



# **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**

**September 2001**

**Issue Number 3**

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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

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# JUMPING MUSTANG BUGLE

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1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Division

September 2001

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8th Cavalry  
Regiment



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## JUMPING MUSTANG 6

Spokane has come and gone. What a great Reunion, over 100 attended.

Our Vice President, Bill McCarron and Connie wrote up a splendid report, that appears elsewhere in the BUGLE. Our thanks again to Randy and Yvonne Howard, and Charlotte and Bob Hamblen and all others who assisted in making the reunion a wonderful success.

As you may know, this is schedule of future reunions:

12-16 June, 2002 Gulf Coast, near Biloxi, MI

2003 Providence, RI

2004 St Augustine, FL

A large Paver has been purchased by the Airborne Members of our Chapter for our great unit at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, NC. Thanks to all who participated.

Texas Tech University at Lubbock, Texas has volunteered to put all of our records on Computer Discs (CD's) at no expense to the Chapter. There will be one CD for historical records and one for photos. When completed, the CD's will be available to members at a nominal charge. Great work on the part of Dave Bowman, our Historian and all others who helped line this project up. This will preserve our records and photos permanently for future generations, students and of course our members. Well done, to all who participated.

Texas Tech Vietnam Archives representatives have been in contact with me. I have provided them with the three questionnaires they requested. Also sent them a copy of my book, "Year of the Horse, Vietnam" and the video "I Am A Soldier" (A Co, 1966, Video by ABC Television, as well as other material.

Some of you will be called upon later to fill out questionnaires for your oral history. This is a great project, and will add the History of our great unit as well as many of our Warriors.

We have a new Roster of snail mail addresses, telephone numbers and E mail addresses. If you have changed your E mail address and are not receiving a Weekly Jumping Mustang Update, let me know. Also let me know if you have an E mail address and want to be on our Internet List. Your E mail address is only provided to members upon request (your permission is assumed).

TROUBLE WITH OUR HOME PAGE or any of the links? Sometimes when there is a lot of traffic, you may get "Site Does Not Respond". Try again, it will come up. Best way to get Company Links, is go through the Home Page. The Home Page is monitored daily, any difficulty is promptly reported to Netscape. They have been prompt in taking care of any challenge. Same thing applies to Sponsors, when Editing. Thanks to all of our Sponsors who make our Home Page so great. We have had over 17,000 contacts since we began. Many Guest Sign In's are received with praise and thanks. Keep it up.

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

## SPOKANE REUNION 2001

The 16th Annual Jumping Mustang reunion was held in Spokane, Washington on 18 through 22 July, 2001. Our hosts Randy and Yvonne Howard as well as Bob and Charlotte Hamblen did an outstanding job and are to be commended.

Everything went without a flaw showing their determination to make sure the reunion was an overwhelming success. It was.

Activities commenced on the 18th with a flag raising ceremony in front of the hotel. This was unique inasmuch as the hotel did not have a flag pole originally, but erected one specially for our ceremony. Joe Griffin read a special excerpt on what the Pledge of Allegiance really meant followed by all singing the Star Spangled Banner. During the ceremony the hotel staff was presented a flag that had been flown over the US Capitol and with Certificates of Appreciation for the fine work they had done in preparation for the reunion. These are proudly displayed at the front desk of the hotel. That evening everyone enjoyed a buffet dinner on the inner lawn of the hotel. Col Mertel's greeting and remarks were read during the icebreaker and were well received. Bill McCarron, Vice President of the association then presented his own welcome, asking each of those who had participated previously in reunions to acquaint themselves with those who were attending their first. Twelve new members attended this years reunion including Perry Tillman, Dave Smith, Joe Brillante, Brian Craft, Phillip Simmons, Gary Schultz, Joe Griffin, Robert Bigger, Paul Britton, Joe Voytilla, Ron Barrett, and A.J. Conetta. Additionally, Al Bellam and his daughter, Carolyn attended. Al is a World War II vet who asked if he could join us, even though he was never with the 1st Cavalry Division. He and his daughter were well received and thoroughly enjoyed themselves for the duration of the reunion.

