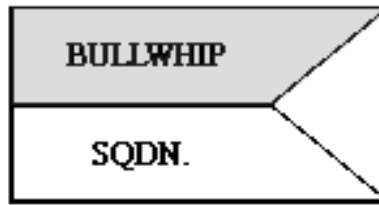


3<sup>rd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> --- 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>  
Air Cavalry Squadron



## THE BULLWHIP SQUADRON NEWS

---

The official News Magazine of the Bullwhip Squadron Association

June 2001

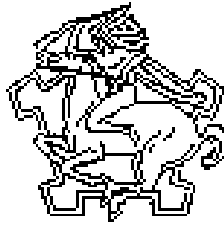


## **THE VETERAN**

He was getting old and paunchy, And his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the Legion Hall telling stories of his past.  
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his buddies – they were heroes, every one.  
And though sometimes to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,  
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.  
But we'll hear his tales no longer, for old Bill passed away.  
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.  
He was just a common soldier, and his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.  
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part,  
Is to clean up all the troubles that others often start.  
If we cannot give him honor, while he's here to hear the praise,  
Then at least let's give him homage, at the ending of his days.  
Perhaps a simple notice in a paper that would say,  
“Our Country is in mourning, Cause a Soldier passed away”.

Author unknown

## **REMEMBER THE VETERAN**



## AdjutantsCall

### **Attention to Orders**

SOME YEARS AGO, JOHN B STOCKTON SENT ME NEXT DOOR TO OUR PLOT OF GROUND ALONG RADCLIFF ROAD TO TELL, NOT ASK, LTC HAL MOORE CO 1/7 CAV THAT WE WERE EXPANDING OUR BOUNDARY ABOUT 10 FEET INTO HIS AREA. LTC HAL MOORE WAS NOT AMUSED AND TOLD ME TO GET MY BUTT OUT OF HIS BATTALION AREA.

LT. GEN. (RET) HAL MOORE HAS BEEN A REGULAR VISITOR TO COLUMBUS, GEORGIA AND FORT BENNING THIS SPRING BECAUSE OF HIS BOOK, "WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE AND YOUNG", ABOUT THE BATTLE IN THE IA DRANG VALLEY. IT IS BEING MADE INTO A MOVIE AT FORT BENNING WITH MEL GIBSON AS HAL MOORE, THE STAR. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THERE IS LITTLE MENTION IN THE MOVIE ABOUT THE 1/9 TROOPERS THAT STARTED THE EVENT.

MOVIES, BOOKS, TV SPECIALS, LIKE MUSEUMS, SHOULD RECORD HISTORY NOT CHANGE IT.

I RECEIVED A CALL JUST BEFORE MEMORIAL DAY FROM OUR DEVOTED SGT MAJOR AL DEFLERON REMINDING ME THAT IT WAS TIME FOR ME TO SEND IN ADJUTANTS CALL COMMENTS. WHAT BETTER TIME TO RECALL THE ACTIONS OF THE BULLWHIP SQUADRON AND THE TROOPERS WHO FELL IN THEIR DUTY TO THE NATION.

AT ANDERSONVILLE, SOUTHEAST OF COLUMBUS, THEY HONOR ALL PRISONERS OF WAR. ANDERSONVILLE, A CONFEDERATE POW CAMP DURING THE CIVIL WAR, WHERE SOME 13,000 UNION SOLDIERS DIED, NOW HONORS POW'S FROM ALL WARS IN WHICH THE U S MILITARY HAS FOUGHT. THIS YEAR A SPECIAL CEREMONY HONORED OUR POW'S FROM THE VIET NAM ERA.

AS YOU KNOW BY NOW, THE PRESIDENT HAS SIGNED A DOCUMENT AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF A WW II MONUMENT IN WASHINGTON. THE MONUMENT WILL COST SOME 160,000,000 DOLLARS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 16 MILLION MEN AND WOMEN SERVED DURING WW II AND OF THAT NUMBER FEWER THAN 5 MILLION ARE STILL LIVING. SOME 1100 WW II VETS DIE EACH DAY.

WE NEED TO START CONSTRUCTION ON THIS LONG OVERLOOKED MEMORIAL BEFORE THERE ARE NO WW II VETS ALIVE TO APPRECIATE IT.

WE VIET NAM VETS KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MEMORIAL HONORING THE DEAD COMRADES OF OUR WAR.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE BULLWHIP SQUADRON SEND A DONATION TO THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR OUR FELLOW VETS THAT SERVED DURING THE 1940'S. IF YOU AGREE, LET GEN ALLEN, COL EWART OR SGT MAJOR DEFLERON KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS.

FOR THE COMMANDER  
DICK GRUBE  
ADJUTANT

---

## POST SCRIPT

Many articles in this newsletter honor the veteran. Memorial Day has passed and is only once a year, but we must never forget what the veteran has accomplished for, and sacrificed, for this country. If you do not agree with the articles, or want to add your thoughts, then sound off. Send your comments to Loel either by e-mail or regular mail. We are troopers one and all, and are unique. Word and actions are what has set us apart. We are who we are: AIR CAV TROOPERS. We WILL persevere. Our beloved nation WILL NOT FALL.

BWS

---

---

## TAPS

To all the veterans of all the wars,  
May you wait for us on Fiddlers Green.  
Rest in peace.

---

## I AM THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I am the flag of the United States of America. My name is Old Glory.  
I fly atop the world's tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's halls of justice.  
I fly majestically over institutions of learning. I stand guard with power in the world.  
Look up and see me.  
I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice. I stand for freedom. I am confident.  
I am arrogant. I am proud.  
When I am flown with my fellow banners, my head is a little higher, my colors a little truer.  
I bow to no one! I am recognized all over the world. I am worshipped - I am saluted.  
I am loved - I am revered. I am respected - and I am feared.  
I have fought in every battle of every war for more then 200 years. I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Shiloh and Appamatox. I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, in the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the beaches of Normandy, Guam. Okinawa, Korea and KheSan, Saigon, Vietnam  
know me, I was there.  
I led my troops, I was dirty, battleworn and tired, but my soldiers cheered me. And I was proud.  
I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries I have helped set free. It does not hurt,  
for I am invincible.  
I have been soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of my country. And when it's by those  
whom I've served in battle - it hurts. But I shall overcome - for I am strong.  
I have slipped the bonds of Earth and stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space from my vantage  
point on the moon. I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours.  
But my finest hours are yet to come.  
When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battlefield, When I am  
flown at half-mast to honor my soldier, Or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave  
of their fallen son or daughter, I am proud.

**MY NAME IS OLD GLORY LONG MAY I WAVE.  
DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN, LONG MAY I WAVE!**



## **FROM THE COMMANDER**

This BWS newsletter gives us writers of articles an opportunity to share with you troopers some things of interest. This article will be a little different than usual. It is an article from the heart and closes a chapter of my life that started over 36 years ago.

My article concerns a gunship pilot who served in A Troop in 1965 by the name of Charles “Pappy” Deitsch. Pappy was a 45 year old ex Air Force Major who had earned his wings in 1944 as a bomber pilot and later in Korea as a night interdiction pilot, flying the B-26 and later as a Canberra pilot.

As the Vietnam war began to build up, Pappy decided he wanted to join the battle again, so he volunteered to go back into the Air Force. However, due to his age the AF would not accept him for active duty. Not to be deterred, Pappy volunteered for Army Aviation service and in January of 1964 he was accepted for helicopter transition.

Pappy was assigned to my gun platoon in July of 1965 as a CWO2 just before the Squadron departed Fort Benning for Vietnam. The gun platoon had 10 UH-1B gunships with various weapon systems such as the M3 Hog, 2.75 rocket system, the M16 machine gun and rocket combination system, and later the M5 40mm turret system.

Because the squadron had lost many previous Vietnam experienced pilots (a DA policy), all newly assigned pilots had to go through a very short but demanding gunnery qualification program prior to movement to Vietnam. I was fortunate enough to receive 2 former AF pilots and 1 Navy pilot to round out the 17 rest of us who had no combat experience and most of those younger pilots were WO1's right out of flight school.

All the previous Air Assault I and II training and numerous gunnery training exercised at Fort Stewart, GA had to be virtually re-taught during

our 27 days on board the USS Darby en-route to Vietnam.

Pappy Dietsch, Tom King and Ernest Saunders were of immense value to the platoon, based on their previous war time assignments plus their maturity. I made crew assignments based on an old guy with a young pilot and it worked out well.

Now to the rest of the story. Pappy Dietsch was a real character and kept us in high spirits onboard ship with his antics. Somehow he was the first guy down the plank when we docked at San Diego for 24 hours, and in his grasp was a large and empty ditty bag. He quickly located the Navy's CLVI liquor store and made several trips returning with a full load of unauthorized gin and whiskey bottles, which we in the Red Platoon thoroughly enjoyed during our remaining trip on the high seas.

Shortly after our arrival in Vietnam, I was assigned another 45 year old ex AF pilot who became our platoon sergeant- Pappy Kuster. And believe it or not, those 2 Pappy's knew each other from WWII and Korea!

Pappy Dietsch was one hell of a pilot and flew his gunship like an old experienced helicopter pilot. What a joy he was to be around—everyone loved him.

After the Ia Drang battle, A Troop, under the command of Major Stephen Guy Beardsley, stayed in the western part of II Corps and supported the various SF camps located along the Cambodia border by flying recon missions and plotting potential LZ's for future operations.

Sometime in late November or early December of 1965 just north of the SF camp at Dak To, along Hwy 14, our scouts spotted some VC's under a bridge apparently attempting to mine the bridge. The Red “Scorpion” platoon of 4 gun ships were alerted and proceeded to the bridge site for possible fire support.

CPT John Sabine, of the Scouts, in his usual manner flew in for a “closer” look and immediately took AK47 fire. Pappy Dietsch, my wingman, and I rolled in and began firing rockets

and machine guns. After the second or third firing run, Pappy said he was hit in the left wrist with an AK47 bullet going thru his wristwatch. I told him to return to Dak To for medical attention while the three remaining gun ships continued to place fire near the bridge and to support the Scouts as they widened their search for more VC's or NVA's. That's the last time I saw Pappy because he was immediately taken to the Pleiku field hospital and then to Quin Nhon and then to Japan en-route to Ft. Sam Houston, TX. Weeks later, he sent us a letter telling us he was doing fine with his arm in a cast from fingertips to shoulder. After several months in the hospital, he was released and assigned to Ft. Hood, TX.

In July 1966, my best friend Chuck Knowlen and I left the 1/9 Cav and proceeded to FT. Sill, OK to assist in forming several CH-47 companies for deployment to Vietnam. Shortly after our arrival, Pappy called me from Ft. Hood and said he was coming to Sill to visit me. We had a great time, talking about our time together in the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Cav. He had some difficulty with his left arm caused by the cast in that when it was removed, his left shoulder had locked in place. But with physical therapy, he was able to return to flying status.

I saw Pappy several more times before our Chinook unit, the 243d ASHC (Freight Train), deployed to Dong Be Thin, Vietnam near Camranh Bay, in October 1967.

In mid December 1967, our 243d ASHC was staging out of a field location west of Phan Thiet supporting a brigade of the 101<sup>st</sup> Division. On 22 December I was returning from a re-supply mission and called base ops for landing instructions. A voice answered and said in a very familiar Texas drawl, "Red, you're cleared to land." I almost came out of my seat because it was Pappy's voice. Upon landing and shutting down, Pappy appeared on the Chinook ramp and we hugged like long lost brothers. He told me after returning to flight status at Ft. Hood, he asked for a Chinook transition and return to Vietnam. Upon arrival in Saigon, he was told he was going to be assigned to a Chinook unit located at Vung Tau. Pappy told the assignment officer that after 3 wars, he felt he had the right to be assigned to a unit of his choice and that was the 243d ASHC.

As usual, Pappy got his way. He just wanted to be with me again. One of my additional duties was the unit SIP and the next day we started his checkout. Our first mission together was to transport the Bob Hope show with 4 Chinooks from Phan Rang to Cam Ranh Bay on 24 December 1967. The show was coming in from an USAF appearance in Thailand. We were given the flight manifests, which indicated which aircraft the equipment and people were assigned. Pappy looked at the lists and said, "Red, let's take this load. We'll let one of the other crews take Bob Hope – they deserve the chance to fly him." I agreed and Pappy took the lists and passed them out to the other crews. I saw him talking to our flight engineer who immediately broke out in a big grin and nodded his head. It wasn't until the people began to load our Chinook that I realized why he had chosen that particular list. A very famous starlet by the name of XXX. (I won't spell her name because I might have a law suit filed against me!) was one of the girls to fly with us. The flight engineer brought her forward and folded down the jump seat which seats just to the rear of the two pilots. The girl was absolutely beautiful, dressed in a very short mini dress and a full tank top.

For those of you who have flown in a Chinook, a mirror is located on the center windshield, which is adjustable up and down and allows both pilots to see the load area. Just after takeoff, Pappy said, "Red, let me adjust the mirror – it seems to have been moved. Is that better?" Guess where it was moved. When I glanced into the mirror I almost lost control of the aircraft – it was centered between her thighs and with that mini dress riding high, the view was a Cav Man's delight. I don't know if she realized where that mirror was pointed and if she did, it sure didn't bother her! That was the shortest but best 20 minute flight I ever made – thanks to Pappy.

He and I flew many missions together over the next few months to include the TET Offensive, until I was transferred as the 11<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade aviation advisor to the Tiger ROK (Korean) Division for my remaining tour in Quin Hoi. But we did see each other occasionally and talked by phone frequently. When I was scheduled to leave country, I spent my last night

with Pappy in Dong Ba Thin and we got knee-walking drunk on martinis.

I was assigned to Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, GA in September of 1968. Pappy and I had exchanged several letters when unexpectedly I got a phone call from a just returned 243d ASHC pilot who told me that Pappy's Chinook had disappeared while flying a TAC-E re-supply mission to the SF camp at Ban Me Thout during a typhoon. His last radio conversation with the radar center said he was experiencing severe turbulence- then he disappeared off the screen. All crewmembers, along with the helicopter, were never found in spite of an intensive air/ground search. I immediately called Pappy Kuster in ND and Ton King in CN and gave them the news which they both said, "Oh God."

I have thought about Pappy many times during these past 33 years and wondered if the aircraft would ever be found in that jungle, especially when it rapidly covers up a crash site. Then last month a former CWO from the 243d ASHC called me from Virginia and said Pappy's aircraft had been found 2 years ago and it took that long to identify the remains by DNA.

I'm not ashamed to say that I cried that night – with remorse as to his loss but also joy to know he had returned to this country. I don't particularly like the word closure, which has come into vogue these last few years in reference to relatives of victims of airplane crashes and the Oklahoma bombing. The dictionary says "...a bringing to an end; conclusion."

To me personally, it will never end my thoughts as to the remembrance of a fellow Cav trooper who served his country in three different wars and was my friend. Welcome home Pappy – I've missed you.

"Pappy" Charles Dietsch had some of his positively unidentified bones buried in a mass grave along with the bones of his crew members at Arlington National Cemetery on 24 May.

Elvie is very upbeat and relieved to have closure after 33 years. Burial arrangements for Charlie have been completed. Pappy's positively identified bones was interred at Restland Memorial Park Cemetery, Greenville Ave at Restland Road, Dallas, Texas at 10:00 AM, 20 June 2001 with Military Honors. Mailing

address is: PO Box 829000, Dallas, TX 75382-9000. Tel. (972) -238-7111.

I and other members of the 1/9th attended and flowers from the Bullwhip Squadron was sent.

Until the next newsletter.

David J. Allen  
Brigadier General  
Cavalry USA (Ret)  
Commanding

---

(Photo of Dietsch)

### **"Pappy" Charles Dietsch**

---

#### **Army Aviation Heritage Foundation (AAHF)**

##### **UPDATE on the Fort Rucker Chapter;**

The Army Aviation Heritage Foundation (AAHF) is located in the Atlanta area, and has many Vietnam era aircraft and helicopters maintained in a flyable condition. These aircraft have been found throughout the states and in many military disposal yards, and have been rebuilt by Chapter personnel. The Atlanta Chapter participates in many air shows through out the U.S., showing what Army aviation is and

does. They are also the unit that restored the OH-13 S/T model that was at our BWS October reunion.

I have formed the Wiregrass Chapter of the AAHF and our home site will be at the, Ozark, AL., Blackwell Airport. We are getting ready to clear the property just off the south end, (runway 30, west side) of the runway at Blackwell. We plan to erect an 80 x 100 metal hangar and add, on both sides, wood offices with sleeping quarters, kitchen, and storage areas. The adjoining 1.6 acres will be the, city owned, parking ramp/apron coming off the taxiway.

We currently are restoring an L19D, and an OH6 in a warehouse, waiting for our hanger to be built, and our Mohawk will be here within a month. We should also receive in the near future an assured UH-1 Mike model and a Mohawk on a pedestal, to place out on highway 231, close to our site, as advertisement of the AAHF.

Long Range plan is to have 10 –12 flyable OH-6 helicopters and reform the Silver Eagles Flying Team and perform recruiting shows in AL, FL, GA, etc. The Silver Eagles was Ft. Rucker's team in the 1970's.

We have developed a Wiregrass fund raising letter that is currently being staffed. When completed, the letter will be hand carried to local wiregrass businesses to support our Chapter's effort.

Loel Ewart is the Wiregrass Chapter Membership Officer (yes one of our own). Chapter dues are \$36.00 per year or \$400.00 lifetime membership. If any of you BWS members have aircraft parts, or even aircraft, and would like to donate them to this non-profit, tax deductible, educational organization, contact either myself or Loel.

If any desire to join the Wiregrass Chapter, either to help rebuild the aircraft/helicopters, fly them in air shows or to just sweep the hanger floor, contact Loel. We need lots of help.

Hopefully, if Ozark is selected as the 2002 site for the BWS reunion, we should be up and running and show you what the Wiregrass Chapter, AAHF is doing with these legacy aircraft – you know the ones we flew and crewed 30 plus years ago! You may even see one with a tail number you remember!

The AAHF is an extension of the Army Aviation Museum at Ft. Rucker; therefore if you

want to review the museum sales catalog, click on [www.armyavnmuseum.org](http://www.armyavnmuseum.org).

David J. Allen  
BG (Ret)  
(Also) President  
Wiregrass Chapter, AAHF

-----  
-----  
**From the Chaplain:**

Fellow Bullwhip Members,

Yesterday I received a telephone call from the past, accompanied by a flood of memories. It was from Wayne Gray, father of SSG Christopher James Gray (Apache Troop) who gave his life on December 21, 1969. Chris Gray was shot down and died in a flaming crash; along with Thadius Yanika, the pilot of the scout LOH; and Barry Paul Kaletta of Ohio, door gunner. My recollections of the sacrifices of Gray, Yanika and Laketta are particularly vivid because of what happened a few days later, as I described it in a book:

"I've said little about worship and memorial services in the past chapters. Suffice it to say I held worship services often, with more focus on Sunday than had been the case with infantry battalions. Memorial services, like the one for Yanika, Gray, and Kaletta, were held almost as often as regular worship services. My work in the 1-9 Cav left me feeling like a circuit-riding memorial service provider.

"It was hard to objectively gauge the effects of memorial services on the troops. Most of the remarks by those who said anything at all suggested that the services helped a lot. Some appreciated that appropriate honors were provided to fallen comrades. Others insisted the services boosted flagging hope, even as close buddies kept getting killed. Others said the services reawakened-or gave birth to-faith to sustain them as they faced their own mortality and the high odds that they could be next.

"I was concerned, however, that memorial services on an almost weekly schedule, with the same men standing in the same formation-each man intensely aware of who was missing-might



lose their effect and even become counterproductive.

"Kregg P. J. Jorgenson describes one of the memorial services I conducted. 'The mounted bayonet held the M-16 rifle in place in the hard-packed, orange soil. The helmet rested on the upturned butt of the rifle's stock, while a pair of polished jungle boots stood beside the rifle, forming a quiet monument, an outdoor altar.

"The battalion chaplain was reciting a final prayer.. When he finished, he looked into the faces of the soldiers who stood in formation before the memorial; somber faces, some still with adolescent acne. But their eyes made them different, they had the cold, hard stares of people who'd seen too much in too short a time. The memorial service was more for us than it was for the fallen soldiers.

"Take solace in that Thaddeus Yanika, Chris Gray, and Barry Kletta-' "'His name was Kaletta!' someone yelled from the rear of the formation as heads turned. An officer scowled at the soldier who'd interrupted the service. "'And Barry Kaletta,' the chaplain said, carefully pronouncing the name. 'To those of you who knew them, they were special people, performing a special mission. Though I didn't know them, I don't intend to let their memory die without pausing to think of the personal sacrifice they endured-' "'In a bull s- cause!' someone else said.

"The ceremonies were never easy, and usually very emotional. Though the senior NCOs and officers would yell, 'At ease!' they knew they could do little to quell the feelings that arose.

"This war is more than politics, more than duty. It is a commitment to friendship between you and those who have died. Yours is a personal war with personal tragedies and extraordinary sacrifices for that friendship. I urge you to not let those friendships or memories die in this war. Remember Tad Yanika, Chris Gray, and Barry, and remember their names and their sacrifices for you, rather than to a cause or political purpose. Speak their names and share your stories about their friendship.

"I wish you safety and peace in your lives as well as in the war, and I pray to God to this end. I know that God understands and loves him who lays down his life for a friend. These men's sacrifices of life and of future on earth will weigh heavily on the side of mercy when they stand

before their Creator to give an account of their lives.'

The chaplain walked off toward the command post. His was an awkward, uncomfortable gait.' (From Acceptable Loss by Kregg P. J. Jorgenson)

The service Jorgenson describes stands out in my memory precisely because the trooper corrected my pronunciation of Barry Kaletta's name. Though I don't recall the other interruption-the one about the kind of cause we were in-, I understand it very well. The word was out. American forces were pulling out of Vietnam, leaving the job undone. It is no wonder that soldiers had a hard time seeing any meaning in their own or their buddies' deaths and sacrifices.

This description reinforces my concerns that memorial services held too frequently for the same small group might become counterproductive. Imagine a family that had to endure almost weekly funerals for one of their own. How would they handle it? How would it affect their relationship with the officiator? How would the officiator handle it? Not well, I expect." (All excerpted from It Took Heroes, Volume II by me)

It tribute to those who gave their all, and to you who endured all, may the Good Lord Bless and Keep you. You are doing well.

Claude D. Newby  
Chaplain,  
Lt. Col. (Ret.) United States Army

---

## THE MEANING OF THE STONES

### Stonehenge

If you travel South of London, on highway A360, and follow it to the area where it intersects highway A303, you will be about 8 miles North of Salisbury, England, and just west of the river Avon.

You will see an awesome sight. You will be at Stonehenge.

There a horseshoe formation was built of 30 upright stones, weighing up to 50 tons each. The construction was begun about 3100 years before the common area, and ended by 1500 BC. It is an

engineering feat that would challenge modern technology.

No one knows who built Stonehenge? There are as many theories as there are speculators. One of my favorite authors, Mary Stewart, with tongue in cheek, attributes it Merlin the Magician.

What do the stones mean? Was Stonehenge a temple for sky worship? Was it connected to the Druids, a caste of Celtic priests? Were early peoples able to use it to track the positions of the heavenly bodies in order to foretell eclipses of the sun and moon? What kind of religious ceremonies may have taken place there? No one knows: not who built Stonehenge nor what it meant. The stones remain but the meaning is lost.

Now I want to tell you about another pile of stones.

### **The Gilgal Stones**

When Joshua lead the Children of Israel across Jordan, and into the promised land, he had a man from each of the 12 tribes place a stone from the Jordan river into a monument heap at Gilgal, a tiny village by the river, near Jericho. He explained his reason for erecting the monument And I quote now from The Hebrew Scriptures, Joshua 4:21-24: *“When your children ask their fathers in times to come, saying, ‘What are these stones?’ Then you shall let your children know, saying, ‘Israel crossed over this Jordan (River) on dry land...as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea...that all the peoples of the earth may...fear the Lord your God forever.’”*

The stones were a monument to the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River into the Promised Land. If you look for the stones today you won't find them. They have long since been scattered by the forces of nature. Nor will you find the village of Gilgal. It no longer exists.

**The stones are gone but the meaning remains.** Why? Because succeeding generations taught the meaning of the stones. Jews still teach the meaning in their Synagogues and schools. You still hear the meaning of the stones in sermons and Sunday School lessons in churches all around the world.

