



JUMPING MUSTANG BUGLE

1ST Battalion 8th Cavalry

1965 Airborne - Air Assault - Air Mobile 1971

Jumping Mustang Chapter of the 1st Cavalry Division



Volume Number 18

December 2000

Issue Number 4

The object of this chapter is to preserve in patriotic reverence the memory of those who served in the **JUMPING MUSTANG BATTALION** of the First Cavalry Division and it's associates of the Vietnam War from 1965 - 1971; to support and enhance the fame and glory of the Battalion; to maintain and strengthen the bonds of comradeship which distinguished the men of the Battalion; to provide for the gathering and dissemination of information concerning these men; to provide for the patriotic assembly in local and national reunions, and to perpetuate the **"JUMPING MUSTANGS Drive On All The Way"** spirit as to heritage and tradition for future generations. Last but not the least, **"JUMPING MUSTANGS"** gather each year in reunion to participate in a memorial to those who have died and to the one man still listed as missing in action.

Without distinction as to creed or heritage we offer our united prayers in their behalf to our maker. We pray that their sacrifice may not have been in vain. We grieve for their loss as we would for our own sons and brothers.

James Knafel
5510 E 500 South
Columbia City, Indiana 46725-9263

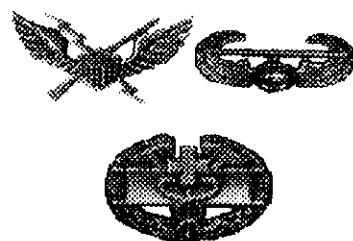
JUMPING MUSTANG BUGLE

1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division

December 2000



8th Cavalry
Regiment



JUMPING MUSTANG 6

The end of another great year approaches. It seems only yesterday all the hoopla over the year 2000, and the new millenium, however somehow we survived in great style and the year 2001 is just around the corner. Let us charge on.

Make your plans for to visit another part of the USA, and attend our SIXTEENTH REUNION in Spokane, Washington, 18-22 July. Treat your family to the splendors of the great North West. Further details are in the BUGLE and posted on our Home Page.

Our Jumping Mustang Home Page at <http://sites.netscape.net/jumpingmustangs/homepage> is making progress thanks to our dedicated unit sponsors. Make sure and pay a visit and pass the word to family and friends.

Congratulations to the hard working sponsors of our unit Home Pages:

HHC 65-66 Ken Mertel

HHC 67-68 Charles Cook

A 65-66 Ted Danielsen

A 67 William Hawkinberry

A 68-69 Ken Mertel (need a permanent sponsor) B 65-66 Bill McCarron

B 67 Terry McGee

B 68 Mike Price

B 69-70 Ken Mertel (need a permanent sponsor)

C 65-66 Frank Vavrek

C 67 Jim Poor
C 68-69 Stan Buckmaster
D 65-66 Bill Onstott
D 67 George Goswick
D 68-69 Jerry Frease
E All - Rick Smith

If you have any material, rosters, photos, narratives, war stories, clipping, mail to the appropriate sponsor. See your roster for address. The Jumping Mustang Internet is most active with over 300 members in frequent contact. If you are not on it, have a family member let you use their E mail address, so you can benefit from the information passed weekly. A copy of the e mail addresses is available upon request to me, either the entire list or by individual company. If you have an E Mail address and are not getting a weekly update from me, I do not have a valid E mail address for you. Let me hear from you. We continue to gain new members, both on the Inter-net and in our great Jumping Mustang Association. Keep recruiting, do not let any of our Warriors and families, NOT KNOW about us.

The short history of the 8th Cav including Vietnam and current to year 2000 has been updated. This is the one new members receive when they join up. If you want a copy, contact Jim Knafel, our Treasurer. Individual portions of the history appear on our Home Page under the appropriate company and time frame.

Remember our "Association By Laws" are being revised. Copies were passed out at the last reunion. If you have any comments or recommended changes, send to me by fax, e mail or snail mail not later than the New Year, 2001. A new draft will be prepared and mailed to all active members by the Secretary, prior to the Reunion in Spokane, where it will be voted upon. MIKE PRICE, is our Quartermaster. He has for sale several items, including Caps, Airborne, Airmobile, Death from Above and Medic. See Address on your roster. Posted also on Home Page, under link "Battalion Projects and Quartermaster".