The business meeting took place on the 19th as did the dinner dance that evening. The business meeting was opened by Bill McCarron. Roger Talmadge said the invocation and led all present in the pledge of allegiance. Bill McCarron then made some opening remarks and thanked the Constitution and By-Laws Committee for the work they had done on revision of the by-laws. The Vice President then explained the revised by-laws would be tabled until next year since there had been an objection to the newly created by-laws just prior to the meeting. Additionally, we would forego any old business since we did not have the minutes for the previous years meeting and all attempts to obtain them had been fruitless. It was pointed out that money for a paving stone to be placed at the Airborne Museum in Fayetteville had been approved.

Roy Martin then provided a short synopsis on next years reunion in Biloxi, MS. The floor was then opened for

nominations for the 2003 reunion. Frank Vavrek proposed St. Augustine, Florida and Don Lareau proposed Providence, Rhode Island. It was explained by the Executive Committee that both of the nominees had been contacted and had agreed that regardless of whom won the following reunion would go to the other nomination. The membership voted for Providence in 2003 and St. Augustine in 2004. The Treasurer's report was then read and approved.

Our Historian, David Bowman then provided a historical report and a proposal for maintaining the volumes of S2/S3 Journals that he had worked so hard on copying and preparing. Texas A&M's Vietnam Research Center has agreed to maintain these voluminous reports for us. They will not only archive and maintain them in a climate controlled facility, but will also copy the entire report to CDs at no cost to the Jumping Mustangs Association. The CDs will then be offered by the Jumping Mustangs at a minimal cost to any member who desires a copy. The paper records will be made available to any Mustang who visits A&M. A Texas A&M researcher then provided a detailed briefing on the on-going efforts that are being taken by the University to establish and maintain the Vietnam Research Center. The membership approved the motion to do this overwhelmingly since the cost to the treasury to ship these documents to each reunion site is approximately \$500.00.

As to new business, Gerry Plummer made a recommendation that a letter be forwarded to the 1st Cavalry Division Association requesting they place a 1st Cav unit plaque on the Airborne Walk at the Airborne School and to erect a memorial for the 1st Cav at Sacrifice Field, Ft Benning. These symbols would acknowledge the 1st Cav's contribution to the airborne heritage and honor the men who served and died with the 1st Cav in the various campaigns throughout its history. The motion was approved overwhelmingly and Joe Brillante has prepared a letter to the 1st Cav requesting this be done. There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 1000 hours.

The dinner dance that evening was enjoyable. The buffet meal was excellent and there was plenty for all. The dance itself went on until 2330 hours. The highlight of the evening was when the ladies sang along with their rendition of "Soldier Boy" to each of the spouses still in attendance. Music from the 40's to present day was played by our disc jockey throughout the evening.

On Saturday we boarded buses to attend a small ceremony at Spokane's Vietnam Memorial in downtown Spokane. The Memorial was impressive. The Attorney General for Spokane, himself a Vietnam Veteran and former POW welcomed the Jumping Mustangs. Small flags were then placed at the feet of the statue by those attending the ceremony.

That evening we held our Memorial Dinner. Fifty-six members and their families attended, a total of 109 persons in all. Bill McCarron opened the dinner with welcoming remarks, posted the colors, led the pledge of allegiance and then asked Roger Talmadge to say the invocation. Bill Jones then took over as Master of Ceremonies. As usual toasts were made to the Commander in Chief, the US Army, the Jumping Mustangs, the KIA's and MIA's, and to the Ladies in attendance. Dinner was then served. Following dinner, the memorial service was held with the placement of boots, inverted rifle, and helmet. Then followed the lighting of a candle for each company in the battalion in memory of those who lost their lives in the service of their country. Taps was played by Randy Howard and Ron Roberts. Several poems written by Harry Heater were read by Harry. As usually they were well written and received. Bill McCarron then presented Award of Gratitude Plaques to our hosts, Randy and Yvonne Howard and Bob and Charlotte Hamblen in honor of the hard work they did in preparing for this 16th Reunion.

The Open Mike session was then held with several members speaking to the attendees. With the official ending of the Memorial Service, door prizes were then handed out, ending the evening.

