve. When these events are booked to capacity, we will not be able to accept additional reservations. To ensure you can attend some of the key events, sign up now!

The same is true for our overnight hotel reservations. We can only hold our room block booked at a very discounted rate of \$109 per night for so long, and then the hotel will fill up any remainder with their own guests. This year's registration using our web-site is almost a seamless process...go to <http://www.vhpareunion.org> and book your events, and then the software links you effortlessly to the hotel registration screens. A few minutes are all it takes. Easy!

Please pass this message along to other VHPA members. Dan FERGUSON, Pres., VHPA

### MORE ABOUT FLIGHT SURGEONS

I was Squadron Flight Surgeon from Aug., '67 to Dec., '67 when I was captured. I returned to American Control in Mar., '73. I replaced CPT Claire SHENEP, who I think was from Iowa. He was KIA...having taken a round in the liver while flying. Rex DAVIS was the Division Surgeon at the time, and Paul WHITMORE became Division Flight Surgeon at the same time that I became 1-9 Flight Surgeon. Hope this helps, although, I can't be more specific about your requested time frame...Aug., '66 to May, '67.

Hal KUSHNER, MD FACS, COL (Ret) US Army, <halkf@cfl.rr.com>

### NORE.....NOTE.....NOTE.....NOTE

New 1-9 CAV website - <<http://www.artnet.com/Magazine/features/mumford/mumford12-13-04.asp>>.

That's all the news I have for now. I am still waiting for some detailed articles, and pictures, from any of the 1-9 CAV members, from any war, to put in the column. I was warned that submission's from 1-9 CAV Troopers would be tough to get. I need you troopers to speak up or I'll start up with some of my '70-'71 1-9 CAV war stories; and yes, I have the photo's to back them up. Take care. Keep in touch. ROCKET

### New Members Listing

Continued from pg. 6.

SPC CUTTER, JOHN E. WA B 1-161INF 0404  
 SPC CYRILLE, KERT C. TX A 615ASB 0011  
 E-4 DAUGHTRY JOHNNY L. GA C 1-8C 6907  
 SFC DAVIS, HUEY L. AR HHC 39SIB 0404  
 CW4 DAVIS, ROGER W. TX HHC 1CDH 0403  
 SSG DAVIS, RONALD W. PA D 312MI 0304  
 SFC DAVIS, STEVEN A. AE HHC 8ENG 0403  
 SGT DAWSON, CHARLES W. FL D 1-7C 6902  
 E-4 DeVRIES, WALTER F. NY A 1-12C 6812  
 E-5 DEVENERO, JOSEPH CT HHC 15ST 8305  
 MR. DICKERSON, BERNARD W. PA HHC 1BDE  
 CPT DIETRICH, NEIL D. AZ ASTA 6607  
 SSG DINGMAN, TIMOTHY J. TX HHC 3BDE 0106  
 MSG DIXON, ELWOOD L. FL 5C 6302  
 SP-4 DONNADIO, GEORGE NJ 15TC 6507  
 SFC DOREMUS, TROY TX C 13SIG 05  
 SPC DOSTER, RICKEY HEATH TX A 615ASB 0101  
 1SG DOWNEY, CARL G. TX 15PSB 0305  
 PFC DOYLE, BILLY G. NM 13SIG 6312  
 2LT DRAKEFORD, WINONA NC HHC DISCOM 0411  
 SGT DRUMMOND, KEENE L. TX A 615ASB 0103  
 E-2 DRYER, ZACKARY, AE B 2-82FA 0105  
 SSG DUCOMMUN, MICHAEL J. WA HHC 1-161INF

0404  
 E-9 DUNHAM, DEWEY L. AR HSB 1-206FA 0102  
 SOC DUNKE, BARBARA S. MO 15PSB 87  
 SGT DZIEWA, STANLEY WI HHC 5C 4907  
 SPC EARNEST, COTY L. MS A 15PSB 0310  
 E-5 EDDINS, CHARLES DAVID AL B 227AVN 6810  
 SPC EDMONSON, PATRICIA L. TX HSC 615ASB 0010  
 SPC EGGEN, KATRINA YVONNE NE HSC 615ASB 0302  
 PFC ELDER, ROBERT C. WA B 1-161INF 0404  
 SGT ELLER, JUSTIN P. AE HHC 1CDH 0110  
 SFC ENCALADE, TAWANA V. TX HHC 3BDE 0304  
 SSG ETIENNE, JACKIE TX B 2-7C 0111  
 SGT EVANS, OTNEY M. TX HDC 215FSB 0403  
 SSG FAIRLEY, RICHARD TX B 615ASB 0212  
 SPC FAISON, WILLIAM NC HSC 615ASB 0308  
 E-4 FEATHERSTON, AARON CA D 2-7C 9911  
 SSG FEIST, SHANNON WA B 3-8C 0404  
 SPC FIGUERORA, SALAS HOMMY AE A 615ASB 0312  
 PFC FITZPATRICK, MICHAEL CLARK CA HSC 615ASB 0412  
 LTC FLEMING, MATTHEW W. AR HHC 39SIB 0404  
 E-5 FLOOD, SCOTT NY B 1-9C 9912  
 1SG FLORES, JEFFREY AE C 2-227AVN 0307  
 LT FORREST, DRAKE L. MT A 1-161INF 0404

SGT FRANKS, ADARRYL TX A 615ASB 0207  
 SSG FREEMAN, SCOT A. AE C 8ENG 97  
 SPC FRENCH, JASON AE A 615ASB 0202  
 SSG FRY, MICHAEL MI HSC 615ASB 0007  
 SGT FULTS, TROY BENTON TX A 615ASB 0208  
 SPC GAFFNEY, DON WA B 1-161INF 0404  
 SFC GAGE, PATRICK M. TX E 215FSB 0107  
 SPC GAITAN, FAITH AE HSC 615ASB 04  
 MAJ GALLASPY, JOHN LA 256SIB 0411  
 CPT GALLOWAY, BYRON A. LA HHC 39SB 0404  
 CW4 GARCIA, JAVIER TX 215FSB 0404  
 E-2 GARCIA, JUAN TX 2-82FA 0009  
 MAJ GARLAND, JERI C. AR 39SB 0404  
 SGT GARZA, YADIRA VERONICA TX HSC 615ASB 0006  
 MRS. GEE, WANDA GA 1-9C 65  
 1LT GEFFERT, JOHN M. CA D 2-227AVN 0404  
 SGT GIBSON, WALTER A. TX HDC 215FSB 0403  
 SP-4 GOLDE, MARK B. WY A 13SIG 6905  
 SFC GONZALES, ANTHONY J. NM 642MNT 0404  
 SSG GONZALEZ-VELEZ, MARILYN TX HHC 4BDE 0211  
 SP4 GOULD, DON M. NY C 2-20ARA 6512  
 CPT GRAVES, SETH TX A 15PSB 0408  
 PFC GRAY, RANDALL CA HHC 2-227AVN 0401  
 2LT GREEN, DARRELL R. LA HHC 199FSB 0410  
 Continued on pg. 10.

## 30th FA News

"HARD CHARGERS"  
MSG (R) Daniel P. Gillotti



Website: [www.hardchargers.com](http://www.hardchargers.com)  
Home:  
Work:



**COL Jack G. CALLAWAY, CO  
1/30th FA '69-'70, 1st Cav  
DIVARTY XO '70**



thrived and survived without the help of many Hard Chargers during these last ten years. There is a very long list of names to thank, but in particular I want to thank Top VERNOR, Jack CALLAWAY, Bill GREGORY and Jack SHOALMIRE. Your continued dedication, hard work and resourcefulness over the last 10 years have been greatly appreciated. A great big Hard Charger **Thank You** to all who contributed your time, talents and treasure during this decade to make the Assn. a success. We could not have accomplished this without your help and we sincerely hope the next ten years will be as successful for the Association

My "Hard Charger of the Year" award goes out to Rich JONES (A/1/30th FA '67-'68) for all of his hard work this past year in his Recruiting Efforts [and in '03 for that mat-

ter]. Rich was determined to find as many of the men he served with in A Btry. '67-'68 as he could. He has searched, found and recruited several new members and he even managed to get them to the reunions. Rich, I proudly salute you for all of your hard work and dedication by saying "Hard Charger-Sir! Now if we could just get one man from B Battery, C Battery, SVC Battery and HHB, to put as much hard work and dedication into recruiting as Rich has, imagine what our next reunions will be like!

Speaking about Reunions, our efforts to get our Hard Chargers to register at the Plaza Suites for the '05 Reunion (June 22-26, '05) are continuing. Killen native



**SP4 David R. BOSWORTH, C/1/30th  
FA, KIA Camp Evans  
RVN, 20 Feb., '68**

and former Assistant DA Rusty CARROLL is our '05 Reunion Host. Please call the Plaza Hotel at 1-800-633-8756 and make your reservations. Our 30th FA Hospitality Suite will be located at the Plaza Hotel. [ED NOTE: The Plaza is full but the HoJo down the street and other hotels still have rooms.] This issue of the *SABER* will be out in Feb., '05 and that still leaves over four months to get registered for the reunion.