HONOR AND COURAGE, DRIVE ON ALL THE WAY, JUMPING MUSTANG 6

RELATIVE SEEKS INFO

The cousin of Domenico Cacciola is seeking information regarding his death on May 26, 1967 in a helicopter crash. Also killed in the same accident were SP4 Charles T. Allen, 1LT Edward Fisher and SP4 Allen Ruddell. If you know any of the details surrounding this event, please contact Joe Cacciola at (302) 695-230 (work Phone) or email to Joseph.cacciola@dupontpharma.com

REUNION 2001

We are looking forward to everyone visiting the Northwest, July 18-22, 2001. The Doubletree Hotel has a free shuttle from the airport to the hotel or the nearby shopping mall that includes a 12 theater Cinema and large food court. Within walking distance is a Wal-Mart, other assorted stores and a wide variety of restaurants and fast - food. For those that like to walk, jog, or roller-blade there is the Centennial Trail that extends 39 miles through Spokane east to the state line and 23 miles into Idaho through Coeur D'Alene. Some of the Northwest attractions within 1-2 hours of the hotel are assorted historical tours, museums, casinos, Grand Coulee Dam that has a laser light show after dark, Lake Coeur D'Alene boat cruise, Silverwood amusement park, Kellogg under-ground mine tour, Cataldo Mission.

Our mid-summer temperatures are about 86 F during the day and we cool off to about 56 F at night. Airlines that fly into the Spokane International

Airport are Delta, Northwest, United and Southwest.

Southwest is offering discounted airfare when you use the ID Code-A8092 when you purchase your tickets.

Avis Car Rental is offering a discount when you use the code number of J659429. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-331-1600.

Jesse Lopez is setting up the golf game, if you are interested contact Jesse as soon as possible at 972-264-8182.

For further information contact Randy and Yvonne Howard at 509-535-7470, e-mail 11b4prh@home.com or Bob and Charlotte Hamblen at 208-773-4466, e-mail rchamblen@hotmail.com.

LEAST WE FORGET

The following was sent over the internet to all former members of Company A on November 3, 2000:

Dear Comrades in Arms:

Thirty five years ago tonight, Company A, 1st Battalion, Eighth Cavalry accomplished a feat of arms for the first time in military history. Those then assigned assaulted by air a landing zone surrounded by the enemy to rescue a friendly force in danger of being overrun. Some of our own men were also in the beleaguered force, the mortar platoon. It was an accomplishment of which we all can be singularly proud. Each of you performed magnificently under the most adverse of circumstances. It was indeed my privilege to be with you.

As Veteran's Day approaches and we remember all those who have served our country in the armed services, let us especially remember those from Co A who gave their lives in the service of their country. Sgts Bess and Platt were killed that night saving the soldiers of another unit. The names of all the men of Co A who were killed in Vietnam are listed on the Co A Web Page.

As to that night thirty five years ago, you did save another unit from destruction. Colonel Stockton, who commanded that unit, said when he introduced me at a 1/9 Cav reunion a few years ago, "Let no one here forget, that if it weren't for Captain Danielson and his daring soldiers, none of you would be here tonight." I salute you all. **Ted Danielson**

ADDRESS OR EMAIL CHANGE?

If so, be sure to notify Kevin Mynderup at 1054 Robin Ave. Hanford, CA 93230-5758. He continues to maintain the data base for all Jumping Mustangs.

DEADLINE FOR BUGLE ARTICLES

is February 28, 2001. Mail or email (no attachments, please) any articles for the next Bugle to Bill Hawkinberry at hawki@cvn.net or 52 Ski Run Trail, Fairfield, PA 17320.

2001 REUNION T-SHIRTS

Mike Price has 2001 Reunion T-shirts available for sale now. 100% cotton preshrunk...med, lg, xl & xxl. Full embroidered left chest. Colors- Olive and Storm Gray. Olive/od-black lettering. Storm Gray/in color..CIB and Cav patch. Logo follows:



\$20 includes shipping and handling. Make checks to Jumping Mustangs. Contact Mike Price at mp11b40@aol.com or call (949) 722-3646.