A prayer breakfast was held for those still remaining on Sunday morning prior to each heading to their respective homes. In all the reunion was a huge success. All had a wonderful time.

**VCP BILL McCARRON**

## VA CHAMPVA HOURS

WASHINGTON -- The toll-free telephone hours for CHAMPVA -- "Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs" -- have changed.

Callers can now speak to a benefits counselor from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern time. The phone number is unchanged --

1-800-733-8387.

CHAMPVA is a health benefits program in which VA shares with eligible beneficiaries the cost of certain health care services and supplies. VA's Health Administration Center (HAC) in Denver manages CHAMPVA. Check out our WEB SITE at: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afretire>.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### PERSEVERANCE IN ACTION

#### The Definition

*Per-se-ver-ance* (pur'se-vêr'ens), noun [ME. : Of. : L. *perseverantia* < *perseverans*].

1. The act of persevering. 2. The quality of one who perseveres. SYN. -- perseverance implies a continuing to do something in spite of difficulties, obstacles, overwhelming odds, etc. 3. Steadfast in purpose. Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, College Edition, The World Publishing Company, Cleveland and New York, © 1960, pp 1091. True statements, but ho hum...

#### The Story

Henry Fulton, III, owned two champion, pedigree, English setter hunting dogs. He acquired these two as pups, had them thoroughly trained at the renowned Dwight W. Barrister Canine Obedience College and over the years they won many prizes for poise and demonstrated hunting skills. Henry was very proud of his exceptional dogs and provided most adequately for their needs. When not competing at shows or field trials, Henry kept the dogs in the safety of his fenced in backyard. It was a large expanse replete with towering shade trees, a small brook and a lush, well manicured lawn across which the dogs could romp freely. Henry's home office bay window over looked the entire rear area of his estate. Everything was tranquil and highly predictable.

One lazy afternoon, as the sun cast long shadows across the backyard, Henry's wife observed a small tan colored boxer-terrier dog tunneling under the back fence. As the scruffy looking mutt entered the yard, he began barking profusely at the two hunting dogs. The setters immediately took pursuit, pounced on the little mixed-breed and roughed him up thoroughly. The

yelping pooch darted swiftly away under the fence and then sat to lick his wounds. The very next afternoon that same mutt scurried under the fence, ran across the yard while barking at the hunting dogs. Again the hunters teamed up to overwhelm the intruder who again dashed under the back fence to lick his wounds. Now this sequence of activity repeated itself about the same time for the ensuing three days with similar results. The little boxer-terrier ended up licking his wounds from the confrontation from those two English setters. Maybe the small dog was a slow learner. Notwithstanding, during the late afternoon of the sixth day, the mixed breed bolted into the backyard and, while running across the back lawn, barked incessantly at the two reclining hunting dogs. Both champion hounds jumped to their feet quickly, dashed toward the house and leaped through the basement dog door. Wow, for the next twenty minutes the runt boxer-terrier celebrated his victory by running gleefully and undisturbed to and fro around the backyard before exiting underneath the fence. What a great triumph and display of perseverance in action!

Perseverance is not self generated, but God given. Exodus 15: 1b says "I will sing unto the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously : the horse and his rider has He thrown into the sea." These Scriptures assure each of us, when faced with daily trials, that God will prevail on our behalf and give us the victory. Trust in God and He will help you and me persevere.

**With a warm hug and a quiet prayer -**

**Roger S. Talmadge**

## ADDRESS CHANGE?

Has your snail mail or email address changes? If so, be sure to notify Kevin Mynderup at 1054 Robin Ave., Hanford, CA 93230-5758; (559) 582-6136 or [kmnyder@cnetech.co](mailto:kmnyder@cnetech.co). He continues to maintain the data base for all Jumping Mustangs.