So, what do we have so far? There are stones that we can still see, but their meaning is lost.

And there are stones that no longer exist, but we still know their meaning.

Now let's talk about other stones.

### **Head Stones**

For over 200 years America has been accumulating stones. Stones that we see, and should know their meaning. **But do we?** There are more than 2,300,000 of these stones. They are the headstones marking gravesites, at 117 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico. Thousands more also mark graves overseas, in places like: Flanders Field, The Ardennes, Florence, Corozal, Cambridge, Mexico City, Surrey, Normandy, North Africa, and other spots made sacred by the sacrifices of Americans. And who knows how many state-owned cemeteries there are for veterans? Keep in mind, too, that probably only 1 in 4 veterans are buried in veterans' cemeteries. Yet every veteran is entitled to a headstone, regardless of where he or she is buried.

That's a lot of stones. So now we get to the main question before us:

### **What Is the Meaning of These Stones?**

Stones that stand at resolute attention, that bear continuing witness, in hallowed gardens around the world, to America's profound love of freedom? Stones that are exclamation points, driven into the ground that mark the final resting-places, of our fallen comrades? America's heroes! Those sacred sentinels are not silent.

### **What do these stones say?**

They speak of **Honor**, what we are, our personal integrity. Because we know that wrong is wrong and right is right. Now, be sure you hear me correctly. Integrity is not a Democrat or Republican virtue. It is American. As a Republican I can be concerned about the needy. As a Democrat I can care for our national security.

The patriots at rest under these stones weren't politicians. They are just Americans, like us. I can't put words in their mouths, but I do believe that they would be perplexed at the argument over whether it is all right for a Commander in Chief to lie to the American people about his having sex with an employee in the Oval Office.

The heroes under these stones knew that HONOR is a two way street, that the Government that sent them to war must also keep its word to them. And the Nation hasn't always done that.

It was a scandal when the Government reneged on its promise of medical care for life for military retirees. It was a scandal when the Government turned its back on the young people it sent to Vietnam.

IF the Government has ever chosen to not push harder for the repatriation of POWs and MIAs for diplomatic or political reasons it is a betrayal. I am not making that accusation, but I don't see much being done about the still Missing In Action.

These stones speak of **Courage**, what we owe others, our neighbors, our buddies. Those patriots whose remains are lying under these stones knew the difference in defending freedom, and late-night marijuana-enhanced dormitory discussions on the meaning of existence. They knew that courage isn't the absence of fear. Courage is not a situation where one thinks through a dangerous situation, and then does a heroic act. Rather, courage is acting out, in a moment of danger, what you have already become, what you already are.

These stones speak of **Duty**, what we owe the Country. Because those heroes whose remains lie under these stones knew the meaning of citizenship, that nothing comes without obligation; that the nation that gave them their freedom had a right to ask that they take their turn against tyranny.

Those comrades whose remains rest under these stones would have nothing but scorn for the draft dodger, the professional student staying in school until the war is over, the coward.

These stones also speak of the **Duty** the Nation has to its military retirees. Just as these heroes would cheerfully accept their responsibility to the Nation, they would also expect the Country to keep its word to them. Duty is a two way street.

It was a scandal when the Government reneged on its promise of medical care for life for military retirees. It was a scandal when the Government turned its back on the young people it sent to Vietnam.

These stones sing, in grand harmony, about **Equality**, the value of a single human being. The heroes under these stones are in all colors. They are both male and female. These patriots, who went to war and gave their lives to end tyranny, fought and died to make the world a better place.

We dishonor them when we harbor prejudice in our hearts, when we allow practices and policies to exist that pit one American against another because of race, religion, national origin, or gender.

These patriots died believing that all are created equal, that all are endowed by their Creator with the **in[un]alienable** rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We must keep faith with them. We must continue the struggle.

Finally, these stones challenge us to **Sacrifice**, what we do when we put on the uniform. Those great Americans whose remains lie under these stones knew what wearing the uniform meant. They wore it proudly, and brought honor to it. Because they knew, as we know, that the freedom any generation enjoys was bought with the blood of heroes gone before.

So never speak of an American Service man or woman, an American GI, *losing* his or her life. There is a difference in *losing* something and *giving* it. When I put on my Country's uniform I made an irrevocable commitment. That act was the promise of the gift. I thank God that I was never called upon to give that gift, but I committed to it, if it became my portion, when I chose to put on the uniform.

So when we demand that the nation keep its promises to veterans, we aren't asking *for something for nothing*, we are asking for *consideration for sacrifice*.

We have discussed what these sacred sentinels mean. But of whom do they speak? They speak to you, American Veterans, of your service, at Bataan, Normandy, On the ships, Heartbreak Ridge, The Punchbowl, in the bombers and fighter planes, Ahn Khe, Song Be, The Iraqi Desert, The Iron Triangle, and at a thousand other spots, that are only coordinates on a map to historians, but are burned indelibly into your memories. And they speak to you, spouses and family members, who loved your Country as much as they, and whose service is every bit as honorable.

In Tom Brokaw's book about WWII Veterans he called them the **Greatest Generation**. You are that generation, or their younger brothers and sisters, or their sons and daughters

When your friends and neighbors at the draft board selected you, you reported for duty (and

not in [to?]Canada or Scandinavia, I might add). You were great, despite the numbing cold, broiling heat, and ceaseless misery, because of your great fighting spirit. You stayed the course. When the job was done you came home and went back to work. Your heroic service ended Nazism, stopped the onslaught of International Communism, and gave the world another chance to breathe freedom. You truly are all heroes, although my saying so may cause you embarrassment.

Author-Historian Stephen Ambrose, speaking in Washington on February 21, 1999, said: "With the end of the century, the question of whom to name the most important person of the century is being asked everywhere. My own nominee, the one who is the obvious winner the moment you think about it, is GI Joe--the soldier, the sailor, the airman, the Marine, the Coast Guardsman of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century."

You may recall that General Colin Powell also nominated you, GI Joe, for that honor. George Orwell said, "We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would harm us."

Let me paraphrase Orwell: Americans sleep safely in their beds at night because you stood ready, and because those following you stand guard.

Too many of this generation no longer cherish the values that Veterans lived, fought, and died for. Too many think that cheating is okay but concern for *Honor* and *personal integrity* is silly. Too many would argue that vile speech and pornographic displays are constitutionally protected, but manger scenes at Christmas, or the Ten Commandments on a public school wall, are illegal. Too many laugh at the concept of *Courage* as an outdated, "cowboy" thing, that was okay for past generations, but doesn't compute in the modern world. And who was John Wayne anyway? Too many are content to believe that the military starts wars, not corrupt politicians. Too many spurn the claim of *Duty*, and prefer to blame America for all that is wrong in the world, while expecting that it attend to their every demand. Too many seem to believe that guns are more dangerous to law-abiding Americans than our nuclear secrets given to the Communist Chinese. Too many still don't believe in *Equality*, and continue to raise strident

voices of hate, of prejudice, attempting to justify discrimination against other Americans.

And *Sacrifice*? Forget it. Their guideline is that the world owes them a living and they are going to get theirs while the getting is good. They would argue that bra burners, political partisans, and race baiters are more important to American history than Martin Luther King, Jr., Audie Murphy or Abraham Lincoln.

But the stones still bear witness. They cry out for the traditional values. **They will never be silenced unless you allow it**, because *you are the voices of the stones*.

You, America's Veterans, and their families, are the only voices that the heroes lying under those stones have. You have one more job to do for your Country. America desperately needs to re-claim the foundational values. You must teach the meaning of the stones. They can only speak through you. Let them be forever eloquent.

The following words have been attributed to Father Dennis Edward O'Brien:

**"It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate. It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protestor to burn the flag."**

When he penned the word "Soldier" Father O'Brien was using the term generically, he was referring to GI Joe: the soldier, the sailor, the airman, the Marine, and the Coast Guardsman.

Permit me to add to those famous words. It is GI Joe, not the professor, who has taught the meaning of America: of freedom, of opportunity, and of justice.

It is you, my friends, you GI Joes, and GI Janes, who have also taught America the meaning of citizenship: the meaning of *Honor*, *Courage*, *Duty*, *equality*, and *Sacrifice*.

My fellow GIs, my teachers, I sit at your feet. God bless you.

Chaplain Henry Lamar Hunt, Colonel, US Army Retired;  
PO Box 463, Candler, FL 32111  
CandlerSL@AOL.com  
352-687-1559

-----  
The following poem is appropriate in our present society.

Since the Pledge of Allegiance and The Lord's Prayer are not allowed in most public schools anymore because the word "God" is mentioned....a kid in Arizona wrote the attached NEW School prayer. I liked it.... This says it all. Where has our country gone?

BWS

### Ashamed

Now I sit me down in school  
Where praying is against the rule  
For this great nation under God  
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If Scripture now the class recites,  
It violates the Bill of Rights.  
And anytime my head I bow  
Becomes a Federal matter now.  
Our hair can be purple, orange or green,  
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene.  
The law is specific, the law is precise.  
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall  
Might offend someone with no faith at all.  
In silence alone we must meditate,  
God's name is prohibited by the state.

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,  
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.  
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.  
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,  
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.  
It's "inappropriate" to teach right from wrong,  
We're taught that such "judgments" do not belong.

We can get our condoms and birth controls,  
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.  
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,  
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,  
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.  
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:  
Should I be shot; My soul please take!

**Amen**

-----  
-----  
**ALL GAVE SOME ,  
SOME GAVE ALL**

### From The Command Sergeant Major

Old Soldiers,

It's now mid 2001 and the BWS team is well in the planning stage for our next reunion in 2002. Look for future newsletters to give more information on our next reunion. It will be the biggest yet and one that everyone will remember. And again, we will see many new members for the first time.

Troopers, we have seen some changes for the better in our "lifetime" medical care for retirees. There is more on this subject in the newsletter. I will say again, that what congress gives, it can take away. All of us must support our NCOA, TROA, American Legion and other retired associations to make sure that congress lives up to the letter of the law and our benefits are not lost!

We are still looking for lost troopers. If you know of any troopers that have not been contacted, give the Squadron Association their names and addresses and we will contact them.

Loel tells me that the membership is steadily growing towards the 500 point, however only 340+ troopers have paid their dues for this year! If you troopers feel that the newsletter is worth the yearly dues, help us get the stray troopers back in the family.

We are also finding new members weekly. All of you troopers who make up the 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Air CAV Squadron make this old soldier proud.

Let no trooper ever forget that it is the Air Cav Squadron troopers who are always first in battle, always first in friendship, always first for our country.

As ever, your points of contact for normal Squadron business remain;

Loel Ewart  
Rt. 2 Box 158  
Ozark, Al. 36360  
Ph. # 334-774-0328  
e-mail lewart@Charter.net

Or  
Al Defleron  
1145 Holland Rd.  
Newton, Al. 36352  
Ph. # 334-692-5685

I am looking forward to again seeing all my old soldiers at the 2002 reunion.

CSM Kennedy          Bullwhip 7  
-----  
-----

**Be ashamed to die until you have achieved  
some victory for humanity.**

Horace Mann  
-----  
-----

**From the Sergeant Major:**

The past couple of weeks those of you, like myself, who have computers have received many e-mails about Memorial Day and the Veterans. All of it came from Veterans or from families of Veterans and from real Americans whom supported us when we were called on by our country to serve in a far away land. They were beautiful poems honoring the Veterans from all wars and not just about the Vietnam Vets. The poems covered everything from the things they carried, to meeting again in Fiddlers Green. They honored the living, the fallen, and the yet still missing.

Many troopers will carry the pain, sorrow and the scars for the rest of their lives. They also have the joy of being an American who had the honor of serving their country, and returning home to their families.

All gave some, some gave All. The words to a popular song a few years back (which I happen to

think is the best thing that country singer ever recorded). But to all of us Veterans it is about something we know and understand the meaning of.

There have been a lot of programs on the networks honoring Veterans on Memorial Day. As always, much praise was given to the Vets of WW One, (the war to end all wars) WW II, Korea, and The Gulf War. Our War and its Veterans are today as unpopular as the war we fought. We are always portrayed by the Media as the misfits. This is the exact portrayal of the program presented on the PBS Channel in its Memorial Day Presentation.

Once again the Vietnam Veteran was portrayed as drug addicts, misfits, the homeless, the most suffering from PTSD or drunks and walking time bombs waiting to go off at any time. But there are things for sure our war didn't produce. We didn't produce a time bomb named McVeigh, or send home pregnant female soldiers as did the Gulf War. That is not covered by the media and I guess never will be as long as we are the ones they seem to love to whip upon.

Let me say now I am not and do not intend to say anything to degrade the many Veterans of the Gulf War. They Served the Country just like we did. But had that lasted longer the media would have had a field day as there was just about as many reporters covering it as there were Troops. After watching the PBS program and thinking of the thousands of troopers that I have had the honor of serving with, and know as friends and Brothers, I can put very few (less than a dozen) in the group as portrayed in the media. That group was screwed up long before entering into service and going to Vietnam. The sad thing about this program that aired on PBS is our tax dollars helped pay them for telling a lie.

If you will get your BWS newsletter dated Aug.2000, starting on page 31 you will find a survey compiled by THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND. These are the true figures. But you and I know this isn't what the media wants to see, hear or broadcast. The truth doesn't make the nightly news and raise their polls.

While pondering my many thoughts after watching that PBS show, my thoughts carried me back to Oct. 2000, Ozark, Al and our reunion of the BWS Association. I found none of the misfits

there, that the media talked about. Instead I, as always, found the Trooper Brothers all Heroes each and everyone, who served with honor to their country and their fellow Troopers.

Those that attended the reunion also had the pleasure to meet and get to know a young filmmaker from Austin, Texas named Pat Fries, who owns Arrowhead Films. Pat came to the reunion and brought a film crew of four at his own expense. Pat and his wife Cheryl are making a film titled "In The Shadow Of The Blade", about the Huey Helicopter in Vietnam. See Walker Jones article in this newsletter about the Film. With General Allen's help Pat got permission to set up his cameras and equipment in the Aviation Museum to do his filming, using the Hueys in the Museum for the background, of interviews with the Troopers. Pat and Cheryl will be showing the American Public a side of the war that will be told about the pilots, crewmembers, mechanics, Blues, Commanders, medics and everyone who ever came in contact with the aircraft.

This is a film the media would not make because it will have too many positives and not enough negatives. This film is being made at Pat and Cheryl's expense with the hope of getting some corporate sponsors to help. With the many billions of dollars Bell Helicopter made off of the Huey, they, as of yet have given no assistance nor does it look like they will.

The main question Pat asks as he starts the interview is, "What does In The Shadow of The Blade and The Huey Mean To You?" Then each and everyone has their story to tell of the Huey.

I thought about that question a long time and could tell many stories about the Huey, but the Shadow of the Blade has so much more of a meaning that this would have to be my answer.

As a kid growing up, my Grandfather once told me that a man or an object, was often judged by the shadow it cast, by its performance and achievements and how it reflected on our own and others lives. AND EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY WILL CAST A SHADOW.

In our lives we are given tools for which are to be used to help us make and cast a shadow may it be long, short, big, or small, but none the less, a shadow. It's hard to say which is or was the tool here, the Huey or the users of the Huey? Because both have cast so strong a shadow we will be

standing under them till the end of time. All of our lives have changed since we stood in that shadow and we are casting a shadow of our own now that is an extension of the shadows from the Huey and the users. It is part of us and we are part of it, forever.

This film is a driving force for both Pat and Cheryl and they are putting their all into making it as an honor to all who served in Vietnam. They are great Americans and I am proud to be able to call them my friends.

Pat was too young to go to Vietnam, but after making this film he Too will always be standing in the Shadow of that Blade.

We can – We will – We Did!

L. A. "D" Defleron  
SGM. Bullwhip Squadron Assn.

-----  
-----  
**Keeper Of The Rock**

This past weekend Anne and I had the pleasure of going to the beautiful, historic city of Charleston, SC for a wedding. The weather was gorgeous and we had a great time touring the city. Our visit to the city had an additional important meaning to me in that it was my first return to Charleston since sailing out of there on the troopship USS Darby on the night of 16 August 1965. I asked our tour guide which of the rivers we would have sailed out of and he pointed up the Cooper River.

None of us on the USS Darby, that night, had any real way of knowing what faced us over the next year. For the next month on shipboard we had PT and classes to look forward to under the watchful eye of LT COL Stockton. It was between California and Vietnam that we received word that our squadron executive officer, MAJ Radcliffe, had been killed in action. I often think of our comrades on the USS Darby who didn't come home alive. Some of them were: Billy Nave, Capt D'Ameral, Billy Talley and Lt. Sabine. Many others, to our great loss, such as John B. Stockton, Jim Kidd and John Hilburn have joined their fallen comrades since Vietnam.

It is sometimes difficult to believe that this was over 36 years ago and to think of all the

things that have happened to us, to our country and to the world in that more than 1/3 of a century. There is sometimes a tendency to believe that our efforts in Vietnam were wasted and that our fellow troopers died in vain. I think we were able to hold back the march and spread of communism until it could fall from within, which eventually happened.

It is such a reassuring feeling to look at a globe today and realize that communism controls only about four countries (and ironically one of those is Vietnam). It is also interesting to note that in some of those countries they have turned in large degree to capitalism and market economies because deep down inside even the communist leadership knows that communism doesn't deliver.

As we stood outside a fancy restaurant with friends Saturday evening, I watched the people with their expensive automobiles and other shows of affluence, which many of us enjoy, and wondered how many in this sea of affluence had ever served in the military or appreciated what our comrades on the USS Darby that night, who would fall in battle, did to make all this possible.

I think it is up to us, the living, to constantly remind people that what these fallen troopers did was critical and that freedom (economic and political) is not free.

God bless their memory.

Gene Smith  
Keeper of the Rock

---

**A good scare is worth more to a man than good advice.**

E. W. Howe

-----  
-----

We continue to have calls about the videotapes that Jerry has for sale, especially by our many new members. So, for all of you that are interested, the following article is again being reprinted, for all of our new Brotherhood members.

Troopers, I introduce, SMOKY.

## SMOKY

For those of you who do not know Smoky, we, in the Bullwhip Squadron, have a fantastic asset in the person of Jerry 'Smoky' Schmotolocha. Smokey has done an excellent job of compiling and editing tapes about the Bullwhip Squadron, the 9<sup>th</sup> Cav and the Air Cav in general. In addition to these tapes being of great interest to us, some of the proceeds from the sales go towards the Squadron General Fund.

The available tapes are;

Tape #1: "The Making of Decisive Weapons" by the BBC. This tape includes a 1 hour, 30 minute interview with COL Stockton and CSM Kennedy about the Bullwhip Squadron and how such traditions as the black hats and saddlebags, were begun. The final 30 minutes of the tape is the final program, aired by the BBC. This is available for \$25.00 (with \$15 of this going to the Squadron Fund).

Tape # 2: BG Dave Allen and LTC Chuck Knowlen discuss the ambush in the Ia Drang Valley (1 hour 10 minutes). This is followed by a 50 minute, A & E program about the Air Cav in Vietnam. The purchase price is \$25.00 (with \$15 going to Squadron Fund).

Tape # 3: LTG Hal Moore talks about the Battle of Ia Drang Valley from the 7<sup>th</sup> Cav perspective. This is a \$20.00 tape (of which \$10 goes to the Ia Drang Scholarship Fund).

These tapes talk about our heritage and is for the Squadron troopers to see their past and the honor of seeing true Cav Troopers in action.

The latest taping is the FT. HOOD (1<sup>st</sup> Cav Reunion) VIDEO TAPE. The tape of last years 2000, 1<sup>st</sup> CAV Division reunion at Fort hood with the Bullwhip Horse presentation to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div Horse Detachment is ready. Here is what it will have and it's over 2 hours long.

1). COL STOCKTON & CSM KENNEDY speak about how the 1/9 Cav was put together prior to shipping out to Vietnam. Also they explain how the Stetson Hats that we wear today got started and now everyone else that is Cav wears. Plus about how the saddle bags and crossed sabers were started by troopers who were in the unit at that time. Also they talk about the Ia Drang campaign, the hospital battle started by B Troop Blues Platoon Leader, CPT Jack Oliver, on Nov 1, 65, that 1/9 was involved in. Also the ambush sight that 1/9 was involved, started by C



Troop Blues Platoon Leader, CPT Chuck Knowlen. A, B, C Troops were all involved in it together.

2). Presentation of "Bullwhip" Horse to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div Horse Detachment

3). C Co dedication ceremony for the SGT Gary Lee McKiddy Hall.

4). Flight Surgeon Hal (Doc) Kushner who speaks of his capture by the VC after his chopper crashed.

5). Retreat ceremony for the award of the Air Medal for Valor to six members of the 1/9 CAV.

6). The presentation to the division which our former squadron commander MG James Smith rode

"Bullwhip".

7). Also updated the KIA list that runs through 1972

THIS TAPE IS \$20 SEND CHECKS TO:

Jerry Schmotolocha  
23 Congressional PKWY  
Livingston, N.J. 07039

Some of the proceeds will go to the Bullwhip Squadron Association fund to help run the BWS newsletter. In order to receive the tape, you must be a member of the Squadron Association. It has the most informative newsletter that explains what's happening with the 1/9 CAV troopers that served in the Vietnam

For further information about ordering this and other tapes, please contact:

Jerry Schmotolocha  
23 Congressional Parkway  
Livingston, NJ 07039  
Phone: (973) 535-3926

These tapes are a part of our heritage and Smoky has gone to much effort to compile and edit them. I feel that as fellow troopers, we need to support his efforts.

Much thanks, Smoky.

BWS

-----  
-----

**Legally Speaking**

**IDENTITY THEFT**

Identity theft has become a crises in the United States. It is extremely easy in this day and computer age to steel your identity, charge a great

amount against your name and leave you with the mess.

There are things that you can do to reduce your risk factor and at the worst, to reduce the damage after identity theft.

1). **Marketing Lists:** You may limit the marketing material you receive through the mail by telephone or e-mail. If you would like to reduce the amount of advertising you receive from other companies, write to the Direct Marketing Association at one of the appropriate addresses listed below. You must provide your name, address and telephone number with your request:

Mail Preference Service  
c/o Direct Marketing Assn.  
P.O. box 9008  
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008

Telephone Preference Service  
c/o Direct Marketing Assn.  
P.O. Box 9014  
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014

E-Mail Preference Service  
[www.e-mps.org](http://www.e-mps.org)

2). **Identity Theft:** If someone has used your personal identification to fraudulently establish credit, report the incident as quickly as possible to each of the credit reporting agencies and request a fraud alert be placed on your file.

Experian	888-397-3742
Equifax	800-525-6285
Trans Union	800-680-7289

Obtain a copy of your credit report from each of the credit reporting agencies. Check to see whether any additional accounts were opened without your consent or whether unauthorized charges were billed to your accounts. To request copies of your credit reports call:

Experian	888-397-3742
Equifax	800-685-1111
Trans Union	800-916-8800

Contact the Social Security Administration's Fraud Hotline at 800-269-0271 to report the

unauthorized use of your personal identification information.

Contact your State Department of Motor Vehicles to see whether the department has issues an unauthorized license number in your name. If so, notify them that you are a victim of identity theft.

File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) by contacting the FTC's Identity Theft Hotline by telephone 1-877-IDTHEFT; TDD 202-326-2502; by mail: Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20580-0001 or online: [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft) Ask for a copy of ID Theft: When Bad Things Happen to Your Good Name, a free comprehensive guide to help you guard against, and recover from, identity theft.

Excerpts from First USA Bank Card

-----

**WARNING  
DON'T EVER DIAL AREA CODE 809**

This Scam is being distributed all over the US. This is pretty scary especially given the way they try to get you to call. Be sure you read this and pass it on to all your friends and family so they don't get scammed!

MAJOR SCAM: Don't respond to Emails, phone calls, or web pages which tell you to call an "809" Phone Number. This is a very important issue of Scam Busters! because it alerts you to a scam that is spreading "extremely\* quickly - can easily cost you \$24,100 or more, and is difficult to avoid unless you are aware of it. This scam has also been identified by the National Fraud Information Center and is costing victims serious money.

