



# **JUMPING MUSTANG BUGLE**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Battalion 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry**

**1965 Airborne - Air Assault - Air Mobile 1971**

**Jumping Mustang Chapter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division**



**Volume Number 19**

**March 2001**

**Issue Number 1**

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.

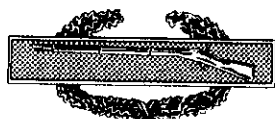
Without distinction as to creed or heritage we offer our united prayers in their behalf to our maker. We pray that their sacrifice may not have been in vain. We grieve for their loss as we would for our own sons and brothers.

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

# JUMPING MUSTANG BUGLE

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

March, 2001



## JUMPING MUSTANG 6

Welcome to the new year, new goals, new expectations, new successes and more comradeship and fellowship in our great Jumping Mustang Association.

Our next reunion will be here before you know it. Plan on Spokane and time your vacation accordingly for the great North West. Registration form is in the Bugle and on the Internet. Register now and book the hotel by contacting them direct. Our Reunion Committee plans a great reunion.

Our membership continues to grow, many coming in via the Internet. Our Internet Address list continues to grow also. We have over 350 members and family members on the Internet. Those on the Internet should receive my weekly Up Date. If you are not hearing from me and have changed your address, that is why. Let me know if you change your address or are new to the net.

The By Laws Committee is moving ahead with proposed minor changes in our By Laws. You should receive the final draft in April (active members) to be voted upon for adoption at the Reunion. The Executive Board will have approved the copy you receive. All recommendations were carefully considered by the Committee and the Executive Board. The update strengthens fiscal

matters and clarifies leadership responsibilities. The remainder is largely editorial changes.

One recommendation to disassociate our Chapter from the 1st Cavalry Division was not approved. We are a chapter of our great Division Association and proud of it. In addition we enjoy many benefits from being a part of the Division Association, including IRS umbrella protection as a non-appropriated fund association; eligibility for the Scholarship fund for those in need; contact with our Active Duty Members and many others. Majority of our members are also life members of the Division Association. All new members are encouraged to also join the Division Association. I think all will approve our recommendation to remain a chapter of the Division Association.

Another recommendation not approved was to eliminate all reference to "air assault and airmobile" in our by laws. We were and are all "Air Assault, Airmobile" and many of us also "Airborne". I am sure all join in the decision to keep all three.

Our Home Page moves right along, thanks to the hard work of our individual unit sponsors. The Home Page, the Internet and our BUGLE continue to keep our great association working together. We have helped many families of our lost Warriors and continue to do so.

The warnings on AGENT ORANGE are printed elsewhere in the BUGLE, make sure and read.

Our continued thanks to our hard working leaders and staff.

SEE YOU AT THE REUNION.

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

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Modern communications has certainly introduced some rather innovative techniques for each of us to send or receive essential data. All such advances are to enhance our ability to acquire information via computer E-mail or enrich our relationships with one another via "voice mail". I just wonder what would happen if God decided to go on line with "voice mail" as a method to facilitate communication with us human.

Can you imagine, during your prayers, hearing, "You have reached the heavenly realm. Your prayer is important to us and will be answered in the order it was received. Please listen to the following selections from which you may choose:

Press 1 - to express adoration to the Creator God.

Press 2 - to offer thanksgiving for blessings received.

Press 3 - to let your requests be made known.

Press 4 - to register any complaints.

Press 5 - to affirm any Biblical truths.

Press 7 - to acquire immediate assistance.

For quality control, this phone call may be monitored.

Thank you for calling "

What if a Divine Directory Service offered some of these options?

Press 1 - to speak to Gabriel.

Press 2 - to speak with Michael.

Press 3 - for our Spellbinding Directory of other angels.

Press 4 - to hear King David sing a Psalm while you are holding.

Press 5 - to inquire whether a loved one is residing in Heaven, enter his or her Social Security Number, then press the pound key. If you get a negative response, then try Area Code 666.

This office is closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Please pray again on Monday after 9:30 AM.