**PFC James W. GUEST,  
C/1/30th FA, KIA Camp  
Evans RVN, 20 Feb., '68**

Also, check our Hard Charger website for Reunion Details at ([www.hardchargers.com](http://www.hardchargers.com)).

Now for some Hard Charger History. Beginning in '68, the Hard Chargers were scattered everywhere. The 1-30th FA Base Camp (Camp Townes) was still outside of Qui Nhon,



**2LT Halladay PULLUM near Camp Evans with C/1/30th  
FA, '68.**

with a Detachment at An Khe. The Bn TOC was in full operation at LZ English with responsibility for Base Defense. The 1st Air Cav was beginning its move up north to I CTZ (Hue- Phu Bai). B Btry. was airlifted by C-130 to Quang Tri on 23 Jan., '68 followed by elements of HHB and SVC Battery on 27 Jan., '68. B Battery moved into firing positions at LZ Sharon and the HHB and SVC Battery elements moved to Camp Evans and began setting up forward operations. As the Battle of Hue commenced with the start of TET '68, A Battery moved to LZ Nola to support the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cav's efforts to drive the communists out of the Imperial City of Hue. C Battery was 200 miles south, still down in II CTZ outside of Bong Son supporting the 2nd Brigade's operations. They began movement to join the rest of the Hard Chargers on 19 Feb., '68. As the battle for Hue was continuing, tragedy struck the Hard Charger Battalion again on 20 Feb., '68, when a vehicle accident claimed the lives of SP4 David R. BOSWORTH and PFC James W. GUEST, both of C Battery. To get an accurate account of what happened to these men I ask Hal PULLUM to write what he could remember. Hal was a Lieutenant newly assigned to C Battery at the time of the accident. What follows is a written account of the accident in Hal PULLUM's own words: "A detail account of the events surrounding the deaths of SP4 David Russell BOSWORTH and PFC James Walker GUEST 20 Feb., '68 near Phu Cat Viet Nam. Both men were serving their country in C Battery, 1-30th Artillery. The sixth annual reunion of the 1-30th Artillery was conducted during 15 through 17 June, '00. I attended the reunion. For the vast majority of the time I had a grand time,

Happy 10th Anniversary to the 30th Field Artillery Regimental Association! The Association was activated on 1 Jan., '95. Our Association could not have

as did most all of the attendees. As with all reunions there are those times when we remember our fallen comrades and think back to the time when they went to the great R&R center to be with all the other military men and woman who did not come home from war. Our historian, Dan GILLOTTI asked me, to write the following detail account of the day we lost two of our own. This is not done for the morbid seekers or for any personnel gain. It was done so that there will be a permanent historical record of what transpired that fateful day. The following are my recollections of the events that occurred on 20 Feb., '68 on Highway 1 near Phu Cat Viet Nam. I invite other members of C Battery 1-30 FA to add or correct any of my remembrances of that terrible day. C Battery was conducting a road march with the complete battery. This included the six howitzers and prime movers (trucks), ammunition section, mess section, communications section, the XO vehicle and the CO vehicle. This was not a small convey. It was a typical day in Vietnam, hot and humid with the sun beating down on everyone and everything. The battery was traveling north on Hwy. 1. There was much traffic on the highway and this included bicycles, mopeds, civilian trucks of every size and shape and pedestrians. The road was black top that dropped off about 4 to 5 inches to the shoulder of the road. The shoulder was not very wide, maybe big enough for a man to walk on. Then there was a ten to twelve foot drop to the rice patties. This drop was very steep. The rice patties were full of mud and water. I was in the front seat of a vehicle approximately 2 or 3 vehicle behind the vehicle that BOSWORTH and GUEST were riding. They were riding in the back of the vehicle, on top of all the equipment and powder. Their vehicle swerved to the left to avoid some traffic on the right side of the road and then quickly swerved to the right to avoid oncoming traffic. At this point I need to explain how the vehicle and trailer were loaded. The vehicle was loaded with pallets of 155mm-howitzer powder. The powder is packaged in watertight steel



**Former SP5 Jack B. SHOALMIRE,  
A/1/30th FA '68.**

containers. There were at least two of these pallets on the vehicle. Additionally, there were dozens of other articles of military equipment and personnel belongings. The trailer contained 155mm-howitzer projectiles bundled in pallets of eight. The vehicle stayed on the black top but the trailer's right wheel slipped down onto the dirt of the soft shoulder. The difference in height between the black top and the shoulder was 4 to 5 inches and this difference caused the trailer to skip or jump. The jumping or bouncing of the trailer with the weight of the projectile (each 155mm projectile weights 97 pounds) caused the trailer to bounce higher and higher. On one of the bounces the trailer's right tire came down on the steep decline on the side of the road. The trailer skidded side ways and pulled the vehicle side ways and down the decline to the rice patties. The vehicle slid part way down to the rice patties and then rolled over on its top. The trailer ended up in the rice patties with about half of the vehicle in the rice patties and the other half on the steep decline. All the men riding on top of the vehicle were thrown off the vehicle into the rice patties or on the decline. The vehicle landed on one man and one of the pallets of powder landed on one of the men. These two men were SP4 David Russell BOSWORTH and PFC James Walker GUEST. Unfortunately, I did not know either of the men and could not tell which was which. Additionally, the drivers' head was pinned between the steering wheel and the ground. And one man was face down in the rice patties with a pallet of 155mm projectiles on his arm. Both of these individuals later returned to C Battery. I do not remember what happened to the others who were riding on or in the vehicle. When the accident occurred the convoy stopped and I jumped out of my vehicle and ran to the scene of the accident. We did not know immediately that an individual was under the vehicle and discovered his body when the wrecker moved the vehicle back onto the road. The individual pinned under the powder pallet was only partially conscious when I arrived at the scene. He died in less than a minute. We continued with rendering assistance to those who were injured and recovering the remains of our dead. I have tried to detail the events of 20 Feb., '68 as best as I could remember. May



**Top VERNOR, ISG A/1/30th FA  
'68-'69, with George and Laura  
BUSH May, '04**

#### New Members Listing Continued from pg. 9.

SFC GREEN, MELVIN WI B 5-7C 6906  
SPC GREENE, TERENCE A. AE HSC 615ASB 04  
SP-4 GREER, RONALD C. MI A 2-19FA 6305  
SPC GUZMAN, KATTY M. AE A 15PSB 0306  
SSG HAAG, CHRISTOPHER R. WA HHC 1-161INF 0404  
SPC HALEY, EDWARD JAMES TX D 115FSB 0209  
SPC HALL, CORY CA HHC 1-9C 0205  
CPT HALL, ROBERT TX HHC 3BDE 0402  
E-5 HAMMOND, DAVID L. NY 1-101C 0411  
SP-4 HANDS, ROBERT MARTIN AZ HHC 2BDE 6507  
MR. HANEY, COY DEE OK 1090 1-ASSOC  
Continued on pg. 14.

our patron saint, St. Barbara, watch over all our fallen comrades until we are all together again. Signed, Haliday M. PULLUM, MAJ, USA (Ret) Ft. Sill Artillery OCS, OCC 17-67, RVN '68-'69." And may your prayers be said for all forty of our Hard Chargers who died in Vietnam. Thanks Hal for giving us this excellent account of what happened on 20 Feb., '68. And thanks to all of you who sent so many Christmas cards or e-mails for the holidays as we really appreciate them. We hope to see all of you at Fort Hood in June! This is Hard Charger 9er Golf, End of Mission-Out!

## 27th ORD/MNT/MSB NEWS



Ed JONES

Email:



John RAMSDEN

E-mail:

1st column is the Veteran's Day weekend brunch and mini-reunion. As promised, all the details are included in this column to include pictures. We had thirty-four people in attendance. From the 27th ORD Co., Korean War period we had: Cliff BAKER; Lyle and Ruth EDWARDS and Larry O'HARA and his daughter, Terese LANZA.

From the 27th MNT Bn. in Korea during the '63 - '65 timeframe we had Larry HARMON and Charlie YOUNG.

From the 27th MNT Bn., Vietnam War period we had: Phil and Sharon BARB; Doug BERMINGHAM and his son Doug; Nelson CARDONA and his son, Thomas; Gene and Shirley DOLFI, Peter DURNO and his daughter Lori; Bill FARROUX, Ed JONES, Charlie and Elli KONGRO, Rollie KORESKI and his friend Jean HERR; Larry and Virginia MALLERY; Ray PUFFER, his daughter Ingrid, and her soon to be husband, Patrick BETTS; Art PAULUS, John and Lydia RAMSDEN, and Ron and Bertha STOKES.