There are lots of different permutations of this scam, but HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: You will receive a message on your answering machine or your pager, which asks you to call a number beginning with area code 809. The reason you're asked to call varies. It can be to receive information about a family member who has been ill, to tell you someone has been arrested, died, to let you know you have won a wonderful prize, etc. In each case, you are told to call the 809 number right away. Since there are so many new area codes these days, people unknowingly return

these calls. If you call from the U.S., you will apparently be charged \$2425 per-minute. Or, you'll get a long recorded message. The point is, they will try to keep you on the phone as long as possible to increase the charges. Unfortunately, when you get your phone bill, you'll often be charged more than \$24,100.00. WHY IT WORKS:

The 809 area code is located in the British Virgin Islands (The Bahamas). The 809 area code can be used as a "pay-per-call" number, similar to 900 numbers in the US. Since 809 is not in the US, it is not covered by U.S. regulations of 900 numbers, which require that you be notified and warned of charges and rates involved when you call a "pay-per-call" number. There is also no requirement that the company provide a time period during which you may terminate the call without being charged. Further, whereas many U.S. phones have 900 number blocking to avoid these kinds of charges, 900 number blocking will not prevent calls to the 809 area code. We recommend that no matter how you get the message, if you are asked to call a number with an 809 area code that you don't recognize and/or investigate further and just disregard the message. Be wary of email or calls asking you to call an 809 area code number. It's important to prevent becoming a victim of this scam, since trying to fight the charges afterwards can become a real nightmare. That's because you did actually make the call. If you complain, both your local phone company and your long distance carrier will not want to get involved and will most likely tell you that they are simply providing the billing for the foreign company. You'll end up dealing with a foreign company that argues they have done nothing wrong.

We'd like to thank Verizon for bringing this scam to our attention.

-----

All

This was passed on to me- not written by me. I hope this will be beneficial to you should this unfortunate event ever happens to you.

BWS

-----

## **WHAT TO DO IF YOU LOSE YOUR PURSE OR WALLET**

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed using your name, address, SS#, credit, etc.

Unfortunately I (author of this piece) have firsthand knowledge, because my wallet was stolen last month and within a week the thief(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know.

As everyone always advises, cancel your credit cards immediately-- the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know who to call. Keep those where you can find them easily (having to hunt for them is additional stress you WON'T need at that point)!

File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen; this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one). But here's what is perhaps most important (and who thinks to do it?):

Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and SS#. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

By the time I was advised to do this--almost 2 weeks after the theft --all the damage had been done (there are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert). Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks. The numbers are:

Equifax 1-800 525-6285

Experian (Ex TRW) 1-800-301-7195

Trans Union 1-800-680-7289

Social Security Administration also has a fraud line at 1-800-269-0271

-----  
-----  
**There are those, I know, who will say that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind, is nothing but a dream. They are right. It is. It is the American dream.**

Archibold MacLeish

## **Military News Report**

Highlights from the Military Report.

### **President Bush to Seek Military Pay Boost**

President Bush plans to propose to Congress this week a \$1.4 billion across-the-board pay raise for members of the military. The Washington Post reports that the 4.6 percent pay raise would begin reaching members of the military next January if it is passed by Congress. President Bush will also propose spending \$1 billion for pay incentives, such as bonuses for highly skilled personnel. In addition, he will discuss improvements in military housing and in schools attended by military dependents as he travels around the country visiting military bases this week.

### **Obtaining Corrected and Replacement W-2s**

The 2000 Federal Tax and Wage Statements (Form W-2) were mailed to all DoD personnel by January 15, 2001. A Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) press release reports that military personnel who have not received their W-2s, or think they need a corrected W-2, must first contact their local military finance/pay office. If that office cannot help, you can do the following: (1) Army members must go through their servicing finance office or Defense Military Pay office to get replacement or corrected W-2s. If you have separated from the Army, or are requesting W-2s for off-line payments (students' loans/claims) or DITY moves, call (888) PAY-ARMY. Army members who separated from the service with a debt requiring a W-2 should call (800) 962-0648; (2) Sailors who are unable to contact their local military pay office can call

(800) 346-3374; (3) Marines on active-duty should contact their servicing Finance Office for replacement or corrected W-2s. Requests for replacement W-2s can be mailed or faxed to DFAS-KC, Admin Branch (Code KU), 1500 East Bannister Road, Kansas City, MO 64197-0001. The fax number is (816) 926-5829. If you need to talk with a technician, call (816) 926-7145. (4) Active-duty Air Force personnel should contact their former payroll office first. If you need further assistance, call (303) 676-6468, or through April, (303) 676-8275. Air National Guard members can call (303) 676-6577. (5) DoD civilian employees can call Charleston (800) PAY-DCPS, Denver (303) 676-8275, or Pensacola (850) 473-6134 or e-mail [cde-w2.reissue@dfas.mil](mailto:cde-w2.reissue@dfas.mil)

#### **VA Provides Free Parkinson's Treatment**

Military.com reports that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced a \$36 million campaign to find a cure for Parkinson's disease. All veterans suffering from the illness will be entitled to free medical care at six centers that will be built by the VA to educate the public, perform research, and treat the illness. These centers will be located in Houston; Philadelphia; Portland, Ore.; Richmond, Va.; San Francisco; and West Los Angeles, Calif. A Veterans Administration press release reports that each Parkinson's center will conduct research covering basic biomedicine, rehabilitation, health services delivery, and clinical trials. Creation of the new centers represents the second substantial VA initiative regarding Parkinson's disease in two years. VA medical centers treat at least 20,000 Parkinson's disease patients each year.

#### **Thrift Savings Plan Opens October 9**

Service members can begin to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan beginning Oct. 9, 2001. The American Forces Press Service reports that the Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement and investment plan that has been available to civilian government workers since 1987. Congress extended the plan to include service members in 2000. The open season for signing up will run from Oct. 9 to Dec. 8. Deductions start in January, 2002. In 2002, service members can contribute up to 7 percent of their basic pay. Service members can also contribute all or a percentage of any special pay, incentive pay, or bonus pay they receive up to a total amount that

generally cannot exceed \$10,500 for the year. Contributions from pay earned in a combat zone do not count against the \$10,500 ceiling and are subject to a different limitation, which is 25% of pay or \$35,000, whichever is less. Contributions to the plan come from "pre-tax" dollars, and service members pay no federal or state income taxes on contributions or earnings until they are withdrawn. The services will have teams visiting members to explain the new program. More information is at the Thrift Plan's Uniformed Services Page at

<http://www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html>

#### **New TRICARE benefits became effective April 1**

Active duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime will no longer have to make co-payments for the care they receive from their civilian providers. They will still have to make pharmacy co-payments for the National Mail Order Pharmacy Program and at network retail stores. Also, there is a new simplified co-pay structure for prescription drugs provided to eligible uniformed services beneficiaries through the TMA pharmacy program. More information on these new benefits is available at the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>

#### **TRICARE Beneficiaries Advised to Save Receipts**

Many new TRICARE benefits will be phased in over the next six to twelve months. A TRICARE news release reports that among the new programs that will be implemented over time are coverage for school-required physicals, reimbursements for certain travel expenses for TRICARE Prime beneficiaries, and reduction of retiree catastrophic caps. In the meantime, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) is advising beneficiaries to save receipts (as well as explanations of benefits and other claims-related information) for these covered services and benefits obtained from Oct. 1, 2000, for application to the fiscal year catastrophic cap, and from Oct. 30, 2000, for the other benefits, until > program implementation so they can later obtain reimbursement from the managed care support contractors in their regions. TMA will widely publish the date upon which beneficiaries may submit claims with the required receipts, and the managed care support contractors will

adjudicate claims for dates of service retroactively to the effective date established by Congress. The latest information about TRICARE benefits can be obtained through the Military Health System/TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>. Beneficiaries may also contact the managed care support contractor in their region, their nearest TRICARE service center, or TRICARE beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinators at a military treatment facility for more information.

Two new TRICARE benefits became effective April 1. Active duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime will no longer have to make co-payments for the care they receive from their civilian providers. They will still have to make pharmacy co-payments for the National Mail Order Pharmacy Program and at network retail stores. Also, there is a new simplified co-pay structure for prescription drugs provided to eligible uniformed services beneficiaries through the TMA pharmacy program. More information on these new benefits is available at the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>

#### **House Okays Veterans Opportunities Bill**

A House Committee on Veterans Affairs (HCVA) press release reports that the U.S. House of Representatives passed unanimously last week H.R. 801, the Veterans Opportunities Act of 2001, which would provide additional funding and assistance to veterans' and their survivors most in need, such as disabled veterans who require special adaptive housing or automobiles. A summary of the provisions in this bill is at <http://veterans.house.gov/Legislat/107/hr801.htm>. This bill now goes to the Senate. Meanwhile, the 21st Century Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act was introduced in the House last week. This bill is designed to close the gap between current Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) benefit levels and college costs. It would boost the \$650 a month MGIB benefit to \$800 the first year, \$950 the second year, and finally to \$1,100 per month during the third-year of MGIB benefits. When fully phased in, the educational benefit would total \$39,600, an amount roughly equal to the tab for a commuter student at a four-year public college. For more information on this bill, visit the HCVA Web site at <http://veterans.house.gov/>. To e-mail your

senator or representative, visit the U.S. Congress Web site at <http://www.uscongress.com/>

#### **RADs Provide Retiree Benefit Updates**

The Army has released the dates of 33 Retiree Appreciation Day events across the country. The Army News Service reports that Retiree Appreciation Days (RADs) are one- or two-day seminars conducted annually at major Army installations or metropolitan areas to bring retirees, soldiers, and families up-to-date information on the Army and changes in retirement benefits. For the dates and locations of upcoming RADs, visit <http://www.dtic.mil/armylink/news/Mar2001/a20010328rads.html>

#### **Air Force Testing New ID Card**

People at four active-duty Air Force installations and an Air National Guard unit are currently testing the Department of Defense's new identification card, known as the Common Access Card (CAC). Air Force Print News reports that the test sites for the new ID card are Langley Air Force Base, Va.; Lackland AFB, Texas; Hurlburt Field, Fla.; Ramstein Air Base, Germany; and the Air National Guard's 203rd Red Horse Squadron in Virginia Beach, Va. The CAC replaces the standard military identification card and will eventually be issued to about 4 million active-duty military, Selected Reserve, DOD civilians, and eligible contractors. In addition to being the new Geneva Convention ID card, Air Force officials said the CAC will also be the principal card used for physical access to buildings and controlled spaces and for logical access to unclassified computer networks and systems. The new card is about the size of a credit card and contains an integrated circuit chip, bar codes, magnetic strip, color digital photograph, and printed information. The CAC will enable cardholders to digitally sign e-mail, encrypt information and establish secure Web sessions to access and update unclassified information via the Internet. The DoD plans to have the CAC implemented by October 2002. More

#### **AAFES Stops Requiring SSN on Checks**

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service plans to abandon its long-standing practice of requiring customers' Social Security numbers on personal checks. Stars and Stripes reports that the

need to verify Social Security numbers remains, but there are other ways of getting the information. "The real push behind this [change] is that people just don't like to give out their Social Security numbers," says Army Maj. Mitchell Edgar, spokesman for AAFES-Europe. Similar concerns led the Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) to announce in March that it was amending its check-cashing policy. The DECA's new procedures take affect next month. Like AAFES, the commissary agency will ask its cashiers to type into their computerized registers a customer's Social Security number. That number, obtained from a person's ID card, will be checked by an internal data base, as is currently the practice. The Social Security number would remain in DECA's secure data base until the personal check clears. Also, beginning this summer, AAFES-Europe will begin installing a Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) reader system that will scan checks, recording such basic information as routing, check and account numbers. That data along with the Social Security number will fulfill AAFES' needs while providing added privacy and security to customers. The AAFES plans to introduce MICR in stateside stores this month, beginning on the East Coast and moving west. Stores in the European and the Pacific theaters will receive the new system in July and August. More

#### **Concurrent Receipt**

Last year Concurrent Receipt did not survive the Conference Committee negotiations on the National Defense Authorization Act FY 2001 and this year it did not survive the Conference Committee negotiations on the Budget Resolution FY 2002. These were set backs, but not the death of the effort. What will Congress do in the future? There are a couple of things that could happen. One is Congress could include it in this years National Defense Authorization Bill, without funding, and make DOD take the money from some other program to pay for it. This action is doubtful. Congress could continue to talk about it, and accomplish nothing. This continuing action is also doubtful, but possible. Congress could include it in this year's National Defense Authorization Act and make it effective in 2008 or 2009. This serves a couple of purposes. First, it gets the 107th Congress off the hook for not taking action.

Second, it gets it off the budget cycle and PAYGO restrictions and lays responsibility for funding the program to future Congresses. Third, it places the pressure on future Congresses, the 108th, or 109th, or 110th to either providing funding or to repeal the action of the 107th Congress. Once passed, I think it is doubtful a future Congress will want to repeal it because of the heat they would take from their military voters. Therefore a future Congress will fund it or DOD will include more money in the Military Retirement Trust fund to pay for it. Passage this year with an effective date in the future will give the actuaries time to determine how much money must be placed each year in the Military Retirement Trust Fund to pay for the future increases in retired pay because of Concurrent Receipt. No one can predict what Congress could, may, or will do. All anyone can do is guess.

#### **New Personal Finance Resource Available**

Military.com has added a new Personal Finance resource that provides information about military retirement planning, military banks, and military taxes for both active duty, veteran, and retired military. In addition to military specific financial information, the site also includes information on general finances, such as credit card management, debt-consolidation, money market funds, and the stock market. The resource is free.

<http://www.military.com/Finance/PersonalFinance/0,11882,80,00.html>

Commuter Incentive Program Expands July 1

#### **DoD Approves Retirees' Year-Round Access to USFHP**

Effective June 1, 2001, eligible uniformed services retirees and their families may enroll in the Uniformed Services Family Health Plan (USFHP), a TRICARE Prime Designated Provider, at any time during the year. A USFHP press release reports that prior to that date retired military beneficiaries were only allowed to enroll in the popular military health plan during a one-month enrollment period each year. (Family members of active duty military have always been able to enroll in USFHP at any time.) The plan provides TRICARE Prime health care through networks of community-based civilian hospitals and physicians in seven areas of the country. For more information, call 1-888-25-

USFHP or visit the USFHP Web site at <http://www.usfhp.org> The web site Improves Air Force Quality of Life

The Associated Press reports that veterans service organizations are looking for new members. Faced with declining membership as the number of living WWII veterans declines, some posts are turning to baby-sitting services, picnics, and recruiting women members to increase their ranks. The country's largest veterans group, the American Legion, wants to recruit about 30,000 new members by the end of the year to add to its 2.73 million members. For more information about joining specific veterans service organizations, visit <http://www.va.gov/hac>

Many of these items were extracted from the Military Report. You may subscribe to the Military Report by e-mail at: [subscriptions@militaryreport.com](mailto:subscriptions@militaryreport.com) Military report is a publication of MR Group, LLC, A Veteran-Owned Small Business. Editorial questions: [editor@militaryreport.com](mailto:editor@militaryreport.com) Website: <http://www.militaryreport.com>

Do your fellow troopers and friends a favor by passing them the e-mail addresses above.

BWS

-----  
-----

**Quote for the Day!**

**“Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country”**

**JFK**

-----  
-----

**From the Swamp**

This came to me by e-mail and I want to share it with you. It speaks a challenge to all of us and a remembrance of the past.

**Veterans - The things they Carried....**

They carried P-38 can openers and heat tabs, watches and dog tags, insect repellent, gum, cigarettes, Zippo lighters, salt tablets, compress bandages, Ponchos, Kool-Aid, two or three canteens of water, iodine tablets, sterno, LRRP-rations, and C-rations stuffed in socks.

They carried standard fatigues, jungle boots, bush hats, flak jackets and steel pots. They carried the M-16 assault rifle. They carried trip flares and Claymore mines, M-60 machine guns, the M-70 grenade launcher, M-14's, CAR-15's, Stoners, Swedish K's, 66mm Laws, shotguns, .45 caliber pistols, silencers, the sound of bullets, rockets, and choppers, and sometimes the sound of silence.

They carried C-4 plastic explosives, an assortment of hand grenades, PRC-25 radios, knives and machetes. Some carried napalm, CBU's and large bombs; some risked their lives to rescue others. Some escaped the fear, but dealt with the death and damage.

Some made very hard decisions, and some just tried to survive. They carried malaria, dysentery, ringworms and leaches. They carried the land itself as it hardened on their boots. They carried stationery, pencils, and pictures of their loved ones - real and imagined. They carried love for people in the real world and love for one another. And sometimes they disguised that love: "Don't mean nothin'!"

They carried memories for the most part, they carried themselves with poise and a kind of dignity. Now and then, there were times when panic set in, and people squealed or wanted to, but couldn't; when they twitched and made moaning sounds and covered their heads and said "Dear God" and hugged the earth and fired their weapons blindly and cringed and begged for the noise to stop and went wild and made stupid promises to themselves and God and their parents, hoping not to die.

They carried the traditions of the United States military, and memories and images of those who served before them. They carried grief, terror, longing and their reputations. They carried the soldier's greatest fear: the embarrassment of dishonor. They crawled into tunnels, walked point, and advanced under fire, so as not to die of embarrassment. They were afraid of dying, but

too afraid to show it. They carried the emotional baggage of men and women who might die at any moment.

They carried the weight of the world.

### **THEY CARRIED EACH OTHER**

Remember the Veterans on every Memorial Day!!!

A.J. Welch  
SwampFox

-----  
-----

### **Veterans Sound Off**

#### **PBS History Channel**

All

I don't know how many of you are watching the history channel series on the Vietnam War this week but I tuned in last night and thought I would offer a few observations. Last night the program was devoted to Tet of 1968 and the battle of Saigon and Hue.

For those of you who were at LZ Evans and fighting in and around Hue during that time period I want you to know, "The First Cavalry Division's job was to prevent reinforcements from entering Hue, and they didn't do that", according to the former Battalion Commanders (Both Retired LTG's from the Marines) of the 1-5 and 2-5 Marines. That was the only mention of the First Cavalry Division.

I find it interesting that the Media for years has denied having any influence on the Vietnam War (just reporting the facts) but last night they played a clip of the evening news with Walter Cronkite in which he said, words to the affect (I can't remember exactly what he said) that Vietnam was a lost cause. Then they quoted President Johnson as saying "If we have lost Walter Cronkite, we have lost the support of the people". Well they can't have it both ways. Either they influenced people about Vietnam or they didn't. And of course we know what an impact they had with their biased reporting.

I noticed all the reporters and cameramen were from CBS news. It wasn't until the end of the program that I found out why that was. This entire program is being produced by CBS News. So what we are watching on the History Channel is the CBS news Departments view of the Vietnam War. Doesn't that just send shivers down your spine?

Bert Chole

All, (continued by Bert)

After watching the Memorial Day presentation by the Public Broadcasting System this evening I sent them my thoughts about their portrayal of the Vietnam Veteran. I am reproducing those thoughts below:

I am greatly disappointed by the portrayal of the Vietnam Veteran as a drug addict, suffering from PTS and wandering the streets of America as a homeless wretch. Do these Veterans exist, certainly, but to present that picture as your typical Vietnam Veteran is an outrage and a disgrace.

You (The media and the entertainment industry) for years portrayed us as drug crazed killers and now you want to present us as pathetic losers and some sort of victim. I am not a victim nor are any of my friends I served two tours with in Vietnam. I am an American who did his duty when his country called. We believed our government, we believed in each other and we believed in the cause that was presented to us. We did not run off to Canada or England to demonstrate against our Soldiers who were fighting in Vietnam. As a soldier we not only had to fight the enemy everyday we also were subjected to an orchestrated effort to demoralize us, not by the enemy, but by our own countrymen such as Jane Fonda, Bill Clinton and others of their ilk (read the media here too).

I guess it is impossible to present this point of view when so many Americans (In the media and out) are ashamed today of what they said and did all those years ago. You still present us as drug crazed warriors who, even today, don't have it together. Shame on you!

I would be happy to provide you the opportunity for another perspective but we (The majority of the soldiers from that war) are too



boring in our well adjusted success to be interesting, particularly to the Public Broadcasting System.

Sincerely

Bert Chole  
Lieutenant Colonel (retired)

-----  
Bert,

You've hit a nerve!

A good friend who is an Airline Pilot was discussing the bias of news, as it's presented, and made the comment that the News Media portrayed Vietnam and Vietnam Veterans so badly (and inaccurately) during the war that it's difficult for them to turn around and make an objective appraisal at this point.

Add to that the idea that there's a restaurant and grill close to my place, and Lia and I enjoy stopping once in awhile for dinner. One night I listened to a guy at the end of the bar discussing his hair-raising exploits as a helicopter pilot with the 101st Airborne. He's a part time delivery guy, who would qualify as a wretch, but at the end of his day, he has a drink or two. He finally included most of the people sitting at the bar (all 4 of us) in his conversation, and I casually asked him what class he had graduated with; he couldn't remember, but it was sometime in '68. I offered to run over to the house and get the definitive list of names which would refresh his memory, and he changed the subject and departed shortly thereafter.

Another time, two guys were sitting at the end of the bar, and one was more than a little loud and obnoxious with his tales of clearing the tunnels armed with only a knife. Later he made a point of telling his age, 44, which would lead to the conclusion that the only tunnels he might have cleared were most likely in his backyard, and the knife was the rubber bladed version that came with the GI Joe set he got for Christmas.

I'm so sick and tired of the bias that I'm looking for another country to live in! Enough is enough! I admire your spirit for the message you sent, but it isn't difficult to predict that the message you receive in response will be along the lines of some gibberish about the severe problems suffered by individuals and the media's intent to

bring their unfortunate suffering to light. They might spend some time discovering that a lot of the drug-crazed individuals would have been such even if they hadn't the misfortune of being old enough to be drafted in the late sixties. You hit it on the head when you said that those of us (the vast majority) who have returned to live what would be described as normal lives make for boring news stories. We may have been exploited then, but it didn't necessarily end; we'll be exploited until we die.

I well remember the last day I worked as a police officer; the supervisor I worked for wished me well, but not until after he made the joke that I couldn't leave yet - I was the Vet who was supposed to "flip out" and shoot up "Mahogany Row" (the administrative offices), and wipe out the senior staff which would allow everybody to be promoted. Do I need to detail what was becoming obvious as the promotions were made. Year in and year out, and I scored within the top 5 every time on written examinations, and had the recommendations from supervisors, but it seemed there was always some nebular reason why I wasn't selected.

I've written a book about the first tour I spent in Vietnam (before the 1/9), and in the conclusions, I'm having a heck of a time trying to define for myself what I feel about the experience. The largest single factor is that I'm tired of not living up to the expectations of those who have listened to the media several times too often. Then again, the media did such a lousy job of covering Vietnam, it's no surprise that 30 years down the road, they seem to have gotten worse, they had a rotten foundation on which to build!

At any rate, I didn't see the presentation, but caught the American Experience episode which had the POW's telling their story - that one was done well, but was on after midnight. Let me know what we can do to make something happen, I'm tired of being a second class Veteran.

Regards,

Bob Eastburn  
-----

## Vietnam Experience

### Reflections on a Return to Vietnam

Barry Geller (70-71), with his wife Kathleen, and I (71-72) returned to Vietnam in February as part of a citizen diplomacy mission for PeaceTrees Vietnam. Here are some of his observations and reflections from that trip:

BWS

I've never felt more welcome anywhere. Adults and school children all say "hello" as you walk down the street. The people are all so young. I went half a day before seeing some older folks. Over 60% of the current population wasn't even alive when we left!

Vietnam is still a very poor country, especially in the the QT area. If you want to shop, there are bargains everywhere, including Hanoi. Hanoi is one of the most beautiful cities I've ever visited. You still can't drink the water, but you can get an Australian steak. (...which I devoured after two weeks of Vietnamese food!) The streets are safe 24 hours a day. I never felt at risk anywhere in the country.

A Hilton Hotel has been built on the site of the old "Hanoi Hilton." ...really! All that's left of the old Hanoi Hilton is a small museum. You can look down from the Hilton's restaurant into the courtyard of the museum. ...surreal!

Imagine the worst secondary road in the United States. QL1, the main artery from north to south in old I corps, is worse than that. The main traffic control device in Vietnam is the automobile horn.

New construction is everywhere. Juxtapose modern construction equipment against folks picking out rocks by hand and carrying them in baskets on their backs. The narrow gage train is running the full length of the country, every hour on the hour.

Many areas of the country remain uninhabited because of large quantities of mines and unexploded ordnance.

Every house is electrified. It is incredible to see houses with thatched roofs and a TV antenna mounted on a bamboo pole beside them. There are three TV channels. MTV comes on every night at 8:00 p.m.