Thank God that there is no divine "Voice Mail" system. God listens whenever we pray. The Bible says, "Pray without ceasing." II Thessalonians 5: 17. **In gratitude and a warm hug...Roger S. Talmadge**

## 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 May 31, 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. \$20 includes shipping and handling. Make checks to Jumping Mustangs. Contact Mike Price at mp11b40@pacbel.net or call (949) 722-3646.

## JIMMIE H NICKELS, C CO 65-66

Passed away the weekend of February 25 at his home in Mississippi. He is believed to have suffered a stroke. Jimmie was one of the original Jumping Mustang platoon leaders and retired from the army as a Colonel. He was a great Warrior and an outstanding leader. We all shall miss him.

## TREASURER'S REPORT for 2000

Month	Receipts	Expenses
January	\$520.00	\$0.00
February	\$1,467.00	\$300.00
March	\$1,272.50	\$1,520.74
April	\$425.00	\$45.30
May	\$2,255.00	\$1,804.57
June	\$4,085.50	\$495.55
July	\$5,642.50	\$685.04
August	\$122.00	\$1,406.63
September	\$135.00	\$7,010.22
October	\$310.00	\$869.31
November	\$135.00	\$91.35
December	\$430.00	\$704.63
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$16,799.50</b>	<b>\$14,933.34</b>

Amount Brought Forward	\$11,009.17
Total Received for 2000	\$16,799.50
Minus Expenses for 2000	\$14,933.34
<b>Balance as of Dec 31, 2000</b>	<b>\$12,875.33</b>

The balance brought forward includes \$2184.00 obligated for the Historical Fund.

Receipts were from dues, donations, sale of shirts, hats, books, challenge coins, meals at reunion, raffles, etc.

Expenses were for postage, office supplies, shipping, meals, and beverages at reunion, hats, shirts, challenge coins, name tags, membership cards, printing of reunion book, Bugle, membership rosters, KIA rosters, license plates with 1/8th Cav Insignia, boots, flags, wine, and other things we use for the memorial dinner, etc.

## ARE YOU A CURRENT MEMBER?

Normally we renew our membership yearly when you attend the Reunion. If you are not attending the Reunion or are not an Active Member, please fill out this short form and mail to "James C. Knafel, 5510 E-500, South, Columbia City, IN, 46725-9263, Tel 219-244-3864 including your check for \$10.00, annual fee to support publishing and mailing costs of the BUGLE. If you're not sure of your membership status, give Jim Knafel a call. **DO IT NOW! WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.**

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

## FOR YOUR INFO

The following response was provided to a Jumping Mustang by Colonel Mertel: "You are entitled to wear the Air Assault Badge whether you have orders or not. You made air assaults and were in an air assault unit. 1/8th members may wear either the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav one, crossed lightning bolt and rifle with wings, or the one adopted by the Army for airmobile units later. I prefer the first one. Wear it proudly! I wear my uniform on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Armed Forces Day Ceremonies."

## AGENT ORANGE

Much information is coming in regarding the effects of exposure to agent orange.

**IMPORTANT:** If you think you may have a claim for exposure, file immediately with the VA. If the claim is approved, VA pays from the **DATE of Claim**, not the **DATE of award**. Type II diabetes is now presumed to be a result of exposure to agent orange. Other related illnesses are lung cancer, multiple myeloma, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkins lymphoma and prostate cancer. You can contact your nearest VA Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000 for additional information, or log on to the VA web site at <http://www.va.gov>.

## INTERNET UPDATES

If you aren't getting your weekly updates from Col Mertel, notify him at [jm814@aol.com](mailto:jm814@aol.com)

## PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS

Veterans who have earned the Purple Heart will now receive faster service and save money when they access the Department of Veterans health care. Thanks to a new law, Purple Heart recipients have been placed in a higher priority category for receiving VA healthcare services and no longer need to make co-payments for in-patient or out patient VA medical services. They will also be reimbursed for any co-payments they have made for VA healthcare received after November 29, 1999. However, they are still required to pay \$2 for each 30-day supply of prescription medication provided to outpatients for conditions not related to military service. You can now apply for VA benefits and health care online by accessing the VA website at <http://www.va.gov>.