From the 27th MSB at Ft. Hood, we had Terry BEY-NON, who was the Bn CO from '99 to '01.

Picture number one shows our Korean War vets, Charlie KONGRO (545th MAM Co), Larry O'HARA, Cliff BAKER, in his official Korean War era uniform that he still fits in (after losing 34lbs!) and Lyle EDWARDS, all who served with the 27th ORD Co.



in Korea.

Picture number two, from left to right shows: Art PAULUS, Ed JONES, Sharon and Phil BARB, Bill FARROUX and Bertha and Ron STOKES, all from the Vietnam War period.



Picture number three, from left to right shows: Charlie and Elli KONGRO, Peter DURNO, Virginia and Larry MALLERY, Gene DOLFI, and seated, Lori DURNO and Shirley DOLFI, again all from the Vietnam War period with the 27th.



Picture number four, from left to right, shows: Nelson CARDONA and his son Thomas, Larry O'HARA, his daughter Terese, Ray PUFFER, his daughter Ingrid and her fiancé, Patrick BETTS. Nelson served during the Vietnam War and of course, Larry was in the Korean War.

My great thanks to Ron and Bertha STOKES for taking and sending me all of these pictures. I have several more that I will include in the next edition so if you have not seen yourself yet, be patient!

Cliff BAKER was at my table and told an interesting story of how they found out the Chinese had come into Korea and the subsequent retreat in '50 from near the border. I asked Cliff to write me an account for *SABER* so here it goes. I hope you find it as interesting as I did!

"It was late Nov. The front lines were at Anjou, about fifty miles south of the Yalu River, which is the boundary between North Korea and Manchuria. We were setup in a rice paddy, as usual, along the MSR north of Unsan, thirty miles south of Anjou. It was a bright, sunny day though quite cold and we were busy

at work doing the things ORD people do. We noticed an unusual amount of traffic on the MSR with a lot of different units heading south. After observing this for a while we became concerned and sent a guy to the CP to inquire about it. The folks at the CP were skeptical but got in touch with our Div.HQ anyway and were told we were supposed to have cleared the area at 0700 that morning. (We learned later that the Chinese had come into the war and were overrunning our front lines.)" "It was now 1100 hours!

We began preparations to move out immediately. We had numerous crates of new engines and other parts and quite a number of new trucks and jeeps, plus the usual vehicles on hand for repair. We also had eighteen thousand gallons of gasoline in fifty-five gallon drums. We moved all the material that we could not move with us close together and placed the gasoline so as to torch the lot." (It made a great bonfire according to Cliff!)

"It was late afternoon when we began moving out and found it very difficult to get on the road due to the congestion and the fact that we were out of sync with the withdrawal schedule. We had posted a lookout on a hill north of the area to warn us if we were about to be overrun. We managed piecemeal to get a few vehicles on the road at a time and drove south all that night, having to get off the road from time to time for high priority traffic. We were definitely low priority."

"After two days of this, we were just north of Kaesong and running out of fuel. No one knew where the POL was located. CPL KLINE, myself and one other guy, whose name I do not remember, were ordered to take three trucks and drive south searching for fuel. We drove through the night and the next day finally found fuel at the docks at the port of Inchon. After a short nap we headed back north arriving at the Co. the next morning at 0900 hours. They had decided to wait thirty minutes longer and then to burn everything and walk south. Needless to say, they were very glad to see us! We continued south and stopped at Suwon south of Seoul where we spent the winter." Thanks Cliff for a great true adventure story!

We had a nice e-mail from Greg CLASS, who was the Co. clerk for Hq and Co. A in Vietnam from '68-'69. He had open heart and bypass surgery in Aug., '03 and is now fully recovered. That was the good news. The bad news was that after 29 years of working for Yamaha and within three years of retirement, his job was eliminated. However, as of his e-mail in early Dec., he was actively looking for a less stressful job! He and Toni are doing well and continue to live in the beautiful San Diego area.

Another e-mail, we received was from Bill JACKSON who served with the 27th MNT Bn. in Korea in '63-'64. Bill had been traveling in Europe and visited Germany, Poland and Lithuania. Bill commented about the great attitude toward Americans that they saw in Poland and Lithuania, and noted that in Vilnius, Lithuania there is a plaque at the City Hall that says, "Anyone who would choose Lithuania as an enemy has also made an enemy of the United States. President George W. BUSH."

One other former trooper heard from was Chuck McLEAN. He sent me a picture of himself and a currently serving member of the 27th MSB in Iraq, CPL Jason SLETTEBAK, who hails from the same hometown as Chuck, the metropolis of Petersburg, ND! I will include the picture in the next *SABER* column.

News from the 27th Bn. in Iraq continues to be good with lots of mission work. As of this writing, in late Dec., they are still hoping to be back at Ft. Hood sometime in Mar. A reminder that the 58th Annual CAV Reunion will be held at Ft. Hood from June 22-26. Details were in the November/December *SABER*! I Continued on pg.17.

### SABER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

(Circle one below.)

A one time donation of:

\$10 covers your subscription to *SABER* for one year.

\$25 makes you a D-Troop member plus a one year subscription.

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All D-Troopers receive certificates suitable for framing.

Brigade members receive handsome 1st Cavalry wall plaques.

All donors (\$25 or more) receive mention in the Honor Roll column and may dedicate gifts. D-Troop milestones can be achieved cumulatively. We will keep track of your contributions.

**Associate Membership** - for those with no service with the 1st Cav. Div.

\$15 one year Associate membership plus a one year subscription.

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City \_\_\_\_\_

State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Assign \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I DO / DO NOT Authorize release of my personal information to Assn. members.

I served with the Cav in: (CIRCLE) Pre-WWII, WWII, Japan, Korea War  
Korea '57-'65, FT Benning, Vietnam War, Ft Hood, Gulf War, Bosnia,  
Afghanistan, Iraq

I served with another military unit during a war time period? Yes No (CIRCLE)

Make Checks Payable to: 1st Cavalry Division Association

Mail to: 302 N. Main, Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

### PLAN NOW FOR 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 58th REUNION, 22-26 June, 2005, Killeen, TX

Reunions are a time for all of us to gather together and say 'Welcome Home' and we want each of you to be a part of this great event. The newest veterans of wartime service with the First Team will be back from Iraq and participating in this year's reunion. Come and visit with old friends and make some new ones!

#### **HOTELS and RV PARKS**

Don't wait; reserve your hotel room now: The Plaza Hotel is the Reunion Headquarters. Registration will begin on Wed., afternoon, 22 June and the official program will begin with a welcoming mixer on Thurs. afternoon. The Reunion will end Sun. morning, 26 June, with the Memorial Ceremony. There are lots of events and good times in between! A bus will run between all the hotels we list..

Hotels	Rate	Phone #
PLAZA HOTEL	\$69	(800) 633-8756
HOWARD JOHNSON	\$69	(800) 648-6551
BEST VALUE INN	\$50	(888) 799-2378
LA QUINTA INN	\$55	(254) 526-8331
SUPER 8 MOTEL	\$50-\$60	(254) 634-6868
FAIRFIELD INN	\$89	(866) 377-5358
DAYS INN	\$62-\$67	(254) 634-6644
MOTEL 6	\$46-\$59	(254) 634-4151

All rates are plus 13% tax. Plaza, Ho Jo, Best Value, Super 8, Fairfield Inn and Days Inn rates include continental breakfast. **Call the Hotel or mail the Registration Form below to the desired hotel.** Be sure to mention 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion.

Plaza Hotel, 1721 E. Central TX Expwy., Killeen TX 76541

Howard Johnson (Ho-Jo), 803 E. Central TX Expwy., Killeen TX 76541

Best Value Inn, 1100 S. Ft. Hood St., Killeen TX 76541

La Quinta Inns, Inc., 1112 S. Ft. Hood St., Killeen TX 76541

Contact the Association for address of the other hotels.

RV travelers can reserve space, if available, near the Killeen Civic & Conference Center (less than a mile from the Plaza Hotel). Call Lesley at (254) 501-7652. Mention 1st Cav. Div. Assn. for reservations. Other RV sites for military ID card holders in the local area include the West Ft. Hood Travel Camp, \$10, (254) 288-9926, and Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area, \$12-\$15, (254) 287-2523. We are requesting permission for non-ID card holders to use the West Fort Hood camp. Check with us before making reservations at West Ft. Hood.

#### **1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM**

##### **HOTEL**

THIS IS A RESERVATION REQUEST AND MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A ONE NIGHT ROOM DEPOSIT OR CREDIT CARD GUARANTEE; OTHERWISE RESERVATION IS SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION BY THE HOTEL. You may cancel your reservation up to 24 hours before your date of arrival without penalty.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ARRIVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NUMBER IN PARTY: \_\_\_\_\_ ADULTS: \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDREN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS NEEDS: \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD (Circle) American Express VISA Diners Discover MasterCard  
 CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ AMT. ENCL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **REUNION EVENT OVERVIEW**

The 1st Cav. Div. Assn. Reunion, 22-26 June, '05, promises to again be a most memorable time as we 'Welcome Home' all of the veterans of the First Team. The Crossed Sabers Chapter plans to again out do itself as your host Chapter.