## TOP'S MAIL CALL

First off I had a call from Bill Hawkinberry today to send me a thank you for the D-Day 6<sup>th</sup> of June landing in Normandy. However, I was not in that landing - I was at Bougainville Solomon Islands when that landing was made. I made a landing on Cebu in the Philippines in

March 1945 where I was one of the lucky ones that cleared the beach unhurt, as we lost many men and LVT's (Carriers that brought us in) that day. My LTV got past the beach and the beach-head where 15 of the LVT's were knocked out on the beach and many men were killed. The Japanese had five hundred pound bombs planted in the water on the beach and my LTV was the only one that got through without hitting one of the bombs. That was March 1945 and in April on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, I was wounded in an attack where we fixed bayonets and took the commanding terrain around the City of Cebu after going up that ridge three days in a row and finally taking it. It was 11:30 at night and the attack was in complete darkness. I was wounded by a Japanese grenade and lay in a shell hole until next day about noon when they policed me up and I was taken to the hospital. Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> is not my lucky day. I received the purple heart on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> on General Order Number 13 at the 44<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, APO 1003. Then 19 years later on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> I made a jump and broke my shoulder. In 1968 on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> I received word that I was to go home on leave as my mother was on her death bed. I was in Vietnam (second tour) with the 101<sup>st</sup> at this time. So, you see Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> is not my best day, but I am not worried as God has been good to me and I am still around at age 77.

Card from Bill Mozey and a letter from Col. Mertel, said I should read the book "Baptism." I have read "Never Plan Tomorrow" and again read "We Were Soldiers Once, and Young." Can't get over the way that book glorified the leaders that were completely negligent and got so many young brothers killed... Seems that many leaders cover their mistakes by writing a book and not telling the real truth about what happened in a war. Call from James Lowry said he and Marie and family were great. Looking forward to reunion in Washington. Asked for Roy Martin's address and phone number. Gerry Plummer sent me another book to read called "The Expendables" about men of the First Cavalry in Vietnam. Haven't got into it yet, but will read it when I get time. It is based on the U.S. Army's declassified technical reports, unit histories, diaries, letters, and personal interviews with survivors. If you have done much reading books, you will find that much of what is put into books is false. S.L.A. Marshall was good at putting into his books information that he alone made up. It would be a wonderful world if people would stick to the truth when writing and telling about the

wars. Call from Bill Mozey again just checking up on me. Call from Paul Gugliette wanting James Knafel's phone number as he wanted to pay his membership and get in contact. Said he had talked to Ted Danielsen and Pappy Loughran.

Back to my report after going through surgery — by-pass surgery on 27<sup>th</sup> June. I have to report from memory as I have had some time in bed and visiting the doctors. I am now recovering from the surgery (by-pass heart surgery) and I am feeling like a new person. I have received many cards and letters and especially prayers from all the family and many of my Mustang Chapter members. Bill Mozey has called or written daily and I heard from over 100 more since I have been down. Hopefully I can now keep up communications after I continue my recovery. I am supposed to be walking a mile next week. I have followed the doctors guidance of exercising and I have changed my diet. It's a shame a person has to have surgery before they learn that changes in diet and exercising is the answer to good health. I have no willpower, but Jeane is a good doctor that makes me do what is necessary to keep fit. I am back to reading and I just finished the book "Baptism." It was about the Albany trip where McDade's Battalion lost 151 KIA's and all but 90 of his Battalion either killed or wounded. They called this a victory but after helping police that area, I realized it was more a massacre. Saw Dave Wright and made arrangements to have lunch with he and Mary. They are doing fine, but will not attend the Washington reunion. Also talked to John Hanlon and Bill Jones. They are fine. Received a card from Mustangs at the reunion, also had a call from my son who attended the reunion and met many of the Mustangs there. Had a good visit from Dave and Mary Wright and we talked for four hours and had a good visit. Received a package from the Howards with some of the reunion stuff in it to include a T-shirt with many Mustang signatures on it. I appreciate it and will put it with my collections. Received four hats from Bill Mozy. He is planning to have a memorial placed at the Airborne Museum for the Airborne personnel that served First Shift. The Airborne personnel contributed to the efforts for Bill to place this memorial at the Museum. I received a report that TRICARE - will come to effect in October 2001. This is supposed to pay medical bills that were promised to retirees if they put in 20 + years of service - it is a bill that was passed to pay what Medicare doesn't pay for hospitalization of a

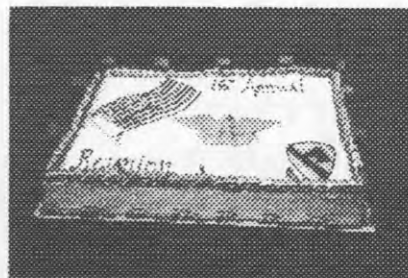
retiree. But is this another promise to be broken like our government has done before? I will keep my supplement insurance as I don't trust the government anymore. If they'll break one promise I think they will break another one. I just can't trust them. It's a shame.