## REUNION REGISTRATION

This issue of the Bugle contains another pay sheet for this summer's Reunion at Spokane. If you think you are coming, please fill it out ASAP and send it to Jim Knafel. Early registration is needed to allow time for planning and ordering necessary items such as T-Shirts and Caps. If subsequent events prevent you from attending, Jim will refund your payment.

## TOP'S MAIL CALL

Call from Dave Wright wanting to get together for a dinner soon. We will do that after the holidays are over. Reading from some literature the following. "Honor and Courage: 'Whether you be men or women, you will never do anything in the world without Courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to HONOR.'" Makes you think about our Crest. "A man of courage is also full of Faith. In honor any man who in the conscious discharge of his duty dares to stand alone." Heard from many Mustangs by receiving Christmas Cards and some wrote messages on them. That's good as I too sent messages on my cards as I think all people should do that. E-mail from Bill Jones said that Matt was doing fine after his surgery and he wanted to thank all the Mustangs for their prayers and best wishes. Many notes from Mustangs on their Christmas cards. Ray Plaisted reported that he, Russell Ramsey and Mario Rodriguez were getting together for a mini reunion. Long letter from the Talmadges saying all is well at their place. Newspaper article from the Martins

gave a story about Roy's life as a paratrooper and father, grandparent and Army life. It was real interesting since I have known Roy for over 46 years now and have really cherished his acquaintance for all these years. Especially as my Company Commander in Vietnam. Beautiful message from John Hanlon saying they are still fine. Bill Mozey sent a message also and says they are fine. Note from General Becker and his spouse. Fran, saying they are fine and he wants me to come by again and see them. Sam Rader reports that they are blessed with another grandchild. They have 11 grandchildren but haven't caught up with us yet as we have five great grandchildren and number six on the way. Wow!!!! We are getting old but still in good health. Thank God. A report from the Winandy's saying all is well there. Col Mertel wrote that all is well with him and he's still eating his vegetables and walking the dogs daily. We got a beautiful card from Bill and Hillary showing the yellow oval room first family residence at the White House. Larry Thompson sent a note saying they missed us at Fayetteville. Heard from Price, Williamson, Gerry Plummer, Bob Clapp, Nancy and David McCallum, the Hawkinberry's, Bill and Connie McCarron, Shermerhorn, Going's, Jimmie and Jonell Nickels, Ron and Mollie Hall, Harry and Helen Heater, Jim and Jane Knafel, the Vavrek's, the Carrizales, Gronseth, Gibson, Laurie, Lopez, Onstott, Pappy and Virginia Loughran, the Hamblen's, McGee, Doc Hancock, Propes, Harry Wilson, and many more and it seems that all is well. No bad reports and thank God for that. Well, it's December 29<sup>th</sup> and we haven't been out of the house now for 10 days as we have snow and on top of that icy roads that prevent driving. I still get some mail and its great to hear from Mustangs all over the USA. Call from Mario Rodriguez and it was good to hear from him as it has been a long time since I talked to him. He reports that he and family are fine. He said he would be glad to meet Roy and I at Biloxi for the planning of the Biloxi reunion in 2002. Roy Martin reports that Laurin is now owner of a horse along with all the other pets they have. Gerry Plummer sent a letter with up dating of the By-Laws. He has made some changes that have to be taken to the Committee that is correcting the By-Laws and updating them. I sent John Hanlon a birthday card. The cold weather here caught me off guard and I am suffering some damages at my farm where the weather (freeze) took its toll on my houses there. We did not drain all the plumbing and we

had some broken plumbing and one commode busted. I will not make that mistake again. Heard from Bill Mozey and he teased me again about being hard on criminals in Arkansas. Also wanted to check up on us and see if all is O.K. Wished us greatness in 2001. Call from Bill Jones said that he had been doing fine along with Matt who had surgery and both are great. Said that Al Schroeder was visiting all the California members of the Mustangs and would see Mynderup, Moss, Lynch and others in the California area in February. Said he was going to make the Spokane reunion. Also said he had a nice visit with his grandson and was really enjoying being grandpa. Call from Gerry Plummer and all is well at his place. Heard that Harvey Auger has moved to North Carolina. I don't have his new address yet. Call from Tom Finnegan who reports that he is semi-retired and is doing fine.. He said he was playing some golf and enjoying life after retirement. Letter from Gerry Plummer said that they were making a movie about the battle of the Ia Drang. Mel Gibson will play the part of Hal Moore. I wonder if they will get the story straight. Knowing how they make movies now days I am sure they'll mess this one up also. I saw Platoon and it was a disgrace to the Vietnam Veteran as they made us look like idiots. Killing our own men by other men and slaughtering civilians. That did not happen in Vietnam while I was there. Hollywood can really mess up a lot when making a movie. Called Bill Jones again and he is fine. Top.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Rocky Botsford, Edwin Koops and Thomas Hemphill have recently joined the Jumping Mustangs.