The Division is prepared to put on a great program on Fri., Division Day and a full schedule of events is being planned. Make sure that you bring a photo identification card with you so that you will be able to get on Ft. Hood. Div. Day events begin with a Division Run and breakfast with the Troopers on Cooper Field. Breakfast will be \$1.90 cash at the site. Let us know if you wish to attend so they fix the right amount of SOS. You don't have to run but if you do, they will be going about 4 miles at an 8-9 minute pace. Friday events continue with a vehicle display, visits to Regimental areas, Barn Tours at the Horse Detachment, a Retreat Ceremony, and an evening Historical Tableau that outlines the history of the Cavalry from horses through today.

The Division Commander is planning to make the State of the Division address at the Banquet on Sat. evening.

We are expecting high attendance with a significant number of new members looking to renew old acquaintances. Register early to not be disappointed in case requests for some functions exceed available space. Cancellation requests must be received by National Headquarters by 5:00pm, Fri., 17 June, '05 to be eligible for a refund.

In addition to the Welcoming Mixer on Thurs. evening, Association sponsored functions include War Era Luncheons and a Texas Barbecue on Fri., Unit Luncheons and the annual Banquet on Sat., and a group breakfast and Memorial Ceremony on Sun. morning. Meetings of the Scholarship Foundation and Museum Foundations Trustees, Board of Governors, and our General Membership are important events that occur during Reunion. Election of Association officers will occur at the General Membership meeting. The planning schedule on the next page provides more detail and provides prices for events..

The 5th Cav. will be sponsoring the Thurs. evening Sweetheart Dance with all profits going to the Foundation scholarship program. The Sweetheart Dance has become a tradition of our reunions and we are grateful for this effort on behalf of the Foundation. Tickets can be purchased on the Reunion Registration form and will also be available in the registration area at the Reunion.

The Reunion Room will be the best place to link up with old friends. Drinks in the Reunion Room are free and donations put in the jar on the bar help us offset the costs. Some units will also host a Hospitality Suite that do not fall under the Association overview. The Crossed Sabers Souvenir Shop will have a site set up at the Plaza and the shop in the Division Museum will also be open.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

**Air Travel**—The new Killeen Airport is open and in addition to the small prop airplanes used at the old airport commuter jet service is now available from the Dallas and Houston airports. The new location is co-located with Robert Gray Army Airfield. Austin's Bergstrom Airport is located on the other side of Austin (about 1 1/2 hour). Various rental car agencies are available at both airports. Assn. members get unlimited mileage and year round discounts off Alamo's base rental rates. Some restrictions apply. For reservations, call Alamo at 1-800-354-2322. Be sure to request ID#93291 and rate code BY at the time of reservation. There is no Alamo counter in Killeen.

If you don't have a regular Travel Agent or don't like to schedule flights yourself, there are two reputable Travel Agencies that we recommend you contact for assistance in making your travel arrangements. Both Casa Blanca-Great Escapes Travel Service, 612 S. Gray St., Killeen, TX 76541, 1-866-833-0327 and All Country Travel, 250 Cove Terrace, Copperas Cove, TX 76522, 1-800-226-1990 have worked with the Association during past reunions.

**Train/Bus Travel**—AMTRAK serves Temple, TX, about 20 miles East of Killeen, and provides a 15% discount off their published rates for passengers 62 years of age and over. AMTRAK central reservations can be reached at (800) 872-7245 or at <www.amtrak.com>. Discounted tickets are on a space available basis so early reservations are recommended. The Trailways Bus Station is located at the corner of 4th Street and Avenue C in Killeen, and in Austin at 916 E. Koenig.

**Automobile Travel**—Those traveling to Reunion by automobile may notice changes in the gate access to Ft. Hood during their trip. The Association will have a site set up at the Reunion Registration so those who don't have a Department of Defense decal may obtain a Temporary Pass for the time period of the Reunion. A valid Driver's License, Proof of Insurance, and Vehicle Registration or a contract for a rental car are required to get a temporary registration. If you arrive prior to the start of Registration use the Main Gate and stop at the Visitors Center to obtain a temporary pass.

#### **TOURS**

The Killeen Convention and Visitors Bureau has prepared two great tours for your consideration. They have been planned to not interfere with any other ticketed events scheduled during the reunion.

The following form can be filled out and mailed directly to KCCC, 1st CAV Tours, ATTN: Lesley BROCATO, P.O. Box 1329, Killeen, TX 76540-1329. Make checks or money orders for tours payable to the City of Killeen.

#### **1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 2005 REUNION TOUR ORDER FORM**

Please don't send this form to National Headquarters, but rather send it to KCCC, 1st CAV Tours, ATTN: Lesley Brocato, PO Box 1329, Killeen, TX 76540-1329.

TOUR/TIME	NO. OF TICKETS	@ PRICE	= AMOUNT
<b>WILD ABOUT WACO</b> Wed 22 Jun. 8:00am-4:30pm	_____	@ \$39.00 =	\$ _____
<b>LAWMAKERS &amp; LEGENDS</b> Thur 23 Jun. 8:30am-2:30pm	_____	@ \$44.50 =	\$ _____

**TOTALS** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**CREDIT CARDS, CHECKS or MONEY ORDERS ACCEPTED**  
 VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MASTERCARD \_\_\_\_\_ (Circle one)

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **TOUR REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED WITH PAYMENT NOT LATER THAN 1 JUNE 2005.**

The City of Killeen reserves the right to cancel any tour if minimum sign-up is not met. Credit cards will be charged only after the minimum for a tour is met. No reservations will be taken by phone. Payment is required with request. Tickets will be provided at the hotel during registration. Once the tour is contracted no refunds will be provided and no cancellations will be allowed.

**Wed. Morning, 22 June – Wild about Waco Tour – \$39.** A drive past the Ranch of the President of the United States and a stop to visit shops and coffee house where he stops to dine and chat in Crawford begins a great day of fun. The Tour moves on to Waco and includes a guided tour of the Texas Ranger Museum, lunch (price included) at Dock's Landing, a visit to the Dr. Pepper Museum, and a visit to the Homestead Heritage Craft Village before returning to Killeen.

**Thurs. Morning, 23 June – Lawmakers and Legends Tour – \$44.50.** Visit the capital city of Texas and enjoy the sights and tastes of Austin. Tours include: A tour of the Capitol Building, an Austin tour by land and on water in a 'Duck', an amphibious vehicle that is modeled after the DUKW, lunch (price included) at Threadgills—a favorite spot for traveling musicians that has been open since 1933, and a light walk on the shores of Lake Austin before returning to Killeen.

# 58th Annual 1st Cav. Div. Association

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22**

0800-1630 Crawford/Waco Tour  
 1300-1800 Registration Desk Open  
 1300-1800 Souvenir Shop Open  
 1300-2400 Reunion Room Open

**THURSDAY, JUNE 23**

0830-1430 Austin Tour  
 0900-1800 Registration Desk Open  
 0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open  
 0900-1500 Reunion Room Open  
 1030-1200 Chapter President's Meeting  
 1300-1400 Foundation Trustees Meeting  
 1400-1500 Museum Foundation Meeting  
 1600-1800 Welcoming Mixer (Hors d'oeuvres/Open Bar)  
 1600-1800 Kid's Mixer  
 1900-2400 Reunion Room Open  
 2030-2400 Sweetheart Scholarship Dance

**FRIDAY, JUNE 24**

0630-0800 Division Run and Breakfast with Troopers  
 0800-0900 Board of Governors Meeting

0800-1600 Vehicle Display  
 0900-1730 Registration Desk Open  
 0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open  
 0900-2400 Reunion Room Open  
 1230-1430 War Era Veterans Lunches  
 1630-1730 Retreat Ceremony  
 1745-1900 Texas BBQ  
 2000-2130 Historic Tableau

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25**

0900-1200 Registration Desk Open  
 0900-1700 Souvenir Shop Open  
 0900-2400 Reunion Room Open  
 0900-1030 General Membership Meeting  
 1200-1400 Unit Luncheons  
 1745-1845 Cocktails  
 1900-2200 Reunion Banquet

**SUNDAY, JUNE 26**

0700-0830 Group Breakfast Buffet  
 0700-0830 LRRP/Ranger Breakfast Buffet  
 0900-1000 Memorial Ceremony

## 1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 58th REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

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

Yes, I will attend the 1st Cavalry Division Association 58th Annual Reunion at the Plaza Hotel, Killeen, TX June 22-26, 2005. Cancellations must be received by 5:00pm Friday, June 17, 2004 in our office (254-547-6537) for a refund. Seating at some functions is limited.