TOP'S MAIL CALL

First off, I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and most prosperous New Year. Hope to see you all in Spokane. God Willing and our health permits. Jeane and I are fine at this writing, but have had some visits with our doctors and we aren't getting any younger.

Went down to Biloxi, Mississippi last month to see Roy Martin and plan the 2002 Reunion that will be the second reunion in Biloxi, but I can report all that area is very well changed since that last reunion. Casinos have infested the whole area and it's like Las Vegas. We visited about six different hotels and motels to find one we could be satisfied with. We got a good offering and

contract and what will please all Mustangs. Prices are good and eating places are close by with plenty to offer anyone who likes good food. There's a Continental Breakfast served free each morning that goes with our stay there. The room rate is cheaper than any we have had in years. I know all will be satisfied with the gathering there.

Haven't heard from many Mustangs. Did hear from Col. Mertel and the Eighth Cavalry Association. Wrote James Knafel to up-date him on the Biloxi trip. Also Col. Mertel.

Roy and I had a good five days of golf and just plain visiting. I was given a trip around the farm by Laurin Martin, who has really grown up since I saw her last. We fed the cats, deer, turkeys, ducks and anything else that was in the area. Roy has feeders all over his farm and feeds daily.

Called Pappy Loughran and found out he was doing well after his surgery. I heard from Col. Mertel that Pappy was having surgery and I checked up on him. He sounds good and in good spirits after the hospital trips.

Got a good report from my doctors after many trips to see them and minor surgery that was successful. I am in good shape I guess for an elderly person. With a good nurse and walking daily, I'll make it fine.

Wrote James and Jane about the 2002 Reunion in Biloxi. Also about our Houston Memory Book. Information about the Congressional Bill that will give all of the Veterans with disabilities their disability pay along with their retirement pay. The bill is being recognized at this time and looks like it may go for a vote, but I have my doubts as it's been mentioned for over 15 years now with no action. Guess they are waiting until all the older veterans dye off to pass that bill. Seems not enough veterans are interested enough to get involved in writing their representatives in Washington to get the proper actions we need. Also got news that Purple Heart recipients will now have priority at V.A. Seems that we veterans may get some recognition in the future if it keeps on being mentioned. We need more veterans to get involved in government so we will be recognized.

Letter from Gerry Plummer and a reading file that he always sends on the latest in Congress and other good and bad news. I enjoy the news that he sends. He keeps me updated on many things that happen in this troubled land as it is today.

Call from Gerry Plummer, said all was well at his place. Talked to Roy Martin and all seems to be well there. Also got a card from Bill Mozey and a letter from Gerry Plummer about making me a Kentucky Colonel. Don't know if that will be or not. I've never been more than a First Sergeant and don't think I could be a Colonel.

My son called me, said that Matt Jones will have surgery so he must be on our prayer list, so all of you keep him in your prayers. Also, Bill Jones needs your prayers. Letter from Bill Mozey and a card for Halloween.

I received a request to appear at the Kindergarten School to speak about Veterans Day and about veterans in general. I ended up staying and speaking for over six hours at the Kindergarten and Elementary School to speak on veterans history bringing freedom to this country. It went over big and the children and teachers were really pleased.

The Congress and Senate passed a bill making the week of 5-11 November "Veterans Appreciation Week" and the President signed a proclamation declaring that week as "Appreciation Week."

I would like to announce to anyone who may host a reunion in the future that there is a definitive source of information for the volunteer reunion planner published by the Reunion Network, that you can get by joining TRN (The Reunion Network). I have been in contact with them now for over 15 years and have attended five FAM

Trips in many parts of the USA. The only cost is a registration fee (about \$35 per person) that covers you for free hotel for a three-day period, free meals, free entertainment and free transportation in the city where the FAM trip is located. All you have to do is go to the city where it is located and just enjoy the Convention Center's hospitality while there. Jeane and I just attended a FAM trip in Branson Missouri where we stayed at the nicest hotel in the area free for three days and we enjoyed free meals, free shows and a ride and dinner on the Branson Bell boat with entertainment and a show at the Jim Stafford Theater. All free. You too can get this free advice on planning a reunion. They will teach you how to arrange a reunion and get the best there is in planning. If you are interested just write me or call me and I will give you the information you need to get involved. There are many FAM trips held all over the USA each month.