QL9 to Khe Sanh is a good highway, and it's repopulated all the way to Khe Sanh. Khe Sanh is now a coffee plantation, though they are still clearing mines and unexploded ordnance in the area. Coffee is the second leading export.

Vietnam has an interesting form of communism, which we might call capitalism. Free markets are everywhere. They experimented with collective farming when the country was reunited, but they found they couldn't feed themselves. Now, they've distributed the land to the farmers and have become the second largest rice exporter in the world. Private industry is growing. Nationalized industries are being privatized.

Quang Tri airfield is still there, but littered with mines and unexploded ordnance. (The Vietnamese call it "Ai Tu," which means "love the children.") A German firm is clearing the ordnance in preparation for rebuilding the airfield.

It is amazing the number of foreign countries involved in clearing mines and ordnance. VVMF is sponsoring the clearance of mines and ordnance on the other side of QL1, in the old 3rd Bde/5th mech area. (I'll bet now that the Vietnamese wished that they hadn't blown up that ammo dump so often.)

QT still looked like home. So did QL1 through Phu Bai--that familiar ridgeline--, and the road to Khe Sanh--Rockpile, etc.

It was "interesting" reading their accounts of the war, which differ "a little" from ours. However, there are signs that the local folks are figuring out that the "official" version of history may be a little different from ours. The internet is becoming the great equalizer of information.

The Truong Son National Cemetery, near Con Thien, is their equivalent to Arlington. It is divided into 61 sections corresponding to the 61 provinces of Vietnam. It contains the war dead from both north and south. In regard to war cemeteries, it is chilling to see how many war cemeteries there actually are. This might account for the large proportion of young people.

The highlight of my trip was going out to a hotel one evening and getting drunk and singing Karaoke in English and Vietnamese with the sons and daughters of some of the men I fought with and against thirty years ago.

I'm glad I went.

Bob Karig  
karig@sprintmail.com

---

### **Letters from Vietnam**

A recent issue of Army Times stated Morley Safer of "60 Minutes" is reaching out to the readers of Army Times to help him research a new book. The article says Safer is editing "Letters from Vietnam" a collection of letters from American service members to their friends and families back home.

The timing of this message is bad. WE KNOW what Mike Wallace did to the family of MV-22 pilot's family. We KNOW that he was harassing the widow even while the crash site was being searched for the bodies. We KNOW Mike Wallace was asked to back off by the father's widow, and we KNOW about the two letters sent to Wallace by the Commandant of the Marine Corps and by the Deputy Chief of Staff for Air. How do we know that? We are ALL up on computers communicating quickly and among people we trust. Mike Wallace works with Safer at "60 Minutes" and demonstrates questionable ethics constantly. We saw that Sunday, Jan 21st, when the "rest of the story," was left out of the MV 22 piece which was the disgraceful efforts of Wallace. I know Safer is the person asking for assistance, but he suffers guilt of association because of "60 Minutes" sleazy tactics and INABILITY to tell both sides of the story. Something that Fox News Channels practices constantly and is winning the public's respect.

I cannot speak for Vietnam Vets, I can merely speak for myself. The article thought it was important to tell us Safer is from "60 Minutes," a CBS product. It was DAN RATHER who smeared us with phony veterans hiding in the woods in Washington State stating they could not cope, had PTSD, and generally denigrated us all. I cannot recall one positive piece out of CBS about us ever. In fact, it has been clearly shown in the book "Stolen Valor" by Jug Burkett, the phoniness of the vet and the TOTAL LACK OF RESEARCH BY RATHER.

I have the complete CBS series about Vietnam by Walter Cronkite. There is not one positive moment in it, and at times the "spin" on what was the truth we actually saw and what Cronkite said that will be forever remembered was diversely different.

Safer is in that series. It seems the CBS reporters, then as Rather does now, tried to make themselves the story. If you doubt what I am saying watch Safer's performance on the shutdown medevac, and listen to the spin making us look like we did not know what we were doing.

Please pass on to Mr Morley Safer, if he wants our cooperation, he should have worked on it back in the mid 60's.

I read his book about going back to Vietnam back in the '80's. His writing style focused on himself, and he still comes to mind as egotistical.

Now if Joe Galloway, from US News And World Report, had made the request we would swamp him because he is humble, honest, tells the truth with his pen, has intense integrity, and earned that respect IN VIETNAM with us.

Mike Sloniker  
Vietnam 67-68, 71-72  
(VN Helicopters Pilots Association)

---

### **May I Salute You?**

I approached the entrance to Ft Belvoir's medical facility last year as an old veteran pattered towards me. Easily over 80 years old, stooped and slow, I barely gave him a second glance because on his heels was a full bird colonel.

As they approached, I rendered a sharp salute and barked, "Good morning, Sir!" Because they were heel to toe, I began my salute as the old veteran was about two paces from me. He immediately came to life! Transformed by my greeting, he rose to his full height, returned my salute with pride, and exclaimed, "Good morning captain!" I was startled, but the full bird behind him was flabbergasted. The colonel stopped mid-salute, smiled at me and quietly moved on.

As I entered the clinic, the utter beauty of the encounter preoccupied me. What prompted the old man to assume that I was saluting him?

Perhaps he just thought, "It's about time!" After all, doesn't a WWII vet outrank us all? I turned my attention to the waiting room taking a moment to survey the veterans there. Service people rushed around, loudspeakers blared, the bell for the prescription window kept ringing. It was a whirl of activity and the older veterans sat quietly on the outside seemingly out of step, patiently waiting to be seen. Nobody was seeing.

My old friend stayed on my mind. I began to pay attention to the military's attitude towards its veterans. Predominately, I witnessed indifference: Impatient soldiers and airmen plowing over little old ladies at the commissary; I noticed my own agitation as an older couple cornered me at the Officer's Club and began reminiscing about their tour in Germany.

To our disgrace, I have also witnessed disdain: At Ramstein AB terminal, an airman was condescending and borderline cruel with a deaf veteran flying Space A; An ancient woman wearing a WACS button was shoved aside by a cadet at the Women's Memorial dedication in D.C.; A member of the Color Guard turned away in disgust from a drunk Vietnam vet trying to talk to him before the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Vietnam Wall.

Have you been to a ceremony at the Wall lately? How about a Veteran's Day Parade in a small town? The crowds are growing faint. Why do we expect the general public to care if we don't? We are getting comfortable again. Not many of us around that have been forced to consider making the ultimate sacrifice. Roughly 60% of today's active duty Air Force did not even participate in Desert Storm. I always lament about the public's disregard for the military. I do not count all the days I stayed in bed instead of going to a ceremony or parade. It was my day to be honored and I deserved to sleep in.

It's just like a 28-year-old, whose weapon was "Microsoft PowerPoint Slide Presentation" during the last conflict, to complain about recognition. Sometimes I wonder who is going to come to our parades in 20 years; will anybody look me up in the Women's Memorial Registry? The answer lies in the present. We will be honored as we honor those who have gone before us. The next generation is watching.

It is not my intention to minimize the selfless service of our modern military; my comrades are

the greatest people I know (and frankly should be treated better). But, lately I'm wondering if the public's attitude towards the military isn't just a reflection of the active duty military's attitude towards its own veterans.

It's time to ask - do we regard them, do we consider them at all? How does our attitude change when the hero is no longer wearing a uniform? I was proud to wear my uniform. Can I admit that I thought I was cool? There is no denying that there is something about our profession, combined with youth, that feeds the ego a little.

We have all seen a young pilot strut into the Officer's Club with his flight suit on. He matters; he takes on the room; he knows he can take on the world. But, one day he will leave his jet for a desk, and eventually he

will have to hang up that flight suit. A super hero hanging up his cape. How will we measure his value then? He will no longer look like a pilot, an officer, a colonel. He'll just look like an old man coming out of the clinic with his prescription. But, is he less of a hero? Will anybody remember or care about all the months he spent away from his newborn daughter while making peace a possibility in the Balkans?

Probably not. Our society has a short memory. Maybe it is not for the protected to understand. Rather, it is my hope that when a young lieutenant walks by him they will each see themselves reflected in the other - one's future, the other's past. In that moment, perhaps, the lieutenant will also see the hero, now disguised as an old man, and thank him.

The truth is there are heroes in disguise everywhere. I use to wonder why people would want to chat with me when I was in uniform - telling me about their four years as a radio operator in Korea. So what? I wasn't impressed relative to my own experiences. Now I understand that they were telling me because nobody else cared. Proud of their service, no matter how limited, and still in love with our country, they were trying to stay connected. Their stories were code for: "I understand and appreciate you, can you appreciate me?" The answer is, yes.

I separated from the Air Force in February. I'm out of the club. Still, I want you to know that I'll attend the parades, visit the memorials, and

honor you. All this while my kids and your kids are watching. Then, maybe, someday when I'm an old woman riding the metro, a young airman will take a moment of her time to listen to one of my war stories. I, in turn, will soak in her beauty and strength, and remember.

Today as I reflect on my adventures in the Air Force, I'm thinking of that ancient warrior I collided with at Ft Belvoir. I'm wondering where he is, if he's still alive, if it's too late to thank him. I want to start a campaign in his honor - Salute A Veteran. What a great world this would be if all our elderly veterans wore recognition pins, and we would salute them even if we were out of uniform and saw them coming out of a Seven Eleven.

Yes, this started out as a misunderstanding on my part. But, now I get it. That day was the first time in my life that I really understood what it meant to salute someone.

Dear Veteran, I recognize and hail you! I do understand what I have and what you have given to make it possible. So I'm wondering if we meet on the street again - may I salute you?

Patricia Salwei

-----

### **Vets Point to Truth about Vietnam War**

Scholars, researchers join them to dispel "myths"

For a generation, the American public has been bombarded with the image of the downtrodden Vietnam War veteran: a social misfit who has been physically and psychologically scarred by a conflict his country would not support and his leaders would not win.

But as President Clinton begins a historic visit to Vietnam today, 25 years after that divisive war's end, a growing number of researchers, scholars and prominent veterans are attacking the stereotype as pure myth.

Their evidence suggests that most veterans are a happy, well-adjusted and successful as non-veterans. Many went on to become corporate chief executives, famous authors, military leaders and candidates for the presidency.

"The vast number of people who went to Vietnam returned and just got on with their lives," said Steve Maxner, a Texas Tech

University historian who has compiled oral histories of 75 combat soldiers (One of our own, Earl Hobbs, B Trp Crew Chief, was one of the 75). The image of the Vietnam vet as dysfunctional "is a myth," he says.

That's what Capt. Mike Ambrose has concluded as well. A Navy doctor who has examined 400 Vietnam prisoners of war over 20 years, Ambrose says he finds they are successful and well-adjusted.

Maxner's and Ambrose's views are parts of a revisionist movement challenging conventional wisdom shaped by sloppy statistics, anti-war politics and the myth-making power of film and television. The hope is that a groundswell of new information will reverse the stereotypes that have followed Vietnam veterans into middle age.

### **Most "Just fine"**

Retired Gen. Colin Powell, a Vietnam War veteran and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says he believes most Vietnam veterans "have done just fine."

Feeding the image of the troubled Vietnam veteran have been widely disseminated reports that:

As many as 100,000 Vietnam veterans committed suicide.

Up to 50 percent have suffered post-traumatic stress disorder.

Hundreds of thousands have been homeless and countless others suffer from depression, emotional instability and drug and alcohol abuse.

A careful examination of government and private sector statistics suggests that only a tiny portion of Vietnam troops have suffered profound problems. The vast majority of the 3 million who served have led relatively normal lives.

For example:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that unemployment among Vietnam veterans was 2.7 percent in October, only slightly higher than the 2.1 percent rate for non-veteran males of the same age, and well below the overall national unemployment rate of 3.9 percent.

A Navy study of Vietnam prisoners of war found few serious psychological or physical problems.

The Department of Veterans Affairs says the number of Vietnam soldiers who have taken their own lives is far below the figures often cited -

58,000 to 100,000 – in media reports, in professional journals and in some psychological histories of the war. The VA says no more than 20,000 Vietnam vets have killed themselves; other researchers put the figure at 4,000 to 9,000.

### **Some lied about service**

In their book Stolen Valor, published in 1998, B.G. Burkett and Glenna Whitley report that thousands who claim to be veterans traumatized by the war never served in Vietnam or lied about their wartime experiences to get government disability benefits. Whitley says that in 1998, she interviewed 10 “homeless Vietnam veterans” in Dallas and discovered after checking their military records that nine of them either didn’t serve in the military or never set foot in Southeast Asia.

“Why do I care?” asked Steve Waterman, a retired Navy Seal who runs an online network exposing phony SEALS. “Because this is a continuation of the myth of the whacked-out Vietnam veteran.”

Government statistics show that 75 percent of those who served were volunteers, most came from middle-class backgrounds and as a group they approximated the racial makeup of the U.S. population. That stands in contrast to the popular notion of Vietnam soldiers as draftees, disproportionately poor and greatly over-represented by minorities.

### **Death rates, race**

It’s true that many college students obtained temporary deferments and that Black Americans suffered disproportionately high casualties early in the conflict. But by war’s end, death rates matched the racial makeup of the United States.

There’s no doubt that the war deeply affected some veterans. A study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1987 showed that in the first few years after their Vietnam service, vets suffered higher rates of death, alcohol abuse and emotional problems than non-veterans. But that’s not unusual.

Researchers have long known the psychological hazards of combat, and soldiers have had a difficulty adjusting after every war – even popular ones.

Many Vietnam veterans say the normal readjustment difficulties were magnified by the political climate at home.

“This is all part of the self-justification of the group that was against the war,” argues Mitchell Zais, a Vietnam rifle platoon leader and now president of Newberry College in South Carolina. “I’m not saying it was a good war, but this is a way of showing those who protested the war that they were right: “Look at how Vietnam brutalized thousands of people, turned them into dysfunctional human beings.”

Not everyone agrees that the stereotype of the traumatized Vietnam vet has been overblown. Jonathan Shay, a VA psychiatrist and author, says he believes the war took a heavy psychological toll.

“War does really terrible things to people’s bodies and their minds. We will never be free of that until we end war,” Shay said.

### **Congressional study**

Shay cites findings from a congressionally funded study conducted from 1986-88: Thirty percent of Vietnam vets had post-traumatic stress at some point in their lives, and one in 10 had been vagrant or homeless.

The CDC study of Vietnam veterans, also conducted in the late 1980’s, reached a different conclusion: Only 15 percent were traumatized, and the vast majority were employed, healthy and happy in their relationships.

Former Navy Secretary James Webb, author of the acclaimed novel Fields of Fire, has spent two decades trying to fight images that he says have no basis in fact. A decorated Marine officer during the war, Webb says those who avoided serving in Vietnam have played the main role in portraying the war as an immoral conflict that damaged the men who went there.

“For the elites to justify not having gone, they had to say it was odious, genocidal,” Webb said.

The man who is perhaps the nation’s most famous Vietnam veteran ran for president this year. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., spent five years in a North Vietnamese prison camp, and he, too, is tired of the way fellow vets are portrayed.

“For a variety of reasons, the image of Vietnam veterans was, in many cases, mischaracterized,” McCain said. “The overwhelming majority went over, served their country, came home and resumed their lives.”

Sen. Max Cleland, D-Ga., a McCain friend, lost both legs and one arm in Vietnam. Cleland says he’s lived with the stereotypes for 30 years.

“Once you get an image, it’s hard to shake – that’s what drove Vietnam veterans underground,” he said. But Cleland believes society is finally ready to move on. He noted that both McCain and Al Gore ran proudly on their Vietnam War records in their quest for the White House this year.

Dave Moniz  
USA Today

-----

### **Military Spouses, The Difference**

Over the years, I've talked a lot about military spouses...how special they are and the price they pay for freedom too. The funny thing about it, is most military spouses don't consider themselves different from other spouses. They do what they have to do, bound together not by blood or merely friendship, but with a shared spirit whose origin is in the very essence of what love truly is. Is there truly a difference? I think there is. You have to decide for yourself.

Other spouses get married and look forward to building equity in a home and putting down family roots. Military spouses get married and know they'll live in base housing or rent, and their roots must be short so they can be transplanted frequently.

Other spouses decorate a home with flair and personality that will last a lifetime. Military spouses decorate a home with flare tempered with the knowledge that no two base houses have the same size windows or same size rooms. Curtains have to be flexible and multiple sets are a plus. Furniture must fit like puzzle pieces.

Other spouses have living rooms that are immaculate and seldom used. Military spouses have immaculate living room/dining room combos. The coffee table got a scratch or two moving from Germany, but it still looks pretty good.

Other spouses say good-bye to their spouse for a business trip and know they won't see them for a week. They are lonely, but can survive. Military spouses say good-bye to their deploying spouse and know they won't see them for months, or for a remote, a year. They are lonely, but will survive.

Other spouses, when a washer hose blows off, call Maytag and then write a check out for getting the hose reconnected. Military spouses will cut the water off and fix it themselves.

Other spouses get used to saying "hello" to friends they see all the time. Military spouses get used to saying "good-bye" to friends made the last two years.

Other spouses worry about whether their child will be class president next year. Military spouses worry about whether their child will be accepted in yet another new school next year and whether that school will be the worst in the city...again.

Other spouses can count on spouse participation in special events...birthdays, anniversaries, concerts, football games, graduation, and even the birth of a child. Military spouses only count on each other; because they realize that the Flag has to come first if freedom is to survive. It has to be that way.

Other spouses put up yellow ribbons when the troops are imperiled across the globe and take them down when the troops come home. Military spouses wear yellow ribbons around their hearts and they never go away.

Other spouses worry about being late for mom's Thanksgiving dinner. Military spouses worry about getting back from Japan in time for dad's funeral.

And other spouses are touched by the television program showing an elderly lady putting a card down in front of a long, black wall that has names on it. The card simply says "Happy Birthday, Sweetheart. You would have been sixty today." A military spouse is the lady with the card. And the wall is the Vietnam Memorial.

I would never say military spouses are better or worse than other spouses are. But I will say there is a difference. And I will say that our country asks more of military spouses than is asked of other spouses. And I will say, without hesitation, that military spouses pay just as high a price for freedom as do their active duty husbands or wives. Perhaps the price they pay is even higher. Dying in service to our country isn't near as hard as loving someone who has died in service to our country, and having to live without them.

**God bless our military spouses for all they freely give. And God bless America.**

Michael G. Mudd, COL US Army  
[muddm@socom.mil](mailto:muddm@socom.mil)

Well Said COL Mudd.

BWS

---

**WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE...  
AND YOUNG!!**

Hey, everyone. "Moriarty" here with some Rumbblings From The Lab. Harry's not the only one who fell in love with a script this weekend. It's strange. When you get a stack of new stuff to read, it's always hard to prioritize. At least, it is for me. I never know if I want to save my most-anticipated reads (like the script for the TENACIOUS D film) for last, or if I want to go ahead and just tear right into them. Most of the time, I'll just put everything in a big stack and start pulling scripts out at random.

And so it was that I ended up looking at the title page of WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE... AND YOUNG, the January 11, 2001 draft written by Randall Wallace, based on the book by Lt. General Harold G. Moore (Ret.) and Joseph L. Galloway. I didn't read that book, but I have done a fair amount of reading about Vietnam. My father went and served there, and trying to understand what he went through was something that became very important to me at a certain point in time. In my reading about the conflict, I came across several well-written references to the conflict that took place in the Ia Drang Valley of Vietnam in November of 1965. This was one of the first significant engagements between the US and Vietnam, and it promises to make one hell of a film in the hands of director Randall Wallace, screenwriter of both BRAVEHEART and this summer's PEARL HARBOR. Right away, Wallace lets us know that this is going to be something different than the standard war movie that we've come to know and expect.

Over a black screen, a simple voice over tells us that what we are about to see is "a testament to the young Americans who died in the Valley of Death, and a tribute to the young men of the People's Army of Vietnam who died by our hand

in that place." Yes, you read that right. This script is a tribute to the soldiers on both sides of the conflict. This is not a script about good versus evil or wrong versus right, but instead is about man versus man, about soldier versus soldier, and the circumstances that conspire to create such an encounter.

The script starts with a quick scene in 1954, showing how the Vietminh fought and destroyed the French, how they used tactics no one was prepared for, and how they drove the French out only after breaking their spirits. We then move forward in time to 1962, shifting locale to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where we get to meet HAL MOORE, a no-shit old-fashioned hero, who is being played by Mel Gibson in a really wonderful bit of casting. There's something both stoic and reckless about Moore as written, and audiences will basically be following him through the film. It's important Moore be someone we like, someone we can cling to when the shit really starts coming down. And believe me... it does.

The intro for Moore shows how he's able to keep his cool no matter what's happening. He's testing a parachute and gets hooked onto the plane he's jumping from. One thing after another goes wrong, and everyone in the plane and on the ground crew is sure Moore's a dead man, but he manages to focus, do just the right thing, and land without a scratch. It's no wonder his superiors think of him when they decide to test the feasibility of using helicopters in combat if they decide to escalate the effort in Vietnam. In 1964, Moore and his family relocate to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he becomes the leader of the 1st Battalion of the 7th Cavalry. When he's given his regiment number, Moore goes a bit ashen and asks, "The 7th? The same regiment as... Custer?"

It's 38 pages of build-up that Wallace uses wisely here, 38 pages of us getting a good look at the community of families at Fort Benning, the wives and the children who are staying behind. Wallace makes sure to remind us that these were people who were leaving behind these great lives, knowing full well that they might not come back. In so many Vietnam films, we've seen the soldiers from later in the war, the guys who were drafted, the young black men and the southern poor, the ones who couldn't afford the particular draft numbers or the college tuition, the ones who



seemed to be particularly targeted. But it's rare that we see the ones who went in the first, the men who volunteered. These were the guys who represented the best

and brightest, and it's that particular breed of soldier that Wallace is paying tribute to.

We see the Americans leaving Fort Benning, and a voice-over tells us that "On the same day the 7th Air Cavalry left Charleston Harbor, bound for Vietnam, the 66th North Vietnamese Regiment departed its home in the north, to move through its Cambodian sanctuary to the Central Highlands of South Vietnam." Wallace draws the Vietnamese characters here with real human empathy and respect, and it can't be stressed enough... this is not what we're used to seeing in a war film. Somewhere along the way, drama and propaganda got confused, and as a result, there's a jingoistic sense to almost every film made about war. The enemy is always monstrous, always just a faceless horde. It's easier that way, less complicated. We examine shades of grey within our own ranks, but no matter how bad the worst of "us" is, we're always superior to "them." The first few engagements the Vietnamese draw the Americans into are smart, calculated taunts, forcing the Americans to respond with force, forcing them to respond in a specific location. A trap is expertly set and sprung, and it certainly disproves the impression of a General in an early scene that they're fighting "cavemen in black pajamas." In many ways, the Vietnamese traded on the knowledge that they were underestimated. It's the same thing as Ali's infamous rope-a-dope. Play possum. Play weak. Play dumb. Then, when the time comes, prove exactly what you're capable of. Hell, our own Harry Knowles has been telling me for years that he's just saving up all his spelling and grammar for the one time he'll really need them.

Page 42 of the script brings us up to November 14, 1965, a Sunday, and the start of the attack on Landing Zone X-Ray, as it's declared. It's a point in the Ia Drang Valley at the base of Chu Pong Mountain, a thirty minute round trip helicopter ride from their base camp, meaning the first sixty men into the area will have a thirty minute window where they're the only sixty men in the area, where the full weight of the invasion is on them. It's a terrifying position to be in, and Moore makes sure that he's

the first man off the first chopper, vowing to be the last man on the last one out if necessary. High on the Chu Pong Massif, Colonel Anh is the man in charge. In many ways, parallels are drawn between them, and there's a similarity in the strength of character they both seem to have. They are leaders, and they genuinely care for the welfare of their men. It's the conflict between these two wills that is etched so memorably in the pages that follow.