**Register early.**

**YOU MUST BE AN ASSOCIATION MEMBER TO REGISTER. PLEASE PROVIDE ALL THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.**

Are you a Member of the 1st Cav. Div. Assn. Yes ☐ No ☐

Please Print Clearly (Return Labels are appreciated)

NAME

NICKNAME

STREET

CITY, STATE & ZIP

Telephone # (  )

Last 4 SSN  Birth Date

Date(s) Served in 1st Cav from  to

Unit(s)

I served during (Circle one or more): Pre-WWII WWII JAPAN  
 KOREAN WAR KOREA '57-65 FT. BENNING VIETNAM WAR  
 FT. HOOD GULF WAR BOSNIA AFGHANISTAN IRAQ

I will be accompanied by my spouse (Full Name and Nickname)

and the following persons, please specify relationship. (Family members only.)

Is this your first 1st Cav. Div. Assn. Reunion? Yes ☐ No ☐

My e-mail is:

I am staying at: Plaza ☐ HoJo ☐ Best Value Inn ☐  
 LaQuinta Inn ☐ Comfort Inn ☐ Holiday Inn Express ☐  
 Fairfield Inn & Suites ☐ Home ☐ RV ☐  
 Local ☐ Other

Please specify where you are staying, it will help us to find you in the event of an emergency. Thanks!

Registration fee required for Association member only (Widows no Fee) - no fee for family members accompanying Association member. Registration includes: Name Tags (required for admission to Reunion Room and other activities), Official Reunion Program, Reunion Pin and information package.

FUNCTION	NO. OF TICKETS	COST AMOUNT	TOTAL
Early Registration Fee Through May 15			
Association Member Only.....		\$15.00	\$
Currently serving on Active Duty -- (subtract \$5.)			\$
Late Registration after May 15 ---Add		\$10.00	\$

**THURSDAY, JUNE 23 (4:00pm-6:00pm)**

Welcoming Mixer		\$17.00 ea.	\$
Kids Mixer (6 & Over)		\$ 8.00 ea.	\$
Sweetheart Dance		\$ 7.50 ea.	\$

**FRIDAY, JUNE 24**

Breakfast with Troops		\$1.90 ea	Pay Cash There
War Era Luncheons			
WWII Veterans		\$15.00 ea.	\$
Korean War Veterans		\$15.00 ea.	\$
Vietnam War Veterans		\$15.00 ea.	\$
Gulf War Veterans		\$15.00 ea.	\$
Texas BBQ		\$15.00 ea.	\$

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25**

Unit Luncheons		\$12.00 ea.	\$
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I wish to attend with: (Circle one)

5th Cav	7th Cav	8th Cav	9th Cav	12th Cav	ARTY
ENG	HQ & SP Trps	Ranger/LRRP			Silver Wings
MI	15th MED				
Banquet					
Adult					\$25.00 ea. \$
Child (12 years and under)					\$10.00 ea. \$

Banquet table seating is assigned during the reunion. You must take your banquet tickets to the Banquet Seating Table to get your table number assigned. NO ONE will be admitted without a table number on their ticket. To assist us in organizing the seating, please circle the unit that you wish to sit with at the banquet. (Circle one)

1st SIG	5th Cav	7th Cav	8th Cav	9th Cav
12th Cav	13th SIG	DISCOM	DIVARTY	15th Med
ENG	HQ & SP Trps	Ranger/LRRP		Silver Wings

If you wish to sit with your friends, please give their name(s)

If you haven't picked up your tickets by 6:00pm Friday, you will be assigned a seat as permitted with your unit at the Banquet.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 26**

Sunday Group Breakfast		\$12.00 ea.	\$
Ranger/LRRP Breakfast		\$12.00 ea.	\$

And a little extra to help cover expenses?

Please renew my SABER News Subscription (\$10/year)

New Life Membership (\$10) RANK  \$

Grand Total (Don't forget Registration Fee) \$   
 (WE DONT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS)

## 99th FA News


 Jim Miller


This column is a lot easier to write because I've gotten so much input from all of those good 99th'ers out there. Before we get down to business, I want to throw in a few interesting items.

First, I had a chance to visit the WWII Monument in Washington, DC this past summer. (It sure helps to have kids living on the East coast.) For you WWII veterans: go see it! Even if you're angry about the long time it took our government to acknowledge your service; make a visit to this wonderful site, you won't regret it for sure. Also, for you WWII vets: fellow Minnesotan Ancel KEYS passed away. You might not recognize the name, but he was the inventor of K-RATIONS. The K in K-rations was for KEYS. As a Japan/Korea vet, I didn't eat very many K's but I was sure familiar with C-RATIONS. After our mess truck was lost in the early days of Korea, I ate C's for about four months. That's a wonderful way to lose weight; just get on the C-ration diet. After a while, we could only eat the crackers, jam, and coffee. After my mentioning of my trip to the reunion in Milwaukee, some readers have expressed wonderment at where I live; others accused me of living in Frostbite Falls because I enjoyed the winter of '50 so much. To clear all this up; I live in SE Minnesota. We call Winona the Miami of Minnesota because we're on the Southeast coast (on the Mississippi, and it's much warmer here than in most of Minnesota. One night last winter we were the warmest spot in Minnesota at minus seventeen degrees! I've already made my trip south this winter; I went to Chicago to Christmas shop. Talk about lucky 99th-ers; Chuck ZEICHERT and I both won in the Kettle Moraine Chapter's annual raffle; We averaged \$55.00; Chuck won \$100 and I won \$10! I received notice the WWII veterans of C Battery's 48th reunion in Souix Falls, SD from Gene and Loveta HARTLE. Helmer ANDERSON's son, Merlin and his wife Cheryl hosted the gathering at the Brimark Inn. Some of Friday's activities included a visit to Antique Tractor Collection, the Butterfly House and the German Fest. The group also visited the EROS DATA SPACE CENTER. Sat. evening's dinner had 27 adults and seven children in attendance. Each evening had time for getting together and talking, the best part of reunions. Unfortunately, it was reported that Sam FINCHER passed away August 22, 2004. Sam attended all the reunions and kept a record of each. His son, Lester and wife did attend. Gene and Loveta HARTLE'S grand daughter's husband, Mike, is



serving with the 1st Cav. in Iraq. Mike sent along banners for all the reunion attendees. Sun. included a church service at Merlin's church. Each C Btry.

### 7th Cav. News

Continued from pg. 7.

consciousness grew. It shamed us. However, we learned from our mistake. Somewhere during the late '70's and into the '80's, we realized that we can't treat our warriors that way. So, starting during the Gulf War, when the first real opportunity arose to stand up and support the troops, we did. We did it to support our friends and family going off to war. But we also did it to right the wrongs from the Vietnam era. We treated our troops like the heroes they were, acknowledged and celebrated their sacrifice and rejoiced at their homecoming instead of spitting on them. And that support continues today for those of us in Iraq. Our country knows that it must support us and it does. The lesson was learned in Vietnam and we are better because of it. Everyone who has gone before is a hero. They are celebrated in my heart. I think admirably of all those who have gone before me. From those who fought to establish this country in the late 1770's to those I serve with here in Iraq. They have all sacrificed to ensure our freedom. But when I get back, I'm going to make it a personal mission to specifically thank every Vietnam Vet I encounter for their sacrifice. Because if nothing else good came from that terrible war, one thing did. It was the lesson learned on how we treat our warriors. We as a country learned from our mistake and now treat our warriors as heroes, as we should. I am the beneficiary of their sacrifice. Not only for the freedom they, like veterans from other wars, ensured, but for how well our country now treats my fellow Marines and I. We are the beneficiaries of their

### WANTED

IF YOU SERVED WITH, KNOW, KNEW OR HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING, PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH THE CONTACT LISTED.

**BOBZINSKI**, Robert 'BobBob' and **RINGOLD**, 'Doc', A Co., 2-8th CAV, '69-'70. Contact Assn. member Bruce FAWCETT, <BHFawcett@rsi-ins.com>.

**PIERCE**, PFC Edward 'Skip' E., Jr., Medic, 5th CAV, MIA 2 Nov., '50 and de-

clared dead. Contact his brother Phillip PIERCE, 1226 Newton St., Bellingham, WA 98229, <philendawn@earthlink.net>.

**TROOPERS** that spent most of their time on the Base Camp at An Khe, '66-'69, for research on a book. Contact author Robert ULIN, <ruin@paysonulin.com>.

sacrifice. "Semper Fidelis", MAJ Brian P. BRESNAHAN - USMC".