You can get involved by contacting TRN (The Reunion Network) and asking them to send you their TRN magazine. Tell them you are a reunion planner and you are interested in their planning sessions. The address is the Reunion Network, Inc., 2450 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 301, Hollywood, Florida 33020. It is a good way to get three free days of real planning information. You can pick from their listings of FAM trips nearest your home and it won't cost you much. I have seen free dog races, free museums, free rides on boats, free shows, free meals and hotels and many other free things by attending their conferences. You will get this information by contacting them and getting involved. I just received their schedule for year 2001 and 2002 FAM trips all over the USA. It's interesting. Reunion planning sessions and FAM trips have already been scheduled for the following states and locations: Connecticut, South Carolina, Nevada, New York, Alabama, Texas, Missouri (St. Charles), Iowa, Florida, Missouri (Branson), and Virginia. These sessions run from 2001 and 2002 and are already on the TRN's schedules. 2001 and 202 will have sessions in Florida (two locations), Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington (Seattle). They plan in advance so you will have plenty of time to make your plans.

Called Bill Jones to see about his condition. Bill has had back problems and he said he would have surgery on the 17th of November and that Matt would have surgery on the 28th of November. We must keep them both in our prayers.

This report covers October and November and is cut off in November as I will go to Dallas for Thanksgiving with the family.

Top

"Splash, Over"

By Glenn Sheathelm

In November of 1967, the fortunes of war put me with D/1st/8th Cavalry of the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam. I hadn't been with the company long as an artillery recon sergeant since I had served most of my tour with the intelligence section of the 2nd/19th Artillery. I had requested the artillery recon sergeant job (non-commissioned officer version of a forward observer) figuring I wouldn't make some of the mistakes made by new lieutenants and could save lives. I also promised Major Vernon Gillespie that I would extend

my tour 3 months if he got me in the slot before my regular tour was over.

On this particular day I had been out with one of the detached platoons and we had been delayed by signs of enemy activity that we found. By the time we rejoined the company we had already received our helicopter food, water and ammo resupply at the company location.

It was a pleasant evening with sunshine during the last hour or two before sunset as we walked into the company perimeter which was at the base of a hill mass in the Bong Son Plain. I reported to Captain Conetto and found that Lt. Kearney had gone out on the resupply helicopter to the rear area for a few days. I would be calling in defensive targets for the night, both around the company perimeter and setting up the on-call targets for the ambushes.

I then quickly got what I needed from resupply which included a battery for the PRC-25 radio and some C-rations. I also got a paper plate of hot food before the helicopter came back and picked up the water and food cans before heading towards the east side of the perimeter.

The Huey came in with the characteristic "pop, pop" of rotor blades and settled down near the Mermac cans and water cans. Surprisingly, the pilot let the engine wind down and someone stepped off the helicopter. I didn't pay much attention to who it was, but I knew the helicopter would be on the ground awhile.

Since Lt. Kearney had been involved in an "artillery incident" earlier which cost the leg of one of the infantrymen, I decided to show them what confidence I had in my ability by walking around 100 meters outside of the perimeter so the defensive fires were much closer to me. This was looking like a great opportunity to prove myself to the infantrymen.

I got clearance from "Tiger 8" (2nd/19th Tactical Operations Center) and they assigned a battery which I will call "Diesel Speech 23."

"Diesel Speech 23, this is Tiger 22 Mike. Fire Mission. Grid (I rattled off a 6-place grid coordinate from my map.) Nature of target, Delta Tango. First rounds smoke, high streamer, will adjust." I was really feeling great as they read everything back to me.

After a couple of minutes, they came back on the radio with: "Tiger 22 Mike, this is Diesel Speech 23. On the way, over." After about 15 seconds, they came

back with a "Splash, over" indicating I should soon see the round hit.

I radioed back with a "Splash, wait" to indicate I'd call right back with a correction as I looked out towards the east.