I love the film ROMPER STOMPER, but it's mainly one key sequence in that film that lingers in my memory. Early on, a simple stupid act of violence leads to a chain of events that escalate into a full-blown race riot. It's harrowing, and Geoffrey Wright put us directly in the center of it, giving us no exit, putting us in peril with the characters onscreen. That's the feeling I got from page 42 on in this script. Randall Wallace has done an exceptional job of establishing the geography of this conflict, and also the subtle shift of power that takes place over the course of a three-day battle. Early on, he establishes that characters you've come to be quite fond of aren't safe, and there is wholesale slaughter here. The actual landing area becomes the hot zone for the conflict, pinning the Americans down from the moment they hit ground, and the sheer number of Vietnamese soldiers is overwhelming. Looking over the cast list for the film, it looks like Wallace has filled out the 7th Cavalry with a mix of solid character actors, familiar faces, and some fresh recruits, meaning Mel Gibson will be joined by Marc Blucas (so effective on BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER as Riley for the past few seasons), the always-awesome Sam Elliott, Clark Gregg, Greg Kinnear, Chris Klein, Barry Pepper, Doug Hutchison, as well as Ryan Hurst, Erik MacArthur, Blake Heron, and Josh Daugherty. Every character is given surprising depth, and Wallace has learned how to work quickly, filling in key details and effectively creating someone we recognize, someone that could be us.

I won't go into the details of the battle that unfolds. It is horrible and sad and there are moments of almost superheroic bravery scattered throughout. As an actor, you can't be given anything more direct to do than this. This is opera in a way, giant emotions played out against an epic backdrop. Wallace expertly cuts from the heat of the battle to the wives back at Fort

Benning as the letters start to roll in informing them of the deaths of their husbands. Moore's wife, set to be played by Madeline Stowe, does her best to serve as the center of this community of women united by tragedy and the mere possibility of tragedy. Each letter she has to deliver is a different family ruined, and there's always the chance she's going to pull her own name out of the mailbag. Wallace uses this cross-cutting to actually build suspense about certain characters' fates, and it's quite effective.

If you don't know how the conflict ended, and you want to be totally surprised by the ending, go ahead and skip to the last paragraph now. Since this is a historical moment, I don't consider it spoiler material, but I want to give you the choice to not know certain things.

Okay... still with me? Good. I want to offer special praise to Wallace for a quiet moment that takes place after Moore and his men finally drive Anh's troops back. In my opinion, it may be one of the most cogent analyses of Vietnam that's been offered in a film to date. Hal Moore tells McDade, the commander who relieves him, how to proceed, but when he gets back to camp, he hears that McDade immediately did the exact opposite, leading all of his men into certain death. It's wrenching, especially in light of how hard Moore worked to protect as many men as he could, and how close to success he came. Moore wants to go back into battle, to help, but he's ordered into a debriefing with Robert McNamara and General Westmoreland, the two men who could arguably be called the architects of Vietnam. No matter what Moore

says to them, they see his numbers ("79 dead against 1800... 2000 enemy?") as a success, and they take it as confirmation that they can expect an easy victory in any conflict they choose to enter. Moore is a good soldier in every way, meaning he won't be openly insubordinate to these men, but he registers his protest in another way, reading an excerpt from the journal of a dead Vietnamese soldier that he found on the battlefield:

"Oh my dear, my young wife. When the troops come home after the victory, and you do not see me, please look at the proud colors. You will see me there and you will feel warm under the shadow of the bamboo tree." They don't get it, though. They keep talking about escalating the

conflict, ordering in 40,000 more troops, and how they'll eventually "run the little bastards back home." Moore tries again, telling them how proud he was of his men, then adding, "But if were the leader of the other side... I would have been proud of them." This stops conversation in the room finally. They don't know what to say to Moore, and he presses on:

"They pushed 2000 men through artillery and napalm. And those 2000 came willingly. They ran right at the muzzles of our guns. We took them hand to hand. And we won. But they didn't see it that way. They didn't go away. They just backed up and came again. We won't run the little bastards home, sir. They are home."

The film's final coda at the Wall in Washington is haunting, and overall, I am left with a feeling of great sorrow after reading this script. I was moved at the idea that Randall Wallace wants to show the name of every man killed at X-Ray and Albany before the closing credits, that he wants to make sure to pay respect to the men who were there. This is a script that has gone the distance, that has done what so many critics of historical dramas complain no one ever does, giving a human face to both sides of the conflict, and if Wallace and his director of photography Dean Semler (DANCES WITH WOLVES, THE ROAD WARRIOR) can come up with visual power to match what's on the page, then this is going to be a memorable and important picture. As it stands, it's one of the best reads I've had so far this year, and I'm officially looking forward to hearing more about this as it proceeds. Until then...

"Moriarty" out.

[shortround7@erols.com](mailto:shortround7@erols.com)

-----

These views are the views of veterans and those who support veterans. Yours may be different.

Troopers, you have heard their views, now it is time to hear yours. Sound Off!

BWS

-----

## **Battle of Hoa Hoi; A Trooper Remembers**

On Oct 2, 1966 A Trp Blues, while in flight to what was supposed to be a routine patrol, if there ever was such a thing, was diverted to the coast just east of the village of Hoa Hoi. Supposedly we were to enter the village, split it in half and then drive south. Yeah, right! I have often wondered how 20 troopers were expected to accomplish the mission of 5 infantry companies, which is what it finally took to take Hoa Hoi. I was the second squad leader and the assistant platoon sergeant of A Trp Blues at the time. I was ordered to stay on the LZ for 15 minutes then follow up. I questioned myself at the time, follow up what? However, it was only 5 minutes and then firing came from the west. I moved my squad out to go help my Blues. Over the radio came Sgt Martinez's voice. Martinez was the squad leader of the first squad. He was pinned down and had one friendly KIA.

I moved my squad through the huts outlining the main village and we blew everything in our path. Reasoning was, never let the enemy get behind you if they are already in front of you. I placed my squad on line, belly sucking the ground, facing an open area that contained an entrenched enemy whose force I didn't yet know. I walked over to Martinez's squad and got them out of their position. While doing this SSG Mike Villie, our forward artillery observer on the ground, began calling me over his radio. Seems the fifth squad, led by SSG Davis, was also pinned down. The fifth squad had two friendly KIAs and one wounded at the time. I already had my hands full with the entrenched enemy which was now two 50 calibers, a Browning and seven AKs. Beyond the entrenched enemy was our third squad, in a trench and they could not move. Time was of the essence. Sneaking forward, and followed by my RTO, Detrich, and one of my men, SP4 Holly, I unleashed 18 hand grenades into the enemy trench. Detrich passed me six grenades, then he passed me six of Holly's grenades.

With that matter taken care of, and the pressure off the third squad so they could move back to the LZ, I headed out in the direction of the pinned down fifth squad, my own squad in tow. We were going to leap frog the fifth squad out of their very hairy position which was, being

pinned down by four 50 caliber machine guns. I will end that part of this story here with the exception: We were reinforced by units of the 1/12 Cav. The 1/12 Cav was reinforced by units of the 1/5th Cav. We A Troopers had walked into a very heavily armed enemy populated, fortified bunkered, village. I must mention: If Col Blake McIlwain had not taken his chopper into the 5th squads area and did what he did, I don't think any of them would have come out alive. But McIlwain walked through the valley of death more than once and he did so again, only to crash land on the LZ, as the remainder of the 5th squad came crashing through the brush and lay exhausted on the sands of the LZ.

I write this truth for several reasons. 1. I was there and it was my wife's birthday. 2. We lost some pretty good troopers that day. 3. Some heroic deeds were accomplished and 4, the Cav historian, or whoever wrote up what Bert Chole possesses, is completely in error. The Cav history has our battle of Hoa Hoa on Oct 2, 1966 as taking place at the village of Hung Lac (1). A Troop never fought a battle at Hung Lac (1). My efforts to have the historian correct this falacy has met with negativism, something we in the 9th Cav don't recognize.

Our motto was, We Can, We Will, and more recently one other two word phrase has been added: "We Did". So, for the sake of history and an effort to correct wrong data, I write this here in the BWS newsletter.

You can also visit my web site at BWS links, On This Day.

By the way, Col McIlwain and Col Chuck Wingate were two of my COs during my stay in Vietnam. I have given McIlwain his due so I also give due to Chuck Wingate. Of all the commanders I have had in my 23 plus years, he ranks right up there with the best of them. I also want to pay tribute to our chopper pilots. They took us where we needed to be and then they came and got us. Our guns and scouts covered us as best as possible and came on the run when we got into trouble.

I'll write another story later about what our gun commander did during a mission. Major Joe Koehnke was a comical guy most times, but behind the stick of his gun chopper he wasn't anyone to mess with. I did once, and out did him. Till next time.

Thanks Loel,

Ranger Ron Christopher,  
Blues, A Trp, 66/67.  
wiseowl@pennswoods.net

---

---

### **HUEY MOVIE**

A unique movie is in the making, one that we all will be fascinated with, and some of us will have participated in. All of us will be affected by viewing it.

The venerable UH-1 “Huey” was certainly involved in more stories than any other aircraft ever to see combat. It is certainly the “Icon” of the Vietnam War. Everywhere I have been since coming back to “The World”, upon hearing that familiar “whump-whump” sound of those blades, has always had me bolting outside to get a look see. Occasionally while at work, I hear something nobody else hears, tilt my head a bit and say “UH-1 Huey” to bewildered looks, then I bolt outdoors hoping to get a glimpse. Don’t you all do the same? That sound in the sky, though heard less and less these days, still triggers emotions over 30 years old. It is exactly those emotions – and the specific memories evoked - that form the real theme of this planned feature film. Recorded are the lingering, vivid memories and associated feelings of those whose lives have been – and still are - affected by the Vietnam War. They are stories of tragedy that still hurts. Of heroism and humanity. Of unbridled excitement and salvation. Of humor and of dread. So many stories.

This planned film is not really about the Huey, but rather a means to elicit and record personal stories. Yes, of the venerable UH-1, but mainly of the Vietnam experience itself. It’s a collection of personal stories and associated emotions.

Thanks to Al Defleron (BWS) [ladefleron@snowhill.com](mailto:ladefleron@snowhill.com) and Cheryl Fries (Arrowhead Film and Video) [cfries@arrowheadfilms.com](mailto:cfries@arrowheadfilms.com), I have had the privilege of viewing a preliminary tape, and have read the compelling film proposal entitled: *In The*

*Shadow of the Blade: The Huey Experience in Vietnam.*

Depicted on film will be first person accounts that took place beneath the swirling blades of the Hueys of Vietnam, as well as accounts of families affected by our helicopter war. In the filmmakers’ own words, *In The Shadow of the Blade* “is about taking a restored Huey across America to land in backyards and farmyards, at memorials and reunions, in parking lots and feedlots to film people affected by Vietnam, who they are, who they’ve become... is about watching their home movies of combat, looking at photos of their youth, hearing the songs they sang in the face of death. Feeling what they felt. Trying to learn what they know... is about bringing Veterans and non-Veterans together in new ways and new places, paying tribute to those who were patriots when it wasn’t popular to do so...”

Cheryl Fries wrote to me that “It is our hope that this film will portray Vietnam Veterans in a way that breaks apart the stereotypes and will facilitate healing and tribute for those who served and their loved ones. We hope to represent Veterans widely by using the Huey as a symbol of Vietnam service and include pilots, crewmen, ground troops, medical personnel, and even Donut Dollies in the program. *In the Shadow of the Blade* is not a military history, but a human one, which seeks to tell the stories of Vietnam through the words, home movies, and music of those who lived it - and to show who they are today, thirty years later.” I can add that the film also includes the impact and lingering emotions of family members who’s lives have forever been affected by the heroism and tragedies that were a part of living (and dying).

The basis of the film has a restored veteran UH-1H making 21 stops across the U.S. (go to <http://www.a101avn.org/FiveODuece.htm> to see the story of the restoration of this old war bird). The filmmakers plan to take this aircraft across the Nation, visiting 21 sites (see their website, below), to draw folks out and talk about what the bird meant to them – then and now. They’re seeking sponsors to fund the complete film, but they have made their initial stops and recorded a “trailer” for use in seeking funding for completion.

This is what I viewed. Their first stop was at Ft. Rucker during – what else – the Bullwhip

Squadron Reunion! Thus, the 1/9<sup>th</sup> was certainly not left out of the first sets of interviews. A segment of the taped interviews show the B Troop "Pinnacle Landing" diorama at the Army Aviation Museum in the background. The connection to the 1/9<sup>th</sup> is special at this point. Al "D" Defleron tells me that several former 1/9<sup>th</sup> pilots and crewmen were interviewed (I saw some of them on the tapes). In fact, although dozens of units flew Hueys during Vietnam, the 1/9<sup>th</sup> figures prominently, at least in the initial trailer, and especially at their website at [www.intheshadowoftheblade.com](http://www.intheshadowoftheblade.com), where as background "wallpaper", each page has a Bravo Troop ship full of Blues, poised to disembark. There is also a B Troop lift bird pictured at their site under "Vietnam Veteran Team". I urge those of you with Internet access to go to the site, view what they have, and leave a message on their Guestbook. Lots of other Vietnam vets have, and will read their Guestbook. Let's show how many former 1/9<sup>th</sup> guys are 'out there', interested and active, eh? Sign in!

Their 7th stop will help celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup> with the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots' Assn. reunion in Denver.

Of cool interest is the background music chosen for the film – songs recorded in Vietnam by "The High Priced Help", a group of 4 Army helicopter pilots who wrote and performed original songs during 1966-67 at various sites, working out of the 14<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Battalion. They were Marty Heuer, Chinch Wollerton, Scat McNatt and Jack Weslake. I went to a concert in San Antonio a few short years ago and was privileged to listen to many of these songs live, and met Marty Heuer and Scat McNatt. Bought a tape, so I'm very familiar with the music. FYI, Mary Heuer is historian for the WOC Chorus – I sent him some stuff I still had from my time with the Chorus. This film I viewed also has what seems to be a hauntingly beautiful Vietnam song in one segment.

I hope everything works out so that this feature film gets completely underwritten and thus completed. While sometimes emotional to watch, each of us needs this kind of feedback as good sort of validation. However, it was my wife and family that were most affected by what I showed them. But I'd like to see this film completed more for those out there who were

never touched by the shadow of those Huey blades. This film will tell them our story like none other that I have seen.

Walker A. Jones  
2206 Treasure Hills #2  
Harlingen, TX 78550  
956-412-1545  
[walkerjones@earthlink.net](mailto:walkerjones@earthlink.net)  
C-1/9<sup>th</sup>, '70-71; OH-6As & AH-1Gs

Walker, Well said.

BWS

-----  
-----  
**A Baptism by Fire for Modern Army Aviation**  
**"Lam Son 719, January-March 1971: "**

Thirty years ago, the US Army was nearing the end of an invasion of Laos, called Operation Dewey Canyon II by the US forces and Lam Son 719 by the US allies--soldiers and Marines of the Republic of Vietnam (RVN). Lam Son 719, as most people refer to it, was a major milestone in developing Army Aviation. The operation began with a buildup in January and lasted formally into early April, although the bulk of the operation ended by 20 March. During Lam Son 719 some 650 Army helicopters transported (ARVN) troops into Laos, gave them covering fire, and evacuated casualties. Several things remain with us today from that operation. One is veterans and their memories—often, of great bravery and commitment to the mission and fellow soldiers that would be extraordinary in some times but, because of the demands of the moment, was routine. Another is an almost-completely-reshaped doctrine, training, and Aviation systems. Last but certainly not least is the tradition of adherence to the Army Values, coupled with the central focus of support to the soldier on the ground, that give meaning to the Branch motto, 'Above the Best.'

As with many of the major events in Army Aviation history, many of those who participated are still among us. Almost all still living carry memories and lessons drawn from often-bitter experience. In many cases, veterans of Lam Son 719 are still actively

using their experience to prepare Aviation soldiers for the future they may have to face in combat one day. What particularly distinguished Lam Son 719 from prior experiences for Army aviators was the wholesale, very personal and repeated encounter with very dense, highly-integrated air defenses. Not since the US Air Force (USAF) split off as a separate service in 1947 had Army aviators had that kind of experience. The experience was doubly impressive to many of those who went through it, because they had been flying relatively routine missions within Vietnam under radically different conditions of enemy, terrain, climate, and availability of logistical support. To try to preserve the element of surprise, planning information was tightly restricted. At the company level, usually only the commander and the operations officer even knew where they were going before the operation began, let alone what the overall mission and other factors were. Among those briefed in the planning phase, the reaction to the intelligence estimates of enemy troop strength drew a measure of disbelief. Among those was Colonel Richard M. Johnson, who only recently retired as the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization (DES) after serving as Commandant of the Total Warrant Officer Career Center (WOCC). At the beginning of Lam Son 719, then-23-year-old Captain Richard M. Johnson, Operations Officer of the 173d Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) Robin Hoods, simply could not take seriously an estimate of 36,000 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) air defenders alone. Only after crossing the Laotian border and encountering flak that looked like what he had seen in old World War II movies of bombers flying over Europe did Johnson say to himself, "So this is what war is really like." For Johnson and all others, the reality of war impressed itself ever more strongly through the remaining days of

the operation. It remains vivid to many yet today. The difficulty and brutality of the early days made almost everyone look forward to the extraction of the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) troops to end the operation. They had no idea that the extractions would be even worse than the insertions.

From the very first day, conditions called for intense commitment and sometimes-extreme measures—including deliberate self-sacrifice. Stories of heroism are abundant. There were difficult moments when some aviators, confronting the grimmest realities of their profession, balked at returning to Laos for a second day. A very few simply refused, had their wings taken away from them, and were quickly sent away. A very few, while not refusing to fly their missions, flinched and became combat-ineffective. All the rest carried on, doing the job as required, because they realized that, if they failed to take their turn, everyone else in the unit would have to make that many more trips to do the job. Loyalty to each other and the mission kept people going back. The brotherhood of soldiers in combat made many risk and sometimes suffer serious injury and death to help one another. On 18 February 1971 First Lieutenant Gary Green, A Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (101AB), saved the lives of two helicopter crewmen when their gunship was shot down on an armed reconnaissance mission over Laos. Green landed his AH-1 Cobra in the midst of heavy ground fire, ran to the downed helicopter, and pulled out the two wounded soldiers. After placing them on his Cobra's rocket pods, Green opened fire at North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers who had advanced to within 15 meters of his helicopter. For his actions, Green received the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC). Others were less lucky. One was Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Harold Smith, a UH-1 Iroquois ["Huey"] pilot in the A Company, 158th Aviation Battalion, GhostRiders. On 19 March, taking direction from a command and control (C2) aircraft above, Smith jockeyed his aircraft over a hover hole trying to rescue the crew of a Huey gunship that had been shot down earlier. Instead of the downed crew, the hover hole contained a .51 caliber VNA antiaircraft gun. A round came

up through Smith's seat and spine, and out his shoulder. Someone yelled, "Someone help Mr. Smith," and the copilot recovered the badly-damaged aircraft enough to get about a mile away before crashing. True to form, other Army aircrews came in to rescue Smith and his crew. Today, Harold Smith looks back with pride on serving his country and his fellow soldiers, even as he spends his days in a wheel chair. Some paid the ultimate price. On 18 March, "Music One Six" was leading an attack helicopter section from "D" Company, 101st Aviation Battalion, helping extract the 88 survivors of the 420-man 4/1 Battalion of the 1st Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). The survivors--61 of them wounded and nearly all out of ammunition--were surrounded in a bomb crater near the Xe Pon River. Enemy loudspeakers called for the survivors to surrender. To prevent the enemy from overrunning the 4/1's final positions, the US Air Force ran 68 airstrikes. The AH-1 Cobras repeatedly refueled, rearmed, returned, and expended their ammunition on the enemy. The last smoke grenade to mark the friendly position was long gone. Dust and debris completely obscured the site from the air when the rescue lift ships, led by CPT Rich Johnson, arrived. "Music One Six" knew exactly where the survivors were. With all ammunition gone and certain that all enemy guns would concentrate on his gunship, "Music One Six" called Johnson to follow him onto the friendlies. On final approach, intense fire set the Cobra ablaze and knocked out its hydraulics. "Music One Six" calmly gave a final vector to the surviving ARVNs and said, "I'm going to try to make it to the river." As his gunship turned toward the river and went down, he called, "Give my love to my wife and family." The helicopter crashed and exploded. Everyone knew they had witnessed an act of unparalleled courage and devotion to duty--but nobody even knew the name of "Music One Six". There was no time for reflection. Johnson dropped into the debris. Twenty-four survivors scrambled into or clung onto his UH-1 Iroquois ["Huey"]. He landed back in Vietnam with 21--three kicked off in flight to keep the aircraft from crashing. On 18 July 1990 "Music One Six"--Captain Keith Brandt (age 31 at death)--and his copilot, First Lieutenant Alan Boffman (age 24 at death),

landed at Travis AFB en-route home to Arlington Cemetery.

Lam Son 719 reshaped Army aviation, its doctrine, training and materiel. Even before the operation formally ended, people were analyzing the lessons. On one hand, the ability to insert, support, and extract the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) forces under the extremely difficult conditions confirmed the concept of air assault/airmobility. As a number of pioneers of Army Aviation had said following World War II, the helicopter meant there would never again be 'a bridge too far'--referring to the disastrous experience of the 82d Airborne Division (82AB), parachuted behind German lines in 1944 only to be trapped and almost crushed when the relieving ground forces failed to break through. The experience of 'mid-intensity conflict'--resembling what might occur on the battlefields of Central Europe if the Soviet bloc attacked the West--caused almost immediate realization that Aviation had to change. To be visible to the enemy was to die. A whole new set of tactics arose that emphasized low-level flying to use the terrain for cover and concealment. If low-level flight hugging the terrain was good, low level at night was even better. Out of these adjustments came a new generation of aircraft, designed to operate in these harsher conditions and with greater survivability--AH-64 Apache and UH-60 Blackhawk. To meet the special needs of airmen at night, a separate system of night vision goggles (NVG) developed. Training changed to emphasize the necessary skills. The first real test of these changes came in Operation Just Cause, Panama, in 1989. The results led Chief of Staff of the Army Carl E. Vuono to proclaim, 'We own the night.' During the 20th anniversary of Lam Son 719 Army Aviation showed that again with much more media recognition during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm (ODS).

Today's Army Aviation soldiers carry on the tradition of those who flew and fought in Lam Son 719. For the most part, today's soldiers are unaware that the doctrine, training and material that will let them fight, win, and survive exists in large part because of the bitter experiences in those first few months of 1971. As with "Music One Six," we may not even know the names, but we should surely recognize that we have witnessed and benefited from greatness.

Dr. Jim Williams  
Aviation Branch Historian  
15 March 2000

---

---

**No man stands the test of time more  
honorably than an Air Cav Trooper!**

BWS

---

---

Atlanta Journal and Constitution  
May 24, 2001

**SERVING WITH HONOR, COURAGE**

I recall TV reports of fellow soldiers arriving at an airport, survivors of the Vietnam gauntlet, relieved at their first step on home ground. Their grins morphed to astonishment as protesters threw packets of animal blood at them, shouting "Baby killers!" Welcome home.

Joseph Galloway, senior writer for US News & World Report, would differ with the protesters. Unlike more sensible journalists reporting on the war from relative comfort and safety, Joe preferred working close up, hot, tired, hungry, scared, dirty and bloodied with the men he wrote about. Joe coned his way into hot spots such as the 1965 battle of the Ia Drang Valley, aka The Valley of Death, where 450 of our men were surrounded by 2,000 well-armed NVA enemy. Over four days, 234 young Americans died as each side chopped the other to pieces. In that battle Joe set camera aside to charge with a medic through enemy fire in a desperate attempt to help an injured soldier. The medic was killed, the soldier later died, and Joe

Galloway was awarded the Bronze Star with V (valor), the first civilian ever to be decorated for valor in combat by the U.S. Army. Consider his remarks at the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association banquet last July.

"What I want to say now is just between us, because America still doesn't get it, still doesn't know the truth, and the truth is --- you are the cream of the crop of our generation, the best and finest of an entire generation."

"You are the ones who answered when you were called to serve. You are the ones who

fought bravely and endured a terrible war in a terrible place. You are the ones for whom the words duty, honor, country have real meaning because you have lived those words and the meaning behind those words."

"You are my brothers in arms, and I am not ashamed to say that I love you. I would not trade one of you for a whole train load of instant Canadians, or a whole boatload of Rhodes Scholars bound for England, or a whole campus full of guys who turned up for their draft physicals wearing panty hose."

"On behalf of a country that too easily forgets the true cost of war, and who pays that price, I say thank you for your service. On behalf of the people of our country who didn't have sense enough to separate the war they hated from the young warriors they sent to fight that war, I say we are sorry. We owe you all a very large apology, and a debt of gratitude that we can never adequately repay."

Joe talked about how his friend Mike Norman, who searched out the survivors of his platoon and wrote "These Good Men," explained why we veterans sometimes gather.