## UNIT AWARDS TO ELEMENTS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 8<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY REGIMENT

Tom Frye has researched unit awards for service in Vietnam, and provided a table which is contained in this issue of the *Bugle*. It will help clarify what awards you are entitled to as a result of service in the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 8th..

## HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR THE 2001 REUNION

The Double Tree Hotel at Spokane has a different routine than we have been used to for prior reunions.

They will reserve a block of rooms for the Jumping Mustangs, **HOWEVER**, they must be guaranteed by the Jumping Mustangs - unused rooms must still be paid for out of our treasury. We do have some deadline dates to reduce the number of rooms blocked, but cannot afford to accept a risk for unused rooms. Please get your reservations in early so as to help reduce the uncertainty which we are facing.

Also, Jim Knafel has heard from some Jumping Mustangs that they can obtain cheaper rates by other means - well, its a pay-me-now or pay-me-later situation. The hotel, as in the past, will provide complimentary services based on the number of rooms reserved in the name of **The Jumping Mustangs**. In the past, we have enjoyed free meeting rooms, as well as other freebies which are not paid from our treasury. If we do not make reservations under the Jumping Mustang block, we risk losing the free services - which will result in additional charges for reunion activities. Please cooperate in this and use the rooms blocked for the reunion. The available room rates, which include a buffet breakfast, are not unreasonably priced.

## FLAG ETIQUETTE

**Saluting the flag:** Salute the flag when it is six paces from the viewer and hold it until the flag has passed six paces beyond. Salute the flag at the first note of the National Anthem and hold the salute until the last note is played.

**When in civilian attire:** Men remove hats and hold at left shoulder with hand over heart; without hat, place right hand, palm open over heart. Women should place right hand, palm open, over heart.

## JUMPING MUSTANGS WEB SITE

Most who are already on the internet know of the Jumping Mustangs Web Site, but for those who do not, or those who can only access the internet from a friend's computer system, the address is:

<http://sites.netscape.net/jumpingmustangs/homepage>. It contains information for each company, by year, as well as a great deal of other information concerning the Battalion and Vietnam in general. A great deal of hard work has gone into the website, much of which is attributable to Colonel Mertel. If you haven't taken a look at it, you should do so. It is well worth your time.

## TAPS

We have all heard the haunting song, "Taps." It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually creates tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song?

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals, was born.

Day is done  
Gone the sun  
From the Lakes  
From the hills  
From the sky.  
All is well,  
Safely rest.  
God is nigh.

Fading light  
Dims the sight  
And a star  
Gems the sky,  
Gleaming bright  
From afar,  
Drawing nigh,  
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise,  
For our days,  
Neath the sun,  
Neath the stars,  
Neath the sky,  
As we go,  
This we know,  
God is nigh.

I too, have felt the chills while listening to "Taps" but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse.

## LATE WORD

D Co, 68-69 is having a mini-reunion at Ft Meyers Beach, FL 19-20 May. Contact Jerry Frease.

Bob Swecker, oldest son of Hubert E. Swecker (Aug 66 - Mar 67) is seeking contact with anyone who served with his father. Call 478-328-7459 or email [bob\\_swecker@yahoo.com](mailto:bob_swecker@yahoo.com).

Charlie Schell's wife, Katheryn, is seriously ill. Also, Charlie has recently fallen from a ladder resulting in a concussion and back injuries. Calls, cards, and prayers are in order.