There was a loud "pop" as the smoke round blew out the base plate, but the sound was over my right shoulder instead of to my front. I spun to my right and looked up and was more than a bit surprised to see something similar to the "bomb burst maneuver" performed by the Thunderbirds Demonstration Team. The problem with this situation was that everything was rapidly heading towards me or right behind me. I made a frantic dash across the dry rice paddy heading further from the perimeter and my speed was only exceeded by the speed of the descending smoke canisters.

The canisters hit the ground about half way between where I stopped running and the helicopter, Mermac cans, water cans, and Captain Conetto, who was back by the helicopter. All those other things disappeared behind the smoke, but I distinctly heard the voice of Captain Conetto yell out: "Two-Two Mike. What the Hell are you doing?"

I checked the map and my coordinates were right. The round should have hit close, but on the other side of me. I gave an adjustment of right 400 on gun target line and another round was fired. It impacted almost out to the village on the far side of the rice paddies. I now had the villagers just about as worried as the helicopter pilot who was justifiably concerned about getting hit by "friendly fire" while on the ground. The 400 meter correction was excessive on my part, but I was a bit rattled trying to figure out what had gone wrong.

I postponed the rest of the defensive targets while the helicopter left, which probably pleased him to a fair degree. He had less idea than I did about what had gone wrong, but getting away from the artillery fire would provide him with a reprieve.

I called the battery and told them the first smoke round seemed to be erratic and they replied with a comment about it making a strange screech as it left the tube. I'd heard about putting a C ration top between the fuse and projectile making a screech, but I didn't think they would do anything like that around friendly troops. I told them that I wished they had said something while the round was in flight so we could have gone into our fox holes.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

THE HOLY BIBLE REVEALED IN FIFTY WORDS:
 "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." II Timothy 3:16.

Recently, I stumbled across a rather simple fifty word presentation which reveals the essence of the Bible. These words by no means replace the full score of the Scriptures, but they do shed some insights which transcend the stream of man's history from its beginning until today. So, with a sense of anticipation, let us embark on this fifty word adventure.

**GOD MADE - ADAM BIT - NOAH ARKED -
 ABRAHAM SPLIT - JACOB FOOLED - JOSEPH
 RULED - BUSH TALKED - MOSES BOUGHT -
 PHARAOH PLAGUED - PEOPLE WALKED - SEA
 DIVIDED - TABLETS GUIDED - PROMISED
 LANDED - SAUL FREAKED - DAVID PEEKED
 PROPHET WARNED - JESUS BORN - GOD
 WALKED - LOVE TALKED - ANGER CRUCIFIED
 HOPE DIED - LOVE ROSE - SPIRIT FLAMED
 WORD SPREAD - GOD REMAINED**

A CHILD IS BORN

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child, And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2: 4-7

**FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE, ALL
 ACROSS THIS GREAT LAND WHERE OUR
 BELOVED JUMPING MUSTANGS ABIDE, WE
 ARE REMINDED ...**

Let Us Renew Our Yuletide Prayers For Peace On Earth.

**MAY THE GOOD LORD RICHLY MULTIPLY
 HIS ENDURING LOVE AND GRACE IN EACH
 PRECIOUS INDIVIDUAL'S, HIS SPOUSE'S,
 HIS CHILDREN'S AND HIS CHILDREN'S
 CHILDREN'S LIVES. BE IT THAT WE
 WOULD HAVE THE COURAGE TO HUMBLE
 OURSELVES AND CALL UPON THE LORD
 JESUS IN THIS SPECIAL SEASON TO
 FORGIVE OUR PEOPLE, HEAL THIS LAND
 AND STRENGTHEN US WITH RENEWED JOY
 FROM ON HIGH. In gratitude and a warm
 hug...**

Roger S. Talmadge

HISTORY OF THE JUMPING MUSTANGS

The regimental insignia was officially approved on 10 January 1927, to be worn by the officers and men serving with the Regiment. The white horse is officially described as a "demi-horse rampant", the forward half of a rearing horse, indicated the horse the unit's cavalry origin. The eight stars which appear on the insignia are called "pierced mullets". The number of mullets, eight, indicate the Eighth Cavalry. The wording on the scroll is self-explanatory. "Honor and Courage" are guide markers which the men assigned to the Eighth Cavalry have always followed. We wear the Combat Infantry Badge or Combat Medical Badge, for the Jumping Mustangs in Vietnam served as Infantry Warriors.