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity."

"I did not pick these men," Joe quoted Norman. "They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life."

"I am sure that when I leave this world my last thought will be of my family and my comrades, such good men."

In closing, Joe said, "I salute you. I remember you. I will teach my sons the stories and legends about you . . . ."

The media forget that Washington botched the war, but repeat their portrayal of veterans as fragile, crazed or trigger-happy. It's about time America learned what Joe knows, that we are normal, patriotic citizens, proud of having served with honor and courage. Here's to the memory of every one of our brothers who paid the ultimate



price --- for his country, for those who sent him to that miserable war while they enjoyed the comforts of home, for those who dodged, even for those who insulted our service.

We remember each one, such good men.

By Terry L. Garlock

Terry L. Garlock, is a certified financial planner and certified senior advisor, lives in Peachtree City. For service in Vietnam he received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Distinguished Flying Cross.

BWS

-----  
-----

### **The Buffalo Soldiers**

This story about the Buffalo Soldiers, was written by Lionel DeLa Rosa primarily, with the hope that more 1/9 troopers will step forward with stories of their own

The Buffalo Soldiers project is still on going. At present he is trying to get government and Private grants. Lionel says, "I may be an amateur with grants and funds raising, but damn if I am going to let that stop me".

Lionel DeLa Rosa served with the Buffalo Soldiers 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters and the Air Medal with three silver clusters, the Army Commendation Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge. He heads the Buffalo Soldiers Monument Inc., a not-for-profit group raising funds for a marker in Phoenix to commemorate the Buffalo Soldiers and Cpt. Isaiah Mays.

BWS

### **Buffalo Soldiers Served with Honor**

They were called "brunettes" or "hokes" by their White counterparts after the Civil War.

But by the time these Black Army troops arrived in Arizona in the 1880's, they were well known as the Buffalo Soldiers.

Before they were finished here, they would engage in some of their greatest exploits and produce at least one Medal of Honor winner who

would reside in Arizona. Corporal Isaiah Mays earned a Medal of Honor on Feb. 18, 1890, Mays, shot in the legs, got help for wounded comrades.

The designation "Buffalo Soldiers" came from the Plains Indians, who are said to have thought the soldiers' hair resembled the coat of the buffalo. Since the buffalo was sacred to Native Americans, the name was seen as a term of respect, and it stuck with the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry troopers. Later, the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry units adopted the name. The regimental crest of the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry still bears the image of a buffalo.

The all-black military units came into being just after the Civil War when Congress established two cavalry regiments and four infantry regiments (later reduced to two) to be composed entirely of Black men. For the first time in U.S. history, Blacks would be allowed to serve in a peacetime Army. To the Black soldiers, however, peace would be an illusion.

From 1867 to 1898, the Buffalo Soldiers would serve in the Western frontier to fight the Native Americans who were fighting to take back the land that White settlers had taken from them. In the course of their history, the African-American troops also battled horse thieves, cattle rustlers, Mexican revolutionaries and bandits. They put down riots and settled strikes, chased train and stagecoach robbers, fought cattle barons, and later protected Indian land from land-grabbing homesteaders. They served from Texas to North Dakota and from Montana and Wyoming to New Mexico and Arizona.

The Southwest held some of the least desirable outposts in the West. The Apache tribes here, for example, had been waging anti-colonialist wars for 300 years and had become formidable opponents. The Buffalo Soldiers were dispatched to Arizona to attempt to implement the U.S. government's plan of placing the Indians on reservations at Fort Apache, San Carlos, White Mountain, Camp Grant and Camp Verde. An early battle was fought and won by Buffalo Soldiers in Arizona in 1885 against Apaches at the Dragoon Mountains. Other battle followed at Black River Mountain, Rincon Mountain and at Cedar Spring. The last known engagement by the Buffalo Soldiers in Arizona occurred near the mouth of Cherry Creek on the Salt River.

The troops were noted for their courage, discipline and low desertion rate, at a time when nearly 30 percent of the Army in the West was deserting. Problems with alcohol, common in White units, were nearly non-existent with the Buffalo Soldiers units, possibly because they were constantly in the field.

Discrimination figured into their operations. While danger lurked, the White settlers tolerated their presence. Once calm was established, the troops were unwelcome. Their numbers and their materials were less plenty than among White troops. Black soldiers were provided with old horses and inadequate supplies of ammunition and equipment.

During and after the wars to remove the Native Americans, the Buffalo Soldiers provided other forms of security. It was in one such operation that future Arizona resident Corporal Isaiah Mays earned a Medal of Honor

A former slave, Mays was assigned to Company C of the Buffalo Soldiers, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiment. On Feb. 18, 1890, Mays was part of an escort of two non-commissioned officers and nine privates escorting Maj. Joseph W. Wham, and Army paymaster. The group was transporting a payroll of more than \$28,000 from Fort Grant to Fort Thomas and was ambushed by a dozen or more outlaws. A fight ensued and continued for about 30 minutes. Several troopers were wounded.

Mays was positioned near the wagon and returned fire. He crept under the wagon and continued firing. Eight of the soldiers were wounded and ultimately lost the payroll to the bandits. Knowing that most of the soldiers were disabled, Mays, who had been shot in both legs, took it upon himself to crawl and walk two miles to a ranch and seek help. Mays and Sgt. Benjamin Brown, who also was shot twice during the confrontation, were each awarded the Medal of Honor for their part of the fight.

**The Medal**

The president, in the name of Congress, awards the Medal of Honor to members of the U.S. armed forces who perform their duties with extreme bravery. The full-text citation for the Medal of Honor issued to Corporal Isaiah Mays reads:

Rank and organization: Corporal, Company B, 24<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry. Place and date: Arizona,

11 May 1889. Entered service at: Columbus Barracks, Ohio. Born: 16 February 1858, Carters Bridge, Va. Date of Issue: 19 February 1890. Citation: Gallantry in the fight between Paymaster Wham's escort and robbers. Mays walked and crawled 2 miles to a ranch for help.

Very few Black soldiers were awarded the medal at that time. The Buffalo Soldiers, who spent 30 years in the Western frontier in some of its most dangerous areas, were awarded a total of 18 Medals of Honor during the entire era. In contrast, 20 of the White soldiers who participated in the Wounded Knee massacre alone were awarded the Medal of Honor.

Mays was discharged in 1893 after a confrontation with an Army officer. He worked as a laborer in Arizona, where he settled, and in New Mexico. In 1922, Mays, with the help of Congressman Carl Hayden, tried unsuccessfully to obtain a pension. He died May 2, 1925, and was buried as an indigent person in the Arizona State Hospital Cemetery in Phoenix. His grave marker is on permanent view at the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center in Phoenix, along with other artifacts of African-American history.

By Lionel DeLa Rosa

-----  
-----  
**Honesty is not something you should flirt with - You should be married to it.**

**BWS**

-----  
-----  
**MY MONTH WITH THE MILITARY**

It wasn't a good way to start a Sunday morning or a holiday season. My bedside phone rang at 1:45 a.m. on December 10, and I awoke to the voice of a young Marine captain telling me that my 18-year-old son, a Marine recruit in San Diego, was in intensive care at the Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital. A few hours later, I was on a plane. Over the next month, I got to see the U.S. military, up close and personal. I lived on base among the Marines, and I spent countless hours with the Navy personnel at the hospital. The experience taught me much about today's

U.S. military, as an institution, and more about the young men and women who make it breathe.

You cannot spend time on a base and not be overwhelmed by how utterly young our military is. Even those in the upper ranks and the "seasoned" noncommissioned officers (NCOs) are, for the most part, twenty and thirty something. As I traveled around the camp, the Marines' penchant for physical fitness was obvious. At the crack of dawn, it seemed that every platoon was either jogging or marching in cadence. By evening, there would be pickup basketball and flag football games breaking out around the base. Calorie burning, it seems, is a sacred ritual in the Marines. Another noticeable trait in this "young nation" within the military is their politeness and respect. If I sought assistance (be it directions or information), I was accorded not only a high degree of civility, but also the utmost in personal attention to ensure that my needs were met.

Manners, hospitality and respect are obviously elements instilled in today's enlistees, certainly so in the Marine Corps. The stories about the Spartan life and stern training in Marine boot camp are not exaggerations. But the story seldom told publicly is the strong feeling of personal responsibility that Marine Corps officers and NCOs have for those in their charge. The same young captain who called to inform me of my son's serious condition met me at the airport. He had reserved a car and found a place for me to stay at Camp Pendleton before my plane landed. He took me straight to my son and remained with us until late that night. When I told him earlier in the evening that he should go home to his wife and young child, he replied, "Your son is my responsibility, sir."

As my son went through four surgeries, the senior drill instructor for his platoon spent countless hours with us. In those tough first days, he stood at my son's door like a centurion standing guard, a look of genuine concern on his face. Other officers and NCOs from my son's battalion came by to check on him, encourage him, and let him know he was not forgotten. So, too, with the young Navy medical personnel who not only were expert caregivers but also showed constant concern for the person, not just the condition. As fate would have it, my son was leaving San Diego for a 30-day convalescent

leave on the same day his training company was graduating.

We went to the ceremonies that morning and watched 400 young men do what my son would not now be able to do: become an official member of the U.S. Marine Corps. When the ceremonies were over and mothers had finished hugging their new Marines, I watched my son limp with his heavy splints down to the parade deck and shake hands with the members of his platoon, telling them, "Congratulations, Marine!" He entered boot camp unsure and apprehensive, but he left exhibiting class and confidence. Thank the Marines for that.

My own 30 days "in the Marines" has made me proud of those who serve, appreciative of those who lead, and much more confident about our younger generation.

Dan Juneau  
President  
Louisiana Association of Business & Industry

-----  
-----

### **Open Letter to Our Proud Army**

(Editor's note: The following letter was written by Krista Kelly McNeill, 16, and sent to her brother's battalion commander as an open letter to the Army. Krista was the youngest sister of Spc. Michael J. McNeill of the 317th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized). Following a rotation at the National Training Center in the California desert, McNeill was preparing vehicles for rail load back to Fort Benning, Ga., when he was struck by a car.)

### **Tragedy changes opinion of Army**

It is amazing how a person's life can change in a matter of minutes. It is amazing how one incident can change your views forever.

In my case it was a death in the family. I lost my brother, Spc. Michael James (Hogue) McNeill on May 12, 2000. This incident has changed my feelings about the military and military life, forever.

I remember the day my brother got hurt very clearly. It was May 5. I returned home from school to see my father walking out the door with

a suitcase in one hand and a plane ticket confirmation in the other. I was informed that my brother had been struck by a car, going full speed, while he was crossing a street on foot with two of his Army buddies. He was not expected to make it through the night.

My father left immediately. That is where it all began. From the minute my father and brother's wife arrived, they were treated like royalty.

The Army was right there by their side, no matter what they needed. The Army provided them with a place to stay, transportation and what was needed most of all: a shoulder to cry on.

Before this point, I never thought of military people as being compassionate and caring. But as I came to learn as things went on, they are more caring, understanding and compassionate than most civilian people.

A week passed, and suddenly, on May 12, my brother breathed his last breath. He had passed away. At this point, I thought that the Army would no longer be helpful or cooperative with my family. I figured they would think that since my brother had passed away, that there was no more use in trying to please anyone. I figured they would try to save money any way they could. But, as I later learned, this was not the case at all.

They helped my family return home and made them as comfortable as possible right up until the end. I would have thought that the military would think about nothing other than their own wants and needs, but once again, they proved me wrong.

Apparently, they put my brother on full retirement with total disability before he died so that his beautiful wife and their soon expected child would be taken care of. This touched me deeply.

The thing that touched me the most was my brother's funeral itself. The military paid for almost all of the expenses and helped a great deal with the planning of the services. The day of the funeral is imbedded so deeply in my heart. It was May 19 to be exact.

Everyone gathered at the funeral home to pay their last respects to my brother. Michael's body was soon being loaded into the hearse and proceeded, followed by many cars, to the Lakeview Cemetery.

As I followed the hearse, we entered the cemetery to see a lone man, in uniform, holding a bugle under his arm. With great discipline and ceremony, he saluted the hearse as it went by and turned, with the hearse, 180 degrees as it proceeded to the burial site.

At the burial site, the preacher said a few more words, and a silence fell all about. After the passage of a few moments, seven soldiers in uniform with rifles shouldered came marching in perfect synchronization and stopped a short distance away. They raised their rifles and each of them fired three shots into the air with the sound of each shot piercing my heart, bringing out all the love and respect that was felt for my brother. Once again, silence fell about. Then off in the distance was heard a beautiful noise, rolling off the end of the young man's bugle. Each note slowly tearing away at me, making it easier to let go. Each note bringing the remembrance of my brother and how he served his country, his family, his God.

Intense is the only word to describe those few minutes of pain, remembrance and love that came with the playing of Taps. The playing stopped. Then the six soldiers, unarmed, came marching in unison without a single misstep up to my brother's casket. Perfectionists, they were, folding the flag ever so carefully that had once lain upon my brother's casket, making sure not so much as a thread ever touched the ground. A single Soldier marched up to my brother's wife, Jenna, and placed the flag upon her lap, presenting it to her on behalf of the president of the United States,

and with great reverence and respect, he stood in a final salute to her. But then, something very unusual happened. As with Jenna, a single Soldier approached my brother's mother and my father and presented them with flags also, ones that were already neatly folded and placed in fine wooden boxes, decorated with the United States Seal and containing all of Michael's ribbons.

These did not come from the government's money. These came from the pockets of the men who served with my brother in his battalion. Knowing of Mike's beginnings and the strange turns his life had taken wherein he had two families, containing eight sisters, all of whom he loved dearly, they had raised the money to purchase these for his parents. This showed me

that the military is one big family. In the military, whether you like the people you are around or not, you do everything in your power to protect one another and their loved ones. What an honor I found this to be, to have been a part of Michael's life, someone who had served his country so diligently.

This event has changed my life and touched my heart forever. I have grown a deep love for the military and those who are a part of it. I realized that they are there to help me. The military is one big family that I may hope some day to be a part of. I hope to one day walk in Michael's footsteps, my father's only son, on a path also taken by Mike's father and his father before him. My respect and admiration for the military has grown immensely.

**I want to say thanks to all of the people who have helped me, protected me and loved me enough to go to war for me, and a special thanks to the men who have helped my brother's memory live on. This is for you.**

Krista Kelly McNeill  
Johnson City, Ill.

May God be with you in your time of sorrow.

BWS

-----  
**Letters To The Editor**

We have several letters for this newsletter and also several e-mails. These are from our troopers who have a desire to add to the Association and be a part or our "keeping in touch" philosophy.

Our first letter is from our own Ernie Cairns.

Enjoy.  
BWS

-----  
Loel

When I received my News Letter and finished thumbing through it (a pleasant surprise!) I SAW ME! US! Thank you very much for putting the picture of us in there. Once again I don't have any words; except "THANK YOU!" We had A

very good time at the reunion. Like you told me beforehand. A lot of unanswered questions got answered. I never learned too socialize when younger. As a child I was to be seen and not heard. And my PDS doesn't help when I am in large groups of people. But, EVERY ONE WAS LIKE YOU SAID THEY WOULD BE, "A FRIEND" that you haven't seen in years or family. My family doesn't have much to do with me. All of you are now my true family! The doctors found out the intercage function did not fasten down in my back (it was too heal like a broken bone) so on Feb the 22nd they had to go in and fuse the bones again. The Docs had to put a lot of metal in there and do some more bone graft. They also checked to insure there were no more peaces of broken bone. So that means the nerve damage is permanent. I just have to live with it. The force of slamming up against that Viet Cong bunker is why the bones broke and did what they did. That is why I was having so much trouble. I gave you my word before We left that if I found out I would let you know. It's news letter time so here is \$30 to pay for someone you know that can't afford their dues. You know what too do, OK? It'll be in the mail.

Gary Davis

Gary, hope the back is doing OK now. The \$ will be put in the fund to pay for those who can't. Thank you and God Bless..

Loel

-----  
Dear Loel:

Sorry I'm a bit tardy with my dues, thanks for the reminder.

Although my wife and I have never attended a function with the Squadron or Division, I think its time we looked into doing so.

I ran into a guy who was in another troop about the same time I was with C troop, and it was quite sobering to hear him talk about similar circumstances that I had experienced.

Maybe after 35 years its time to meet some of the guys.

Sincerely  
Ernie Cairns

Baltimore, MD

Ernie

It is never to late, we are all brothers. Hope to see you at the BWS 2002 reunion. We had over 300 troopers and guest at the 2000 reunion.

BWS

Hi Loel:

Just got home. Been in N.Y. for 2 months. My Dad died and I was with him. Then settled his estate and moved my Mother north with me. She's now part of my squad so I can look out for her.

John Wallace  
Limestone, ME  
B troop Blues 32

John

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

BWS

AL

Well its 8.29 AM and we just finished talking and after I had Dominic's name spelled wrong I hope the way I have it now, is right . I'm sending you these two guys names: Bob Hraban, Lincoln, NE, he was there from Feb or March of 69 to July or Aug 70 and extended for an early out. Howard Clumpner, Manolia, IL, he was there June 69 to Aug 70 and also extended.

God bless you Al, like Proverbs 18:24 says about a brother. There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother or a true friend thanks you for understanding and being a friend. I spend 10 to 12 hours a day by myself and it's a good feeling to know a person is just an E-mail or phone call away from people that care.

Gary Davis  
Topeka, KS

Garry

You are always with us in spirit and as a brother.

BWS

Dear Loel:

A friend in my hometown sent these clippings to me recently. I send to you for whatever you can use them for. Nevins is from my hometown. Wonder how many 1/9 troopers are from the same hometown?

Keep up the good work!

Best Regards,  
Craig Leyda  
1/9 66-67

All

The article he is speaking about goes into detail of Col. Robert Nevins, Jr being inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame in 1977, one of two Ottumwans to earn the honor.

Well done COL Nevins!

BWS

To my retiree friends.

While my wife was renewing her ID card, the young lady said she would also update my DEERS data to show my Medicare part B information so that I would be eligible for Tricare for life in October. I asked if this is something that one can do by phone and she said no, that it must be done at a military installation.

Being the skeptic that I am, I called DEERS when I got home and she is correct. The person updating the database must see the Medicare card to ascertain that you have part B. This information will be forthcoming and some Pass and ID sections don't have the capability yet.

I pass this on so that you can beat the rush next time you are at a base or post.

Jim Wood

Thanks Jim. Information well received.

BWS

Hi Loel

Just checking in to say you guys at 1<sup>st</sup>/9th BWS Assoc. are doing a fine job for us. keep up the good work. Say hi to Al and Titch for me.

Mike Kelley; C-1-9 Weapons-Scouts 65-66.

Troopers

All of us appreciate your compliments and we try hard to make the Association something for you to be proud of.

However, we do not do it alone. You are the ones who make BWS a success. Without you we would be an empty organization. Without you, we could not succeed.

We say "Thank You" to each of you for being part of us. You are in a large family, a family to be proud of.

May we always be an Association of principle, integrity and honor.

We Can, We Will, We Did!!!

BWS

Loel,

Hope all is well w/ you and your family.

Just as you original troopers were leaving A Troop a new Blue Platoon Ldr. came on board-2nd Lt Steve Featherston.He had a hard job and took to it right away-GOOD MAN. He was wounded 23 Sept 66-the night we were mortored at Hammond-same night that Chuck Wingate was hurt.

I found Steve, emailed him and he would be proud to be a member of The Bullwhip Association. Definitely an asset!

Steve Featherston  
3805 Toronto Rd  
Cameron, CA 95682

Thanks Loel, John R Nielsen

John, Thank you! Another member found!

BWS

Troopers, that is all the mail for this newsletter. Get your e-mails and letters in for the next newsletter.

BWS

### Sick Call

Our troopers need our thoughts and concerns through their illness.

Jim Goldsberry  
Michael L. Bogdue  
Dave DeSloover  
Jack Kilcrease  
Gary Davis  
James Conner

With Gods help, may you have a full and speedy recovery. Our prayers are with you.

Nan Nave, the wife of a former C Trp C.O., 65/66, Major Billy Joe Nave (killed in a midair at Bong Son) passed away during June.

Fiddlers Green has become the welcome place for our troopers and their ladies.

Note to all. James Conner has had an especially hard time and would appreciate a letter or card. You can write him at;

James Conner  
1304 15<sup>th</sup> Av.  
Decatur, AL 35601-4321

BWS

### Health

As troopers age, we began to think about our health and what we need to do to stay as healthy as possible. Our occupation is not the most healthy. It always helps to know just what is causing our problems.

BWS

## A Victory for Vietnam Veterans

An important Federal District Court decision that may affect many Vietnam veterans has just been made. Essentially, it says the VA violated an agreement by (1) refusing to pay retroactive disability and death benefits to Vietnam veterans and their survivors and (2) by refusing to pay the estates of deceased Vietnam veterans the retroactive benefits due them while they were living.

If you are a Vietnam veteran with one of the presumptive Agent Orange-related diseases or the survivor of a Vietnam vet who died of one of the presumptive diseases listed below, you may be entitled to additional benefits from the VA.

To briefly summarize this complex case:

The Veterans Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act of 1984 (the Dioxin Act) was intended to ensure that disability compensation be provided to veterans for all disabilities arising [after service in Vietnam] that are connected, based on sound scientific and medical evidence, to such service. VA regulations were revised in 1985 to state that any Vietnam veteran was presumed to have been exposed to a herbicide containing dioxin; but the VA recognized only chloracne as being presumptively service-connected.

In 1987, Beverly Nehmer, the Vietnam Veterans of America and nine Vietnam veterans or widows filed a federal class action suit against the VA for failure to comply with the law. They were represented pro bono (for free) by lawyers from the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP). In 1989, the court invalidated the VA's first regulation on dioxin exposure [38 CFR 311a(d)] and threw out all benefits decisions made under that regulation. This decision is called "Nehmer I." Diseases Listed

In 1991, plaintiffs and the VA agreed to a Final Stipulation and Order (Stip. & Order) to resolve pending issues. Under this agreement, the VA had to determine which diseases should be given presumptive service connection due to exposure to dioxin. The VA contracted with the National Academy of Sciences, which found that the following diseases could arise from exposure to dioxin: non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, soft-tissue sarcoma, Hodgkin's disease, prostate cancer,

multiple myeloma, cancer of the larynx, lung cancer, cancer of the bronchus and cancer of the trachea.

The last four cancers listed must develop to a 10 percent disability or more within 30 years of the veteran's departure from Vietnam in order to be service-connected. Chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda (a liver disease) and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy (non-cancer diseases) were also service-connected, but only if they developed to a 10 percent disability or more within one year of leaving Vietnam.

The Stip. & Order also required the VA to readjudicate denied claims that were filed after, or pending on, Sept. 24, 1985, and the effective date of any award was to be the date that claim was filed.

More litigation followed. In *Nehmer II*, decided in 1999, the plaintiffs returned to court, saying the VA violated the Stip. & Order by denying benefits retroactive to the date the claim was filed. The court rejected the VA's arguments, found it had used an "unlawfully restrictive test" and ordered the VA to change their procedure to conform to the Stip. & Order. The court also granted the plaintiffs the right to look for other veterans and survivors who had not been paid the appropriate amount of retroactive benefits because of the VA's "misinterpretation."

Court Raps VA. In 2000, the plaintiffs again returned to the court because the VA was again construing the Stip. & Order too narrowly. The court decided two issues.

First, using rather harsh language, the court found that the VA improperly denied retroactive benefits to class members (Vietnam veterans and their survivors) whose claims were based on prostate cancer. The plain meaning of the Stip. & Order was that whenever the VA service-connects a disease to dioxin, it must readjudicate all prior claims as long as they were filed after, or pending on, Sept. 24, 1985, and grant an effective date as of the date that claim was filed.

Second, the court found that the VA improperly denied benefits to the estates of some Vietnam veterans who died from presumptively service-connected diseases, and ordered the VA to pay compensation to the estates of class members who died after retroactive benefits began to accrue but before the VA made the payment.



The court also gave the plaintiffs the opportunity to find Vietnam veterans (or their survivors) who have not been paid the retroactive benefits owed to them by the VA.

**Class Members Identified.** Are you a class member who is owed additional retroactive benefits? You are if:

You are a Vietnam veteran and you filed a claim after, or had one pending on, Sept. 24, 1985, for one of the presumptively service-connected diseases listed above, but the VA has not paid you disability benefits retroactive to the date you filed this claim.