And now some closing messages to share with each of you who have participated in the Trooper Support Program for our soldiers - "I received your first package with all the goodies. They were all very nice. The candy arrived in perfect condition (loved the plastic wrap). I ate the licorice, while my small family here devoured the chocolate treats. The ladies loved the small bullet shaped lip balm and the assortment of perfume. All was great! We thank you "very much" for all of the treats and things. SFC "Backbone" WATLEY" - "Thank you for your support. It means a lot to us over here, away from our family and friends, as I'm sure you know. Keep my soldiers in your thoughts and prayers. Have a Merry Christmas. CPT Kevin KUGEL" - "Thank you for supporting the troops during the holidays... we are doing a raid tomorrow night... Many don't realize that females are leading patrols just like the men. Blessings from Baghdad. 1LT Denise LITTLE." And from me to all of you who added a trooper to your Christmas gift list - "THANK YOU". As I put the finishing touches on this column, the New Year '05 is rapidly approaching. In about 6 hours and 58 minutes I intend to raise a glass of bubbly stuff and offer up a toast for a safe, healthy, and happy New Year for everyone who is serving, or has ever served, wearing a 1st Cav. Div. Patch or a Garryowen Unit Crest. "HAPPY NEW YEAR" to you all and, to all - be well; stay well; and more important than anything else, walk tall and proud because you are CAV! FIRST TEAM!

### New Members Listing

Continued from pg. 10.

1LT HANLON, JOHN B. TN A 1-8C 65  
 SPC HANNAH, BILLY L. RI B 515FSB 0405  
 SFC HANNAH, TIMOTHY M. MN HHC 5BDE 0405  
 SSG HARDWICK, EDWIN A. TX B 215FSB 0108  
 SSG HARRINGTON, REGINALD L. AE B 215FSB 0202  
 MR. HARRIS, BLAKE A. CO HHC 2-7C 0401  
 SFC HARRIS, JAMES B. AR HHC 39SIB 0410  
 SPC HARRIS, JASON CA B 1-160INF 0404

CPT HARRIS, MICHAEL K. MD HHC 1CDH 05  
 2LT HART, MARTHA M. MS E 215FSB 0312  
 CW4 HARTSON, DONALD MA HHC 1CDH 0403  
 SFC HARTZOG, BILLY NM 642MNT 0407  
 SP-5 HASSAN, CORNELL EUGENE MO HHC 15TC 6803  
 CPT HATHAWAY, PETER N. ME HHC 4BDE 0411  
 SSG HAVARD, LESLIE NEAL TX A 615ASB 0008  
 CPL HEDEBECK, GEORGE A. WA B 1-161INF 0404  
 E-5 HEGARTY, RAYMOND A. MA 356ENG 0402  
 1LT HENDERSON, RYAN LA A 2-156ARM 0410

SGT HENDRICKS, RICKY W. AR C 1-153INF 0404  
 CPT HENINGER, MICHAEL B. GA HHC 312MI 0401  
 SFC HENRIKSON, TRACY MI HHC 1-161INF 0404  
 WO1 HENSON, CHRISTOPHER A. TX 4BDE 0404  
 SFC HERBERT, JOHN R. SC 2-7C 68  
 SFC HERZFELD, KATRINA M. TX A 15PSB 0309  
 SGT HIBBARD, SANDRA L. AE E 215FSB 0304  
 SSG HICKS, TAMMA T. AE D 312MI 0203  
 SGT HIGHFIELD, SEAN CA B 1-160INF 0404  
 Continued on pg. 17.

## CHAPTER INDEX

### AIR ASSAULT-SKYTROOPERS

Pres: Joseph Abodeely

E-mail: [redacted]  
Meetings scheduled individually.

### BONDURANT CHAPTER

Pres.: Frank Lafferty

POC: Robert (Bob) Craig

E-mail: [redacted]

Meets 11:30am 3rd Sat. of mo. at VFW Post #10167.

### CAJUN CAVALRY CHAPTER

Pres: Perry Tillman

E-mail: [redacted]

### CENTRAL SAVANNAH RIVER AREA CHAPTER

Pres: John Rangel, Jr.

Website: [redacted]  
Meets on 2nd Sat of mo. at Ryans Steak House on Peach Orchard Rd., Augusta, GA (Mar., June, Sept. and Dec.)

### COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE CHAPTER

Pres: Charles W. Dougherty

E-mail: [redacted]

Vice Pres.: Stephen E. Lawrence

E-mail: [redacted]  
Meet 1830 3rd Wed of ea. mo. at DAV Bingo Hall.

### CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Pres: Bill Benson

POC: Claude D. Roy

Meets every 3 mos. at different locations. Meeting info in newsletter.

### COWBOY STATE CHAPTER

Pres: L. Pete Quinell  
11 Lone Cedar Dr.

POC: George Cook

Meets in July and on the Sat. closest to Sept. 23.

### CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER

Pres: Jerry Eller

### FIRST CHAPTER

Pres: Robert H. Wolfe

### FLORIDA CHAPTER

Pres: Woodrow N. Hines, Sr.

E-Mail: [redacted]

Contact: Thomas Horas

E-mail: thoras@aol.com

### LAKELAND AREA TROOP A

Pres: Walter Smith

E-mail: [redacted]

Meets 11:00am 1st Sat. of ea. mo.

### SPACE COAST TROOP B

Pres: Ron Smith

Contact: Ken Baker

E-mail: [redacted]

Meets qtrly. at area restaurants  
Website: <http://members.aol.com/Vet-Council/TroopB.html>

### FLORIDA SQDN TROOP E "BLACK HATS"

Contact: W. E. "Stretch" Hungerford

Meets 4th Sat. ea. mo. from Aug. - May 1:00pm. at Buddy Freddie's at the corner of Old 41 and Bayshore, N. Ft. Myers  
Website: <http://www.seahog.org/cav/index.html>

### FLYING HORSEMAN CHAPTER

(Upstate New York Area)

Pres: Thomas R. Randall

Vice-Pres: Charles T. Sullivan

E-mail: [redacted]  
Meets 1st Sunday each month at the Elmira Am. Legion Post #443.

### FOLLOW ME CHAPTER

Pres: Robert W. Dodson

Contact: Jim Coppeler

Meets 1900 4th Tues. ea. mo. Veterans Ctr., 1000 Victory Dr., Columbus, GA. No meeting in Dec.

### JUMPING MUSTANG CHAPTER

1-8 Cav

Pres: Bill McCarron

POC: James C. Knafel

E-mail: [redacted]

Website: [//geocities.com/jumpingmustangs](http://geocities.com/jumpingmustangs)

### KETTLE MORaine CHAPTER

Pres: Vince Pickard

Fax: [redacted]

E-mail: [redacted]

Vice-Pres: Mike Kopaczewski

Meets quarterly at the Bunker in Waterford, WI.

### LRRP/RANGER of the 1st Cav. Div. during the Vietnam War.

Pres: Lawrence M. Curtis

E-mail: [redacted]

Vice-Pres.: Keith Phillips

E-mail: [redacted]

Website: [www.tomah.com/lrrp\\_ranger/](http://www.tomah.com/lrrp_ranger/)  
Full chapter meeting during Reunions

### MID-AMERICA CHAPTER

Pres: Rick Luby

Contact: John R. Crocker

(314) 771-0838

### NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY CHPT.

Pres: Bob Arbasetti

E-mail: [redacted]

Vice Pres.: Joe Panzardi

Meets at Elk Lodge at Cedar and Spruce, Ridgfield Park, NJ.

### NEW YORK TROOP

Troop Commander: Joe Panzardi

e-mail: [redacted]

Meets at Ft. Tatten, Queens, NY in the spring and fall

### NORTH CAROLINA - TARHEEL CHAPTER

Pres: William Richardson, Jr.

E-mail: [redacted]

Contact for Membership: Don Gibson

e-mail: [redacted]

Meets 2nd Sat of March, June, Sept. and Dec.

### NORTHWEST CHAPTER

Vice-Pres.: Tom Regan

E-mail: [redacted]

Meets 1st Sat. of even months at Tacoma Elks Club, 1965 S. Union, Tacoma, WA at noon. Aug. meeting is annual picnic at Russell's Landing at N. Ft. Lewis.

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

Pres: Bob Cornwell

E-mail: [redacted]

Vice Pres: Richard Sweat

Meets 2nd Sat. of mo. 9am. Valley Hi Golf Course Restaurant, 610 S. Chelton Rd., Colorado Springs.

Website: [www.geocities.com/pentagon/base/1499](http://www.geocities.com/pentagon/base/1499)

### SAN BERNARDINO CHAPTER

Pres: Bob Keith

### SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY CHAPTER

(Greater Chicago Area)

Pres.: Donald R. Smolinski

E-mail: [donald.smolinski@us.army.mil](mailto:donald.smolinski@us.army.mil)  
Contact: Klaus Lachmann, Secy.

E-mail: [redacted]

Meets at 1300 on 4th Sat in Jan., Mar., May, Sept., and on 3rd Sat. in Nov. at Roselle American Legion Hall.