Letter from Col. Mertel who reports that he and his grandson had a good trip to Europe. Letter from Roy Martin with a report on the 2002 Biloxi reunion to be held 12-16th of June 2002. Sounds like good planning as we will have a talent show next reunion. I am anxious to hear what kind of talent we'll have. Had a letter from Glen Sheathelm and a photograph of a cottage built by Henry Arnold, my old Commanding General from WWII. Interesting. I have recovered now and am almost back to good health. I still have an appointment with the cardiologist on 29<sup>th</sup> of August and will get a final report after the surgery and an examination. I feel great now and am gaining back my energy. Call from Dave Wright - he and I and our spouses will attend the Retiree Council at Ft. Sill 13 - 15 September. It's about the Tricare Bill that is supposed to take place in October 2001 and will eliminate the need for Supplemental Insurance that we are paying for hospital billing after Medicare quits paying. At present we are having to pay for hospitalization after Medicare which is very costly. Maybe the government is beginning to help veterans with hospitalization - or will this be another promise to be broken like SBA and disability pay we are authorized. We will have to wait and see.

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## DEADLINE FOR BUGLE ARTICLES

is November 30, 2001. Email (no attachments, please) any articles for the next bugle to Bill Hawkinberry at hawki@cvn.net or mail to 52 Ski Run Trail, Fairfield, PA 17320.



Ice-Breaker Cake, Spokane Reunion

## WELCOM TO NEW MEMBERS

Paul Britton, Maurice Hall, Perry Tillman, Harry Wolstenholme, Warren David, Atrhur Drago, and Joe DeSantos, (whose uncle Alfredo J. Saenz was KIA 30 Dec 66 with C/1/8).

## TREASURER'S NOTES

Attending the reunion were 56 members of the Jumping Mustangs, and a total of 110 people.

Attendees were: Gerry Plummer, Papy & Virginia Loughran, Mike McDougall, Rich Washington, Jim & Jane Knafel, Bill Jones, Bob & Faye Lynch, Don & Bobbie Gibson, David Bowman & friend Jim Houser, Joe & Betty Griffin, Bill & Connie McCarron, Dave & Nancy McCallum, Randy & Yvonne Howard, Steve & Kathy Williams, Ron & Vicky Roberts, Kevan & TeriLyn Mynderup, Harry & Keith Heater, Brad Moss & Carolyn LaRoque, George & Theresa Goswick, Ron & Molly Hall, Bob & Rebecca Biggar, Phil & Frances Simmons, Frank, Carol, Kayla, & Erika Vavrek, Bob & Charlotte Hamblen and friends, Maurice & Carol Waters, Mike & Ginger Price, Jim, Judy, Bob, Stacy Winandy & Dustin Whitney, Jon Williams, Charles & Lorraine Osborne, Tom Frye, Jim, Marie, Veronica Laurie & Heather Shanley & Samantha Esposito, Doug Asher & Susan Phelps, John Butkovich & Raylee Howard, Jim McNeill, Roger & Charlotte Talmadge, Terry & Shirley Dickson, Sam & Mary Ault, Don & Bonnie LaReau, Tom Finnegan, Tom & Susan Hemphill, Tom Brett, Al Schroeder, Willis Padgett, Larry, Karen & John Thompson, Paul & Marcus Britton, John & Fran Riffle, Gary & Pam Shultz, Al & Carolyn Bellem, Roy & Martha Martin, Don Vincent & Adele Catanzaro, Jim & Jordan Voytilla, Bill Mozey, Jesse & Lupe Lopez, Perry & Diane Tillman, Curtis Peoples, Ron Barrett, Dave Smith, Joe Brillante, Tom & Deegan Nimmich, Al Conetto, Gary Paxton, and Brian Kraft.