The Parachute Badge is worn by many Jumping Mustangs because those initailly in Vietnam were Airborne as well as Airmobile and Air Assault. We wear both versions of the Air Assault Badge, the first one, the original version worn by all Air Assault Warriors initially, and the later version worn in later years

(Additional History will be provided in future editions of the Bugle)

2001 REUNION

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, July 18

8:00 - 10:00 AM **Hospitality Room open for early registration**

Thursday, July 19

9:00 AM **Opening Flag Ceremony**
 5:00 PM **No Host Cash Bar**
 6:00 PM **Ice Breaker Picnic Buffet**

Friday, July 20

9:00 AM **Business Meeting**
 Followed by free time
 6:00 PM **Cash Bar**
 7:00 PM - Midnight **Informal Dinner/Dance**

Saturday, July 31

9:00 - 11:00 AM **Trip to Spokane Viet Nam Memorial**
 Followed by free time
 5:00 - 6:30 PM **Cash Bar**
 6:30-11:00 PM **Memorial Dinner**

Sunday, July 22

8:00 AM **Prayer Breakfast**
 10:00 AM **Close Hospitality Room**

The golf game day and time is being set up by Jesse Lopez.

MAKING CONTACT

On May 29, 1999, I posted a memorial to Noah Chandler Collier on the website "thevirtualwall.org." My reason for doing so was purely personal.

I was drowning in a raging, flooded stream on October 23, 1966 when Noah plunged into the water and saved my life. Three days later, Noah lost his life in a futile effort to save the life of his Squad Leader, Sgt John B. Geissen. Noah was posthumously awarded the

Soldier's Medal in the first instance and the Distinguished Service Cross - our nation's second highest award - for the later action.

My posting sat on the website, apparently unnoticed until shortly after Veteran's Day, 2000.

Then, it was read by Carlton H. Jones, III who sent me the following email: "I read your reminiscences about Chan Collier on the Viet Nam Memorial virtual page. I was moved to tears. When I was a little boy, five to seven years old, and growing up in Clayton, Georgia I remember Chan as the place kicker for the Rabun County Wildcats, the local high school football team. He did not live that far from our family and occasionally my mother would pick Chan up as she was taking my sister and me to school. Chan was walking to school. Around Rabun County Georgia (northeast corner of Georgia near the North Carolina and South Carolina border) many people still remember Chan (that is how we knew him). Yesterday (11/14) after I read your tribute I telephoned the editor of the Clayton Tribune (Tom Law) and told him about your remarks. I told him because he is a life long friend of mine and I knew he would see the significance in your thoughts/remarks about Chan. Tom Law remembers Chan very well too, even though we were both small boys in those days. You might consider calling Tom and introducing yourself to him. Chan's memory is revered around Rabun County Georgia by people who have been there since the early 1960's. Chan, and I'll never forget this, is the first body I ever saw in a funeral home. My mother took me in the fall of the third grade. He was a fine kid. The sort of young man that should never be forgotten."

I called Mr. Law and he subsequently published an article in the local newspaper.

As a result of the article, I have been contacted by other friends of Noah, his nephew, and a son born to Noah's wife and her second husband.