***The following is a list of unit awards to the various elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment for service in the Republic of South Vietnam, 1965-1971.***

***Find your company, then the column headed "time period", then look down the list to see how many different awards you are entitled to wear as a result of your service in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment.***

### ***Presidential Unit Citation***

Citation	Legend	Time Period	HQ	A	B	C	D	E
DAGO 40, 1967	Pleiku Province	23 Oct – 26 Nov 65	X	X	X	X	X	
DAGO 73, 1968	Trung Luong	21 – 22 Jun 1966	X		X	X	X	
DAGO 2, 1973	Bihn Thuan Province	9 Nov – 12 Dec 66			X			

### ***Valorous Unit Award***

DAGO 43, 1973	Fish Hook	1 May – 29 Jun 70	X	X	X	X	X	X
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### ***South Vietnam Cross of Gallantry Unit Award***

DAGO 59, 1969	Vietnam 1965-69	9 Aug 65-19 May 69	X	X	X	X	X	X
DAGO 42, 1972 & DAGO 11, 1973	Vietnam 1969-70	May 1969-Feb 1970	X	X	X	X	X	X
DAGO 42, 1972	Vietnam 1971	21 Feb 71-28 Feb 71	X	X	X	X	X	X

### ***South Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class Unit Award***

DAGO 42, 1972	Vietnam 1969-70		X	X	X	X	X	X
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# JUMPING MUSTANGS' 16<sup>th</sup> REUNION

## SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

JULY 18, 2001 - JULY 22, 2001

### PAY SHEET

Sign up now for the **SIXTEENTH ANNUAL JUMPING MUSTANGS' REUNION** to be held in Spokane, Washington from July 18-July 22, 2001. Deadline for pre-registration is **JUNE 30, 2001**. Send registration fees and names of your party to:

**James Knafel, 5510 E. 500 South, Columbia City, IN 46725.**

For hotel reservations Call the Double Tree Hotel at 1-800-222-8733 or 509-924-9000. Children 17 and under stay free. Rates plus 10.1% tax for:

Single or Double Occupancy	\$ 79.00
Triple Occupancy	89.00
Premium or Quad Occupancy	99.00

Room rate includes buffet breakfast for up to 2 Adults for each night stay. Deadline for hotel reservations is June 16, 2001. Make sure you identify yourself as a Jumping Mustang to receive the special rate.

Early registration simplifies the efforts of your Hosts and ensures that enough meals are ordered and ample space is available for our functions. Please register as early as possible to let us know you are coming and how many will be attending the Reunion.

<b>Dues for 2001-2002 Year \$ 10.00 (Members Only)</b>		\$ _____
<b>Reunion Book at \$ 15.00 each</b>	No. Ordered _____	\$ _____
<b>Icebreaker Dinner Thursday Night</b>		
Number of Adults _____	@ \$ 25.00	\$ _____
Youth (6 to 11) _____	@ \$ 12.50	\$ _____
Children (5 and under) _____	No Charge	
<b>Dinner Dance Friday Night</b>		
Number of Adults _____	@ \$ 35.00	\$ _____
Youth (6 to 11) _____	@ \$ 17.50	\$ _____
Children (5 and under) _____	No Charge	
<b>Memorial Dinner Saturday Night</b>		
Number of Adults _____	@ \$ 35.00	\$ _____
Youth (6 to 11) _____	@ \$ 17.50	\$ _____
Children (5 and under) _____	No Charge	
<b>Prayer Breakfast Sunday</b>	No Charge	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Make check payable to **Jumping Mustangs** and send check with this form to the Treasurer, **Jim Knafel, 5510 East 500 South, Columbia City, IN 46725.**