### ED "DOC" SOSBE CHAPTER

Pres: Butch Mullen

**Updates and discrepancies, please call Martha at (254) 547-6537.**

### SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO CHAPTER

Pres: Jesus E. Garcia

Contact: John Campos

E-mail: [redacted]

Meets 1st Sat. of ea. mo. at 10am at Holiday Inn, Junction of Hwy. 10 and Hwy. 50, LaJunta

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Pres: Ray McCaville

Contact: Bruce Davis, Treasurer

E-mail: [redacted]

No regular meetings - scheduled by President.

### WALTER H. WESTMAN NORTH-LAND CHAPTER

Pres: Kenneth Olson

Contact: Jim Wright

E-mail: [redacted]

Chapter meets 4 times a yr. at various locations. Call or write for dates and location.

### WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Pres.: James Mason

E-mail: [redacted]

Contact: Bob Anderson

E-mail: [redacted]

Meets 3rd Thurs. of mo. at 7pm. at the Grand Valley Armory in Wyoming, MI through Nov.

### CHAPTER REACTIVATION:

#### GERALD F. KINSMAN CHAPTER

POC: Owen Levine

E-mail: [redacted]

Reactivation meeting to be held April 9, 2005 from 1-5 pm at the British American Club, 1 Simmons Road, Fitchburg, MA

FORMING CHAPTER: NONE

## CHAPTER NEWS

### BONDURANT CHAPTER

Troopers and Trooperettes,

Our Chapter extends our sincere "Thanks" for your devoted contributions in keeping our society safe and exerting great pressure to defeat terrorism.

The Chapter's new officers are: President - Frank LAFFERTY; VP - Bill HARKINS; Secretary - Bob CRAIG; Treasurer - Camille BALDWIN (Appointed).

This is my last contribution to the *SABER* and Frank LAFFERTY will be doing the Chapter news beginning with the next issue. May the New Year lead us to peace and prosperity. Freedom is not Free! Chuck MATTES

### FLORIDA CHAPTER

The Chapter participated in the City of Orlando Annual Veterans Day Parade, had a strong presence at the CAV Veterans Day activities in Washington, DC and a Remembrance Ceremony for World War II Troopers and other veterans celebrations. Troop B had their Christmas Party at the New Century Buffet in Merritt Island on Dec. 14th. We were honored to have Bob and Doris JOHNSON, the 1st Cav. Div. Assn. President and his wife, in attendance. The Florida Chapter President Woody HINES and his wife, Christine, and her visiting Mother were also here. Frank and Mary ALVERSON came down from Jacksonville. It was good to see their bright and shining faces at the party. VP Bill FRANKLIN said that Bobbie would like for Troop B to meet at her house for our next meeting but she had to cancel the Christmas Party at her house due to her leaving the state because of her sister's health. We were hoping that Richard and Betty WILLIAMSON would be able to attend, but it was just too soon after his stroke. We all had a great time and ate really well. C Troop had two sick calls this month. We are glad to see them both up and at it again. One of our Troopers is home from Iraq. "Chuck" GRIST, "WELCOME HOME." If any of our other troopers are home again even for R & R, please contact us. The E-Troop Christmas Party was attended by 12 members and wives. Gifts were exchanged and every one had their fill of goodies. George MILLIGAN was not able to attend due to illness and we wish him well. Our next lunch will be on 22 Jan., '05 at 1pm Jim STOKELY and Bill HUNGERFORD will attend the Florida Mid Year meeting in Jan., '05. Woodrow N. HINES, Sr. Pres.

### NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

The Chapter is accepting nominations for Pres. (2005/06) and all other officers.

Elections will be held at the Spring '05 meeting. The deadline for all nominations is 31 Mar., '05. Please mail your nominations to New York-New Jersey Chapter, 1st Cav. Div. Assn., P.O. Box 241, ATTN: Fred ROBBINS, Election Coordinator, Tenafly, NJ 07670. All nominations must be accompanied by proof of service in the 1st Cav. Div. (DD214 or General Orders).

During our two fall meetings we discussed supporting the Troopers in Iraq. The Chapter and its members have sent approximately 70 packages to First Team Troopers in Iraq. We have also visited wounded Troopers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and worked with other agencies to send packages.

The Chapter had a very successful year in '04 and the names of members who deserve our thanks are too numerous to mention here. I would also like to thank the numerous speakers who have made presentations at our meetings.

The son of Chapter member, Charles R. SOLTES, MAJ Charles R. SOLTES, Jr., who was a Co. Commander in the 426th Civil Affairs Bn., was killed by a suicide car bomb in Mosul, Iraq on 13 Oct., '04. We honor him and Chapter members Robert SANTELLI, who died earlier in '04 and Bernie HEENEY, who died on 31 Dec., '04. Robert SANTELLI was a member of the 2-5th CAV and was a retired NJ State Police Captain. Bernie HEENEY was in the 82nd FA from June '70-June '71. Bob ARBASSETTI, Pres.

### SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY CHAPTER (Greater Chicago)

On Sat., 5 Dec., '04, seven Sheridan's Cavalry troopers gathered to conduct "Operation Shoebox," the collection, packing, wrapping and mailing of 24 boxes to our Div. soldiers in Iraq. The boxes were filled with items such as razors, mixed nuts, paperbacks, foot powder, the ever-popular beef jerky, and several other items. A letter was sent with each box to designated unit representatives. Troopers were thanked for their service and dedication to duty and they were remembered by 1st Cav veterans who look forward to seeing them back at Ft. Hood for the '05 Reunion. Troopers participating were John SOBOL (8th ENG), Joe KELBUS (9th CAV), John CROWDEN (5th/7th/12th CAV), Marv DROEGE (5th CAV), Rich O'BRIEN (8th CAV), Ernie RITTER (8th CAV) and Phil FANTL (1st SIG). Special thanks go to John SOBOL for spearheading the donations and to Joe KELBUS for hosting the assembly area.

On Sun., 12 Dec., '04, 31 Troopers and family members enjoyed the second

Continued on pg. 18.



## SILVER WINGS of the CAV.

Hank Llewellyn  
58 Mapleleaf Lane  
Pottstown, PA 19464  
(610) 970-9092  
Email: NEW  
<SilverWingsoftheCav  
(@msn.com)>



Hello once again fellow Skytroopers! I'll begin where I left off last issue and report that no one has seized the opportunity to replace this writer as your "Wings" correspondent. So you'll be reading my ramblings for another hitch as I re-upped. I did hear from my predecessor, Frank (Double Duck) TIERNEY <frank\_tierney@ameritech.net>. He has agreed to be your "Silver Wings" luncheon host during the 58th annual reunion this June in Killeen, TX. He will also arrange for a "Silver Wings of the Cav" hospitality suite. Over the years we have had some great ones and as Frank put it, "I'll be damned if I'll let this one pale by comparison." So set your sights for Killeen this year. It's not too early to make a reservation. The "Wings" luncheon will surely be a good one. I will share a story from Double Duck a little further into the column. But first, as promised, I'll give you my condensed AAR of the Cav's Veteran's Day activities in and around the DC AO.

It was in '82 that the VVMF built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and held its first Veteran's Day ceremony in honor of those who served. It was also my first visit to our nation's capitol during this holiday. What I experienced that day in Washington left a lasting impression on me. So much so that I've only missed a couple Nov. trips to DC since. You're hard pressed to equal the camaraderie found among a mixture of so many vets over such a short period of time.

MOH recipient Dave DOLBY was to be my navigator for the three-hour trip south this year. So, with bags packed for four days of warm, cold and-or wet weather (Nov. is very unpredictable in DC), we pulled pitch on the 4X4 and set a vector for Virginia and the Crystal City Hilton.

The trip seemed short as Dave conversed from lift-off to short final into the Hilton parking garage. The lobby was filled with folks, young and old, adorning the Cav patch on clothing or cap - foretelling of a great few days ahead. I quickly found Clinton POLEY, Dave's roommate for the evening. Shortly after signing in at the hospitality room, I bumped into Fred SCHAAFF with whom I was sharing a room. After stowing my gear, I set out to socialize into the wee hours. Bill BECK introduced me to President and CEO of the Brentwood Group, Bob DANIELS. Bob is working with Joe GALLOWAY and Hal MOORE as part of a task force to make Nov., '05 a special event for the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Ia Drang Alumni. I'm sure you'll be reading more about it in the ensuing months.

Veteran's Day was bright and warm as we headed across the river to DC. So much to see and do and so little time. The day offered ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery where President BUSH addressed the crowd. Wreath-laying events at the new National WWII, Korean and Vietnam Memorials and Story Telling at the Vietnam Women's Memorial and a new display, "The Price of Freedom: Americans at War" was opening at the Smithsonian. The Mall was a sea of veterans and family with hundreds of spectators on hand from one end of the Reflection Pond to the other. I must admit I made several trips to the WWII Memorial to just observe the silver hair vets in proud appreciation of the long-overdue memorial. Some fought back tears, others could not. Time passed so quickly. Vet's Day on the Mall concluded with an interview by a reporter from the Washington Post that appeared in Friday's paper. The end of a perfect day.