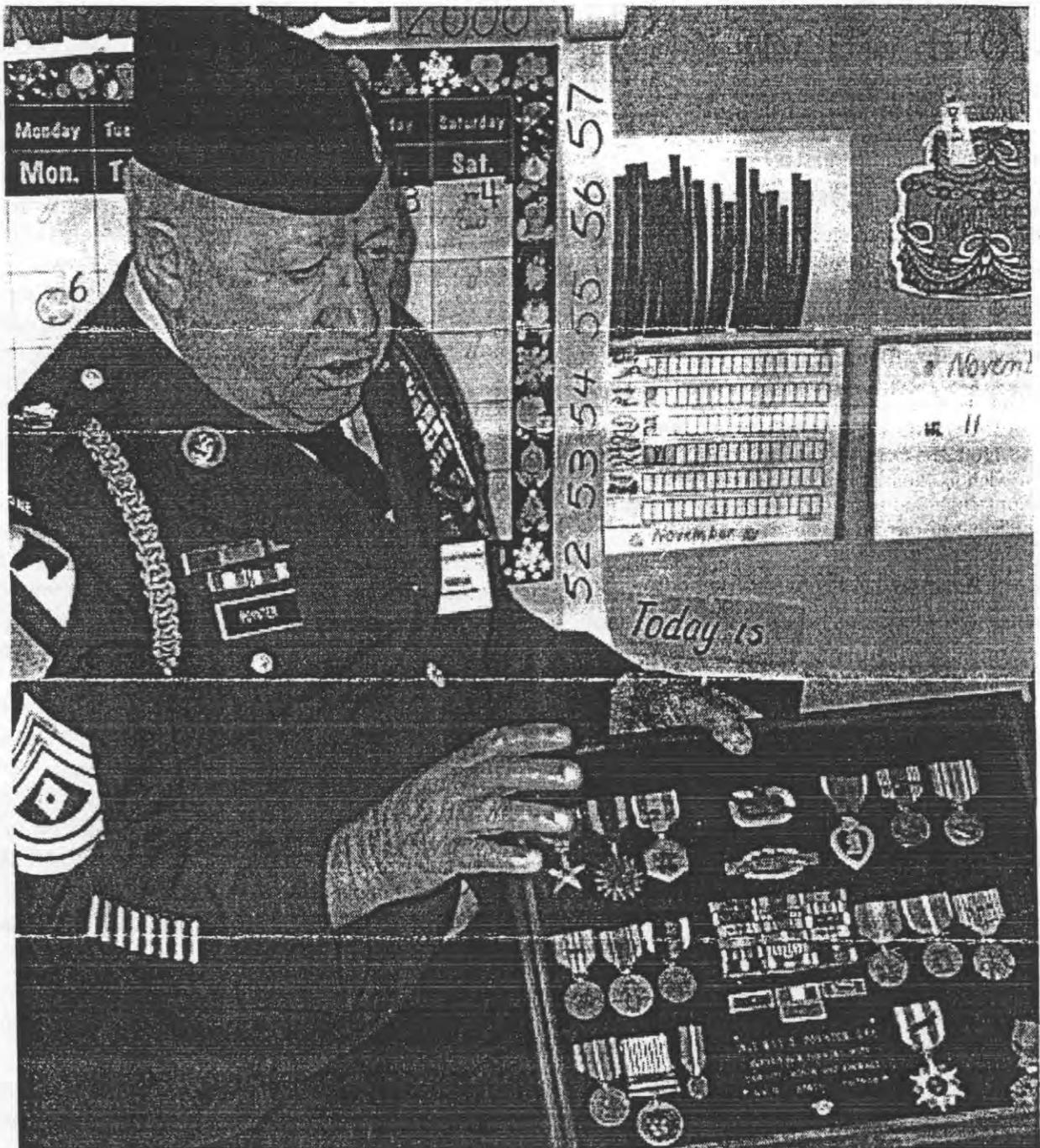
Today, I spoke to Noah's mother by telephone. She knew who I was and related that she had always felt that we would someday be in contact.

Emotionally, it was a difficult conversation for me, but I was so pleased that I could make contact with the family after all these years. After all, if not for Noah, my life would have ended on October 23, 1966.

Bill Hawkinberry

AND STILL SERVING PROUDLY!

The Star-Progress ...Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2000



Veteran of two wars and one "conflict"

CCN / Cindy Elkins

Retired First Sergeant Ray E. Poynter speaks to his grandson's kindergarten class Thursday about Veterans Day. Poynter served in World War II, Korean War and two years in Vietnam, winning more than 21 medals and 31 certificates from

commanders under which he served. Nov. 5-11 was designated as "National Awareness Week" by the Senate for Veterans. In addition to the kindergarten students, Poynter also spoke to several other classes, showing the children his medals.