Approximately 86 attended the dinner dance and approximately 91 attended the ice breaker.

**Jim Knafel**

## C-7A CARIBOU CRASH

A number of members of our organization have contact with other veterans organizations and we should probably be sharing information more. It can help family members looking for information on the deaths of their loved ones such as the help we were able to provide two families who had members on the C-130 that went down in the A Shau in April of 1968. We were able to come up with pictures of the aircraft going down after being hit by flak and the wreckage after the load of artillery ammo stopped exploding.

The C-7A Caribou Association recently had an article about a crash on 10/4/66. The article was written by Jake Hargis of the 383<sup>rd</sup> Transport Command Detachment at An Khe. He mentioned that Major General Norton was relying heavily on air support to get personnel moved in and out of the Bong Son Plain for Operation "Paul Revere." The C-7A had gone into the clouds on approaching An Khe and hit Hon Kon Mountain. The aircraft number was 63-9751 and had 28 people aboard. Hargis who was CO of the 383<sup>rd</sup> Detachment that day did the typical brave but foolish thing typical of young men the military recruits and drove his jeep to the base of Hon Con to see if he could rescue any survivors.

For those of us who did our infantry thing on Hon Kon we would have known about the slipping and sliding back down the steep slope in the rain. Hargis soon realized it was very slippery and steep. He found the aircraft upside down with the fuselage split almost back to the wing spar by a huge mahogany tree. The impact had torn lose the ramp extensions and roller conveyors and they had gone the full length of the aircraft killing or injuring many who were aboard the aircraft. The Air Force crew members all died and the pilot was not found until 4 days later by personnel trying to find out what could be salvaged. He was still in his seat, but the wreckage had folded around him! John T. Bird was the only Army crewman on the aircraft and his body was found under a wing. PFC Daniel R. Madden was impaled by an M-16 as everyone was thrown about in the crash.

The slope was too steep for rotor clearance and the 14 dead and 14 wounded had to be carried down the slope from the crash site on litters. Hargis had trouble getting into the aircraft because the front was so mangled you



couldn't use the door and the rear door was initially high off the ground. Rescue personnel actually had to walk on the ceiling as they helped Hargis sort out the dead and injured.

If any of you from the 1/8th Cavalry were out there pulling security at the crash site or walked by the wreckage later, I'm sure the Caribou Association would like any comments or possibly pictures of the wreckage. Either send information to me and I will forward it to them or send information directly to them:

Glen Sheathelm  
1530 Beardsley Ave.  
Muskegon, MI 4944

C-7A Caribou Association  
17916 E. 96<sup>th</sup> St. N.  
Owasso, OK 74055

**Glen Sheathelm**

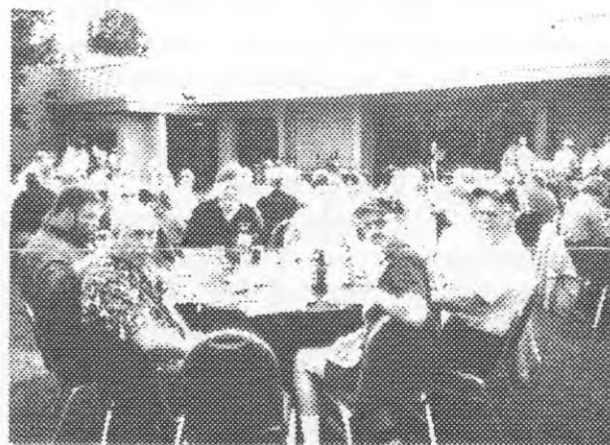


**Hospitality Room**

## SPOKANE REUNION PHOTOS



**Reunion Hosts at Hotel Lobby**



**Ice Breaker**



**Randy & Bob Present Certificate & Flag to Hotel**



**Jim Shively, POW for 5 yrs in the Hanoi Hilton speaks at the Washington Vietnam Memorial**