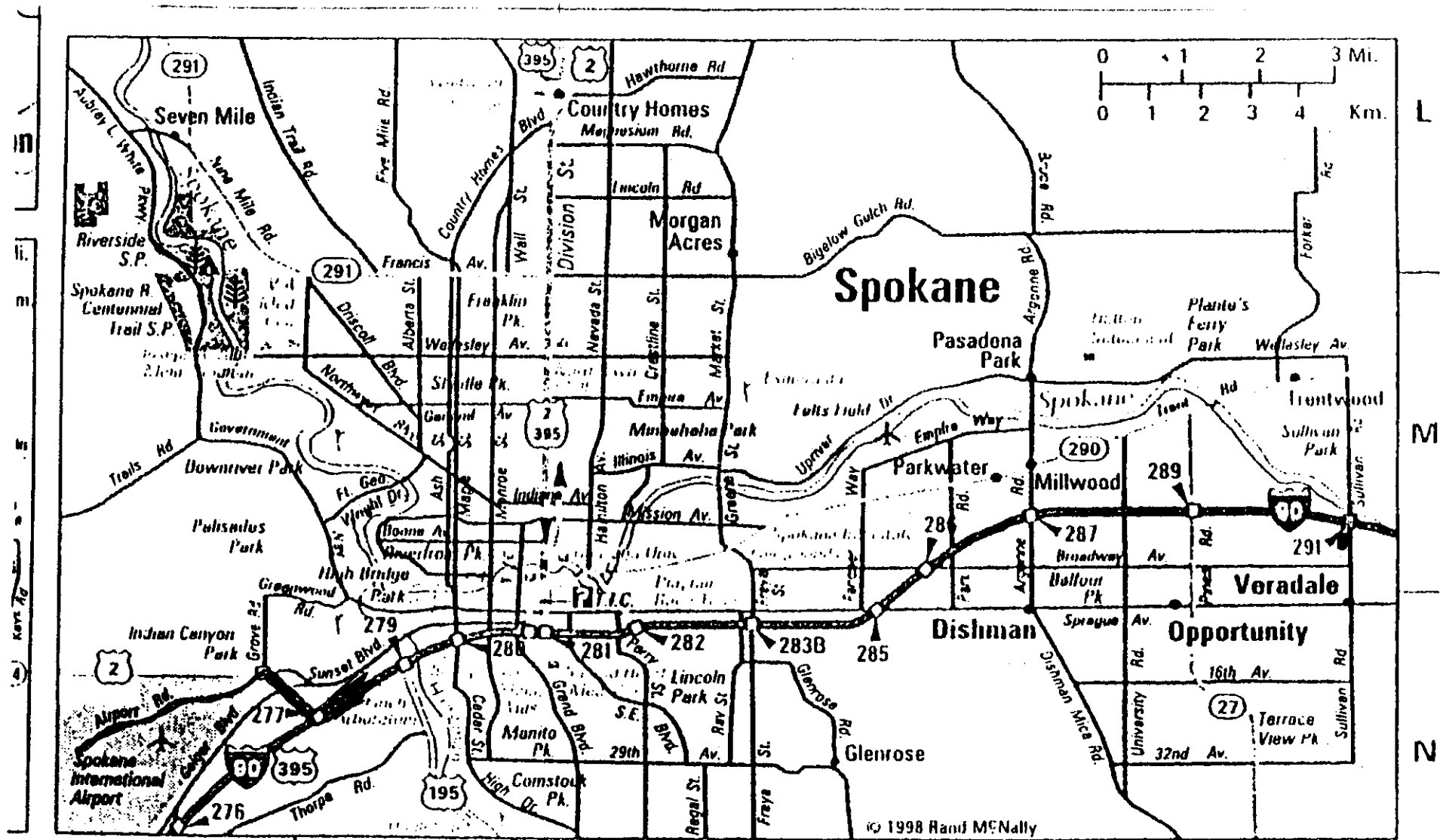
Name of Member \_\_\_\_\_ Guests \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Youth attending \_\_\_\_\_

Those wishing to play golf need to contact Jesse Lopez at 972-264-8182 as soon as possible.

For additional information contact:

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



The Spokane International Airport is 17.9 miles from the DoubleTree Hotel, 1100 N. Sullivan Road. Free shuttle service is provided by the hotel. If you are driving from the airport, follow exit signs out of the airport parking lot. Follow Airport Road to I-90 EAST.

**EAST BOUND** on I-90, take **Sullivan Road Exit 291** off I-90. At the stoplight, take a right and get into the left lane immediately. The hotel is immediately on the left.

**WEST BOUND** into Spokane on I-90, take **Sullivan Road Exit 291**. AT the stoplight, take a left. Stay in the left lane and go back over the freeway. The hotel is immediately on the left.