You are a survivor of a Vietnam veteran who died of any of the presumptive diseases, and you filed a claim after, or had one pending on, Sept. 24, 1985, but the VA has not paid you death benefits retroactive to the date you filed this claim.

If you are a class member, contact the NVLSP by writing (don't call) to:

NVLSP's Agent Orange Intake, Suite 610, 2001 S St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Or you can e-mail the NVLSP at [nvlsp@nvlsp.org](mailto:nvlsp@nvlsp.org). (John E. Howell, Stars and Stripes Veterans' Advocate

#### **Tricare Senior Pharmacy Program (TSRx)**

Simply put, if you have other health insurance that provides any pharmacy benefit, you are not eligible for TSRx.

Paid up pharmacy benefits mean that the other health insurance will not contribute 1 penny more towards your pharmacy benefit for the benefit year.

#### **Agent Orange**

In October 2000, the VA added Adult Onset Diabetes as an Agent Orange related disease for veterans who served in Vietnam. The following site is the Fact Sheet for Agent Orange, but the VA web site has several other related items. One reference says that even though a particular illness may not be listed, veterans should check with the VA for possible coverage. Please pass this along to friends who served in Vietnam and to military-related organizations to which you may belong.

#### **Hepatitis C Update**

A study directed by the Naval Medical Research Center in Silver Spring, MD and published in the American Journal of Epidemiology says military people have a three

to five times lower risk of contracting the Hepatitis C virus (HCV) as civilians. The study evaluated blood samples of 21,000 military personnel serving in 1997. It found that only .5 percent were infected with the hepatitis C virus, and men and women were infected at the same rate. Among adults in the general population, 3.7 percent of males and 1.6 percent of females are infected. Also, 7 percent of veterans are estimated to be infected with HCV. HCV screening is now being offered to military personnel older than age 34 and those separating or retiring from the military. The American Journal of Epidemiology is a journal published by <http://www.jhsph.edu/Publications/JEPI/> The John Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health.

#### **Hepatitis C**

For more info, the URL below is to the CDC site on Hepatitis C. They can cure about 2-3 out of 10 infected.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/resource/chronic.htm>

Hepatitis- Inflammation of the liver; usually from a viral infection, but sometimes from toxic agents.

Previously endemic throughout much of the developing world, viral hepatitis now ranks as a major public health problem in industrialized nations. The three most common types of **viral hepatitis/A, B, and C**/afflict over 500,000 people in the U.S. each year, and millions worldwide. Hepatitis B alone ranks as the ninth leading killer in the world. **Hepatitis A**, an RNA enterovirus, spread by contact with fecal matter or blood, most often through ingestion of contaminated food. Rarely fatal, it cannot be treated except by bed rest for 1/4 weeks, during which time no alcohol should be consumed. It may recur after 3 months. **Hepatitis B** is shed through blood, semen, vaginal secretions, and saliva approximately 4/6 weeks after symptoms develop; the virus may take up to 6 months to incubate, and people may also become asymptomatic carriers. Hepatitis B may heal slowly, and is a leading cause of chronic liver disease and cirrhosis. Effective vaccines exist, but it is the fastest spreading form of the disease in the U.S., with some 300,000 cases reported annually. Rates were up 80% from 1981/1986 among IV drug users and up 38% during the

same period among heterosexuals; among homosexuals, previously a high-risk group, rates held stable. **Hepatitis C**, infecting about 150,000 Americans annually, remains in the blood for years and accounts for a large percentage of cirrhosis, liver failure, and liver cancer cases. Its main mode of transmission is through blood transfusion, and possibly sexual intercourse. Types D and E are less frequently seen in the U.S.

### **HCV – Hepatitis C.**

HCV is the blood virus that “could have been contracted” in Vietnam (if you were wounded and received a transfusion of infected blood, or at any time before 1992) ---- AND [pay attention here] it would have sat dormant in your system.

HCV has a 20 to 30 YEAR INCUBATION PERIOD which means, if it was in your system, that it’s just begun to destroy your liver. There is no 100% cure but there is a V.A. program that (I believe) offers medication to slow down the damage it causes and the latest medicine does have a low cure rate.

As already stated in the bulletin, if you were wounded and received blood – GET AN HCV EXAMINATION “NOW”!

This morning, I was reading an article in U.S. NEWS magazine. The article reads – “Blood, sweat, serious fears Hepatitis C puts rescue workers’ lives at risk and under scrutiny.” It relates the story of a paramedic with the Philadelphia Fire Dept. who contracted HCV (presumably from coming into routine blood contact with infected persons). Knowing that some of you are firefighters or know someone who is in the people helping business, I thought it important to relay just this one quote from the story: “For firefighters, protection entails cultural changes – like not washing work clothes at home, where their kids’ sweat pants just might be in the same load..”

This, HCV, is a very serious threat to you and those you love. Think about it...if you are infected and cut yourself, you can conceivably infect your family (and professionals are leery of washing bloodied clothes in with their general laundry).

The V.A. will give you a free HCV test or, your own doctor can draw the blood and send it for HCV testing.

My first thinking is that guys in the Perimeter would pretty much roll the dice and say “if it’s incurable and I’m infected, I don’t want to know”. But the table’s turned now, because “if” you’re infected, you run the risk of infecting those around you.

Weigh the circumstances here...the inconvenience of a doctor’s appointment...or the “family” assurance?

**Note:** The medical profession is making large strides on curing this form of hepatitis. If you fall in the above category, get tested. I did and fortunately was negative. Peace of mind goes a long way. BWS

### **House Expands Health, Insurance Coverage for Surviving Dependents**

A House Committee on Veterans Affairs press release reports that the House of Representatives passed a “family-friendly” benefits bill expanding health and insurance coverage for surviving dependents of veterans and service members. The bill (amended H.R. 801) is now on its way to the White House for the President’s signature. It would (1) expand health coverage under the Civilian Health and Medical Program-Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) for survivors of veterans who died from a service-connected disability. Under this measure, CHAMPVA beneficiaries who are Medicare-eligible would receive coverage similar to “TRICARE for Life” improvements Congress gave to Department of Defense beneficiaries last year; (2) expand the Service members Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program to include spouses and children. Spousal coverage could not exceed \$100,000 and child coverage could not exceed \$10,000. Upon termination of SGLI, the spouse’s policy could be converted to a private life insurance policy; (3) make the effective date of increased maximum SGLI coverage from \$200,000 to \$250,000 retroactive to October 1, 2000 to provide increased benefits to survivors of service members who died in recent training accidents or acts of terrorism while on duty; and (4) require the VA to make eligible dependents aware of VA services through the media and other outreach efforts.

### **Five Steps to Safer Healthcare**

Patient safety is one of the Nation’s most pressing health care challenges. A recent report by the Institute of Medicine estimates that as

many as 44,000 to 98,000 people die in U.S. hospitals each year as the result of lapses in patient safety. According to a TRICARE fact sheet, here are five things that you, the consumer, can do to get safer health care: (1) Ask questions; (2) Know your medications; (3) Understand tests and procedures; (4) Discuss your choices; and (5) Understand your surgery. For more information on these five steps, visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tma/safety.htm>.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Surgeon General has an interactive "Prescription for Health" at <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/SGScripts/prescription.cfm>. The interactive prescription allows Web site visitors to choose up to four recommendations for good health and receive selected Web resources to support behavior change.

### **More Veterans Can Take Advantage of VA HealthCare**

Article taken from January 2001 issue of National Veterans News Network

It is important for veterans to know that in 1996, eligibility for veteran's health care benefits was expanded. With the passage of the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996, all veterans can use VA medical care – and, unfortunately, a majority of Veterans are still unaware of this fact.

Prior to the passage of this bill, most veterans eligible to use the VA had service-connected disabilities. It is estimated that only 10% of the more than 289,000 Veterans eligible in the San Diego area (for example) are currently using VA health care. But now even non-disabled Veterans are eligible. People often think of a Veteran as someone who served in a war, but actually everyone who served at least a 24 month tour and received an honorable discharge can get medical care.

The Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act also put in place a new enrollment system to manage the VA health care services. Veterans must apply for enrollment to receive care by filling out a 10-10 EZ form. The form can be found on the internet at: "[www.va.gov/health/elig](http://www.va.gov/health/elig)" or at any VA facility. Veterans who are interested in this service should take their discharge papers (DD – 214) to their nearest VA office to receive a medical card.

Once the Veteran is enrolled, the VA establishes his or her priority, based on the percentage of disability and income. If a veteran earns less than \$22,351, he or she qualifies for free care. Veterans exceeding that amount make co-payments for care, based on their income.

You can also call 1-800-827-1000 to have your call routed to the nearest VA regional office. By Congressman Bob Filner

-----  
-----  
**Pity the man that believes in communism. He believes in something that does not believe in him.**

Fred McAlister

### **Recipe Corner**

As you will notice, almost all of our recipes are from the south. OK troopers, lets hear from the rest of the country. Send in your best.

We start out with an old fashion southern favorite. Try these recipes and give your taste buds a treat.

#### **Crab Mold**

- 
- 1 can crabmeat
  - 1 can mushroom soup
  - 1 8-ounce package cream cheese
  - 1 package unflavored gelatin
  - ¾ cup celery, finely chopped
  - ¾ cup green onions, finely chopped
  - 1 cup salad dressing (mayo)

Heat soup on low heat and blend in cream cheese until smooth. Add ¼ cup cold water to gelatin and blend. Add crab and mayo and stir until well blended. Add remaining ingredients and pour into mold. Refrigerate until set, about 4 hours and serve with crackers as an appetizer.

#### **Broccoli Salad**

- 
- 1 large bunch broccoli
  - 1 cup golden raisins
  - ¼ cup red onion (chopped)
  - ½ cup bacon bits
- Combine these in a bowl

Dressing:

- ½ cup salad dressing (mayo)
- 3 to 4 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon vinegar

Mix well and pour over salad and mix.

-----  
**Easy Chicken Bake**

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 13-ounce can mushrooms
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- ¼ cup white wine
- 1 box Stove Top Stuffing, chicken flavored

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In mixing bowl, combine stuffing, ¼ cup butter or margarine, and ½ cups water. Stir until just moistened; set aside. In another bowl mix soup, mushrooms, wine and sour cream. Lay chicken breasts in 9'' by 13'' baking dish. Pour soup mixture over the top of them and top that with stuffing. Wrap tightly with foil and bake for one hour. About 7 to 10 minutes before done, remove foil to brown the top.

-----  
**Carrot Cake**

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 ¼ cups oil (or applesauce)
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- Beat the above together and add:
- 2 ¼ cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 cups shredded carrots
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 2 ½ teaspoons apple pie spice  
(or 2 teaspoons cinnamon, ¼ nutmeg & ¼ allspice)
- 8-ounce can crushed pineapple
- 1 cup raisins (optional)

Mix well and pour into un-greased pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes.  
-----

**How to Preserve a Husband**

First, use care and get one. Not too young, but tender and healthy growth. Make your selection carefully and let it be final. Otherwise, they will not keep. Like wine, they improve with age. Do not pickle or put in hot water. This makes them sour.

Prepare as follows:

Sweeten with smiles according to variety. The sour, bitter kind are improved by a pinch of salt of common sense. Spice with patience. Wrap well in a mantle of charity. Preserve over a good fire of steady devotion. Serve with peaches and cream. The poorest varieties may be improved by this process and kept for years in any climate.  
-----

These recipes, as you can see, most are still from the South.

For the next newsletter, lets have some recipes from the northern and western part of the country. **OK Spouses, send in your recipes to Barbara Ewart!**

BWS

-----  
**Nothing is ever accomplished by a committee unless it consists of three members, one of whom happens to be sick and another absent.**

**Hendrik van Loon**  
-----

**TROOPERS**

**Remember our next BWS Reunion Will Be In 2002 !!!**  
-----

**Lost and Found**

None this newsletter.  
-----  
-----

## **Bullwhip Squadron Web Site**

Our Association has finally come into the modern age with a Bullwhip Squadron Web Site.

Our New Web Master for the Association's site is Ms. Loretta Stager and is responsible for rebuilding and maintaining the site. You will find a new format and hopefully more information useful to you, the trooper.

Loretta asks for any ideas from our troopers as to what they would like to see on the site. If you have any particulars, give her a call at (909) 657-3014 or e-mail at [Loretta@pe.net](mailto:Loretta@pe.net) and discuss your ideas.

The web site address is [www.BullwhipSquadron.org](http://www.BullwhipSquadron.org)

Check the address from time to time to see how we are progressing. We hope to make our web site a showroom for the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Division, Air Cav Troopers and the 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>.

---

### **Troopers**

COL John B. Stockton's Autobiography

Many of you did not receive a copy of COL John B. Stockton's autobiography, titled "Cavalry Trade" and have indicated your interest in his book.

The Association is happy to announce that Mrs. Rita Stockton has graciously donated a number of copies of the book to the Association. They are being made available to the members at the low price of \$15 each plus shipping. This is one book you can't put down until it is completely read.

It details life in the army, and the growth of the Air Cavalry concept. This is a MUST READ book for all troopers, the retired and especially the new trooper of today.

Only by studying history and the growth of training and past war environments, can the future Cav Troopers keep from having to relearn and making the same mistakes all over again.

This book comes highly recommended by several senior General Officers who provided a forward for the book.

This is one book you will want for your library.

For those of you that are interested, Contact Al DeFleron for ordering. Don't procrastinate or you will be to late for one of these .

## **Don't procrastinate !!!**

---

---

### **Pride Of Service**

To all the Troopers

I came back Sunday evening from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div. 2001 Reunion and any time I come back from a trip feeling "puff-chest" proud, can't be bad. How many of us Vietnam Vets can say they've received the feedback of feeling that their tour(s) there now cause them to feel good about themselves - more so than they would have otherwise felt, if left to drift alone after the war?

I can tell you that I literally walk now with an admitted "military bearing" every day of my life after having realized that my self-perceived daily drudge in Vietnam was not that at all. I have an aspect of my life that I am more proud of than I could have imagined. It's like I had a neat dream, and it became reality.

OK, I flew stupid and crazy, but when all is said and done, that's what pride of service IS. It isn't a calculated plan of heroism, or of "being the best" necessarily. It is going out each day and doing the job we were asked to do. We didn't know we were being asked to do things now considered "heroic". Right?

Yes. I wear my Cav hat every day, no matter where I go. Doesn't matter if nobody knows or recognizes. But about twice a year or so, someone DOES recognize - out of the blue. That sustains my pride. Nothing can replace it.

I'm so glad that I somehow came to be assigned to the 1/9th. While the experience traumatized a lot of guys, it never did me (I kid myself, maybe). But my memory was always not one of "survivor guilt", but a memory of a great and unique experience that the folks around me now each day cannot conceive. OK, I'm sad folks died - frequently tragically, and mostly heroically. Being so young, I never thought it would be me. It was the presence and absence of luck most times, if not something you did that was stupid.

I did a lot of stupid things out there in the AO. But I was just lucky. Others certainly were not. And maybe I did or allowed things to happen that I may not now not particularly be proud of. But it was war. And the execution of it falls on the young. I experienced a lot in a short time, but have always prided myself that I (and we) always sustained a level of restraint that our enemy never did. Perhaps that's part of my current pride, too.

Sure, I had a VC skull atop my stereo. He died less than honorably, tho. I conducted myself (most times :-)) such that if my own skull ever sat in a bunker or tunnel, I'd like to think that I could stick out my tongue at them once when a group of NVA/VC got together one night to look at me and laugh.

The more I find out about what the 1/9th did, the more I want to root more guys out and convey this same feeling of personal accomplishment and pride of service. For the many that did not survive, I'm committed to conveying to their families the dangers each of us faced EVERY DAY then, and the honor the Country should bestow on their sacrifice of service.

Walker Jones

Well said, Walker, well said.

BWS

-----  
-----  
"A thing moderately good is not so good as it ought to be. Moderation in temper is always a virtue; **but moderation in principle is always a vice.**"

Thomas Paine

-----  
-----  
**Something To Think About...**

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

There would be:

57 Asians

21 Europeans

14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south

8 Africans

52 would be female

48 would be male

70 would be non-white

30 would be white

69 would be non-Christian

31 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual

11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States.

80 would live in substandard housing

70 would be unable to read

50 would suffer from malnutrition

1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth

1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education

1 (yes, only 1) would own a computer

When one considers our world in true perspective, the need for both appreciation, and understanding becomes glaringly apparent. A strong foreign policy, with a strong military, won't hurt either.

BB

-----  
-----

Many of our Troopers have asked for the list of our Squadron Commanders and the dates they served. We have researched the dates and names and this, we believe, is an accurate listing.

### **1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Squadron Commanders**

- |                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. John B. Stockton         | July 64 – Dec 65 |
| 2. Robert M. Shoemaker      | Dec 65 – May 66  |
| 3. James C. Smith           | May 66 – Nov 66  |
| 4. A. T. Pumphrey           | Nov 66 – Apr 67  |
| 5. Robert W. Nevins         | Apr 67 – Dec 67  |
| 6. Richard W. Dillard       | Dec 67 – July 68 |
| 7. William G. Rouse         | July 68 – Jan 69 |
| 8. James M. Peterson        | Jan 69 – Jun 69  |
| 9. James W. Booth           | Jun 69 – Aug 69  |
| 10. Edward B. Covington III | Aug 69–Sept 69   |
| 11. James W. Booth          | Sept 69 – Dec 69 |
| 12. Clark A. Burnett        | Dec 69 – Aug 70  |
| 13. Bob Nevins              | Aug 70 – Feb 71  |
| 14. Carl Putman             | Feb 71 - 1972    |
| 15. John Toolson Jr.        | 1972 - 1973      |
| 16. George Burrows          | 1973 - 1974      |

Commanded the finest military unit during the Vietnam involvement, and made history.

-----

-----

**Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres  
Aeterni**

**“Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers  
Forever”**

-----

-----

### **Interesting Trivia**

The US standard railroad gauge (width between the two rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used?

Because that's the way they built them in England, and the US railroads were built by English expatriates. Why did the English build them like that?

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did "they" use that gauge then?

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons which used that wheel spacing. Okay! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing?

Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts. So who built those old rutted roads?

The first long distance roads in Europe (and England) were built by Imperial Rome for their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts in the roads?

Roman war chariots first formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for (or by) Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Specifications and bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses. Thus, we have the answer to the original question.

When we see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site.

The railroad line from the factory had to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, the major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of two horse's ass.

A9thCav66@aol.com

The following list of Association members is as of 30 June 2001

-----  
**Bullwhip Squadron**  
**Association members**

**Honored Halls**

COL J. B. Stockton (Deceased)  
Glenn Shumake (Deceased)  
Earl D. Thompson (Deceased)  
John Schlichter (Deceased)  
William Gilboy (Deceased)  
John E. Kilgallen (Deceased)  
Anthony Heinz (Deceased)  
John Valaer (Deceased)  
Les Holland (Deceased)  
Garry Massey (Deceased)  
Phil Foley (Deceased)  
Thomas Beadle (Deceased)  
John E. Kilgallen (Deceased)  
Ronald L. Chapman (Dec.)  
Ron Smith (Deceased)  
Les Holland (Deceased)  
Donald Chandler (Dec.)  
Charles Covert (Deceased)  
Charles Smith (Deceased)  
John Teel (Deceased)  
Marshall Wells (Deceased)

-----  
**Association Members**

Abernathy, George  
\*Adams, Bobby  
\*Adkinson, Charles  
\*Allen, David  
Anderson, Jere  
Anzelmo, George  
Arthur, Edward  
\*Avelar Jr, Jose  
\*Bagnal, Charles W.  
Ballard, Stephen  
\*Banks, Larry  
\*Baron, Joe  
\*Barrett, James  
Barton, Glenn  
\*Beardsley Jr, Guy  
Bechberger, Paul  
(h)Beckwith, Karen  
\*Bedsole, Kenneth

\*Berggren, Jerry  
\*Betts, Tommy  
Black, James  
\*Blad, Hjalmer  
\*Blankenburg, Mitch  
Blankenship, Nelson  
\*Blouin, David  
\*Bluestone-Eull, Mike  
\*Bogdue, Mike  
\*Boisseau, Mark  
(h)Booth, James  
\*Bowen, Joseph  
Bowling, Billy  
Branard, Thomas  
\*Bray, David  
Brown Jr, Albert  
\*Brown, Charlie  
\*Brown, Larry  
\*Bulkley, Morton  
\*Burke, Paul  
\*Burnett, Clark  
\*Burrow, George  
\*Busch Jr, George  
\*Bush, Pat  
Butt, Harry  
\*Byrd, William  
Cairns Jr, Ernest  
\*Campbell, Donald  
Campbell, Harold  
\*Carll, Frederick  
\*Cavalieri, Dominic  
\*Chimoski Jr, Al  
\*Chole, Bert  
\*Christopher, Mark  
Christopher, Ronald  
Coburn, Jeffrey  
\*Conner, James  
\*Coombs, Robert  
Copson II, Charles  
Cornwell, Robert  
\*Coshey, Donald  
\*Covey, Michael  
\*Cox, Robert  
Cox, Leonard  
\*Crawford, George  
\*Crispino, Joseph  
(h)Cryster, James  
Curtis, Grant  
\*Davis, Gary  
\*Davis, Thomas  
\*Defleron, Al  
Dehart, Bruce  
Dela Rosa, Lionel  
Dillbeck, William  
\*Denning, Richard  
\*Derrick, Charles

\*DeSloover, David  
\*Dettmer, Marion  
\*Dinsmore, Delamere  
\*Dishaw, Michael  
\*Doslop, Joseph  
\*Dubois, Adam  
\*Dula, Jones  
Dunning, David  
\*Dupreast, Samuel  
\*Dupree, Ronald  
Edmunds, John  
Egonis, Clement  
Elliott, Jerry  
\*Ellis, James  
\*Erway, Douglas  
\*Ewart, Loel  
\*Featherston, Steven  
\*Ferreira, Albert  
Fieg, John  
\*Fisher, Gordon  
\*Flanagan, John  
\*Francis Jr, Jim  
\*Frank, Patrick  
\*Frazer, Bill  
(h)Frazier, Charles  
\*Frederick, Donald  
(h)Fullen, Barbara  
Gabel, Dennis  
(h)Galloway, Joe  
(h)Garnhart, Stan  
\*Garrett, Robert  
(h)Gavaria, Lillian  
\*Ghere, John  
\*Glace, Jesse  
\*Glassford, Gary  
Golden, Gerald  
\*Goldsberry, Jerry  
\*Gower, Johnny  
Greer, James  
\*Gregor, Charles  
\*Grett, Stanley  
\*Grube, Dick  
\*Gutsche, Walter  
\*Hale, Dick  
\*Harmon, Thomas  
\*Harnisher, Thomas  
\*Harris III, Lucious  
\*Hartin Jr, William  
Hartley, Thomas  
\*Harvey Jr, Thomas  
Haslitt, James  
\*Hearron, Aussie  
\*Helms, Felix  
Henson, Kenneth  
Herra, James  
\*Herron, Richard



Hewlett, George  
\*Hill, Howard (Doug)  
Hilton, Mark  
Hiser, Frank  
\*Hlywa, Nicholas  
\*Hobbs, Earl  
Holcomb, Brian  
Holt, Robert  
Hraban, Robert  
\*Hubler, Irwin  
Huff II, William  
Hughes, Billy  
\*Hulsey, Jim  
\*Hundley, Stephen  
Hunter, Jerry  
Hurley, Bob  
\*James, Jesse  
\*Janes, Ray  
Jarvis Sr, George  
\*Johnson, Bruce  
\*Johnson, David  
Johnson, Monte  
\*Johnson, Ricky  
\*Jones, Walker  
Judson, Robert  
Justice, Ronald  
Kauffman, Donald  
\*Kelbus, Joseph  
Kelley, Michael  
Kennedy, Lawrence  
Kennerson (h), Ron  
Kerns, John  
\*Kerns Jr, Raymond  
\*Kilcrease, Jack  
\*(h)Kilgallen, Elizabeth  
\*King, Thomas  
Knowlen, Charles  
\*Knowles, Patrick  
Kohler, James  
\*Kowalski, Henry  
Krohlow, Kenton  
Kuhnell, Harold  
Kurtz, James  
\*Kushner, Harold  
\*Kuster, Robert  
\*La Vigne Sr, Barry  
\*Labak, Robert  
\*La-Bombard, Lloyd  
\*Lackey, Robert  
Laidlaw, William  
\*Landor, Jamie  
\*Lanegan, Terrence  
\*Lanier, Michael  
\*Larensen, John  
(h)Larose, James  
\*Lassiter, Norman