Fri. was spent interacting with the troops from Walter Reed, working a couple hours in the hospitality room souvenir shop and putting a few suds away. Ron SLEIS and I did get to sample some Vietnamese cuisine thanks to Dave DOLBY and the Nam-Viet restaurant.

Sat.'s check of the Aviation sign-in sheet revealed a strong showing by the 229th AVN Bn. vets. My unofficial count of those who took the time to fill out the form; sixteen 229th, two 227th, two 15th TC, seven 11th PF and one 2-20th Arty.

The evening's Ia Drang Alumni Banquet was, as always, a moving event as nearly 500 folks dined together in remembrance of those lost in battle and those who survived.

Early Sun. morning, LTC Sara PERRY drove Ed FREEMAN, Chip PARKER and I to the "Wall" to attend the Ia Drang pre-dawn memorial service. The service began in the morning chill with the reading of the names of the fallen by Gen. Hal MOORE and Joe GALLOWAY. I could only see forms before me, just dark silhouettes of those attending. As the names were rendered verbally with precise pronunciation they seemed to encircle the group of aging vets. Name after name, one after another in a caring and slow cadence was read as if the "Wall" could hear, perhaps it could. The horizon behind the Washington Memorial was now beginning to lighten as dawn overtook darkness. By the time the last name echoed off the shiny black granite wall the silhouettes before me were taking an identifiable form revealing somber faces. The sound of a bagpiper filled the area as these men embraced each other and bid farewell to the fallen for another year. A wonderful conclusion to a few days of remembrance and camaraderie.

Okay, lets move on. I have a great message from Catfish 6, Bradley MacNEALY, Commanding TF 185th AVN in the "Sunni Triangle". In the next issue I'll run his "Tribute to Vietnam Helicopter Pilots".

Let's crank up and launch the mail sortie. You've kept the old mailbox stuffed these past two months. But before we get to the mail samplings, with due respect, I want to acknowledge the passing of a proud member of the Cav's Light Air Section - Korea. SFC George D. BRADLEY passed away at his home in Safford, Arizona. He died at age 75 and is survived by his wife of 48 1-2 years Mrs. Mary Dean BRADLEY. For those of you who might flown in the 1st Cav's Air Section, in Korea '51 and '52. George's plane was an L-19, # 355 always fueled and always ready to go! My thanks to Jack EVANS for informing us of SFC BRADLEY's passing.

I also want to mention the passing of another great trooper, Gen. Jack NORTON. He commanded the 1st Air Cav in Vietnam and as a paratrooper made jumps with the 82nd AB at Normandy and Holland. He was buried at the West Point Cemetery this past Dec.

This next message is from Rich HENRIQUES, LTC (Ret) "Angry Crow 6" CO C-1-7th. A follow-up to a discussion we started at the Ia Drang Dinner.

"On Apr. 4, '67, the 3rd Plat, C Co. 1-7 Cav was heavily engaged in a firefight on a rock face on the West side of the An Lao valley (approximately 734074). During the fighting, two troopers were killed and three badly wounded, in danger of bleeding to death. While the fighting continued, a log bird from the 229th (company unknown) made a run over the platoon and kicked out re-supply consisting of ammo, smokes and water. The aircraft commander reported mission completed and after describing the physical layout of the ground where the platoon was fighting (large boulders abutting large boulders) asked me if I "had anything further for him". I asked him to "do a quick recon of the area to evaluate an approach that could be used by MEDEVAC after the area was neutralized".

We watched him slowly approach the area and as he got close to the cliff face, he did a pedal turn and inched in sideways and transmitted to me to tell the platoon to "throw them in quick." This was done rapidly and the 3 wounded were evacuated and I believe survived the war.

Later that afternoon, after the fight wound down and the dead troopers were evacuated. I believe again, by the 229th (I don't think the dead was routinely evacuated by MEDEVAC). I asked my 1st SGT to find out the names of the crew. Under whatever passed for trees, I wrote recommendations for the DFC for a-c and co-pilot and AM w-V for the door gunner and crew chief. I believe they received the awards but did not keep track of their names.

What I asked and what they did, some may say, was routine (for the 229th). Possibly, but policy said that MEDEVACS occurred after the shooting stopped - they knew when I told them I had people in danger of bleeding to death that I thought they would not survive - and they rose to the occasion and did what they did - at great risk to themselves. I'm glad they didn't hesitate.

I don't remember if the 229th support was parceled out to the three 3rd BDE Bns by Co., but if it was, they might have been from Co. A, 229th - but I don't know.

I would appreciate you airing any of this in your column so that if any of the crew survive, they might like to know that mission saved three people and took a load off my mind that day. I thank them all very much! <AngryCrow6@aol.com>.

This next (abridged) e-mail is from Frank (Double Duck) TIERNEY, <frank\_tierney@ameritech.net>. "Hey Hank: I gotta share the following story.

My wife and I spent the night in a resort the Fri. night of this past Memorial Day weekend. We drove two cars because I was going to a car auction on Sat.. As I was loading up her car for her to drive home, I noticed a "Silver Wings of The Cav" cap in the back of her car. Having cleaned the car out a month before, for a long trip she took, I didn't have a clue why she would have it there. I was wearing my black VFW jacket, so I nonchalantly put on the black cap, loaded up her car and I left for the car auction.

I was watching the auction and talking with a guy I happened to meet there when I noticed a second fellow walking around me and looking at my VFW jacket and cap. The glances went on for maybe a half-hour before he approached me.

Ends up we flew together in 'Nam, Rob BROOKS. Well the longest bear hug, which only two war torn soldiers that knew what the other endured can give each other, followed. He said he was drawn to me because of the Silver Wings emblem on the cap. With that and oblivious to the stares and smiles of others, he lifts up his shirt to bear his chest and show me the "the same exact emblem that was on my cap, the Cav patch in the center of a set of aviator wings, was tattooed over his heart!" Well, you know I took off that cap and immediately gave it to him.

It was fun to then include the first guy I was talking with in our conversation. He couldn't believe what he had just observed. Then his wife reappeared and was moved to tears, as were we, as the chance encounter was recounted. We talked for 2 hours and bought each other beers. We recounted many of the same missions and incidents. Rob and his wife came over to my home on Memorial Day to be a part of dedicating a Veteran's Monument. That was followed by more beers and brats. Rob, who had never been involved in any veteran activities, immersed himself immediately. Within weeks we went to the 1st Cav reunion in Milwaukee. A few weeks later he rode his Harley to Texas for the VHPA reunion.

The most amazing part is that neither Kathy nor I know how "The Silver Wings" cap got in the back of her Jeep. As I said, I cleaned it out a month ago. It was the only thing in the back of a Jeep that had been to New Orleans and back. I had not worn one of those caps in years. That one was brand new and I didn't even know I had any left! (The Twilight Zone music plays in my head every time I think about that!) Cool, EH? Frank, your story illustrates the bonds formed so many years ago in war are everlasting. Thanks for sharing.

Ralph (Doc) HOLLOWAY, <doc-holloway@sbcglobal.net> responded to the Guns-A-Go-Go story in the last issue with a correction. "I read your latest column in the Saber with great interest since I was lucky enough to be one of the original 8 pilots chosen to fly the armed Chinook. A couple of points out to be elaborated though. Although the aircraft was capable of using the 7.62 mini gun in a pod, as a matter of practice, we did not use it. Our logic was why give up 39 2.75-inch rockets with 17-pound warheads for less than a minute of little bitty bullets. The same goes for the 5 manned machine guns. Although we could mount M-60's, the 50 cal is a much better weapon. More reliable and harder hitting. So, throughout our time in Vietnam, we never used the mini gun pods nor mounted the M-60 in the doors or ramp. There was one small error in the report as well. We adopted the unit call sign "Guns-A-Go-Go" while we were forming and training at Ft. Benning. When in operation, we used "Go-Go (last three digits of the tail number)". "Easy Money was therefore Go-Go 149. The only person who had a personal call sign was the unit commander, Go-Go 6. Other than that, great article. Thanks for your time and take care." Doc, great hearing from a former Go-Go pilot and I appreciate your input and emails.

On this same subject, Dave KNUDSEN <david277@centurytel.net> wrote, "Just finished reading your column in the Saber. I was happy to hear you had feedback regarding the "Go-Go's"! If any of your readers want, they are invited to check out the website. Frank would just love to have them sign the guest book too! The site is <www.gunsagogo.org> and Frank WHITE has done a beautiful job with it. There is a bunch of photos from the war years as well as many from the reunions.

Cecil SHIPP <shippatsea@aol.com> sent a short note into the mailbox stating he served in Bearcat 68-69 doing maintenance on "Hooks". Cecil, good hearing from you.

Continued on pg. 24.