\*Leadabrand, Jerry  
\*Lenker, Max  
\*Leonard, Thomas  
Leyda, Craig  
Lindholm, Dale  
\*Lott, Claude  
Lucas, Judson  
Lundwall, Robert  
Machnic, Jerry  
\*MacLeod, Richard  
\*Maldonado Jr, Paul  
Marcum, Eugene  
Marshall, Richard  
Martin, Thomas  
Matlock, Craig  
Matthews, Allan  
\*Maher, James  
\*McAllister, Bo  
\*McAnally, Loren  
\*McAlpine, Barry  
McCloud, Harry  
\*McKee, Orvel  
\*McLaughlin, Davin  
McMullan, Robert  
\*McNinch, Jerry  
\*Metcalf, Marvin  
Miller, Brian  
Miller, John  
Mix, Robert  
\*Moore, Marion  
\*Moser, Frank  
\*Mundy Jr, G.G.  
\*Murphy, Maurice  
Nevins Jr, Robert  
\*Newby, Claude  
\*Nicholas, George  
\*Nielsen, John  
\*Niles, Louis  
\*Nii, Elmer  
O'Grady, Steve  
\*Oliver, John  
Olle, Larry  
\*Olson, Kenneth  
Orifici, Tony  
Oshiro, Clyde  
\*Owens, Ronald  
Park, George  
\*Parnell, James  
Pelkey, David  
\*Peterson, Robert  
\*Pettit, Richard  
\*Poe, Robert  
(h)Poos, Robert  
\*Potts, William  
Powell, John  
\*Pratt, James

\*Pressman, James  
Pryce, David  
\*Pumphrey, A.T.  
\*Quinn, Bill  
\*Racine, Maurice  
\*Rawl, Joe  
Reich, Daniel  
\*Reid, Jim  
\*Retterer, John  
\*Rhoden, Joe  
\*Ribbeck, Rudolph  
Rice, Robert  
\*Ricks, Douglas  
Rideoux, Charles  
Rittenhouse, Bill  
\*Rochat III, Louis  
Rogney, Gary  
Rose, Harold  
\*Rosebrough, James  
\*Roshier, Galen  
Ryan, John  
Salmon, Gary  
\*Salyer, James  
Samuel, Lonnie  
\*Schellenberg, Woodrow  
Schillereff, John  
Schlottman, Jim  
\*Schmotolocha, Jerry  
Schwarz, John  
\*Scott, Kenneth  
Sedacca, Emanuel  
\*Sellers, Robert  
\*Shaffer, Nate  
\*Shanklin, David  
\*Shoemaker, Gen Robert  
\*Silva, Robert  
\*Smith, Rayburn Gene  
Smith, Ben  
\*Smith, Cecil  
\*Smith, Jim  
(h)Smith, Kevin  
\*Snow, Peter  
\*Soltes, Charles  
(h)Stager, Loretta  
St. Lauren, Bruce  
Stanfield, Neil  
Stanley, William  
\*Steine, Joel  
\*Stewart, Frank  
\*Stewart, Patrick  
\*(h)Stockton, Rita  
\*(h)Stockton, Wootsie  
\*Stone, Gordon  
Stoverink, Robert  
(h)Sullivan, Dennis  
Sundt, Richard

\*Swain, Robert  
Sweeney, Ronald  
Tadlock, Robert  
Tasker, Larry  
\*Tassin, Paul  
\*Terry, Michael  
Thaxton, Bob  
\*Thomas, John  
\*Timmons, William  
\*Titchenell, Wallace  
Tromontano, Joseph  
\*Tredway, Robert  
Treude, Harry  
Trombley, Thomas  
\*Tucker, Douglas  
Turner, Barrie  
Tyrrell, Paul  
\*Van Winkle, James  
\*Vanasse, Eugene

Volheim, James  
\*Waldron, Cowles  
\*Walker, John  
\*Wallace, John  
\*Wardzala, Daniel  
Washington, Royall  
Weatherspoon, Freddie  
Weaver Sr, Charles  
\*Weeks, Jimmy  
Weems, Neil  
\*Welch, A.J.  
\*Westfall, Ronald  
\*Whigham, Charles  
\*Whitehead III, John  
\*Wilke, Charles  
Wilkerson, Richard  
Wilkins, Donald  
\*Wilkinson, George  
\*Williams, Billie

\*Williams, Frank  
\*Wingate, Charles  
\*Wood, Doug  
\*Woodward, Wallace  
\*Wright, Larry  
\*Wuensch, Marc  
Wulff, Richard  
York Jr, John  
\*Young, Terry  
\*Young, Robert  
\*Zahn, Bob  
\*Zemke, Phillip  
\*Zion, Robert

h - Honorary  
\* - Lifetime

**Look well at the list of members. All are the true hero's of our military generation.**

---

### **From the Vice President:**

The Association has gone all out to find those troopers who do not know of the Association. To date, over 4800 Invitation to Join letters have been sent out to those who carried on, and sustained, the CAV tradition.

It was very gratifying to see all of the new members that became associated with the Bullwhip Squadron during 2000 and the first 6 months of 2001.

**Members are what makes the Association.** The Association has increased it's membership rolls by 12 new members since January 1, 2001. **A Very Warm "Welcome"** to all of our new members You are the professionals who make the Bullwhip Squadron Association a success! **Thanks guys for joining and supporting our Association!**

Take a look at the membership roster. How many of the names do you know? Notice the amount of \* (214) by troopers names.

As you will notice, the \* denotes a lifetime member. This says a lot for the caliber of our Bullwhip Squadron Association and the members themselves.

We have a greater percentage of lifetime members in our organization than probably any other organization either military or civilian!!

The sad part is that the list of those that have passed on to a higher cavalry status is growing. We are loosing some of the best due to the facility of time. May they stand tall as Cav troopers and welcome us at Fiddlers Green, in Squadron formation.

We ask you to continue to look for those troopers who do not know of us and bring them back into the Squadron.

Please check your names for spelling. If any corrections are required, call me (Loel) and I will update as needed. Also check your certificates for spelling and if you have become a lifetime member and your membership card does not say "lifetime", let AL DeFleron know so we can have a new membership card made for you. Let us know if they are wrong and we will correct and mail ASAP.

**As of June 2001 our paid membership is 349 with 214 of these being lifetime. We have increased by 68 new members since January 1, 2000.** Well done! We could not have done this without your support.

Many of our old members, are now back with us. For this we are thankful and say, Welcome Back, we missed you!

Our lifetime member roles are increasing weekly and a large percentage of our members are lifetime. Think about becoming a lifetime member.

All work performed in the Squadron is strictly voluntary and the money taken into the Squadron by dues and merchandise sold, is sufficient to pay for all operating expenses and help defray the bi-annual Squadron reunion expenses.

**REMEMBER, Membership and dues runs from January through December regardless when dues are paid.** This is the only way to keep our books straight with the least work.

**Many of our troopers either move or change their e-mail addresses. Please let the Squadron Association know of any changes in address. This will keep your newsletter coming.**

If you are in doubt on dues paid, call or e-mail me for verification.

**I have been asked by our troopers if they can pay their lifetime member status in installments. The answer is YES. Contact me if you would like to pay in installments.**

-----  
The Association does not sell or give away members addresses or phone numbers, except to other BWS Association members when they call in for a members individual number.

-----  
The Bullwhip Squadron Association has the following items for sell. All the proceeds go into the Squadron fund, so as you buy, you help build the Bullwhip Squadron Association fund. All merchandising items for sale will be handled by Squadron member, Al Defleron.

You can call or write Al Defleron for any of the items we have. The items will be shipped to you after receiving the money. When you order, please state size. Also add \$5 for shipping. The items we have for sell are;

1. White or black, ball caps with the Squadron guidon insignia, \$10.
2. White or black polo shirts (golf), with Squadron guidon insignia, \$23 (add \$5 for personalized with name and 1<sup>st</sup> Cav patch).
3. Wind breaker jackets, lined, in colors, with Squadron guidon insignia, \$30.
4. \*\* Unit Guidon flags for all troops, "A through F". These guidons are exactly like the troop originals, \$65 each.
5. Headhunter Bumper Stickers, \$2.00.
6. Original Bullwhip Squadron Bumper Stickers, \$1.50.
7. Bullwhip Squadron Bumper Stickers with Crossed Saber, \$1.75.
8. Sun Visors with Squadron Guidon, \$8.00.
9. Denim Shirts are available with Squadron guidon and personalized. \$38.00.
10. Statues (Reunion), a few left, \$25 each.
11. Golf Towels, black/white, with Sqdn. Logo, \$8.00
12. BWS Unit Coins, \$5.00 (\$2.50 mailing)
13. Book, 1/9 Historical Summary 65-72, \$15.00
14. BWS 1/9 Lapel Pins \$3.50
15. One E Troop Guideon, \$70.00 each. Note; We can order any troop guideon required.

LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart

-----  
-----

**Never Forget!**

**You are the true Patriots,  
Cav Troopers, One and All !!**

---

**Once again, as always-- WE CAN, WE WILL, WE DID!!**

**Note**

You will see in this newsletter, paid advertisements from the local merchants. These merchants are supporting our Association by advertising. The funds generated by the advertisements help to defray printing expenses and allow us to provide you, the members, with a quality newsletter.

The Association asks you to support the merchants that advertise in our newsletter when you are in their vicinity or at their location. Lower Alabama and the Wiregrass Area has truly become the home of the Bullwhip Squadron Association.

## **BULLWHIP REUNION 2002**

Now is the time to start planning on the 02 BWS reunion. Began thinking where you, the members, would like to have the next reunion. The only guidance is that wherever it will be held, there must be enough troopers at that location to put on the reunion and get everything setup. Let Loel know by e-mail or phone your recommendations. We would like to have at least 3 areas to vote on.

With the next newsletter you will have a ballot to vote on where you want the next reunion. Look for it!

---

### **News Letter Update**

All you sharp eyed troopers have noticed by now that the front sheet of the news has a new look. We believe this is in keeping with the troopers attitude that you are never alone. We have gone to a full platoon of troopers on the front cover **and** if you were really sharp eyed, you would have noticed that it is no longer called a newsletter. It is now a news magazine. The size and information found within these covers has grown from the old 3 pages to what we have now. Note: The January letter carried the date of 2000. Pin change it to 2001. Six sets of eyes proof reading did not catch that mistake!

You will also notice more of our troopers are writing articles for each magazine. If you have a story to tell, then write it and send it in. Don't worry about spelling, grammar and the likes, just do the best a trooper can and we will make the article into a silk purse. You can send it in by e-mail or by regular mail to Loel. He will sprinkle magic dust on it for printing and a fine article you will have.

If you would like to see a specific subject in the magazine, let us know. This is your magazine and will only be as good as we, the troopers, make it.

May we all laugh a little, cry a little and all be proud of what we accomplished. We are a brotherhood both in truth and in spirit. May you enjoy the news magazine.

BWS

---

## **THE TRUTH IN 13 WORDS**

**Inside every older person is a younger person -  
Wondering what the hell happened!**

---

## **PROCLAMATION**

The proclamation on the following page, was presented to the Bullwhip Squadron Association by Mayor Bob Bunting of Ozark, AL at the October 2000 reunion, here in Ozark. Mayor Bunting's speech gave laudatory comments to our association and to the 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> as a fighting unit. He recognized our accomplishments and our hero's, and the nature of being tempered in battle.

Let no trooper doubt we were the best unit in the Republic of Vietnam, and feared by the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Regulars. We were hunter killers and knew what victory meant. We paid the price in broken bodies and blood spilled on the battlefield. There was no shame and we held our honor. We did our job.

This proclamation says what we did, how we did it and where we did it. We were, and are, the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> and let no man forget it. WE ARE TROOPERS.

**WE CAN, WE WILL and WE DID!**

City of Ozark

# PROCLAMATION

By the Mayor

**1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Air Cavalry Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, Air Mobile**

**WHEREAS**, the 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Air Cavalry Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, Air Mobile had it's birth at Fort Rucker and Ozark, Alabama with the 8305th Armed Combat Reconnaissance Company commanded by "then" Major Robert Shoemaker and was designated B Troop, 3<sup>rd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Division on February 13, 1963 at Fort Benning, Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, the 3<sup>rd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> Air Cavalry Squadron, trained with the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Division from 1964 to June 1965 until being redesignated the 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Air Cavalry Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, Air Mobile in July 1965; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> departed for the Republic of Vietnam on August 14, 1965 and began combat operations within days after arrival; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> accounted for 55% of enemy killed in action for the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry and became the most decorated unit of the Vietnam war, with two awards of the Medal of Honor; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> completed its combat mission and returned to the United States, Fort Hood, Texas in 1973; and


**WHEREAS**, the Bullwhip Squadron Association was formed in 1994 to reunite a brotherhood that was born and tempered in battle; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bullwhip Squadron Association headquarters was installed in Ozark, Alabama in 1996 and has held reunions in Ozark in 1996, 1998 and 2000 where many former members of the 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> now call Ozark "home"; and

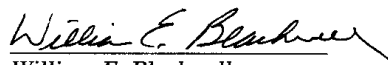
**WHEREAS**, the Bullwhip Squadron Association is a chartered, nonprofit association dedicated to the concept of God, Duty, Honor, Country, Family and the American way of life.

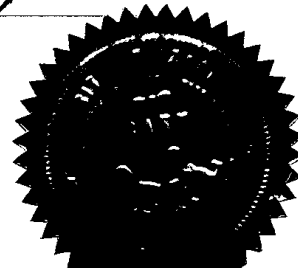
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Bob Bunting, Mayor of the City of Ozark, Alabama, do hereby proclaim congratulations and honor to the Bullwhip Squadron Association and urge the citizens of Ozark to welcome this praiseworthy organization to Ozark.

**IN WITNESS, WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Ozark, Alabama, to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, A.D. 2000.

  
Bob Bunting  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
William E. Blackwell  
City Clerk



## First Cavalry Division Assn. Reunion – 2001

The First Cavalry Association's annual reunion has been a different experience each time I've attended. The 54<sup>th</sup> was also different. This was my third. Every other year, the Cav reunion is held at Killeen/Ft. Hood; alternate years are held at other venues around the Nation. Cool idea. This year it was back at Killeen/Ft. Hood. Linda couldn't come with me this time.

I arrived late Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank goodness Cecil and Lyn Smith arrived at the La Quinta earlier, learned that they were overbooked, and registered me, or else I'd have spent the night in a revetment somewhere. Cecil taught me to fly Loaches when I came into C Troop, and we rekindled our friendship 2 years ago in Killeen. I was way too tired to get up and make the Unit Breakfast and Open House on Post.

On Friday, there was also a Horse Detachment Tour and Aviation Open House at the Robert Gray Army Airfield, and the Division had Open House on post. They also held a Welcome Mixer, Hospitality Suite, and Sweetheart Dance. They break everyone into "War Era" luncheons (WW2, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf, etc.). I did manage to pick up my pre-registration tickets, and could have scalped Linda's luncheon and banquet tickets for twice as much as I'd paid.

Most folks spent the morning at Ft. Hood to visit the 9<sup>th</sup> Cav area, the static displays and the souvenir shop and museum, the Horse Detachment stables, and/or to the Aviation Open House at Robert Gray Army Airfield. At noon, the Vietnam Era luncheon room was packed and the 1/9<sup>th</sup> folks were seated together at our own tables. Later that evening, the First Cavalry Division Retreat was held, followed by a Texas BBQ, then the very impressive Historical Tableau, in which the Horse Detachment puts on quite a show.

On Saturday, the most important event of the reunion (in my opinion) happens, when the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry has our own luncheon. This year was really different from past luncheons. As usual, current 9<sup>th</sup> Cav Troopers from Ft. Hood attended and shared our meal. As we trickled in and began chatting, a video tape was playing on one wall – clearly put together for and about the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. Pete Booth, Honorary Squadron Commander, presided and introduced the current 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Commander, Lt. Col. Roger McDonald III, who gave an update on 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry activities. Every week for the next couple of years has already been programmed! Current XO is Major "Howie" Brewington, who later spent a lot of time with us in the hospitality suite; quite a guy. Other Ft. Hood troopers also dropped in later. The guest speaker was LG (Ret) Charles W. "Chuck" Bagnal, a former Charlie Troop CO in Vietnam. He was quite entertaining. During the luncheon, 5 former 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Troopers were made "Distinguished Members of the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment", one of whom was Jim Goldsberry, who was present. Jim flew for the first 3 Squadron COs. Pete Booth then called upon former C Troop Commander, Bob Tredway, who made our "Little Sister" Julie Kink an "Honorary Member of the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment". Bob was CO when Julie lost her only brother in a Loach crash in 1969. Julie has for several years been working hard to put KIA helicopter crews' families in touch with friends who knew them. She's quite a special lady.

After the luncheon, compact disks were handed out to anyone who wanted them. On the disc is what was playing when we came in. Someone went to a lot of trouble to put together a video history of the 9<sup>th</sup> Cav, complete with music. Entitled "Welcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment 2001 Reunion – We Can, We Will", it begins with scenes of horse soldiers led by Danny Glover, followed by the helicopter assault scenes from Apocalypse now, with Robert Duval, including his line "I love the smell of napalm in the morning". Interspersed are still photos of 1/9 folks during Vietnam. Then it depicts today's 1/9<sup>th</sup> while training in a wide variety of missions and weapons including being supported by Air Force jets. It shows men loading a plane for Kuwait, then finishes with "Your Legacy Lives On – We Can, We Will!" They made it just for us! The afternoon was spent by many at Ft. Hood, visiting the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry area, the static displays and the souvenir shop and museum.

During the whole reunion, the main focal point for all 9<sup>th</sup> Cav guys and families, is the Hospitality Suite at the Plaza Hotel's "Presidential Suite". Bert Chole makes sure the 9<sup>th</sup> Cav has the best room in the house. Upon entering, I found The Man – Al deFleron, who is the glue that keeps the hospitality suite going at each Cav reunion. "D" maintained the place and entertained everyone who came and went; super job again Al. I cannot possibly remember half the folks who showed. Al wishes to acknowledge a few who made the

hospitality suite work: Lynn & Larry Wright, Nancy & Jerry McNinch, Bert & Eileen Chole and Tiny Hubler, for their part in the suite being such a success. Of course the bathtub full of iced beer and sodas helped, too! At some point, Pete Booth visited the LRRP hospitality suite at the Park Hotel and invited them to visit our suite, so after the Unit luncheons, about 2 dozen former LRRPs dropped by, which was really great.

Saturday evening, all the Cav reunion attendees and families drove or were bussed to the huge banquet at the Expo Center not far away in Belton, TX. Again, the 1/9 folks sat together at adjacent tables. Welcoming remarks were made by COL (Ret) John T. Hodes, then MG McKiernan told us all what the Cav is up to these days. Most impressive was the parade of soldiers up to the front, each decked out in their MOS specialty outfits, and individually introduced by name and what they did. Us old 9<sup>th</sup> Cav warriors had a great time and all came home feeling proud of ourselves and proud that the Cav and our Country is in damn good hands.

## **We Can, We Will, We Did!!!**

Walker Jones

---

### **RESPECT SHARED WITHIN THE RANKS**

Loretta

HEY!!! IT'S ME Gary Davis; I wish we would have had more time to talk last night. We touched on so many subject's so fast. PLEASE take the time one of these days to look up ( PROVERBS 18-v 24 that says A Friend that sticketh closer than a brother ) MY own family will not even ask me too a thanksgiving dinner. BUT WHEN I WAS AT THE REUNION, there was not ONE MAN there that would not hesitate to help me spell a word, open a door or get me a chair. There are people out in this world that would have killed me, and others that fought this war. Then we get to meet people like you, (Loretta)' and THE -LOVE and RESPECT SHARED WITHIN THE RANKS of people like "AL "D" Defleron, Loel Ewart, General DAVE ALLEN. Among the individuals at the reunion, there wasn't one man that didn't come or leave, without his DISABILITY, and you would never have known it. The very last day it turned off so cold the wind was going through me like a piercing arrow. Everyone gathered around to help keep the wind off of me and I had a chair to set down in. Unfortunately not one of my relatives (aunts, uncles, cousins) have sent me a Christmas card or a card when I lost my son in a bad car wreck! Each of us has a story too tell. Most of the time it only means something to ourselves, until you get among friends that watched you sleep, guarded your back while you ate and set you straight when you went astray. To this day, there is not one of those men that I would not gave my life for. But how would you be able too relay this to the rest of the world so they would understand what we feel? The LOVE I have felt from my WIFE KATHRYN, her sister BECKY & her husband JEFF and my mother & father in-law has surpassed that which was lost as a child, and helped me feel whole. THEY also taught me that in a love relationship, some words are better left unsaid. SO how does one tell his story without taking the chance of accidentally hurting the feelings of a brother? Unless the sincerity of all is complete it's very, very hard, as you heard last night when I tried sharing my last hours in the Nam with you. Please e-mail me with your thoughts suggestions and concerns as soon as possible

Gary Davis  
CAV1st9@msn.com

Gary

Your words are from the heart and spoken eloquently. All of our troopers understand, and stand by your side. With brothers of the Bullwhip Squadron, You Are Never Alone!

This is what makes our brotherhood different from all other associations, clubs and chapters. There is a brother always close by, either by phone, e-mail or letter, always ready to help in some way.

Never doubt your worth to yourself, your country, and this Association. You are among the best.

**Once a brother born in battle, always a brother.**

BWS

---

## **Commander In Chief**

I'd like to pass along a true story, apropos the subject. It was told by Major General Ed Hanlon, slated to become the head man at Quantico, on the eve of his departure from Camp Pendleton. Ed told this tale at a farewell party given him by friends and neighbors from the surrounding community.

President Bush had just made a stop at Camp Pendleton following the Memorial Day weekend and was a great hit with the Marines and their families who heard him speak. He had arrived via Marine One at the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Air Station and, after the customary welcoming, asked Ed and his wife Bonnie to accompany him as they toured Pendleton in the Presidential Limousine.

Once everyone was seated and underway, the President and Bonnie on the rear seat, with Ed in a fold down seat, the President asked, "the Marines have a sound they make, something like hoorah, don't they?"

The President then made an attempt at making the sound. Before Ed could reply, Bonnie interjected, "no Mr.President, it's more like Oooraah." So the President tried again, and he came nearer to making the proper shout. Bonnie replied and soon had the President saying, "Oooraah," with much verve.

After the President was introduced by Lieutenant General Mike Hagge, the MEF Commander, the President's first word was a loudly shouted, "Oooraah" ;much to the delight of several thousand Marines who shouted back, "Oooraah".

The President had the audience in the palm of his hand from then on. I believe this little episode says so much about the kind of man who happens to be the President. He is not reluctant to demonstrate humility.

Imagine the general's wife instructing the President of the United States in the Marine's all purpose shout. It says much for the Marine Corps wife too.

May God Bless them both.

MGen Dick Cooke (Ret)

---

## **ADVERTISEMENTS**







# The Wall

They walk along the granite block, past names all etched in stone.  
Among so many others here, but feel so all alone.

So many here to touch a soul, that passed so long ago.  
And tears now streak from off your cheek, emotions, have to show.

There are so many people here, who wish the pain to end.  
Why not reach out a hand to them, to listen, be a friend.

The Wall can bridge the largest gap, it made our nation one.  
We thank the nurses one and all, and every soldier, son.

Whose names we see forever etched, upon the granite stone.  
Though painful make us realize, that we are not alone.

The sacrifice, that you all made, that bring us to this shrine.  
Bring all those closer, left behind, perhaps the grand design.

To help the friends and family, to understand the call.  
That took your names from off life's list, and place it on this Wall.

You fought a war, unpopular, in Nam so far away.  
And now you have found the greatest peace, as we stand here and pray.

Beyond the Wall we hope to find, the reason for it all ...  
Why you with pride went far away, to answer duty's call.

Perhaps the flag that others burn, became your symbol proud.  
Why you gave life, proclaim your love, of country, very loud.

So rest in peace, my Warrior, my nurse and doctor too.  
And rest assured forever more, we'll all remember you.

The Wall means much to everyone, these names on granite cast.  
To keep your memories alive, as long as time will last.

So look upon the granite face, and touch the names with pride.  
For all their spirits linger there, beyond the Wall, inside.

Author Unknown

